

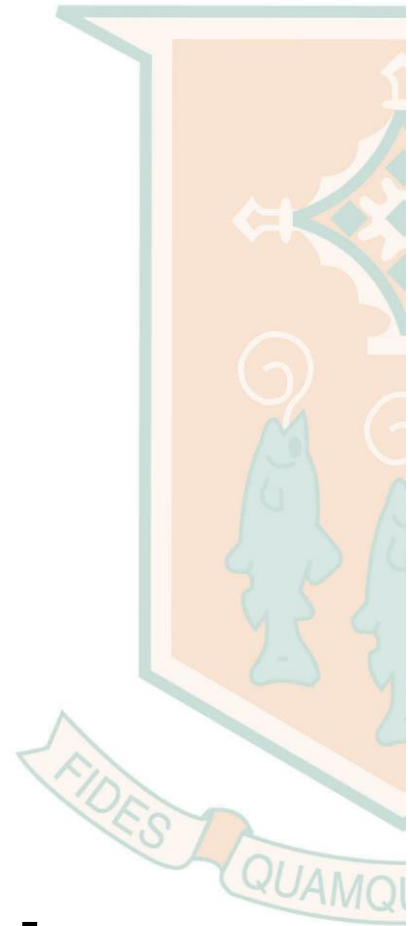


Oakhill

faith stronger than the oak

Year Nine

Options Information Booklet 2019



Introduction

In Years Ten and Eleven pupils undertake GCSE qualifications in several subjects. Whilst some subjects are compulsory, you may choose between others according to your strengths, preferences and future career path. This booklet is intended to give you the necessary information for each option subject to help you make up your mind.

Guidance

- ✓ Speak to subject teachers in school for more information about subjects that interest you. They may also be able to give you some career advice.
- ✓ Discuss your choices with your parents and fellow pupils. Remember however that the decision is **yours** – do not pick subjects just to be with your friends, as they will have different strengths and ideas about their future career.
- ✓ Think about your own abilities and talents. Ask yourself 'What am I good at?' and 'which subjects would I like to study further?'
- ✓ Think about your possible future career. Find out which subjects may help you in any jobs that interest you.
- ✓ Think about which subjects you enjoy. GCSEs can be challenging, and the enjoyment of subjects can keep you going through difficult patches of study.
- ✓ Ask around as much as you can for advice.

The following pages contain information on each option subject, which you should read through carefully to help make your choices.

Mr. D. Peel
November 2019

Art and Design

What sort of activities will I be doing in this subject?

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and new media and technologies. It is an unendorsed course where students can work in appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes. Students should produce practical and contextual work associated with two or more of the following areas: Fine art, Textiles, Graphics/Illustration, 3-D Design and Photography.

What are the exams like in this subject?

This is a controlled test including a final piece which is completed in school in your final year. This is worth 40% of your GCSE.

What coursework do I have to do?

The coursework comprises of 2 projects which are displayed to an external moderator at the end of year eleven. Coursework is worth 60% of the final grade. Marks for both the coursework and controlled test are made up of 75% for sketch book work and 25% for the final piece of art work. Development of work in the sketchbook is therefore **extremely** important.

How will studying this subject benefit me?

The course is designed to meet the requirements of GCSE Art & Design; building and developing on knowledge, understanding and the skills required by the National Curriculum up to Key Stage 3.

What career prospects are associated with this subject?

Further education prospects include vocational and degree courses in printing, textiles, illustration, interior design, graphics (including film, photography and computer-aided design), fine art, history of art, ceramics and 3-D design, teaching and architecture. Direct entry into graphics and commercial art studios, silk screen and off-set litho printing studios is also possible; however a degree can lead to a career of a more creative nature.

Any other information?

Students **must** be able to work independently outside of the timetabled lessons using local and national resources. They must show that they are motivated and fully aware of the demands of the course.

Ms J.Pendlebury
November 2019

Business

What sort of activities will I be doing in this subject?

The Business Studies GCSE consists of 2 units:

- Investigating small businesses
- Building a Business

Although you have not studied business before, as a consumer you have a lot of experience in using businesses including visiting shops, restaurants or when you go on holiday. As such you will be able to relate much of what you will learn to your own experiences. The focus of the first unit is on how to become a successful business person. You will look at the skills needed and activities to undertake for entrepreneurs who want to start their own business from finding out if potential customers like your idea to eventually opening, marketing and running your business. You will understand how to make a business effective and manage money well. In Year 11 the focus moves to growing a business; to include making marketing decisions, how to increase production to meet demand and how to keep your customers and staff happy.

What are the exams like in this subject?

At the end of Year 11 you will sit two papers. Both are written papers that assess the content delivered in Y10 and Y11 respectively. Each examination paper, will be a mixture of calculations, multiple-choice, short answer, extended writing and scenario based questions.

How will studying this subject benefit me?

You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team. These are all skills that are transferable into higher education and the world of work. It will address all you need to know about running a small business.

What career prospects are associated with this subject?

Knowledge of Business Studies will help those who eventually want to run their own business or work in a business at any level.

Mrs E Morris
November 2019

Computer Science

Computer Science will give you a greater understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming and how computers work.

What topics can I expect to learn in this subjects?

Computer Systems	
Systems Architecture	How a computer is built and the separate components work
Memory and storage	How a computer remembers and stores your programs, documents, photos, videos and music
Computer networks, connections and protocols	How computers talk to one another and share files
Network security	How your information and data can be kept safe by you and organisations
System Software	What different types of software a computer will use
Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology	How digital technology has impacted wider society: ethical issues, legal issues, cultural issues, environmental issues and privacy issues. Legislation relevant to Computer Science.
Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming – training your brain to think like a computer!	
Algorithms	Designing, creating and refining algorithms. Searching and sorting algorithms.
Programming fundamentals	Practical application of making computer programs.
Producing robust programs	How to make robust programs and test them.
Boolean logic	How to produce logic diagrams and use Boolean logic.
Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments	Learn the difference between high-level and low-level languages, and common tools and facilities of program development environment.
Programming Project	
Programming project	You will design, develop, test and evaluate a computer program to solve a problem. This is your chance to show off your programming skills.

What are the exams like in this subject?

Computer Systems and Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming are assessed by two written examinations at the end of Year 11. Each exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes and worth 80 marks. They each contribute 50% of the total marks.

How will studying this subject benefit me?

Computing develops critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. The course provides a stepping stone to anybody who wants to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science.

What career prospects are associated with this subject?

Further education prospects include A level, vocational and degree courses in computer science. The field of computer science is rapidly expanding and now covers many industries. Career prospects include cyber security, games development, information systems management, IT consultancy, multimedia programming, network engineering, systems analysis and development.

Mrs E Morris
November 2019

Design & Technology

What sort of activities will I be doing in this subject?

This course aims to educate you about an increasingly technological world. The subject content is split into three sections as follows:

1.Core technical principles	2.Specialist technical principles	3. Designing & making principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact of new & emerging technologies• Energy generation & storage• Electronic systems• Mechanical devices• Types & properties of a range of materials	<p>Develop an in-depth knowledge & understanding of paper & board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Origins, stock forms, selection of and working with materials• Forces & stresses• Ecological & social footprint• Scales of production• Specialist techniques & processes• Surface treatment & finishes	<p>Learning about designing & making in relation to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigating• Environmental, social & economic challenges• The work of others• Design strategies• Communicating ideas: through sketching, modelling & testing.• Prototype development• Making techniques & processes

How will I be assessed?

1. Examination:

There is a final written paper which is worth 50% of the total marks and lasts for 2 hours. It includes a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. At least 25% of the exam will assess your ability to apply Maths and Science skills and knowledge.

2. Non-exam assessment (NEA)

This is a single design and make task which is worth 50% of the total marks. You will solve a design challenge which is devised by the exam board. It is issued at the end of year 10 and completed during year 11. You will create a design folder as you work through the process. It must include evidence of researching the problem, generating and developing ideas, planning manufacture and analysing and evaluating throughout. You will also produce a good quality 3D prototype product.

How will studying this subject benefit me?

You will develop your designing and making skills, and acquire the knowledge and understanding which underpins this, through focused practical tasks with related theory inputs. You will have the opportunity to improve your drawing and modelling skills whilst generating your own creative ideas. The NEA will also help you develop good project management skills.

What career prospects are associated with this subject?

You could go on to study Design & Technology at A-Level or other design-related courses in Higher Education. Designers are involved in problem solving in many areas and this subject links well to careers in the creative and engineering sectors such as architecture, graphics, interiors and engineering or product design.

Modern Foreign Languages

French and Spanish

Why should I study a language?

Spanish and French are among the top five languages preferred by businesses for international trade. Knowledge of a language is a skill which is transferable to many different careers and is in demand by many employers. Learning French gives you opportunities to work in Europe or French-speaking Africa while Spanish is spoken both in Spain and North and South America. Learning about the culture of other countries broadens our horizons and shows us how our country fits into an international context. The discipline of learning grammatical structures and vocabulary helps you to think logically and to improve your memory, both transferable skills.

What are the exams like in this subject?

There are four exams in listening, reading, speaking and writing taken at the end of Year 11. Each is worth 25% and you will decide in consultation with teachers whether to take Foundation or Higher level. There is no controlled assessment.

What sorts of things will I learn?

There are three themes covered in the course:

- Identity and Culture (yourself, your free time, technology, customs and festivals)
- Local, National, International and Global areas of interest (your home, social and global issues, travel and tourism)
- Current and Future study and Employment (school, education post-16, future careers)

You will learn to use the language accurately in tasks such as reading and listening comprehensions, translation, role plays and conversation.

As part of the French course, you will have the opportunity to take part in our established exchange programme with a school in Rouen. Spanish students will be offered the chance to visit Spain.

What career prospects are associated with this subject?

Many employers see the ability to speak and understand another language as a positive when looking for suitable employees particularly if their business has links with companies abroad. Languages are very useful to anyone planning to enter the leisure or service industry. In addition to this, languages provide career opportunities in translation, interpreting, law, banking and finance, the civil service, journalism, teaching and property sales.

Mrs. Crook
November 2019

Geography

*“Simply put, **Geography** is our future. When we look at any issue with the balance and scrutiny that geographical study offers, we move beyond the media hype or political spin. **Geography** allows us to see the world more clearly.”*

At Oakhill we study the AQA Geography syllabus. This consists of three elements.

Paper 1 Living with the physical environment

- The challenges of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK

The exam is 1 hour, 30 minutes. The paper is 35% of the total.

Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

The exam is 1 hour, 30 minutes. The paper is 35% of the total.

Paper 3 Geographical applications

- Geographical fieldwork
- Evaluation of a geographical issue
- Geographical skills

The exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes and 30% of the total.

Paper 3 is the newest element of the course and replaces Controlled Assessment. In preparation for this students will:

- Conduct two fieldwork investigations in a human and physical environment and collect primary data.
- Study a geographical issue using material released by the exam board in the March before final examinations
- Develop skills with maps, graphs, statistics and data.

The whole course is drawing together local, regional, national, international and global issues and helps students to make sense of the challenges faced by our generation and the next.

How will studying this subject benefit me?

This subject offers breadth in terms of academic work. Geography helps to maintain good balance: it develops numeracy, literacy and analytical skills. It is the study of the world in which you will live for the rest of your life, a complex and challenging world, a world of hard decisions where simple sound-bite answers seldom work.

What careers prospects are associated with this subject?

Career prospects are excellent given that geography is not only a subject in its own right with many associated careers such as Cartography, Geology, Oceanology, but it also combines well with many other subjects, leading to opportunities in environmental disciplines, urban planning and social sciences.

Mrs. Pugh, November 2019

History

Blackadder
Baldrick

"Thinking is SO important Baldrick. What do YOU think?"

"I think thinking is SO important, my Lord"

What will I study?

Paper 1 Understanding the modern world (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes

This is the paper where we make some sense of developments in the last 200 years. We will be studying:

- Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and dictatorship
- Conflict and tension 1918-1939

We have covered these topics in year 9 and so we can build greater depth as we study them for GCSE.

Paper 2 Shaping the nation (50%) 1 hour and 45 minutes

In contrast, for this paper we develop our sense of British History studying:

- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day.
- Elizabethan England c1568-1603

How will I be examined?

The two papers will be taken in the summer of Year Eleven. You will answer 10 compulsory questions on Paper 1 and 8 compulsory questions on Paper 2. There will also be a small allocation of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. The questions will involve a mixture of source analysis, evaluations of interpretations and longer essays.

Why study history?

There are two reasons why you should study History. Firstly, by studying what has happened so far, you will have a better understanding of the world around you. Secondly, you will develop key skills in thinking critically, analysing different viewpoints and presenting a written argument. These are skills used in many different careers including business, finance, journalism, law and politics.

Famous history graduates: Lord Sainsbury, Michael Palin, BBC news correspondent Jeremy Bowen, actor Steve Carrell, radio DJ Simon Mayo, Melvyn Bragg, Gordon Brown and Sacha Baron Cohen.

Mrs. Pugh
November 2019

Music

“Without music, life would be a mistake.” – Friedrich Nietzsche

Requirements

Pupils play an instrument, sing or have a basic grasp of music technology. Pupils must be able to play an instrument to access the course.

The standard required is from a basic beginner to any high grade.

The course is designed to be accessed by all. The high grades can gain higher marks but beginners can still achieve a good grade.

What will I study and how will I be examined?

- *Performing – 30%*

Candidates will perform at least two pieces on their instrument as a soloist and as part of an ensemble lasting a total of four minutes. This will be recorded, teacher assessed and sent for moderation. It is expected that this part of the course is mainly rehearsed at home although practice can be done at school. A minimum of 20 minutes practice a day is expected to reach the required standard by the end of the course. Although vocal or instrumental lessons are not a requirement, it is advisable to be taking lessons on your chosen instrument to help reach the required standard.

- *Composing- 30%*

Each candidate must produce 2 different compositions or arrangements, or one of each, lasting around 3 minutes in total. The first piece is an open composition where the candidate can produce work in any style, and the second is to a set brief which is released in the academic year of the exam. These will be recorded and assessed internally, then externally moderated. This work is done mainly at school. Each candidate has to produce a notated score, either handwritten or on computer or a description of the composition if not notated.

- *Listening- 40%*

There are 4 areas of study with eight set works. This is a taught module and extends the work covered in Years 7, 8 and 9 so there is an initial base to build on. The work for this will be mainly done at school although there will be research homework and listening tasks set.

There will be an hour and a half formal listening examination in two sections. Section A involves responding to questions based on recorded extracts of the set works, and section B involves a more in depth question on one of the eight set works compared with an unfamiliar piece.

How will this subject benefit me?

- ✓ Vocational - for those wishing to have a music career in teaching, performance, sound engineering (recording), media, music journalism, etc.
- ✓ A creative subject to balance more theoretical subjects.
- ✓ To provide a route to further education in music or music technology.
- ✓ A subject that develops a holistic view of the arts- creating awareness of our cultural heritage and a respect for world music and popular music.
- ✓ Self-discipline in learning a specific instrumental skill and developing perseverance.

Mr Lacy
November 2019

Physical Education

What sort of activities will I be doing in this subject?

Theory lessons will cover anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, sports psychology, socio cultural influences and health, fitness and well-being. You will also choose 3 practical activities / sports from a variety of options.

What are the exams like in this subject?

The Syllabus is in two sections: Theory 60% and Practical 40%.

Theory (60%) – 2 Written Papers, 1h15min each (78 marks each)

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. The content of this paper includes applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data.

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well being in physical activity and sport. The content of this paper includes sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being, and use of data.

Both papers consist of multiple choice questions, shorter answer and extended answer questions.

Practical (40%)

Along with theory lessons, you will choose 3 activities / sports from a variety of options. You will be assessed in one team activity, one individual activity plus another either team or individual activity. Please see below the activities that can be assessed:

Team activities		Individual activities	
Football	Hurling	Boxing	Equestrian
Badminton (doubles)	Lacrosse	Athletics	Rock climbing (indoor or outdoor)
Basketball	Netball	Badminton (not with doubles)	Skiing
Camogie	Rowing	Canoeing / kayaking	Snowboarding
Cricket	Rugby league OR Union	Cycling (track or road)	Squash (not with doubles)
Dance	Squash (doubles)	Dance (not with team)	Swimming (timed)
Gaelic Football	Table tennis	Platform diving	Table tennis (not with doubles)
Handball	Tennis (doubles)	Golf	Tennis (not with doubles)
Hockey	Volleyball	Gymnastics (artistic)	Trampolining

There is also a list of specialist activities for those pupils who have a disability.

Each practical activity will be marked out of 25 (10 marks on skills and 15 marks on the application of skills, technique, strategies and tactics within a game situation). The final 25 marks are given for a piece of analytical and evaluation work where you will have to address one of your performances and offer coaching and guidance to further enhance your performance.

How will studying this subject benefit me?

You will develop skills including: advanced skills, tactics and strategies; you will learn how to evaluate and improve performance; apply rules of activity and safety regulations. Students will find that it provides a very good preparation for A-level PE. The course will also help you to develop your confidence, self-esteem and sense of team spirit, along with developing an in-depth knowledge of the anatomy of the human body, socio-cultural influences, sports psychology and health fitness and well being.

What career prospects are associated with this subject?

This qualification can lead to further study of Physical Education or Leisure and Recreation or to a career within sport and the leisure industry. It is an action packed, busy and practical GCSE to study, with many positive health and social benefits for pupils.

Mrs. Smith, November 2019

Separate Sciences

What sort of activities will I be doing in this subject?

The new Science For All subject content has been updated so that pupils can see the relevance of Science in today's society and to provide more opportunity for practical work. The wide range of activities includes: practical experiments wherever possible, field work, model building, research into new technology (using ICT and traditional methods), group work and investigations. This provides pupils with three, separate Science GCSEs; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What are the exams like in this subject?

GCSE Biology: Two 1hour 45minutes written papers. Each is worth 50% of the total grade. The questions are a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

GCSE Chemistry: Two 1hour 45minutes written papers. Each is worth 50% of the total grade. The questions are a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

GCSE Physics: Two 1hour 45minutes written papers. Each is worth 50% of the total grade. The questions are a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

All six written exams will be taken in the final term of Year 11.

What controlled assessment do I have to do?

The practical Centre Assessed Units have been removed from the syllabus. Instead there are eight required practicals that pupils must undertake throughout the GCSE years for each Science. They will be identified to the pupils and integrated into the day-to day teaching of the subjects. Although the practicals are not examined individually, the pupils will be questioned on some aspects of these practicals during the final examinations so therefore must know these practicals well.

How will this subject benefit me?

Science helps us to look at how to solve problems and understand why things happen or often why things have not happened. It helps us to develop accuracy and patience and gives us an appreciation of the world around us. The Separate Sciences tackle more challenging concepts. It helps to further enhance investigative skills and the ability to analyse more complex information.

What career prospects are associated with this subject?

Any pupils interested in pursuing a career in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry or veterinary medicine would be strongly recommended to pursue Separate Sciences. It is also beneficial but not essential for pupils hoping to do A level Science.

Any other information?

As with all the the new Science For All content, Separate Science specification has more emphasis on How Science Works. Pupils are required to understand and apply their knowledge of science rather than just learn facts. Good mathematics skills are essential for all of the sciences. With a combined total of 8hours of Science a week (32% of lesson time) it is an exciting challenge for pupils with a passion for Science. Examinations can be taken at Higher or Foundation level.

Miss Stagg, November 2019