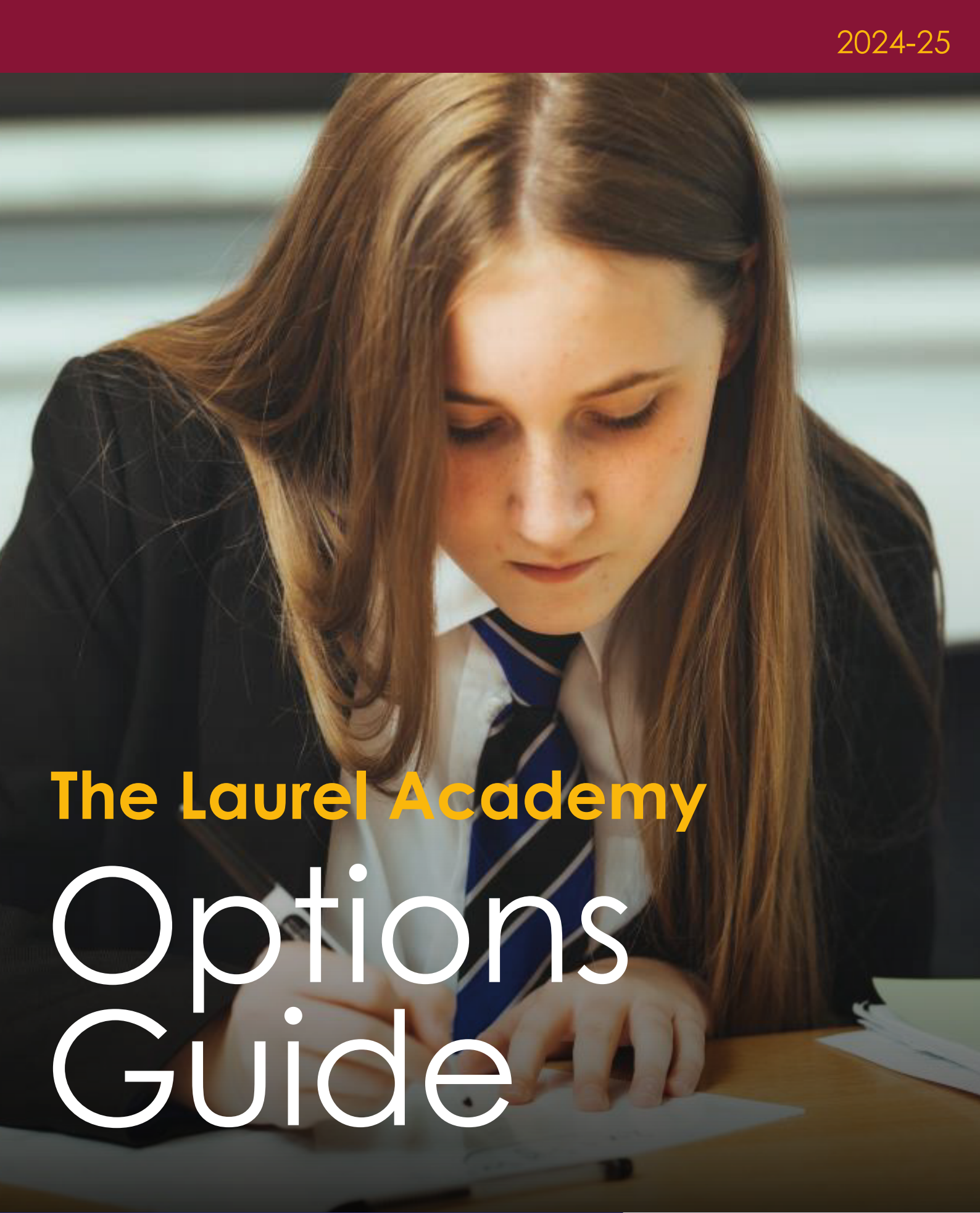




The Laurel Academy Options Guide



@DeltaTheLaurel



laurelacademy.org.uk



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Introduction

Your child is approaching another very important milestone in their educational journey. In these unprecedented times in education, it is time to make an exciting change to the curriculum currently being offered to our Y9 students.

Delta The Laurel Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum which engages and challenges our students so that they achieve the best possible range of qualifications to enable their future aspirations to be fulfilled. The curriculum is designed to offer students a diverse and coherent choice of courses and learning experiences so that they develop skills and knowledge that remains with them long after examinations. This is so our students leave school as confident and independent, lifelong learners, equipped with the transferable skills needed to thrive in a changing world.

Students will take a suite of compulsory core subjects at GCSE. However, they will also be able to choose from a wide range of optional subjects. Some of the subjects will be familiar to you; some will be new. This options guide and the KS4 Options page on our website are designed to give you information to help you make the best choices.

It is important that you read through this pack, speak to your child and watch the numerous videos on our options website page. If your child is thinking of a particular career path, make sure they talk to the careers staff at the academy for more information. The choices have to be right for your child, so they need to think about which subjects they need, enjoy and/or interest them.

Aim high, choose wisely and work hard.

Regards,

Mrs Taylor-Clarke
Principal

Timeline

9th

Y9 Options Assembly

Introduction to the options process
Friday 9th February 2024

19th

Options Information Website

Presentation/subject videos/careers advice and guidance
Live from 11am on Monday 19th February 2024

20th

Option Evening

Opportunity to discuss options with teachers
Evening of Tuesday 20th February 2024

5th

Deadline

For submission of online options form (see website)
Tuesday 5th March 2024

11th

One to one meetings

Where necessary, with Mr Rose (Vice Principal)
Week beginning Monday 11th March 2024



KS4 Option Information

Students will select four options; **one from each block**, of which one must be a Humanities, and the other three options from the remaining blocks. Our choices are structured like this to encourage our students to study a rich and balanced curriculum.

*Please note that you should not choose History and Geography.

Option A
French
Geography
History
Computer Science

Option B
Geography*
History*
Sport
Engineering
iMedia
Photography
Health & Social Care

Option C
Triple Science
Hospitality & Catering
Sport
Engineering
Textiles
Art
Health & Social Care

Option D
iMedia
Performing Arts
Sport
Engineering
Music
Photography
Health & Social Care

Terminology

Core	These are compulsory subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science.
Option	Students can pick THREE option subjects to study in KS4.
Key Stage 4	Programmes of study for students in Years 10 and 11.
Level 1	GCSE grade 4-1 or equivalent.
Level 2	GCSE grade 9-5 equivalent.
Level 3	A Level grade A*-E or equivalent.
EBacc	The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure in school league tables that was introduced in 2010. The measure recognises those students who achieve a GCSE grade in English Language and Literature, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History. It's not a qualification in itself but the Department for Education is recognising the need for more students to study this suite of subjects.
GCSE	A level 2 course graded 9-1. These are assessed by a mix of examination and coursework (see individual subject guides for further information).
BTEC/OCR Nationals/ WJEC Vocational	A level 2 vocational qualification graded pass/merit/distinction/distinction* which is equivalent to a GCSE. It is mostly portfolio/coursework based with an exam element (see individual subject guides for further information).

GCSE Grade Changes

You will probably be aware that the government decided to change the way that GCSE qualifications are graded from 2017. Most GCSEs are now graded on a 9-1 scale rather than the previous A*-G scale. For students in current Y9 this change will apply to all of their

GCSE qualifications. Students have been graded using the new 9-1 system within their subjects from Y7 onwards. These reformed GCSEs are more demanding and assessment is mainly reduced or in some cases removed completely.

Former grading structure	A* A	B C	D E F G	U
New grading structure	9 8 7	6 5 4	3 2 1	U

Making good Choices

Making the right choice of courses at Key Stage 4 is very important because it may affect a student's progression routes after Year 11 and possibly their future career opportunities. Option choices will also determine the number, type and grade of qualifications a student will achieve as well as their enjoyment of Years 10 and 11. Therefore, the decision making involved in the options process deserves careful consideration of the information, advice and guidance provided by the school. Students should also remember the following three questions to help them choose the best combination of courses:

1. What am I good at and what courses will I succeed in?

Recent progress reports and scores in assessments will help students to identify their areas of strength. If students are unsure about their ability to succeed in a particular course, they should ask their subject teacher.

2. What interests me and what do I enjoy?

Most students can quickly identify their favourite lessons but it is important to make sure students choose a course because they find the subject interesting rather than just because they like the teacher or the group of friends in their current class.

3. What qualifications do I need for my next step after Year 11 and beyond?

One of the most important outcomes of Key Stage 4 is that students achieve the qualifications that they need for progression to their desired next step after Year 11 and in their long term aspirations. If students are clear about what career they wish to pursue they should seek advice about relevant courses. At this stage, many students will not know exactly what career they want to pursue, so it is important to choose a broad and balanced combination of courses to keep their future options open, as explained above. It is important that students think ahead as much as possible and find out what qualifications they may need for their desired post-16 education. However, at this stage, students should not be overly concerned if they are unsure about what they want to do after Year 11, so as long as they follow the advice of choosing a balanced curriculum to help keep their post-16 options open.

Career Choices

Some students may already have a very clear idea about the career path that you would like to follow whilst others may not. If you are undecided at this stage try and write down the areas that you think you may want to work in.

**I want to be
able to travel
a lot!**

**Something to
do with ICT is a
career I'd like
to get into.**

**I definitely want
to be a teacher.**

**I want to work
with people.**

**I think I might
want to be a
lawyer.**

**Working with
animals appeals
to me.**

Planning For The Future

Where possible, if students have a goal to aim for, this can help focus their choice of courses. However, we fully understand that many students will not have a career path planned out or may change their plans. Our curriculum has the flexibility to accommodate this and we would also encourage students to choose a broad range of courses over Key Stage 4 to keep their future options open.

Attainment 8 is a secondary accountability system set by the government, and may become the admissions criteria for further or higher education establishments and employment in the future. It measures students' attainment over eight qualifications and expects students to have achieved good grades in:

- GCSE Mathematics (double weighted);
- GCSE English (double weighted);

- Any three GCSE qualifications from the Sciences, Geography, History or Languages;
- A further three qualifications from a list of approved qualifications which may be either GCSE, BTEC or other approved qualifications.

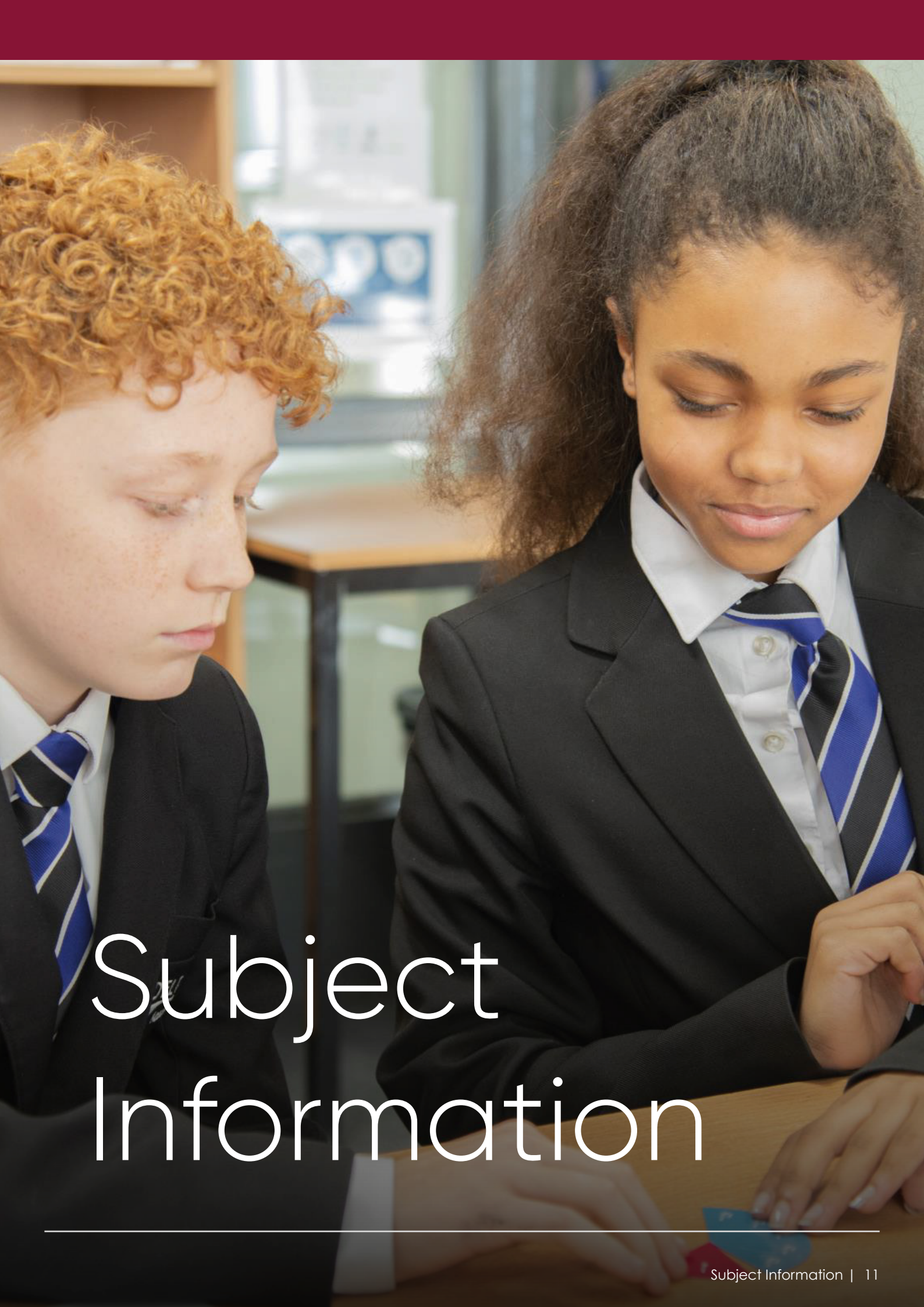
The Laurel Academy is committed to supporting all students in the core curriculum and through their option choices to achieve this threshold.



Pathways

All students have four option choices to make; we only specify that one choice must be either History or Geography. Then remaining three choices are down to you. Students that want to be recognised with the EBacc would need to select French in option A, followed by either History or Geography in option B, and then two further choices from the remaining blocks. We strongly recommend those wanting to study the Ebacc pathway to choose Triple Science as one of their other options.





Subject Information

English

Course Description

GCSE English is vital for a whole range of employment options, college and university courses. For most jobs, employers will look for good communication skills, both written and spoken, and the ability to read with insight and understanding. Jobs using English specifically can include work in Media, Journalism, Advertising, Public Relations, Management and Teaching.

In English Language, students will study fiction texts (such as extracts from novels) and non-fiction texts (such as leaflets and articles), developing their reading skills and their ability to locate information, infer, summarise, use evidence and comment on the writer's techniques. They will also develop their writing skills, writing descriptions, short stories and a range of articles for magazines and other media.

In English Literature, students get the opportunity to study a broad range of texts, both in style, genre and literary heritage. Students will study the Shakespeare play *Romeo and Juliet*, JB Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Alongside this, students will study poetry through the ages from the *Eduqas Anthology*, along with unseen poetry from a variety of poets. English Literature develops the ability to understand a range of moral and social issues through engaging characters and plots, as well as developing analytical and evaluative skills.

Assessment will take the form of examinations at the end of the course.

GCSE English is a very important qualification, and a good GCSE grade, together with a similar grade in GCSE mathematics, is the gateway to many careers and courses of higher education.

Mathematics

Course Description

Maths is a gateway into all sorts of exciting future careers – Computer Games Designer, Formula 1 Engineer, Aerodynamicist, Engineer, Music Producer, Air-Traffic Controller, Banker, Defence Analyst, Designer, Statistician, Investment Analyst, Economist, Tax Advisor, Accountant, Actuary, Auditor, Modelling Analyst, Stockbroker, Architect and Systems Analyst.

Maths is a two-year linear GCSE course and students will complete this course at the end of Year 11.

There are six main areas of study – Number, Ratio, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Probability and Statistics. These areas of study are assessed through the form of examinations at the end of the course.

We know that to give students the best chances of gaining employment or entry to higher education they must achieve the highest grade possible in GCSE mathematics.



Science

Course Description

Students can go on to study A levels in Physics, Biology and Chemistry. These advanced subjects can then lead to university science study. Professions then include Medicine, Teaching, Veterinary Science, Pharmacology, Forensic Science, Cosmology, Space Science, Oceanography and Engineering.

All students will follow GCSE Science over two years. Most students will achieve two GCSEs in

Combined Science, and some students will achieve three GCSEs (Triple Science) if chosen as an option.

Science GCSEs are very important qualifications and good GCSE grades demonstrate many transferable skills that are desirable by both further education providers and employers.

French

Course Description

Learning a language opens a world of new possibilities and opportunities for pupils. Language learning promotes curiosity, develops problem-solving skills and deepens pupils' understanding of their own identity and culture but also those of other countries. Studying a Modern Foreign Language contributes significantly to the development of pupils' communication and literacy skills. It also helps to prepare young people for a globalised world of work, contributes to their mutual understanding of the world, and induces a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfilment.

The course covers a range of topics and gives pupils opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and to express themselves with increasing confidence, independence and creativity. They explore the similarities and differences between other languages and English and learn how language can be manipulated and applied in different ways.

The ability to speak a different language is a highly sought after skill by employers, especially in an increasingly globalised world of work.

EPC (Ethics, Philosophy and Citizenship)

Course Description

This is a core subject and covers students' entitlement to Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship, RE, Work-related Learning and Economic Wellbeing.

This is done via teacher assessment and self assessment and is closely related to the learning model (Personal Learning and Thinking Skills) and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning).

This course will support students through all aspects of real life beyond the classroom. It also offers an element of careers education and work-related education. All modules include a variety of resources and teaching methods. Many involve outside experts visiting to address students.

All students are required and entitled to follow the EPC course.

Physical Education

Course Description

Core Physical Education has a high practical content that ensures that activity levels remain the premier focus of the course. Students will be in mixed-ability groupings but then split into abilities within each group. This will allow students to be challenged and progress in their practical abilities throughout KS4.

Students will work on a variety of activities including:

- Outwitting opponents (activities such as Netball, Football, Rounders and Tennis)
- Accurate replication (activities such as Gymnastics)
- Performing at maximum levels (activities such as Athletics and Fitness)
- Identifying and solving problems (activities such as orienteering and OAA)

Students will develop physical, technical and tactical sporting skills; enhanced by an embedded focus on mental skills such as resilience, determination and confidence. There will be an emphasis on improving fitness in conjunction with health and well-being through knowledge and application. Leadership skills take a strong emphasis throughout the key stages, with students able to take on additional roles than just a performer.

It is hoped that the introduction to these concepts will supplement and inspire both development of lifelong participation in sport and a deeper understanding of a range of sporting activities. Additionally, core PE will form the cornerstone for the students who are studying our OCR Sport Studies course or intend to study PE in the future.



History

Course Description

There are four topics to cover and these will be examined over three exam papers.

1. Medicine in Britain through time, c1250–present including the British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: surgery and treatment (Medicine)
2. Early Elizabethan England 1558–88
3. The American West– Life for Native Americans, Gold Rush, Sheriffs and Cowboys.
4. Life in Germany 1918–39, Germany after World War 1, Hitler's rise to power and how he stayed in power.

Assessment

Paper 1: 11: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western

The exam includes both source and essay style questions and accounts for 30% of the final grade.

Paper 2: B4: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 and 24/25: The American West, c1835–c1895

The exam includes a range of questions which ask students to give narrative accounts and explain cause and consequence. This paper accounts for 40% of the final grade.

Paper 3: 31: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

In the exam students answer source and interpretation questions. This paper accounts for 30% of the final grade.

Future Prospects / Career options

Academic Librarian, Archaeologist, Broadcast Journalist, Civil Service Administrator, Editorial Assistant, Human Resources Officer, Information Officer, Marketing Executive, Policy Officer, Politician's Assistant, Solicitor, Talent Agent.

Further Course information

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

Who Should I Talk to?

Mr Murrie

The exam board is Edexcel – History B.



Geography

Course Description

The course is designed to give all students the confidence and experience to help inform and shape ideas; investigating the human and physical strands of Geography.

Study will enable students to become global citizens and have the cultural literacy to be role models for the future. The Geography course will allow students to immerse themselves into real-life issues that are facing the planet whilst allowing students to consider their own opinion and that of others. The Geography course is designed to answer the big issues facing our world today.

Assessment

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment.

The challenge of natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes in the UK and geographical skills

How it's assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of the GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenges of resource management, geographical skills.

How it's assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of the exam

Paper 3: Geographical applications

Issue evaluation, fieldwork, geographical skills.

How it's assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes 30% of the exam

Future Prospects / Career options

Geography can lead to a wide range of professions that can also lead to many travel opportunities. Potential careers in Geography include: Planning Officer, Secondary School Teacher, Cartographer, Journalist, Town Planner, Police and Estate Agent.

Further Course information

The following websites are really useful to help you learn more about Geography

- Time for Geography
- Cool Geography

Who Should I Talk to?

Miss Pendlebury

Triple Science

Course Description

Units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with specialist teachers. The students will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the concepts which will be studied in Combined Science as well as study new units. The study will involve practical work which emphasises the skills and processes of each branch of Science, such as investigating, observing, planning, designing, analysing and evaluating evidence. Theory topics are designed to give an appreciation of the relevance of science in everyday situations.

This course will make the transition on to an A-level Science course much smoother.

Assessment

The examinations will consist of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open response questions.

Biology consists of two externally examined papers. These examinations will be in May/June of Y11. Each written examination is 1 hour and 45 minutes, 50% of the qualification and 100 marks.

Chemistry consists of two externally examined papers. These examinations will be in May/June of Y11. Each written examination is 1 hour and 45 minutes, 50% of the qualification and 100 marks.

Physics consists of two externally examined papers. These examinations will be in May/June of Y11. Each written examination is 1 hour and 45 minutes, 50% of the qualification and 100 marks.

Future Prospects / Career options

Further study at A level, Medicine, Dentistry, Chemical Engineering, Research Scientists, Forensic Scientists, Food Scientists, Astronomers, Nuclear Engineers, Engineers, Meteorologists, Physiotherapists, Nurses, Doctors, Midwives, Radiographers.

Further Course information

Visit www.aqa.org.uk

Who Should I Talk to?

Mr Harrer



Engineering

Course Description

OCR Engineering Manufacture Level 1/2 offers a learning experience that focuses learning for 14- to 16-year-olds through applied learning, i.e. acquiring and applying knowledge, skills and understanding through purposeful tasks set in sector or subject contexts that have many of the characteristics of real work.

Assessment

The course is made up of three units, two internally graded and one examination

Unit 1

Unit aim and purpose: The purpose of this unit is for learners to analyse engineered products in order to propose design solutions to meet requirements. In this unit, you will learn about that design process. You will learn how to analyse a product so you can see what features make it work and how it meets certain requirements. You will learn how to take ideas from different products in order to produce a design specification for a product.

Unit 2

Unit aim and purpose: The purpose of this unit is for learners to use skills developed to produce an engineered product. Through this unit, you will learn to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to make engineered products. You will develop the skills needed to work safely with a range of engineering processes, equipment and tools. With these skills, you will learn to make a range of engineered processes that are fit for purpose.

Unit 3 Examination

Unit aim and purpose: The purpose of this unit is for learners to use their knowledge and understanding of engineering processes and

material properties to solve problems. You will learn about materials, processes and maths that engineers use and how they are used to solve problems. In solving problems, you will learn to follow a process and develop drawing skills to communicate your solutions.

Future Prospects / Career options

Future careers in Mechanical & Electrical Engineering, Construction, Manufacturing, Communications, Aerospace and Automotive Engineering.

Further Course information

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-manufacture-level-1-2-award-certificate-j832-j842/>

Who Should I Talk to?

Mr Coutts



Hospitality and Catering

Course Description

The WJEC Level 1/2 award in Hospitality & Catering has been designed to support learners who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. This course provides learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment.

Assessment

The course is made up of two units:

- **Unit 1 – The Hospitality and Catering Industry,** exam – 40% of grade = written or online exam paper (90 marks).
- **This is a 1 hour 30 minute exam.** This component consists of multiple choice, short and extended answer questions. It is externally marked.
- **Unit 2 – Scenario based coursework project with practical cooking exam** – 60% of final grade.

Learners are required to plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes in response to a brief, across nine hours of supervised assessment time. A three-hour practical exam in which learners create their planned dishes will form part of this. The exam assesses technical skill and appropriateness of choices in response to the brief and client group. This unit is internally marked and externally moderated.

Future Prospects / Career options

The **Hospitality & Catering** sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages, and/or accommodation services. This includes restaurants, hotels and bars. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues.

Further studies

City & Guilds Professional Cookery Level 1/2/3 Diploma.

Hospitality and Catering Industry Level 1/2/3

Employment in Hospitality & Catering can range from: Receptionist, Catering Assistants, Chefs, Hotel and Bar Managers, Food Technologists in Food Manufacturing, Food Teacher, Baker.

Further Course information

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering-level-1-2/#tab_overview

Who Should I Talk

Miss Howells



Textiles

Course Description

Textiles is an exciting new course, with the first cohort starting last year. It is a strand of Art, however, it will follow on from what students have covered in their KS3 lessons in textiles as part of their technology carousel. You will be given lots of opportunity to explore and then develop your own skills, ideas and themes using various fabrics.

Assessment

Exam Board is AQA. This is a TWO-unit course.

Unit 1: Coursework / portfolio (60%)

Unit 2: Externally set assignment (40%)

Future Prospects / Career options

Careers in textiles include Fashion Design, Home Furnishings, Jewellery Design, Film, Interior Design, Graphic Design and Stylist.

Further Course information

Where will GCSE Textiles take you?
It is a strong foundation for further progression to Art, Design & Technology or Photography-related courses and enhanced vocational and career pathways.

Who Should I Talk to?

Mrs Hopton

Photography

Course Description

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, GCSE Photography provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature.

Assessment

There are two components:

Component 1 - Portfolio (60%): produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study.

Component 2 - Externally set assignment (40%): there's a separate externally set task paper for each title. It features seven tasks and you have to complete one of them. You get preparation time, plus 10 hours of supervised time.

Future Prospects / Career options

Photography is an exciting medium that can be used in many different ways. Careers in photography include Art Careers, Advertising, Commercial Work, Editorial, Fashion, Film, Food, Forensic, Industrial, Architectural, Ariel, Portraiture and Wedding Photography, Sports and Travel.

Further Course information

Where will GCSE Photography take you?
It is a strong foundation for further progression to Art, Design & Photography-related courses and enhanced vocational and career pathways.

Who Should I Talk to?

Miss Hague

Performing Arts (Drama)

Course Description

You can specialise in Acting and will be encouraged to develop your chosen skills through practical participation of workshops. The course will also provide the opportunity for you to develop techniques and personal skills essential for successful performance in working life. You will improve your ability to analyse and evaluate features of your own performances and will have the opportunity to see and study professional theatre pieces.

Assessment

Component 1: Exploring the Arts

- This is assessed through internally moderated coursework.
- This part of the course gives you a taste of what it's like to be a professional actor across different styles.

Component 2: Developing skills and Techniques

- This is assessed through internally moderated coursework.
- This part of the course allows you to develop your skills and techniques in your chosen discipline.

Component 3: Responding to a brief

- This is an external assessment which is marked by an examiner.
- For this part of the course, you will create a piece based on the brief set by the exam board.
- You can be a performer or a designer but must work together to produce an original piece for a selected audience.

Future Prospects / Career options

The course will prepare you for working in the Performing Arts Industry as a performer or a designer but also provide you with vital skills in life. The skills you learn are beneficial in many careers such as Teaching, Therapist, Armed Forces, Management, Journalism and Law. Successful completion of this course could lead to studying Level 3 Performing Arts, A Level Theatre Studies or Dance.

Further Course information

This course will appeal to you if you want to:

- Gain a better insight into what it is like to be a performer or designer in the Performing Arts Industry.
- Develop your skills in Performing Arts.
- 'Show off' your talents in the Performing Arts in a safe environment.
- Study a course with lots of practical elements.
- Want the opportunity to see and study professional drama pieces.
- Master new skills that help to build social skills, increase self-esteem and the ability to communicate well in a team.
- Move on to a career or further education in this area.
- Follow an active and interesting course.
- Build up a qualification through studying individual units.
- Follow a course that has portfolio (assignments) and examination work.

Who Should I Talk to?

Mrs Lister – Acting / Drama

Music

Course Description

If you enjoy learning about lots of different styles and types of music, as well as developing your own musical skills, then this is a good choice for you. You will need to be creative, dedicated, enthusiastic and be able to work as part of a team.

This is a creative course that will give you a taste of what the music industry is like, as well as the skills and confidence to succeed in your next steps.

Assessment

There are three components that form this qualification:

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

This is an internally assessed unit where you will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles and genres

Component 2: Music Skills Development

This is an internally assessed unit where you have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further development.

Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

This is an externally set exam brief where you will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given commercial music brief.

Future Prospects / Career options

This qualification can lead to lots of different career paths including:

Composer, Concert Promoter, DJ, Events Manager, Instrument Technician, Music Journalist, Music Manager, Music Therapist, Musician, Recording Engineer, Singer, Songwriter, Sound Engineer, Stage Manager, Teacher, Tour Manager.

Further Course information

Where will BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice take you?

After completing the course, you can continue onto further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3.

Who Should I Talk to?

Mr Walker



Sports Studies

Course Description

This is a course that includes both written and practical elements. The course offers students the chance to study key areas of Sport linked to performance and the contemporary issues that sport currently faces in society. Students will also delve deeper into sports leadership and the personal qualities a leader has, in addition to looking at the media and how both sport and the media work together.

Assessment

Exam Unit – 40% of overall marks

R184: Contemporary issues in sport

Students explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, such as participation levels and barriers, promoting values and ethical behavior, and how sport contributes to society as a whole beyond simply providing entertainment.

Coursework Units – 60% of overall marks

R185: Performance & Leadership

Students try out a range of sports-related skills and techniques, including different practice methods for improving both their own performance and that of others. They will assess their strengths & weaknesses in a range of activities as well as offer guidance and plan to improve their weaknesses over a six-week program.

Students learn about some of the knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to be an effective sport leader. They put their knowledge into practice by planning and delivering safe and effective sporting activity sessions. Afterwards they review their performance

R186: Sport and the media

Students explore the relationship between sports and the media. They will understand both the positives and the negatives that various media platforms can have on sports around the world.

Future Prospects / Career options

Sport is a high-profile and expanding industry and there is a growing need for qualified professionals and capable volunteers. There is a wide range of job roles to progress into such as Activity Leader, Sports Coach, Fitness Instructor and Leisure Assistant. It's also widely recognised that regular participation in sport and physical activity is highly beneficial both to individuals and to society as a whole. With life expectancy on the increase, there will be continuing focus by government in collaboration with other bodies, to promote sport's benefits and encourage wider take up. Cambridge Nationals in Sport offer students the solid foundation required for further study or progression into industry. Students will develop a wide range of highly desirable transferable skills such as communication, problem solving, team working and performing under pressure.

Further Course information

This course will appeal to you if you:

- Have a passion for sport and exercise.
- Have an interest in how the body works when you exercise and how to improve fitness levels.
- Have an Interest in pursuing a career in the sports industry.
- Have an interest in nutrition and healthy eating.
- Wish to learn about the sports industry as a whole and not just from a sports performer's point of view.

Who Should I Talk to?

Mr Whaley

IT – Creative iMedia

Course Description

Our IT offering at The Laurel is OCR's Cambridge National in Creative iMedia. It's a hands-on, super-creative delve into the world of IT. Students will create an abundance of graphics products, utilising the latest professional software packages from Adobe, Sony and Microsoft. Along the way, students will learn a variety of transferable IT skills, including document authoring, data manipulation, branding and styling, laws, legislation and a whole host more. This is the perfect course whether you want to venture into the IT world post-education, or if you just want to up your IT skills and be generally more employable!

Assessment

The course is split into three units – two coursework and one exam:

Exam Unit: IT & Design Skills Exam
(Pre-Production Documents)

The exam unit covers practical IT skills such as planning, designing, research, health & safety, reviewing and understanding client requirements.

Coursework – Unit 1: Creating a Graphics Identity

This unit looks at the world of graphic design. You will learn all about how to design and create a graphic identity including logos, banners and print-based documents. Working to a brief you'll be guided through the process of designing an identity for your client.

Coursework – Unit 2: Creating Digital Graphics Products

There are several options for the second unit of work: you could be creating a 2D digital game,

shooting and editing a news report video, designing and making an interactive media product or casting and producing your own podcast. Whatever it is, you'll be learning a huge range of highly transferable IT skills to help you out in your future career or education.

The overall grade for the subject is taken as an average across the three units.

Future Prospects / Career options

iMedia can support you in a whole range of careers, IT skills are desired in around 90% of newly advertised jobs in the UK! The IT sector itself is massive, the list of jobs is endless:

Graphics Designer, Architect, Games Designer, Air Traffic Control, IT Technician, Software Engineer, Systems Manager, Distributions Leader, Photography, Filmography, Influencer, Programmer, Social Media Manager, Navigator Route Planner, Internet Engineer, Teacher.

Further Course information

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/creative-imedia-level-1-2-award-certificate-j807-j817/

Who Should I Talk to?

Mr Unsworth

Art and Design

Course Description

Art and Design is an experience-based, highly creative and personalised course. You will be given lots of opportunity to develop your own skills, ideas and themes whilst facing many interesting, creative challenges.

During all creative courses you will be:

- Recording in a wide range of materials and techniques
- Exploring visual language
- Researching and developing resources
- Exploring personal responses to your own and set themes
- Creatively using visual media including digital media and computers
- Exploring contextual work from contemporary and historical sources
- Presenting your work to a high standard, applying your visual communication skills

Assessment

Exam Board is AQA. This is a TWO-unit course.

Unit 1: Coursework

Unit 2: Externally set exam.

The Syllabus for Art and Design is Unendorsed Art & Design.

During the course you are required to compile a folder of work consisting of at least two projects demonstrating two different disciplines within Art. This folder of work forms your coursework portfolio Unit 1. This is followed by an externally set assignment, including a 10-hour independent work period for Unit 2. The assessment criteria are the same for each unit but the coursework portfolio counts for 60% of the final mark and the exam counts for 40%.

Within the course you will study a range of different artistic styles. Sea Life Vessels, Kandinsky, Messages, Diary, Links, Old Decayed and Destroyed, Word and Image, West African Decoration, Reflection, Natural Forms, Movement.

Future Prospects / Career options

Art and design opens the door to lots of exciting careers. Try these for starters:

Graphic Design, Theatre Designer, Animator, Video Game Designer, Illustrator, Museum Curator, Hair and Makeup Design, Retail Design, Exhibition Design, Jewellery Design, Artist, Visual Media and Teaching.

Further Course information

Where will GCSE Art and Design take you?

You can continue your Art and Design studies at AS and A-level, where the same titles are available. You'll also be able to choose areas of study to specialise in within a particular title.

Who Should I Talk to?

Miss Hague



Health and Social Care

Course Description

The main focus is on three areas, which cover:

- skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing
- attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them
- knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

Assessment

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

This is assessed through internally moderated coursework

You will have two assignments: one that assesses your knowledge and understanding of human growth and development; and a second assignment which looks at your understanding of how people deal with major life events.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

This is assessed through internally moderated coursework

You will have two assignments: one that assesses your knowledge and understanding of health and social care services, and a second assignment that is a practical demonstration of care values, together with the ability to reflect on our own performance.

Component 3

This is an external assessment on Health and Wellbeing which requires learners to assess an

individual's health and wellbeing and use this assessment to create a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

Future Prospects / Career options

BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care is a good starting point for all kinds of jobs, e.g. Nurse, Dental Nurse, Nanny, Doctor, Youth Worker, Social Work, Care Assistant, Teacher, Optician, Radiographer, Midwife, Dietician, Physiotherapist, Paramedic, and many more.

Further Course information

This course will appeal to you if you:

- want to learn about health and social care in the media
- are keen and interested in health and social care services and how they operate
- enjoy studying a course which is relevant to life and experiences encountered by yourself and others
- want to find out more about health and social care through personal investigation
- are interested in finding out about what affects health
- want to move on to a career or further education in this area
- want to follow an active and interesting course
- want to build up a qualification through studying individual units
- want to follow a course that has portfolio (assignments) and examination work

Who Should I Talk to?

Mrs Mason

Mrs Beardshall

Computer Science

Course Description

Computer Science is a GCSE course. It involves the study of computation, information, and automation. The course will encourage students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- understand the components in digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.

Assessment

How it is assessed:

There are two written exams at the end of the course.

Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes, and the exam papers carry equal weighting of 50% of the GCSE course.

The first exam paper assesses computer systems. The second exam paper assesses computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

Future Prospects / Career options

As the Computer Science course uses several skill sets, for instance, programming languages, software systems, and data modelling, you will be in high demand from many businesses. With so much choice, you might be drawn to a sector that interests you such as agriculture, retail, or finance. Alternatively, you could go on to work at an IT consultancy or with an IT service provider.

Those that decide to study Computer Science further have the option to go into many different careers like:

Applications developer
Cyber security analyst
Forensic computer analyst
Games designer or developer
IT consultant
Network engineer
Programmer
Software engineer
Software product manager
Web designer or developer

Further Course information

This course will appeal to you if you want to develop:

- Critical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Decision making
- Collaboration
- Independent working
- Innovative thinking
- Analytical thinking
- Communication
- Logical thinking

Who Should I Talk to?

Mr Unsworth



Frequently Asked Questions

How many options can I choose?

You have the opportunity to choose four options. One of the options must be either History and Geography. The remaining option choices are from a broad range of subjects. Please see the KS4 options information page in this booklet.

What if students cannot do their chosen course?

We hope that the courses offered will be available to all the students who want them but we will ask you to give us an alternative/reserve choice for each block.

Despite every effort to give all students their preferred choice, this may not always be possible. Alternatives may have to be considered if:

- Too many students opt for a particular course;
- Too few students select a particular course;
- We wish to advise a better range of courses to meet a student's needs;
- Combinations of courses are chosen which we are unable to timetable.

We will ensure we communicate your choices with you well in advance of them starting.

Can students change their mind?

We always do our best to ensure that all students' choices can be matched but please bear in mind that students who submit options after the deadline may not find it possible to be placed on their first choice courses. As soon as the options deadline has passed, work begins on timetabling. Alterations to choices may not be possible from this point onwards.

Once a decision has been made and a course begins, it is extremely difficult to make any changes. It is therefore essential that time and thought be given to the combination of courses to be taken.

What support is available to decide which options to take?

1. Subject staff will be available at the KS4 Options Information Evening on Tuesday 20th February to discuss option courses.
2. A careers adviser appointment can be made to discuss future studies or employment.
3. All students will have the option to meet with a member of the senior leadership team to help them inform their decisions.

What are Option English and Maths?

Within the Academy we are constantly assessing our students' performance in the core subjects of GCSE Mathematics and English. We will therefore identify some students who would benefit from using option time to study extra Mathematics and/or English. This will replace one of their option choices. The Academy reserves the right to make this decision where we feel it will be in the best interests of the student. Where this applies, students and parents/carers will be kept fully informed.

Option Choice Form

Complete the form carefully, ensuring the decisions you make accurately reflect the options you wish to choose.

www.laurelacademy.org.uk

The online options form needs to be completed no later than **5th March 2024**.

If you have any questions please contact the school at **Info@laurelacademy.org.uk**

Students should have discussed these with staff in school and parents/carers.

Notes

Notes



"Where you are going to spend your time and your energy is one of the most important decisions you get to make in your lifetime."

- Jeff Bezos - Amazon

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