



Alderman Knight School



Key Stage 4 Options
For September 2024

The Option Subjects

Alongside the Core Curriculum, there is also the opportunity for all pupils to choose two 'option subjects'. Following significant analysis of the expressions of interest, we are delighted to share with you the options for September 2024.

Below are the 6 subjects, in two option blocks. Each pupil can choose one subject from Block A and one subject from Block B. Each pupil should also select one reserve option from each block to enable us to plan out the timetable and staffing needs as efficiently as possible.

Block A	Block B
1. Computer Science 2. Music 3. Land Based	1. Sports Leadership 2. History 3. Art & Design

Please add choices to the option selection sheet at the back of this booklet or complete online via the QR code, also on the Option Sheet.

Making Your Choices

It can help, when choosing subjects for Years 10 and 11, to try and think about what you might do after Key Stage 4. As I'm sure you know, you are required to stay in education or employment with education until the end of the academic year in which you turn 18 years old. For most of you this will mean going into a Post 16 setting like a college or possibly AKS Post 16.

Your options decisions are important to you. You should make sure that you get all the advice and guidance that you feel you need before making your decisions. It is important that you are happy with your choices as then you will hopefully enjoy your learning in Key Stage 4! Talking with your parents / carers, subject teachers, other members of staff, friends and older pupils are all valuable ways to help you decide what you would like to do.

We know some of you will be disappointed that you cannot study more subjects. However don't forget you can always choose to do some of these subjects at a later date or even outside school!

Here are some ideas to support you in making your decisions:

- Talk to current Year 10 and 11 pupils and to the people who'll be teaching it.
- Try and choose courses that suit the way you like to learn. The descriptions of subjects let you know what the course will be like. Choosing a new subject like Computer Science may seem like a good idea, but it is important you understand how it will be taught and what it will include.
- Please do not choose a subject because your friend is choosing it. Your friends may have different interests, ambitions, strengths or talents to you.
- It is not a good idea to choose a subject because you like the teacher teaching it this year. They may not be teaching it next year!

In summary, please do not worry if you are finding it difficult to choose. We will chat things through with you and do our best to help make sure you have chosen subjects that will suit you.

What qualifications will the option subjects give me?

As you can see on the option pages, subjects can be taught at many different levels. Some are offered as GCSE subjects and some are offered as alternative accreditations. All are extremely valuable. This allows you to be entered for the level of accreditation that suits you.

The table below provides an overview of the different levels of accreditation and how they relate to each other. You may study some subjects at GCSE, or at Level 1 or Level 2 and some at Entry Level. In some subjects you may progress through an entry level qualification onto a level one or GCSE qualification. Having subjects offered at different levels allows you to be entered for the level of accreditation that suits you.

Qualification Level	Equivalent GCSE Grade	Vocational Awards, Certificates	
Level 2	9	GCSEs Grades 4-9 (C to A*)	BTEC Level 2 Functional Skills Level 2 NCFE Level 2
	8		
	7		
	6		
	5		
Level 1	4	GCSEs Grades 1-3 (G to D)	BTEC Level 1 Functional Skills Level 1 NCFE Level 1
	3		
	2		
Entry Level	1	1, 2 or 3 (Entry Level 3 is the highest)	Entry Level Awards
	EL3		
	EL2		
	EL1		

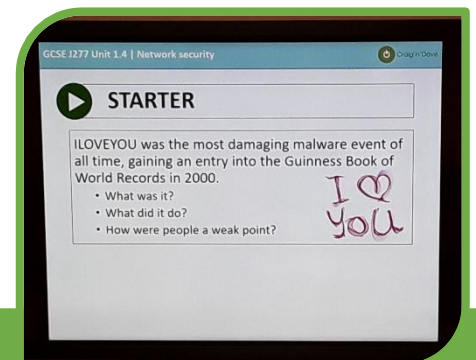
Each of the option subject pages will explain the levels at which the accreditations are being taught.

The table below is an overview table for option subjects with this information.

Subject	Level of Qualification
Art & Design	GCSE
Computer Science	GCSE
History	GCSE
Land Based Studies	BTEC Level 1
Music	Level 1 RSL Music Practitioner Certificate
Sports Leadership	Sports Leaders Level 2 award

1. Computer Science GCSE

Option Block A



Overview

GCSE Computer Science helps you think about how technology is created. This GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. Pupils will be required to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience, including designing, writing and debugging programs, through to hacking simulations. We use a flip learning approach, where pupils watch a video and take notes before a lesson so we can then further dig deeper into the topics.

Homework?

You will be required to watch a **video** on the next topic before the start of a lesson, these vary between 5 and 15 minutes. This enables us to use our lesson time for practical tasks.

Why choose Computer Science?.....

Technology is embedded in every aspect of our lives.

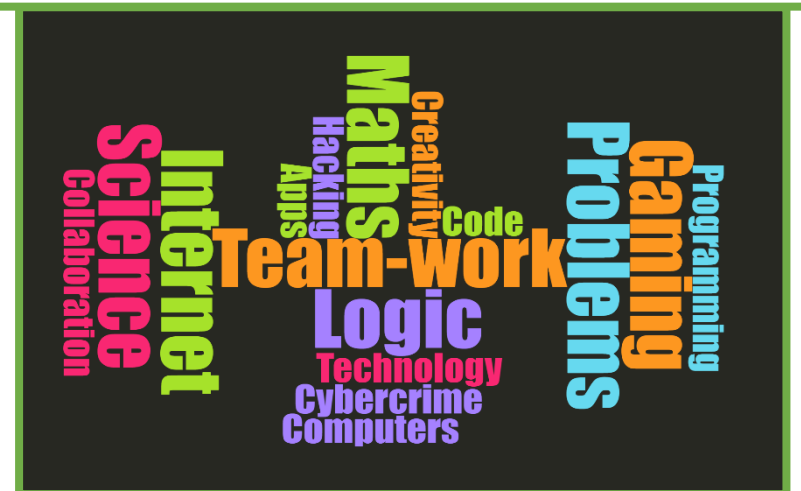
Computer Science is being used help solve many of the world's biggest problems.

If you wish to have a career in Computers and IT, this could be for you, opening doorways to apprenticeships and further education courses at college.

What you will learn about...

- Internal computer components
- Cyber security
- Data representation

- Effect of digital technology on society
- Programming
- Networking and the Internet
- Software development



Skills you will develop...

Not only will you develop your computational thinking skills, Computer Science teaches you to apply the problem-solving skills and creativity to other subjects and real-life situations.

Possible Trips...

IT Schools for Africa
Quintec IT Solutions

What you could do next?

- Speak to your Computing teacher and ask about the course visit the course website <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>
- Talk to some of the current year 10 or Post 16 Computer Scientists and ask them about the course
- Enrol in a free Python programming course



Course Assessment

	Component 1: Computer systems	Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	Practical programming experience
How is it assessed	Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes	Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes	Not formally assessed
How much is it worth	80 marks Worth 50%	80 marks Worth 50%	Not formally assessed



2. Music Option Block A



Overview

This new and exciting course is called 'Music Practitioners' and is an RSL vocational qualification. This course is designed to be a creative, practical subject for those interested in rehearsing, performing or putting on an event.



Why choose Music?

You may love to perform or play an instrument or sing so this is a great course for you. You may love music, but not be confident to perform and this course will also be suitable for you. You may be really keen to learn about how to put on an event and what it entails. This exciting course will cover all of these elements. We will also go on a variety of trips to support learning.

What will I learn about?

You will study one core unit and one optional unit.

You may choose from one of these core units

Live Music Performance (Core) - you will learn to develop your skills as a performer, either as a solo or in a group. You will learn to prepare for a live performance through a series of rehearsals and understand the logistics and skills involved in a live performance.

OR

Music Rehearsal Skills (Core) – you may not be confident enough to perform in front of others so you may wish to take this unit as a core unit. Anyone interested in the music industry will need to engage with the rehearsal process at some time. You will be able to plan rehearsals, understand techniques for working with others and develop your musical skills.

Everyone will then take part in this optional unit to make up the required number of credits.

Putting on an event – Managing and putting on an event involves many skills. You will learn to identify your own personal abilities and goals and use these to work together on a project. You will learn about the various roles required to put on an event, marketing and promoting an event as well as developing programme content.



What qualification and skills will I gain?

You will gain a Level 1 RSL Music Practitioner Certificate as well as a range of useful skills that will help and support you in your future.

These skills include creative thinking, problem solving, working independently and with others, listening and time management.

It guarantees to be hard work, but lots of fun!



How will I be assessed?

This is a coursework based qualification and all assessments are assessed internally. This means there is no exam at the end of the course.

You will be able to use a wide variety of methods to produce evidence for your coursework which could include recording videos, blogs, vlogs, class discussions, observations, or written work. There will be some writing required, but if you find this difficult you can record your answers verbally. There are lots of different ways for you to be assessed depending on your strengths.



3. Land Based Studies

Option Block A



Overview

Land based studies is a vocational BTEC Level 1 course, designed to introduce you to the area of land based studies whilst helping you develop wider learning skills.

Five reasons to choose Land Based Studies?

- ❖ Because you have an interest in agriculture, horticulture or animal care
- ❖ Enjoy being outdoors and like working with animals and plants
- ❖ You want to experience more than one vocational area
- ❖ You want to develop practical, transferable skills
- ❖ You prefer coursework to examinations



What you will learn about

- ❖ Your own skills and qualities and how these match to different job roles
- ❖ Organisational techniques to help you organise your work and manage your time well
- ❖ The five animal welfare needs and the Animal Welfare Act 2006
- ❖ The skills needed to carry out care and feeding of different animals ensuring their needs are met
- ❖ How to grow new plants from cuttings and seeds and establish into healthy young plants
- ❖ How to care for plants to ensure that they remain healthy and strong.
- ❖ The various roles, resources and processes used to manage large estates

What your lessons might look like?

- ❖ There will be a mixture of practical and theory lessons.
- ❖ The majority of theory work is completed on the computer
- ❖ You will need to describe what you are doing in photographs
- ❖ The harder you work in class the less homework there will be!



Offsite Visits

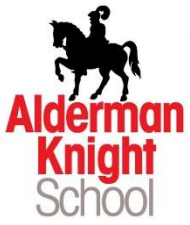
- ❖ Vets including a state of the art Equine Hospital
- ❖ A large country Estate such as Croome Court
- ❖ An animal attraction such as Cotswold Wildlife Park or All Things Wild



'I like that you get to do a wide range of activities related to plants, animals and nature.'

Course Structure

- ❖ 100% coursework
- ❖ 2 Core modules and 3 LBS sector modules



1. Sports Leadership Level 1 Option Block B



Whilst studying Sports leadership you will learn and demonstrate important life skills such as effective communication and organisation whilst learning to lead basic physical activities to younger people, their peers, older generations and within the community.

What current pupils have said?

"Sports leaders has helped me to work in a team and become more organised"

This subject is for you if:

- You enjoy leading and helping out.
- You are a role model to younger people.
- You have a keen interest in sport .
- You are creative with your ideas.
- You want to improve your confidence in speaking in front of other people.

Unit 1: Leadership Skills and Behaviours

- Learn the skills and behaviours required to lead others
- Know how leadership skills and behaviours can transfer into other settings e.g. employment.
- Be able to develop your own leadership skills
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of a sports leader.

Unit 2: Planning, assisting and evaluating physical activity sessions

- Learn to plan appropriate sport and physical activity sessions.
- Assist and lead appropriate sport and physical activity sessions.
- Learn to effectively evaluate and review your performance as a leader

Pupils will develop a range of skills including:

- Confidence
- Self belief
- Communication
- Resilience
- Problem Solving

"I really enjoy sports leaders and it has helped me to become more confident speaking in front of people"

To further progress from this qualification:

Alderman Knight Post 16 offer the Sports Leaders Level 2 award. This is a continuation from this Level 1 course where students can lead sessions independently and continue to develop the skills in becoming a confident coach within their local community



2. History

Option Block B



This is an exciting course that will fire learners' enthusiasm for studying history. In the first year, you will study Crime and Punishment from 1250 to the present - looking at crimes and criminals as well as superstitions and punishment. We will then move onto the Norman Conquest and the impact that this invasion had on the people of Britain.

In the second year, we will study Kenilworth Castle and the key events and periods associated with its History. We will then study the Vikings, looking at Norse mythology and Viking raids. Finally, we will finish with 'Living under Nazi Rule', following Hitler's road to power and life in Nazi Germany.

What current pupils have said....

"History helps me learn and get a better understanding of the world."

"History involves writing but it is a lot of fun, and I love learning about different crimes."

"It is one of my favourite lessons, I get to look at History topics I enjoy in so much detail!"



Why choose GCSE History

History is the perfect subject to develop and assess a wide range of transferable skills for employment or further study: Reaching conclusions and making judgements, problem solving, writing skills, research skills, independent study skills, analytical and evaluative skills, and making connections.

What you could do next?

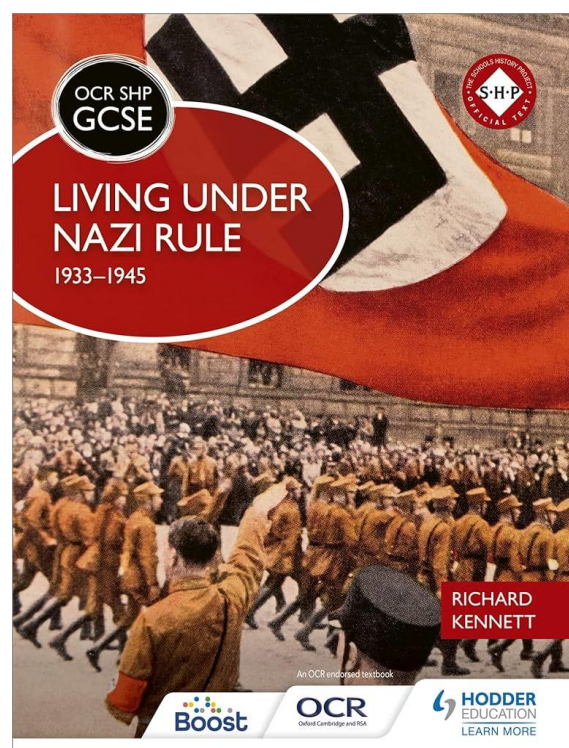
Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it is at now and how it may continue to develop in the future.

Studying history can lead to many exciting career options, including journalism, law, business, politics and marketing.

History may be studied at GCSE or entry level

GCSE History B (J411) is a full GCSE. Pupils are assessed with three final exams at the end of year 11; Crime and Punishment with the Normans, Kenilworth Castle; and the Vikings and Nazi Germany.

Entry Level History (R435) covers Crime and Punishment, the Normans, the Vikings, Nazi Germany, and Kenilworth Castle. All assessed with a variety of question booklets.





3. Art and Design – Option Block B

You will notice that there is now one option for Art & Design which encompasses the elements of both Fine Art and 3D Design. We have made this decision due to the large numbers of pupils who expressed an interest for both courses. By running one combined Art course, all pupils who wish to, can now study the subject as well as another option choice from the other Block.



Overview

If you enjoy being create, learning about using new materials and techniques, and like the freedom to create your own artwork inspired by other artists, then this GCSE course is the one for you! In Year 10 at AKS, you could choose Art, Craft and Design to continue with your creative Art and DT journey.

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Course offered:
Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design

Why choose art, craft and design?

Art, Craft & Design brings together most aspects of Art and DT into one GCSE. You will have the freedom to express yourself and make your own creative decisions. You will explore a wide range media and mediums to produce artwork using drawing, painting, sculpting, photography, surface pattern and textiles techniques.

"This subject is lots of fun and you get to have a go at different skills."

"This course gives people the opportunity to express themselves how they want and when they want."

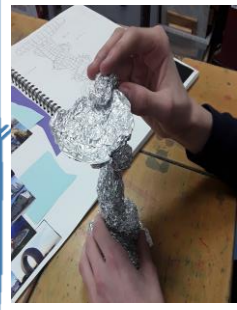
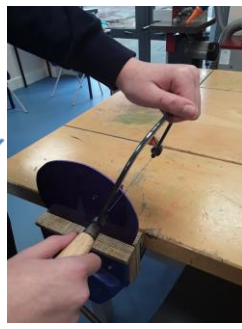
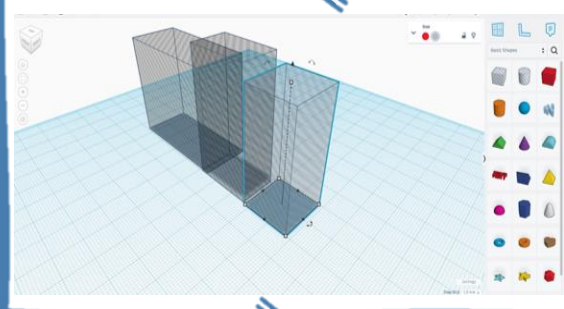
What pupils have said



Skills

You will specialise and develop skills by:

- ✓ Using a variety materials, methods and techniques to develop **drawing and painting** skills
- ✓ Crafting and sculpting with paper, clay and other materials
- ✓ **Printmaking** using lino, collagraphs and monoprints
- ✓ Using **tools and machinery** to create sculptures
- ✓ **Crafting and sculpting** with paper, wire, clay and other materials
- ✓ **Photography and editing** software to enhance images
 - ✓ **Modelling** and architecture
 - ✓ **Computer Aided Design (CAD)**
 - ✓ **Textiles, fashion and jewellery**



What you will learn about

Pupils will develop their creativity and begin to think outside of the box in Art, Craft and Design. They will be able to communicate their ideas visually and effectively through various mediums and processes relevant to the choices of media and materials that they make. They will have the freedom to explore their own ideas and express themselves in a creative way, using projects and prompts to inspire them.

Pupils studying each GCSE will work towards 4 assessment objectives which look at research, experimenting, explaining ideas, and creating meaningful artwork and designs.



Course Structure

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) - 100% coursework

Year 1 – Portfolio – **60%** towards GCSE
Skill building, learning how to annotate, learning how to research artists and designers.

Year 2 – Externally Set Assignment – **40%** towards GCSE with 10 hour supervised time
Choosing a new project theme provided by AQA, and creating a product or piece of artwork in response. ¹⁰

What could you do next?

Art and Design can provide a route to a variety of further courses and/or employment opportunities in creative, engineering and design industries. College courses can provide further specialism into these areas at A Level and BTEC.



Timeline of important dates

Once all Year 9 pupils have made their option choices, we will be able to confirm which option subjects have been allocated to each pupil.

If we have any queries about the choices a pupil has made, a member of staff will discuss the situation with that student. All pupils will receive a letter confirming their option choices on the 20th March.

Later in the academic year, each pupil will also receive an individualised options booklet which will outline the core subject accreditations that pupils will be studying.

