



# Alderman Knight School



Key Stage 4  
Options  
September 2025

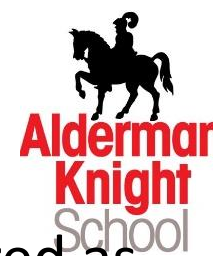
# The Option Subjects

Alongside the Core Curriculum, there is also the opportunity for all pupils to choose two 'option subjects'. Obviously, what we want to make sure that the curriculum option subjects offered, match those the pupils wish to study!

Below are the eight subjects that could be included in the final curriculum offer. Pupils will each only study two options alongside their core curriculum. As you know we have a two-week timetable. Each option subject is allocated 8 lessons per two weeks



# Qualification levels explained



Core and option subjects can be taught at different levels. Some are offered as GCSE subjects and some are offered as alternative accreditations. This approach allows pupils to be entered for the level of qualification that best suits them.

The table below provides an overview of the different levels of qualification and how they relate to each other. Entry Level is the lowest level in the National Qualifications Framework Qualifications Courses.

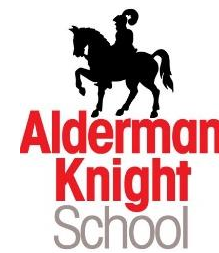
Qualification Level	Equivalent GCSE Grade	Vocational Awards, Certificates
Level 2	9	GCSEs Grades 4-9 (C to A*) BTEC Level 2 Functional Skills Level 2
	8	
	7	
	6	
	5	
	4	
Level 1	3	GCSEs Grades 1-3 (G to D) BTEC Level 1 Functional Skills Level 1
	2	
	1	
Entry Level	EL3	1, 2 or 3 (Entry Level 3 is the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

Each of the option subject pages will explain the levels at which the qualifications can be taught. The table below shows this as well.

Subject	Level of Qualification
Art, Craft and Design	GCSE
DT – Three-dimensional Studies	GCSE
Combined Science	GCSE
Computer Science	GCSE
Drama	Level 1
History	GCSE
Land Based Studies	BTEC Level 1
Sports Leadership	Level 1



# Choosing your two options



If you know what you wish to continue to study or do at Post 16, whether this is in a school setting, college or some form of employment with education, this can be helpful when choosing options and ranking the subjects. *(It is important to remember that all young people are required to stay in education or employment with education until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.)*

During the next few weeks take time to consider the options available to you. We will be giving advice and guidance and please also talk with your family. Friends can of course be helpful but please make your own decisions. We want you to enjoy your learning at KS4 and so want you to choose subjects that are appropriate and relevant to you, what you enjoy and want to learn.

## **Here are a few pointers to get you started!**

### **1. Try and pick courses that suit your style of learning.**

The descriptions of subjects let you know what the course will be like. Choosing a new subject like Computer Science may be a great idea for you, but you really ought to know what it is all about first.

**2. Take opportunities provided** to talk with pupils already in KS4 about the courses – are they what they thought they would be?

**3. Ask questions of subject staff** who are going to be teaching the subjects

**4. Try not to be persuaded by your friends to do subjects they want to do so you can be together!**

Your friends may have different interests, ambitions, strengths or talents to you. There is also no way to guarantee that the combination of subjects that you each choose will lead to you being in the same group.

**5. Teaching staff sometimes move or teach new things so please do not choose a subject because you like your teacher.**

**6. If you get anxious please talk to us.** Although this is an important decision and making choices is sometimes difficult, you should try not to put yourself under too much pressure. Don't worry, we will help you make the right choices.

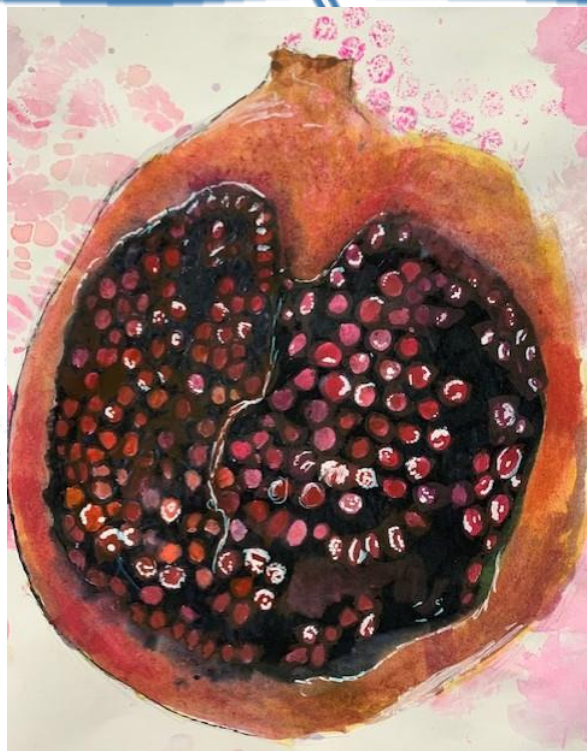




# Art, Craft and Design

## Overview

Developing individual ideas, experimenting with materials, learning about Artists and Designers, acquiring new skills in Printmaking, Photography, Mixed Media, Collage, Fashion, Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Installation Art are all part of GCSE Art, Craft and Design.



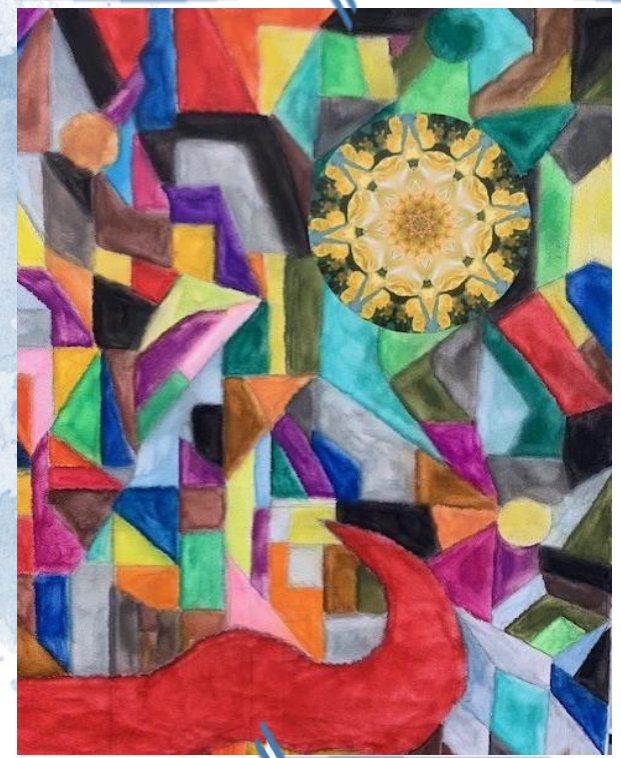
## Course offered: AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design

### Approach to Learning

A Specialist Education in the Visual Arts.

Art offers and delivers a wide ranging multi-disciplinary GCSE Art and Design course (AQA). This broad approach to visual work is essential for both experience; there is no better way to develop creative skills, and for the discovery of strength.

Pupils embark on a creative journey that develops their ideas through experimentation and sustained investigations to produce a Personal Portfolio (coursework) demonstrating their ability to develop responses into creative and individual final outcomes. This leads to the Externally Set Assignment, for which they are fully prepared.



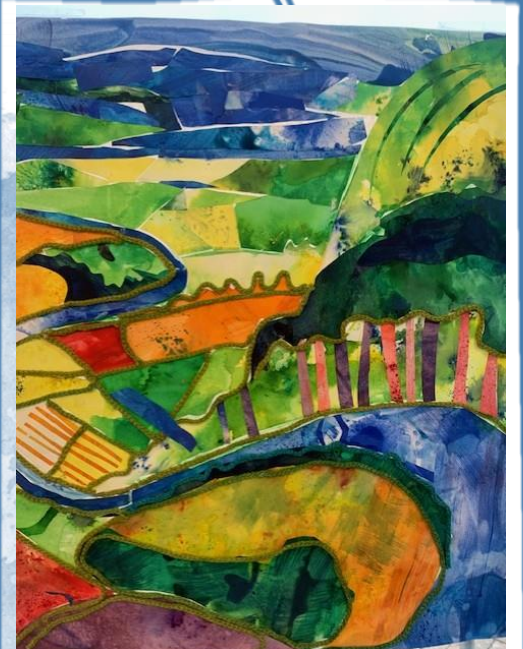
## Course Structure

### Approach to assessment

Personal Portfolio: 60 %

Externally Set Assignment: 40%

We divide the course into 3 main parts: 2 units of coursework that make up the Personal Portfolio and the externally set assignment. The ESA is approached in the same way as the Personal Portfolio but the final outcome is completed in 10 hours of supervised sessions in the Art Room and the starting point is set by the exam board.



## 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.



# Combined Science

Double GCSE Award

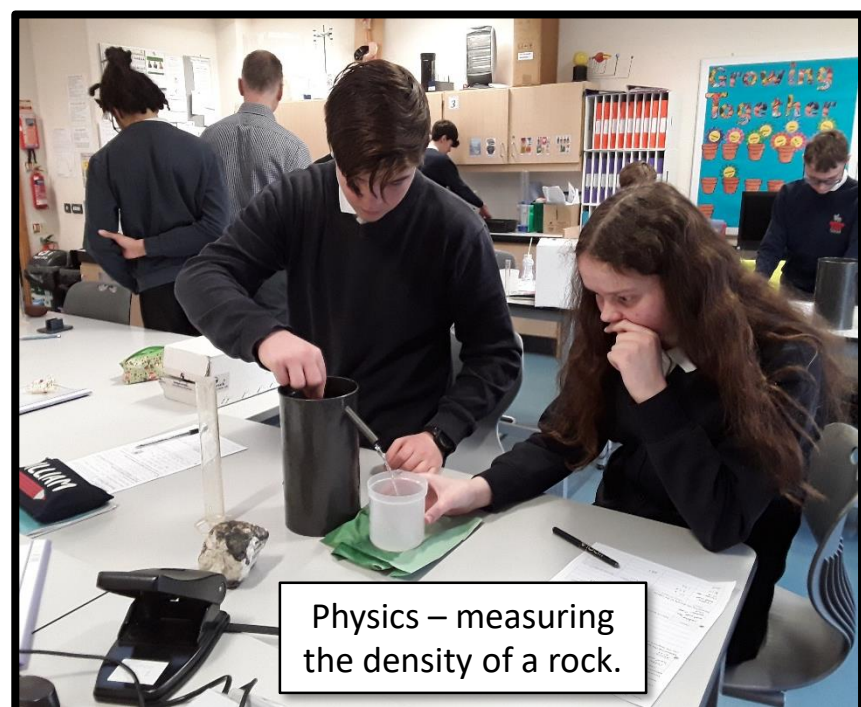
**Combined Science is the study of all three sciences, biology, chemistry and physics** and so gives you a balanced science curriculum. **It is what the majority of pupils across the country do (69%)** and is the best option for anyone wanting to pursue a science related career.

Taking this as an option will **double the number of science lessons** you have as it will be taught in in your core science lessons and in one set of option lessons.

So choose this option if you really enjoy science as you will have lots of science lessons each week!



Biology – Preparing a sample for a food test



Physics – measuring the density of a rock.

## What lessons will look like

In Combined Science you will learn through a variety of teaching methods such as:

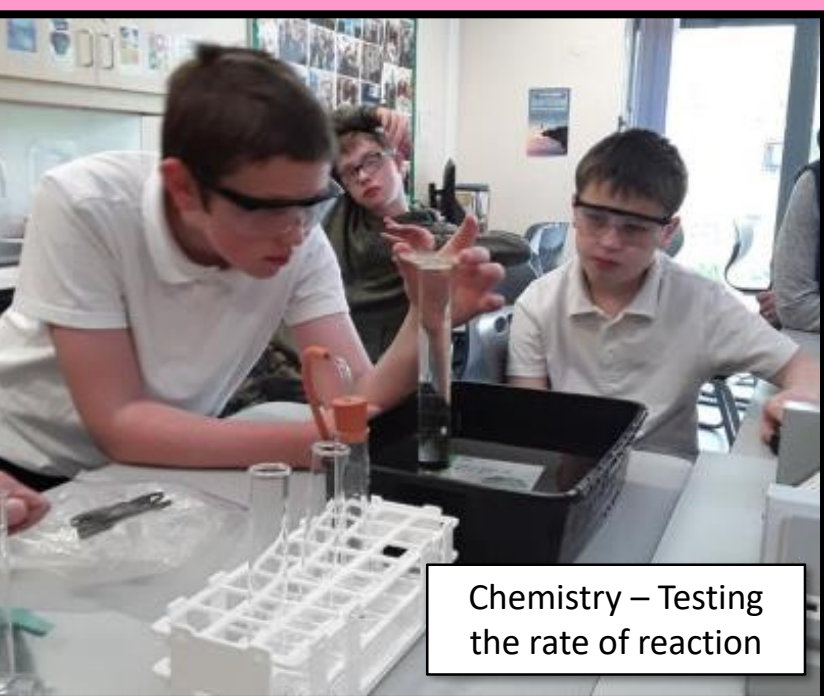
- practical work
- modelling things like waves, electric circuits and atoms.
- using computers to research topics.
- videos, animations, simulations and presentations.

## You will definitely do lots of experiments.

50% of the final exam will be testing working scientifically skills. These are the skills you need to design and carry out experiments and work out what the results mean. So practical work is very important. The exam board require the school to give pupils the opportunity to do 7 biology, 6 chemistry and 8 physics experiments as a minimum. We will do a lot more than this though!

## Homework

Pupils will be provided with a revision guide and workbook. Homework will often be to complete the questions in the workbook using the information in the revision guide. This will reinforce what has been learnt in lessons. Homework will be set weekly and will usually take 30 minutes to complete.



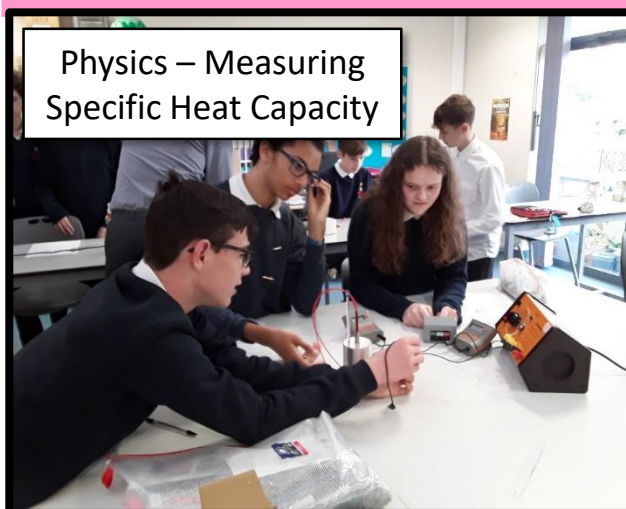
Chemistry – Testing the rate of reaction

## Next Steps

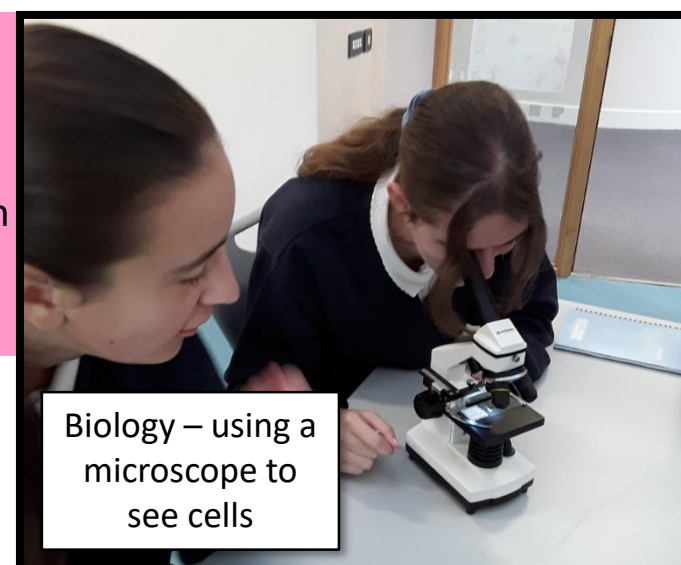
Two GCSEs in Combined Science will allow progression to Level 2 or Level 3 science related courses, depending on the grades you get. It is also very useful if you are thinking about any science related careers such as engineering, environmental science, robotics, material design, medicine or nursing.

## Course Information

Pupils have the opportunity to gain two GCSE grades (1-9). This will be based on six 1h 15min final exams in Y11. These will be two biology, two chemistry, and two physics exams.



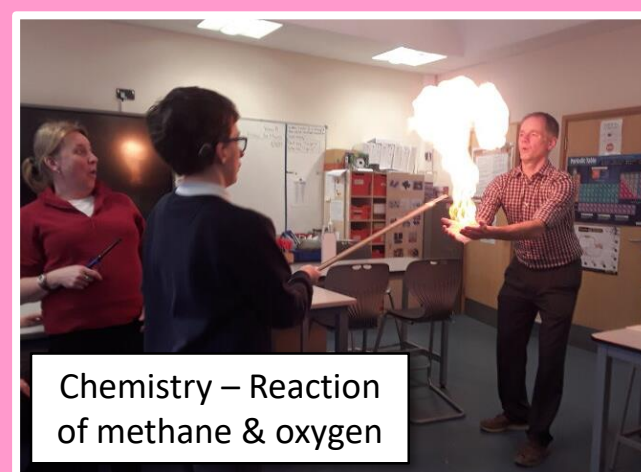
Physics – Measuring Specific Heat Capacity



Biology – using a microscope to see cells

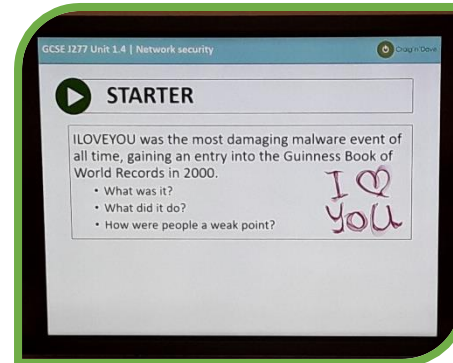
## Trips & Visits

In year 10 we will visit the Cheltenham Science Festival where you will be able to attend a talk, take part in interactive experiments and have the opportunity to see which careers having two GCSEs in Combined Science would be an advantage.



Chemistry – Reaction of methane & oxygen





## Overview

GCSE Computer Science helps you think about how technology is created. This GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work, & to develop computer programming & 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 given weekly homework, it may be to watch a **video** on the next topic before the start of a lesson, or indeed a worksheet based on the current topic.

### Why choose Computer Science?.....

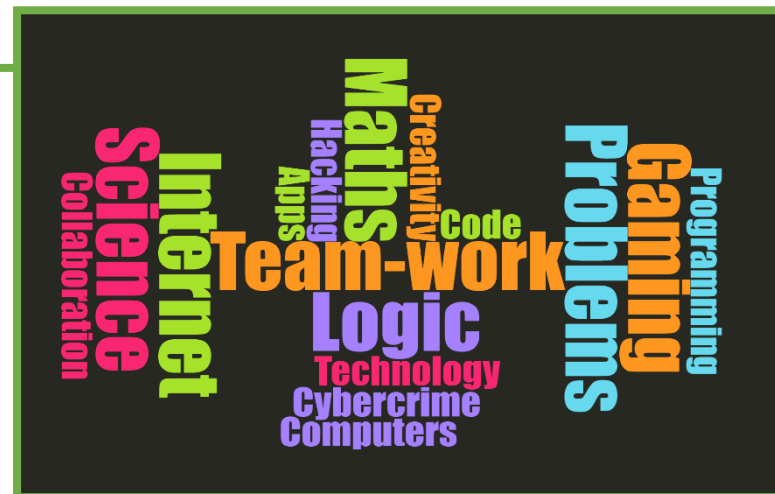
**Technology** is embedded in every aspect of our lives.

**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 is the subject you need and will open doorways to apprenticeships and further education courses at College**

### What you will learn about...

Effect of digital technology on society	Internal computer components	Programming
Networking and the Internet	Cyber security	Software development
	Data representation	



### Skills you will develop...

Not only will you develop your computational thinking skills, Computer Science teach you to apply the problem-solving skills and creativity to other subjects and real-life situations. There is a strong focus on developing your understanding of mathematical concepts e.g. number bases and calculating file sizes.

### 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



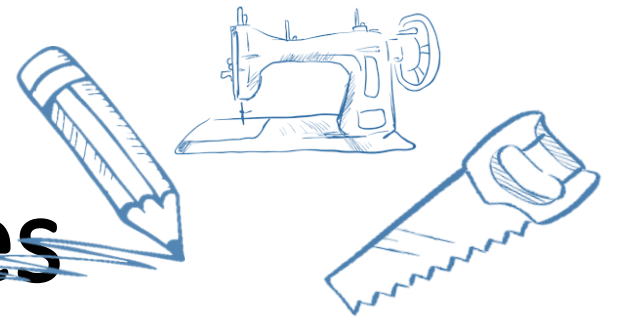
### Course Assessment

	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
Other information	A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing a pupil's theoretical knowledge.	A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.	You will be provided with opportunities to design, develop and test computer programs to solve a range of problems without the pressure of it counting towards the GCSE.





# Design Technology Three-dimensional Studies



## Overview

If you enjoy being creative, learning about using new materials and techniques, and like the freedom to create your own artwork inspired by other artists or designers, then this is the course for you!

In Year 10 at AKS, you could choose **Art and Design 3D Design (DT)** to continue with your creative journey.

## 3D Design

Course offered:  
GCSE Art and Design: Three-Dimensional studies

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

"You get to experiment with lots of different materials and techniques."

## Why choose 3D Design?

**3D Design** is all about exploring and creating from 2D to physical products and sculptures using a range of materials, machinery and techniques. In 3D Design, you will have the freedom to research, design and make your own products inspired by your ideas!

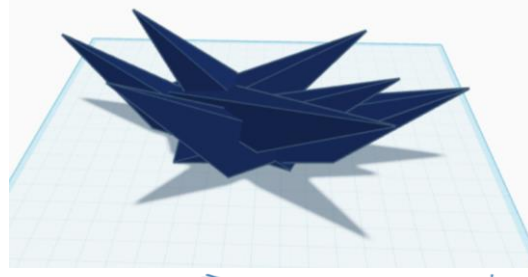
What current pupils have said



## 3D Design Skills

As a **3D Designer**, you will be able to specialise and develop skills from 2D to 3D in:

- ✓ **Crafting and sculpting** with paper, wire, clay and many other materials
- ✓ **Modelling** and architecture
- ✓ A range of drawing skills including Computer Aided Design (**CAD**)
- ✓ Textiles, **fashion** and jewellery
- ✓ **Using tools and machinery** to create sculptures



## What you will learn

The specification has been designed to allow pupils to develop knowledge and understanding during the course through a variety of learning experiences and approaches, including engagement with sources. This will allow them to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate their own ideas.

Pupils will demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of their ideas through a portfolio and by responding to an externally set assignment.



## 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

## 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 art & design industries. College courses can provide further specialism into these areas at A Level and BTEC.



# Drama – Arts Award Bronze (Level 1)

## Overview:

While studying Drama Arts Award, pupils will develop their knowledge of drama and the theatre while taking part in a range of drama based practical activities, and learning about different theatres and actors. Pupils will also explore the technical aspect of theatre, and learn about the role of a director, set designer, prop maker, lighting designer and costume designer.

The Arts Award qualification inspires young people to develop and expand on their previous experience and knowledge of drama and the arts.

## Why choose Drama?

If you are interested in drama, theatre, TV or films, then this is the course for you!

I like the range of activities and topics covered in Drama Arts Award. Visiting the theatre was fun, and I have enjoyed developing my acting skills and learning about different actors and directors.



It was really exciting to learn about lighting and sound design. I liked using the lighting design programme on the computers.



## Skills you will develop:

- Self confidence
- Team work
- Verbal and non verbal communication
- Creativity and imagination
- Spatial awareness
- Presentation skills
- Performance skills
- Knowledge about The Arts
- Drama related skills

## What you will learn about:

Take part in a range of different drama activities.

Regularly take part in a drama skill of your choosing and explain the progress you have made.

Research a local theatre, and also an actor, director, choreographer, dancer, set designer etc of your choice.

Attend a live theatre performance to develop knowledge of drama and the theatre as an audience member. Write a review of this performance.

Organise a skills share activity, where you will teach others a drama skill of your choice.



## What could you do next?

Arts Award can provide a route to a variety of further creative or performing arts courses. It could also provide employment opportunities in The Arts.



## About Arts Award Bronze:

This is a Level 1 qualification, is 100% coursework, and has no exams. You can use a wide variety of methods to produce evidence for your coursework such as recording videos of performances, blogs, recording class discussions, audio recordings, drawings or written work.



# History



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 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!"

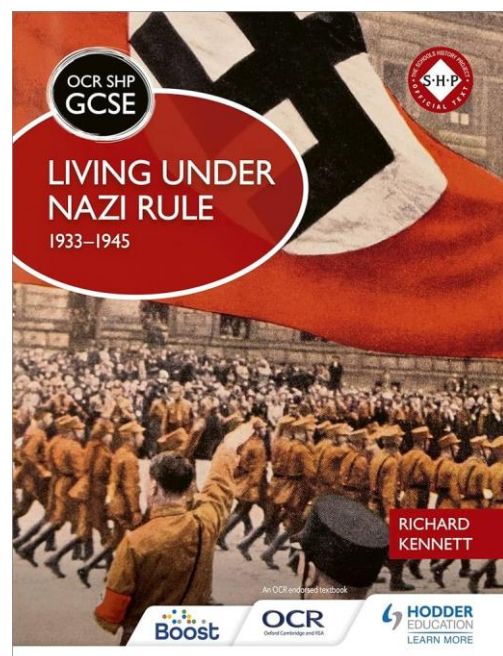


## Why choose History?

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.

Learn about past events and the people who have influenced history 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.



**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, and Kenilworth Castle. All assessed with a variety of question booklets.





# Land Based Studies BTEC Level 1



## Overview

Land based studies is a vocational 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

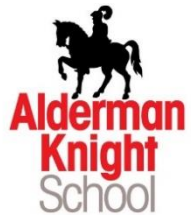


*'I like that you get to do a wide range of activities related to plants, animals and nature.'*

## Course Structure

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





# Sports Leadership Level 1



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 have a keen interest in sport .
- You enjoy leading and helping out.
- You are a role model to younger people.
- 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 develop confidence when speaking in front of people"

To further progress from this qualification:

A Sports Leaders Level2 Award can be offered by some Post 16 settings. This is a continuation from the Level 1 course where pupils can lead sessions independently and continue to develop their skills in becoming a confident coach within their local community

