

KS4 OPTIONS 2023

Aspiration - Independence - Resilience - Respect

Guide to Your Examined Subjects

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Introduction

Dear Year 9 Student

In September 2023, you will begin your General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) courses which will be examined in Summer 2025. This booklet aims to outline the courses you will study during years 10 and 11. Part of the curriculum is compulsory for all students, but there is also an element of choice, which allows you the opportunity to shape aspects of your own learning according to personal interests and future education and career aspirations. The following pages will enable you, in discussion with your parents/carers and teachers, to select subjects to study during this time and will provide a useful point of reference across the next two years.

The school aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum based on current National Curriculum guidelines and legislation. This will give you maximum flexibility in your future choices for academic study or career. The choices detailed in the next section will allow you to study up to ten subjects at GCSE.

The booklet describes an outline of each course, the work required, the skills to be gained and ideas about potential A Level choices and future careers to help you make your choices. We would encourage you to speak to your current class teachers regarding their subject as an option choice for you.

The success of students is based on them being guided onto the most appropriate subjects and qualifications in year 9 so the key question to discuss with your parents/carers and your teachers are:

- Which subjects can I achieve my best in?
- Which subjects do I enjoy?
- Which subjects will enable me to progress to my preferred further education courses?

Do not choose subjects just because your friends have chosen it or because of the teacher you like, as they may not be teaching it in September.

For students reach their full potential, they will each be given guidance on the most appropriate choices, best suited to their abilities and talents. A member of Academy staff will meet each student on a one to one basis to discuss which subjects they should study.

There are a number of core subjects that everyone will study, including English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, PSHE, RE and Core PE .

If you are unsure about your future career direction it is important to choose a wide range of subjects. Please see the new website START (previously U-explore) careers resource [Start – Careers Information \(startprofile.com\)](http://startprofile.com). Parents may find this career link very useful: <http://www.parentalguidance.org.uk>

Please take time to research and discuss your thoughts and interests with your parents/carers and teachers before reaching the a decision. Making the right choices will not only result in the best outcome at the end of year 11, but also ensures you have an enjoyable journey whilst in Key Stage 4.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Madajczyk
Assistant Principal

Year 10/11 Curriculum and Option Choices

You must study the core subjects:

- GCSE English
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science (Seperate or Combined)

You will also follow additional courses in:

- Physical Education (Core PE, non-examined)
- PSHE and RE

All students must choose at this stage **four** option subjects and **two** reserves:

- One subject from Option A
- Three subjects from Option B
- Two reserves from Option B

The reserve choices you make must be equally as important as your first choice subjects, as if we are unable to accommodate your first choices, you will be allocated your reserve subjects, which should align with your future aspirations.

We advise that when you make your options choices to ensure that you maintain a broad and balanced curriculum that will keep your options for further study and careers open. Therefore, we strongly advise that you ensure you have a language option and a Humanities option. We will discuss your choices with you and the reasons for your decisions as part of the Options discussion process.

When making your choice, you need to consider carefully:

- what you are good at
- what you are interested in and enjoy
- what you may want to choose to study post-16
- maintaining the breadth of study.

Do not choose an option just because you like your current teacher of that subject as you may have a different teacher next year. Similarly, do not choose a subject because your friend is, you may end up in different classes. Clearly, the enjoyment of a subject supports success and high levels of achievement. Ms Brazier, Careers Advisor, is available for further guidance for all Year 9 students throughout the year. She can be contacted via e-mail: lbrazier@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk.

Proviso:

We try to accommodate students' choices but there may be some combinations which are not possible because of timetable constraints. There may also be some courses which are not finally offered because the number of students opting for them are too few in number. Conversely, there may also be courses which are over-subscribed and additional sets cannot be provided. Therefore, it is extremally important that students carefully choose both of their reserves as they may end up being placed on their reserve choice where there is a timetable constraint as described above. Students will be kept informed of any issues that may arise as the process develops.

Core Subjects All students will study all of these subjects	Option A Compulsory component All students to select 1 subject	Option B All students to select 3 preferred subjects and 2 reserve subjects
Mathematics GCSE	Computer Science GCSE	Business Studies
English Language GCSE	French GCSE	Computer Science GCSE (not selected as my first choice in Option A)
English Literature GCSE	Geography GCSE	Hospitality and Catering GCSE
Combined Science Double Award GCSE—This can be extended to the Separate Science award as an Option choice	History GCSE	Dance
	Separate Sciences - 3 GCSEs extension to Combined Science	Drama GCSE
		Engineering
Core PE		Fine Art GCSE
		French GCSE (not selected as my first choice in Option A)
PSHE		Geography GCSE (not selected as my first choice in Option A)
RE		Health and Fitness
		Health and Social Care
		History GCSE (not selected as my first choice in Option A)
		Religious Studies GCSE
		Music Performance
		Music Technology
		Separate Sciences - 3 GCSEs extension to Combined Science (not selected as my first choice in Option A)

Options Process: Key Dates

February 2023

- 10th** Options subjects videos on school website
- 22nd** Year 9 Assembly about the option process
- 23rd** 1-to-1 guided conversations with students begins

March 2023

- 6th** Parents' Consultation Evening.
- 17th** Options Marketplace for students during break and lunchtime in the Sports Hall. Students will be able to discuss GCSE choices with Year 11 and Sixth Form students and view work and resources to help inform their choices.
- 24th** End of 1-to-1 guided conversations with students.
- 28th** Options Clinic (4pm – 5.30pm) for students and parents/carers who would like to discuss GCSE choices with subject leaders.
- 30th** **DEADLINE** for return of Options Form (hard copy). Please return the completed form to Mr Madajczyk.

June 2023

- 5th – 16th** Submission window for any Options changes.
- End of June** GCSE Options confirmation letters issued to parents/carers.

Option Changes

Should a student wish to make any changes following the submission of their final Options Form, these should be made formally in writing or via email, signed by the student and parent/carer. We will begin accepting changes from Monday 5th June-Friday 16th June 2023 (inclusive) addressed to Mr Madajczyk, Assistant Principal. Requests will be considered in strict order of receipt.

How Do I Choose My Subjects?

GOOD REASONS FOR CHOOSING A SUBJECT

- I have discussed this with my parents and we agree it is a good choice for me
- I enjoy the subject
- I am good at it
- I want to get better at the type of skills used in the subject
- I have found out all about the subject by talking to my teachers and to students who have studied this – I think it will suit me
- I have done a lot of investigation into all of the subjects and this is the one that I think I will enjoy the most
- This subject will help me have a broad and balanced range of courses
- I know I will work hard at this subject
- It will be useful for future studies/ career

BAD REASONS FOR CHOOSING A SUBJECT

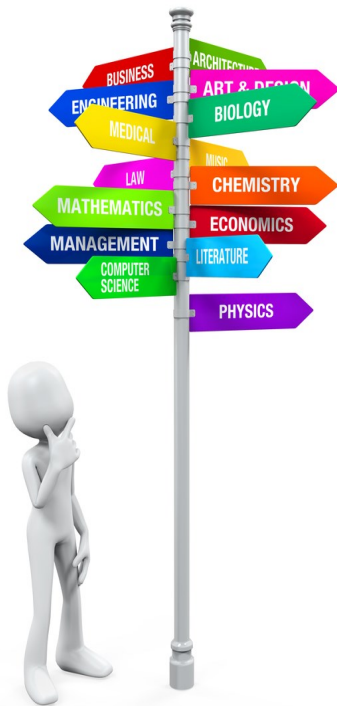
- My friends are doing it
- I like the teacher (there is no guarantee that you will have that teacher next year)
- I dislike the teacher (you may have a different teacher in that subject next year)
- It is too much hard work (all subjects are hard work and there is little difference between them)
- It doesn't matter – I just chose any old subject (you will be doing this subject for two years, so it is worth getting it right now)
- I can always change to a different subject when I get into Year 10 (no, you cannot – groups may be full and you will have missed important work in the first few weeks)
- My friends want me to take this subject (but what do you want?)



Should I really choose that subject just because my friend has even though I don't enjoy it very much?



What To Do Now



1. Read through this booklet and discuss it with your parents, teachers and mentor before deciding.
2. If you have any questions, ask. It is better to ask now than make the wrong choice.
3. Talk to Year 10 and Year 11 students, or those who have left the school, about what subjects they did and why they enjoyed them.
4. Make your choices using a blank piece of paper – then leave it a day and come back to it to see if the choices you made still make sense.
5. When you have finally decided on your choices, fill in the provided Option Form. Submit the Option Form by the **30th March**.

It is very important that this form is submitted on time so that the school can start to fit everyone's choices into the timetable. If you submit the Option Form after the 30th March 2023 you may find that your options have already been chosen for you, as we will have been required to allocate you to option subjects that have spaces.

See links below for more help choosing:

www.startprofile.com START is a new website which has replaced u-explore and is a great way for students to research career and subject options.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> The National Careers service has advice for young people aged 13-19.

<https://icould.com> Try the 'Buzz Quiz' which is a short personality test and suggests potential career areas that would suit you.

<https://www.careersadviceforparents.org>

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate was introduced as a measure of performance in the 2010 performance tables. It is not a qualification in itself. It recognises a student's achievement (9-5) across a core of selected academic subjects – English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a modern foreign language.

The subjects included are designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that opportunities are not closed off to them in terms of future progression.

To pass the English element of the EBacc students need to:

- achieve a strong pass in English Language GCSE and achieve a grade in English Literature GCSE.

To pass the Mathematics element of the Ebacc students need to:

- achieve a strong pass in GCSE Mathematics.

To pass the Science element of the EBacc students need to:

- take 3 single sciences (biology, chemistry, computer science and physics) and to achieve a strong pass in 2 of them
- to take GCSE Combined Science, 2 GCSEs that cover the 3 main sciences.

To pass the full Ebacc students to achieve the above plus:

- achieve a strong pass in History or Geography
- achieve a strong pass in French

For students starting Year 10 in 2023 our advice remains, as it has always been, to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is maintained. We will not be requiring that all students meet the requirements laid out as above for the EBacc. We will, however, be encouraging them carefully to consider doing so.

English Literature and English Language

Syllabus: AQA English Literature 8702
AQA English Language 8700

Please consult: Ms J Smith

What we aim to do?

We aim to enable students to read, write, speak and listen effectively in a variety of contexts. We want to encourage students to be confident and creative in their use of language thus enabling them to participate with ease in all aspects of public, cultural, academic and working life.

What will I study?

In English Literature, students will study a broad range of poetry, prose and drama from the twentieth century and other historical periods, as well as from varying cultures. 40% of the examination is available for the study of Shakespeare and a 19th century novel. A further 60% of the paper is available for the study of a modern text, anthology poetry and unseen poetry. Students will develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response as well as develop comparison skills.

In English Language Paper 1, students will be asked to respond to unseen twentieth century fiction texts: analysing their structure and form and evaluating their impact. They will also complete a creative writing activity. In Paper 2, students will compare two non-fiction texts and analyse the impact, as well as writing their own text such as a newspaper or letter. They also complete a Speaking and listening assessment.

Skills needed

KS3 reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills are built on.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing, 1hr 45 minutes (50%)

Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints, 1hr 45 minutes (50%)

GCSE English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel, 1hr 45 minutes (40%)

Paper 2: Modern Texts, Anthology Poetry and Unseen Poetry, 2hrs 15 minutes (60%)

Both GCSE's will be 100% examination

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

The English GCSE is essential in order to access higher level of education and learning. It is a requirement of almost all college courses and further education, e.g. A-levels, degree options and apprenticeship.

Possible Careers

All further employment requires a qualification in English. English enables access to all careers and those with particular love of English and literature may follow careers in journalism, training, being a librarian, acting, theatre production and arts.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

Careers: www.creative-choices.co.uk



English has given me the ability to deconstruct and analyse difficult texts across many of my subjects.



Mathematics

Syllabus: Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) TMA1

Please consult: Mr I Kennedy

What we aim to do?

We aim to develop every students' mathematical ability by enhancing numeracy and analytical skills. You will cover the GCSE syllabus at either the Higher or Foundation tiers. The course will deliver broader and deeper mathematical content, with the higher tier including questions to stretch the most able, and the foundation tier focusing on core mathematical understanding and skills. There is a greater focus on problem solving which will not only be useful in Mathematics, but will support learning in other subjects and provide valuable skills for life.

What will I study?

Number: apply the four operations, concepts and vocabulary of prime numbers, factors and conventional notation for priority of operations.

Statistics and probability: data handling cycle, data collection, data presentation and analysis, data interpretation and probability.

Algebra: the difference between an equation and an identity, argue mathematically to show algebraic expressions are equivalent and use algebra to support and construct arguments and proofs.

Geometry and measures: properties of angles and shapes, geometric reasoning and calculation, measures and construction, graphical methods and solving problems with algebra.

Ratio, proportion and rate of change: change freely between standard units and compound units in numerical and algebraic contexts, scale diagrams and maps.

Skills needed

Numeracy, reading, writing, resilience and creativity. Be committed to improving your own learning and performance.

How will I be assessed?

Three written papers, either Foundation or Higher, each contributes 33.3% of the final grade

Each exam is 1 hour 30 mins

Paper 1F and 1H: Non calculator

Paper 2F and 2H: Calculator

Paper 3F and 3H: Calculator

The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total mark across all three papers where 9 is the highest grade.

Foundation tier grades 1 to 5.

Higher tier grades 4 to 9.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

The Mathematics GCSE is essential in order to access a higher level of education and learning. It is a requirement of almost all college courses and further education.

Possible Careers

Accountants, Bankers, Programmers, Teachers, Nurses, Operational Researchers, Engineers, Psychologists and Sport Scientists all use advanced mathematics skills. Maths graduates can go into virtually any area due to their training in problem solving and analytical thinking.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

[Edexcel GCSE and GCE 2014 \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/Edexcel/GCSE/and/GCE/2014)

Science

Syllabus: AQA Combined Science 8464 or AQA Separate Science 8461-8463 if you choose this as one of your options

Please consult: Miss L Spencer

What we aim to do?

We aim to broaden and deepen students' knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Our students will be independent thinkers, who are scientifically literate and numerate so that they are empowered to apply their understanding to new problems and contexts.

What will I study?

All students on Combined and Separate Sciences will study the following:

Biology: Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, and Ecology.

Chemistry: Atomic structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes, The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere, and Using resources.

Physics: Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure, Forces, Waves, and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

If you study separate science, these topics will be covered in significantly more detail and you will also study an additional topic in Physics based on Space!

Skills needed

Independence, critical thinking, analysis, problem solving.

How will I be assessed?

Both the Combined Science and the Separate Sciences courses are assessed through 6 examinations, 2 for each of the sciences. All exams are sat at the end of Year 11.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

GCSE's in the Sciences provide an essential foundation for further scientific studies, such as A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as a broad range of skills suitable for the majority of courses, especially Engineering, Health and Social Care and Sports.

Possible Careers

The Sciences are well respected facilitating subjects that lead into a range of academic and practical careers such as: Electrical services, Plumber, Builder, Research Scientist, Medical Professional, Veterinary, Engineering, Manufacturing, Architect, Accountant, Lawyer, Pilot and many more.

Relevant website link for further information on the courses / subjects

[AQA | Subjects | Science](#)

Syllabus: GCSE Business Studies

Please consult: Miss Victory

What we aim to do?

This is an exciting and wide-ranging GCSE in Business. It uses an enterprise and skills approach.

The course will provide a broad and comprehensive understanding of business and enterprise. Students will learn to apply business theory to real business situations and problems.

What will I study?

The course covers two broad themes:

Theme 1: Investigating Small Businesses

This theme enables students to explore how business ideas come about and businesses start up. It will include the financial, marketing and legal aspects of business and how businesses are influenced by world around them.

Theme 2: Building a Business

This theme builds on some of the Theme 1 concepts and explores the opportunities and challenges businesses face as they grow. Larger businesses could include larger private limited companies, relative to those considered in Theme 1 and public limited companies.

Throughout the course students are expected to show an understanding of recent business events and students should be encouraged to use real world examples wherever possible to contextualise their understanding.

Skills needed

- Good numeracy skills to aid financial calculations involved in the course.
- Communication skills to take an active part in projects and activities. This includes written communication .
- Presentation skills for work to be presented to those around them in a suitable way and find the most appropriate way of communicating.
- Initiative – students learn what initiative is and why it is important for an entrepreneur or business person.
- Work independently – learners understand how to work independently on specific tasks.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit has a 1 hour 45 minutes examination.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

Level 3 qualifications in Business such as A Level Business or Economics. Vocational qualifications in Business or Finance. An apprenticeship in Business administration.

Possible Careers

This course can prepare students to make informed decisions about further learning and career opportunities. Choices include a range of Level 3 Business courses and progression to Higher Education and work in business, marketing, accountancy, finance and management.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

[Edexcel GCSE Business \(2017\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

Dance

Syllabus: BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award In Performing Arts (With a dance approach)

Please consult: Miss K Dallard

What we aim to do?

There is currently a vibrant interest in all forms of dance style, in fact participation in dance is higher in the UK than in most popular sports, excluding football. The umbrella of 'Dance' is vast, containing many styles and genres, within a wide range of settings from formal theatre, to ritual, to community and social dance. The course allows students to explore a range of styles, techniques and performance work as dancers, as well as devising their own work from a stimulus, developing a wide range of technical and expressive skills through practical explorations. There is a deeply ingrained focus on educating students on the wider professional dance industry, which promotes cultural capital and an understanding of inclusivity and professional career frameworks in dance. This course is suitable for those students that are keenly interested in developing their dance skills and presenting them to an audience at the end of a project.

What will I study?

Students will study three key components. Component 1 requires students to engage with a professional dance work analysing its intention, constituent features and the choreographic processes used to create it. Component 2 gives students the opportunity to learn and perform a professional piece of repertoire developing their dance technique and enriching their wider knowledge of the dance industry. In component 3 students create their own original dance work inspired by a given

stimulus. Here students are encouraged to draw upon all the of the learned skills and knowledge from earlier components to create original and thought provoking pieces of dance theatre.

Skills needed

Performance Skills, physical skills, interpretive skills,

communication skills, collaboration skills, research skills, analytical skills and a passion for dance.

How will I be assessed?

Live Performance:

Component 1 — A written portfolio of work.

Component 2 — A recorded performance with supporting coursework.

Component 3 — A recorded performance with supporting milestones written reflections.

There is no written exam for this course.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

Level 2 or 3 qualification in Dance, Dance Leadership, degree or diploma in professional dance or musical theatre.

Possible Careers

Professional dancer, career in theatre, teaching, fitness coach, designer, physiotherapist and many more.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts-2022.html>

Engineering

Syllabus: NCFE 1/2 Engineering

Please consult: Mr. K Rumary, Ms. M Venter.

What we aim to do?

This course is designed to enable students who enjoy the challenge of working practically with materials, designing with computers and making with machinery to do so. There will be tasks based on the design of mechanical objects as well as working in our engineering workshops to produce a variety of projects in different materials.

What will I study?

Studying Engineering through a combination of practical experience and written assignments, this vocational qualification provides level 2 learners with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed for a career or further study in the sector.

Topics include:

- Developing computational thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life:
- Understanding engineering disciplines: A general overview of how engineering is used in the world.
- Understand how science and mathematics is applied in engineering: Using mathematics and science to understand and solve engineering problems
- Understand how to read engineering drawings: Creating engineering drawings using CAD software. Reading drawings to make engineered items.
- Understand the properties and characteristics of engineering materials and know why specific materials are selected for

engineering applications: Testing materials to find out their properties. Using these properties to create designs

- Understand engineering tools, equipment and machines: Using engineering machines safely and with skill and tools to create complex items

Skills needed

You will need to be a proactive student with a keen interest in the study of engineering. You need to understand that the world and study of engineering goes beyond that of simply making things, but looks at the maths, science and communication that lies behind. We will be studying all of these topics.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed with a 60% synoptic project at the end of year 11. You will also sit an exam in the summer of year 11. This will count for the other 40% of the course.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

Further study at Rivers Sixth Form with Maths, Physics, Level 3 Engineering, Level 3 Motor Vehicle Studies or similar courses at college. After L3 study there is the possibility of university or an apprenticeship in your chosen field.

Possible Careers

All types of Engineering: Chemical, Mechanical, Civil, Automotive, Aeronautic, Marine, Electrical, Electronic, Nuclear and many more!

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

<https://www.qualhub.co.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-level-12-technical-award-in-engineering-4593>

Sport (Health & Fitness)

Syllabus: NCFE Health and Fitness (603/7007/5)

Please consult: Mr M Clay

What we aim to do?

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- Prepare, plan and develop a personal health and fitness programme.
- Understand the short and long term benefits of exercise.
- Know the structure and function of the main body systems which include the skeletal, muscular, respiratory, cardiovascular and energy systems.
- Understand the principles of training and its importance when designing a fitness programme.
- Understand how to complete fitness tests and compare the results to normative data.

What will I study?

- Structure and function of body systems
- Effects of health and fitness activities on the body
- Health and fitness and the components of fitness
- Principles of training
- Testing and developing components of fitness
- Impact of lifestyle on health and fitness
- Applying health and fitness analysis and setting goals
- Structure of a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safely

Skills needed

High levels of independence are essential for coursework completion, homework and revision. Students that are inquisitive and resilient will do well on this course.

How will I be assessed?

40% of the final grade is based on exam performance. Students will sit the exam in the summer of Year 11.

60% coursework which will be completed in Year 11.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

Depending on the grade the learner achieves in this qualification, they could progress to:

- A Level in Physical Education and Sport
- Level 2 Technical Certificate in Sport & Physical Activity
- Level 3 Applied General in Sport Studies
- Level 3 Technical Level in Sport & Physical Activity
- Apprenticeships in occupations within the Health & Fitness sectors such as Health Assistants, Fitness Instructors or Personal Trainers

Possible Careers

Fitness instructor, health assistant, personal trainer, PE teacher, leisure management, sports coach, exercise technology, sports law, sports journalist, events management, physiotherapist, strength and conditioning coach, sports psychologist, dietician, lecturer.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

[NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness \(qualhub.co.uk\)](https://qualhub.co.uk)

Health & Social Care

Syllabus: OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care

Please consult: Mrs S Cooke

What we aim to do?

The course is aimed to encourage you to develop personal, learning and thinking skills with qualities required for work in the Health & Social Care industry. It involves role-play and assessments in relations to real life scenarios within various settings.

What will I study?

Health & Social Care is a primarily coursework-based subject. In order to complete your coursework to the highest possible standard, you will be asked to engage in some practical activities, including visits to Health & Social Care settings, and act in a professional manner. The aim of your work in Health & Social is to demonstrate that you understand and can act in accordance with the values and practices of those who work in this sector.

The qualification consists of three coursework components and the external examination, 2 coursework units in Year 10 and 1 coursework unit and the examination in Year 11

Components studied in Year 10:

- Principles of care in health and social care settings
- Supporting individuals through life events

Components studied in Year 11:

- Health promotion campaigns
- Examination

Skills needed

Communication skills, organisational skills, confidence working with others, creativity, problem solving skills and a caring nature.

How will I be assessed?

You will learn by completing projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. For each component studied in Year 10 and 11 there are several assignments which are graded pass, merit, distinction and distinction*. Each assignment involves some practical elements and reports. Each piece of coursework has unique assessment objectives and is marked by your teacher, then verified. Once all assignments are completed for a component, an overall grade is given. There is a synoptic assessment which is a short answer exam lasting for 1 hour 30 minutes that is set and marked by the exam board and completed under examination conditions. The final grade awarded for the qualification represents a combination of the students' performance across the course. Learners who do not meet the minimum requirements for a Level 2 qualification grade will be assessed for the Level 1 qualification.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate for Health and Social Care

Other vocational courses such as NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Early Years, Childcare and Education

Possible Careers

The course concentrates on the health and social care industries, where learners may seek employment or study at a higher level. E.g. Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Nursery Nurse, Health Advisor, Paramedic Science, etc.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/>

Music Performance

Syllabus: GRADE 6 TRINITY ROCK & POP

Please consult: Mr Priddle

What we aim to do?

Play the music you love on the instrument of your choice: Guitar, Vocals, Bass, Drums or Keyboard.

With a wide range of hit songs spanning all contemporary styles, choose your set list from the eight songs in our new graded songbooks, play a song of your own choice, or perform one you've written yourself.

Develop the improvisation and playback session skills that professional musicians need. Showcase your technical skills in a real-life context through our technical focus songs, and demonstrate your ability to deliver a compelling live performance.

Achieve your goals with an externally regulated and internationally recognised qualification. Trust the 140-year heritage Trinity brings to contemporary music, and benefit from marks and comments on your performance from Trinity's expert examiners.

What will I study?

Pupils will perform three Trinity grade 6 musical pieces on an instrument of their choice (Guitar, Bass, Vocals, Drums or Keyboard) and a Sessions Skills study.

This course is perfect for pupils with a passion for music performance and will require pupils to be dedicated to their instrument and comfortable when working independently

Skills needed

Instrumental or vocal skills

Independent Skills

Passion for music

How will I be assessed?

Component	Description	Marks
Song 1	Performance of song on chosen instrument	25
Song 2	Performance of song on chosen instrument	25
Song 3	Performance of song on chosen instrument	30
Study Skills	Improvisation to backing tracking	20

The exam takes place in year 11 with an external examiner grading all pupils' performances individually (each lasting between 20 and 30 minutes).

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress onto further level 3 qualifications and A levels, such as:

- Level 3 Diploma in Music Technology
- Level 3 Diploma in Music performance
- A level Music

Possible Careers

- Session Musician
- Music Performer
- Music therapist
- Music Teacher

<https://www.trinityrock.com/exams/syllabus>

“ Music Technology sets me free and enables me to create music and develop skills for a job I want to do when I leave school ”

Music Technology

Syllabus: NCFE LEVEL 2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Please consult: Mr Priddle

What we aim to do?

This qualification enables learners to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the music technology industry. It is suitable for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences. The qualification will allow learners to gain practical skills in creating music using technology.

What will I study?

Using a DAW

This unit will allow learners to develop skills in operating a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) creatively using audio, MIDI, hardware and editing tools. Learners will create a musical project in response to a brief, reflecting industry skills.

Creation of Music

Learners will develop skills to analyse stylistic elements of music and develop a piece of music based on a specific style. Learners will engage in a review of technical and creative processes.

Multi-Track Recording

Learners will plan and undertake a recording session for a given scenario. Learners will create a mixdown of their recording and review the final product.

Sound Creation

Learners will explore sound creation and apply their knowledge to a given brief. They will create and review their own original sound creation project.

Skills needed

ICT skills

Listening & evaluating music

Passion for music

How will I be assessed?

Component	Description	Contribution to grade
Written Paper	Exam	40%
Synoptic	Coursework	60%

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress onto further level 3 qualifications and A levels, such as:

- Level 3 Diploma in Music Technology
- Level 3 Diploma in Creative Media
- Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media
- A level Music

Possible Careers

- Sound Engineer
- Recording engineer
- Music therapist
- Music Teacher

Careers: www.creative-choices.co.uk



Music Technology sets me free and enables me to create music and develop skills for a job I want to do when I leave school



Computer Science

Syllabus: OCR Computer Science GCSE J277

Please consult: Mrs D Gibson

What we aim to do?

We aim to enable students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science. We want to encourage students to be confident with their knowledge of how digital devices work and to be able to design and write programs in a high-level language (Python). During this course you will begin to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically

What will I study?

You will study abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, then using them you will analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs - we will be using Python. You will study the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems, you will also understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society. You will also complete practical programming tasks.

Skills needed

Some mathematical skills that are relevant to Computer Science.

Problem Solving skills and resilience.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Computer Science

- Paper 1: Computer systems, 1hr 30 minutes (50%)
- Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming, 1hr 30 minutes (50%)

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

You will have access to higher education and learning within the Computer Science discipline including apprenticeships, A-level Computer Science leading on to numerous degrees that specialise in certain aspects of Computer Science such as Cyber Security and Networks

Possible Careers

To work in this area, both university courses and apprenticeships or on the job training are equally useful. Getting experience while you are studying is key, in order to familiarise yourself with the technology in the professional world and also to get to know other professionals as networking can be key to success. Web Developer, IT Systems Analyst, Software Developer, Network Engineer, Software Engineer and Cyber Security are some of the careers that lead on from studying Computer Science

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/computing>

<https://www.bcs.org/>

Fine Art

Syllabus: OCR (J171)

Please consult: Mr W Ryan

What we aim to do?

We aim to enable students of all abilities to attain their own highest standards in GCSE Fine Art. We encourage students to develop individual powers of creative expression through a wide range of different materials, techniques and processes including paint, print, ceramics, drawing, photography and collage. Students build a portfolio of coursework and keep an on-going sketchbook related to each themed project throughout the course. Students will have the opportunity to visit art galleries and other appropriate locations to help inspire and develop their own work. At the end of the course students' work will be exhibited in the exhibition area.

What will I study?

GCSE Art students will actively engage in the creative process of art, craft, and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners, developing creative, imaginative, and intuitive capabilities. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies, and cultures and as appropriate to students' own work. To become confident in taking risks and learn from experience.

Students explore a wide range of media in A3 sketchbooks to record their 'art journey' and they record using techniques including drawing, printing and painting. This background of preparatory work is then used to produce final outcome pieces, which total a minimum of two across the entire GCSE course.

Skills needed

You should be inspired to want to discover new ways of looking at and expressing ideas. You are expected to be an independent learner and a creative thinker who is open to exploring different processes and techniques in each project. Regular completion of home learning is vital to success in this GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1

Coursework - No time limit; 120 marks; 60% of GCSE

Component 2

Externally Set Assignment involving a paper outlining seven possible project themes issued by the exam board. 10 hours of supervised time; 80 marks; 40% of GCSE

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

Fine Art at AS/A Level; BTEC Art and Design; Foundation degree in Art; B.A. Degrees in creative art subjects; creative art apprenticeships. We have an excellent record of enabling students to easily access courses of further study.

Possible Careers

GCSE Art is a strong foundation for all students wishing to progress into the creative arts. This includes employment in jobs such as illustration, architecture, animation, fashion, textile, interior design, computer aided design, graphics, photography, media, product design, fine art, gaming design, and all other visual arts related professions.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/>

Syllabus: AQA GCSE French 8658

Please consult: Mrs Harris and Ms Fontenelle

What we aim to do?

The GCSE French course is designed to enable students of all abilities to develop their language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge, understanding and skills to communicate in a variety of context with confidence.

Students will improve their literacy, enhance their cultural capital and their appreciation of French culture.

What will I study?

You will build on topic areas that you have studied in Key Stage 3, as well as learning about completely new ones. You will learn to express not only factual information but also justified opinions. You will also develop your understanding of French grammar by revising tenses and structures you have learnt already, and learning how to form and apply new ones, allowing you to use much more complex and sophisticated language.

These are the three main themes you will study:

Identity and culture - which includes topics such as family and relationships, technology in everyday life, free time activities, customs and festivals.

Local, national, international and global areas of interest - which involves topics such as: home, town, neighbourhood and region, social and global issues, travel and tourism.

Current, future study education and employment - which covers studies, jobs, careers and ambition.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed under 4 components. Listening, speaking, reading and translation and writing and translation. These assessments are conducted at the end of the course under exam conditions and each component contributes 25% of the final grade.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

French is the only language spoken as mother tongue on the five continents. An ability to speak French is an advantage on the international job market as it makes you stand out from the crowd. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French Speaking companies in different parts of the world. French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. Language qualifications are highly valued by universities and can be combined with many other subjects on degree courses.

Possible Careers:

Civil service, travel and tourism, heritage and culture, international recruitment, advertising, International organisations, teaching, translation, journalism, science, shipping services, publishing and technical services.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

[AQA | GCSE | French | Specification at a glance](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0MIQuOPjfU>

<https://youtu.be/xqMvzOPSpts>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7IU8mwb770>

Drama

Syllabus: Eduqas GCSE Drama

Please consult: Miss K Dallard

What we aim to do?

Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course where you will be immersed in and enjoy drama as performers and/or designers. You will participate in, and interpret your own and others' drama whilst exploring different topics. We will investigate a range of practitioners and genres, working practically to devise original theatre as well as work with a variety of script extracts.

We will also provide opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

What will I study?

The course will integrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed through a range of dramatic activities. During the course you will study:

- one complete performance text
- two extracts from a second contrasting performance text placed within the context of the whole text
- either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or the characteristics of a genre of drama.

You will have the option to work practically as performers and/or designers.

Skills needed

- Performance Skills
- Movement Skills
- Vocal Skills
- Interpretive Skills
- Communication Skills
- Collaboration Skills
- Research Skills

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in 3 components.

Component 1: 40% (practical and written work, internally assessed)

You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus. You will also produce a portfolio of supporting evidence and an evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: 20% (practical exam, externally assessed)

You will study two extracts from the same performance text and then participate in a performance using sections of text from both extracts.

Component 3: 40% (written exam, externally assessed)

You will answer a series of questions on a set text that you have studied. You will also answer a question requiring analysis and evaluation of an aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

A Level Drama, BA Hons Drama, Acting Conservatoires, BA Hons Technical Theatre, BA Hons Stage Design, BA Hons Costume Design.

Possible Careers:

Actor, Stage crew, Drama therapist, Designer, Broadcaster, Community arts worker, Broadcasting/film/video, Theatre director, Theatre stage manager.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

[GCSE Drama | Eduqas](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/gcse-drama)

Geography

Syllabus: AQA Geography 8035

Please consult: Mrs T Cope, Mr. Goslin, Mrs M French

What we aim to do?

We aim to provide students with a clear overview of the world in the 21st century and develop a sense of 'awe and wonder', which will allow candidates to fully appreciate and learn from the world around them. We will empower students with a strong sense of place and provide opportunities for personalised and independent learning. The new GCSE is a more stringent test of students' geographical knowledge. You will need to be confident at writing large passages of text and remembering key facts and details. There will be no controlled assessment and students will have two examinations at the end of the course to determine their grade.

What will I study?

All geography courses allow students the opportunity to study a balance of physical, human geography and fieldwork. Possible areas of study are:

The Challenge of Natural Hazards

Physical Landscapes in the UK

The Living World

Urban Issues and Challenges

The Changing Economic World

The Challenge of Resource Management

Fieldwork

Issue Evaluation

Skills needed

You will need to be a good communicator with strong ICT, problem solving and numeracy skills. You will also need to be able to work with others and be committed to improving your own learning and performance.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through three examinations. Pupils will need good literacy skills and good memory for detail:

Physical Geography (35%)

Human Geography (35%)

Fieldwork Skills and Decision Making Exercise (30%)

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

This course provides an excellent foundation for students wishing to study A-level Geography. It also provides students with broad skills base and an excellent academic grounding for a wide range of future study paths across the wider curriculum.

Possible Careers

Geography provides a strong background for a range of interesting and diverse careers. Careers include town planning, surveying, conservation and environmentalism, government, teaching, tourism, research and many other areas.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

[Www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Careers: www.rgs.org/ourwork/schools

History

Syllabus: AQA

Please consult: Mr R Irven, Ms Heals, Mr Chapman, Ms Murphy

What we aim to do?

History is a highly respected academic discipline, which enables its scholars to think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, make informed decisions and develop perspective and judgement. This will prepare students for a role as informed, thoughtful and active citizens

What will I study?

The history course aims to build knowledge across a range of time periods and geographical areas. The course is made up of two elements which require students to use a range of different historical skills.

1. The social study America, 1920-1973 and the thematic study conflict and tension, 1918-1939.
2. The Breadth Study: Health and the people c1000 to the present day. The Depth Study Restoration England.

Students have the opportunity to visit a historic environment selected by the exam board. The historic environment for pupils taking their exams in 2025 (current Year 9) has not yet been decided. However, other examples include the Royal Observatory, London; Ham House, London and Medway, Kent.

Skills needed

A questioning mind, the ability to weigh up evidence and come to a conclusion. Extended writing skills, and reading.

How will I be assessed?

2 Papers each with 2 units . Each unit has an hour long paper with 4-6 questions on it. These look at both source analysis and recall questions. All papers finish with an essay question

Paper 1

Conflict and Tension 1919-1939

USA 1919-1973

Paper 2

Health and the people c1000-Present

Restoration Depth Study 1660-1685

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

It shows great organisational and processing skills to an employer. University courses in economics, law, politics and sociology as well as history and archaeology .

Tied with a foreign language it can lead to trips to sites around the world to do research

Possible Careers

Law, Academia, journalism, teaching and the civil service. Police, doctor, librarian, curator, marketing and sales amongst many others.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

<https://www.history.org.uk/>

Religious Studies

Syllabus: Edexcel B 1RB0/2C and 1RB0/3B GCSE

Please consult: Miss S Towns

What we aim to do?

This course aims to enable students to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of issues concerning life, culture and society. Throughout the course, students will reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes by critically evaluating what they have learnt. Students will be asked to consider the fundamental questions that we all have, engage with them intellectually and respond personally after learning to critically evaluate religious/non-religious teachings.

What will I study?

The course looks specifically at two faiths, Christianity and Islam, with the chance to contrast these beliefs with secular ideas.

Religion and Ethics through Christianity only

- Christian Beliefs
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Christian Life
- Matters of Life and Death

Religion, Peace and Conflict through ISLAM only

- Muslim Beliefs
- Crime and Punishment
- Living the Muslim Life
- Peace and Conflict

Skills needed

Lessons focus on both written and verbal communication skills as we develop students' abilities to form coherent and evaluative arguments.

How will I be assessed?

2 Papers of equal weighting

Religion and Ethics through Christianity only

Religion, Peace and Conflict through ISLAM only

What this subject can lead to when I leave Ormiston Rivers Academy?

It shows great organisational and processing skills to an employer. You could go on to study university courses in Theology, Philosophy and Ethics

Possible Careers

Law, Academia, Journalism, Teaching and the Civil Service, Social Care, Librarian, Curator, Retreat Organiser, Life Coach amongst many others.

Relevant website links for further information on the course / subject

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

Hospitality and Catering

Syllabus: WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering

Please consult: Mrs Hyde

chyde@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

What we aim to do?

This course is designed for students who have an interest in food and cookery and in the context of cooking for health.

It will provide learners with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods and give them a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food. This course is appropriate for students who are looking to develop a significant core of knowledge and understanding and apply that knowledge in preparing and producing dishes.

What will I study?

- Students will learn about key areas of this subject, including:
- Food functions in the body and in recipes.
- To modify recipes for healthy balanced diets.
- To assess a brief and make recommendations fit for purpose.
- To plan and produce dishes for a purpose.
- Safe and hygienic preparation of the cooking environment.
- The sources and seasonality that can affect food choices.
- Food labels and cooking for a range of purposes.

Skills needed

- A foundation of basic cookery skills from KS3
- Willingness to learn
- Independence
- Self motivation
- Interest in food and cookery
- Basic ICT skills
- You will develop skills:
- In creating menus to meet a brief.
- In selecting ingredients to cook dishes.
- In adapting recipes for health and to suit a nutritional need.
- In evaluating their own work.
- In Literacy, Numeracy and ICT.
- That are essential for the modern workplace, such as planning, research skills, communication, problem-solving skills and health and safety.

How will I be assessed?

40% Written Examination on the Catering Industry at the end of Year 11.

Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

60% Controlled Assessment.

Including research, planning and write up of a practical assessment where you plan and make 2 dishes for a particular scenario you are given.

My Notes

Things I would like to discuss with my Teachers:

[illegible]

