



AKELEY WOOD
SCHOOL

GCSE OPTIONS

**YEAR 9 TRIAL
SUBJECTS**



ART AND DESIGN | EDEXCEL

Students will have the opportunity to develop their drawing and painting skills using a variety of different media to encourage experimentation. Students will experience various printmaking techniques, as well as work involving ceramics, three-dimensional problem-solving in sculpture and an exploration of mixed media methods, such as textiles. 60% of GCSE marks will be through Portfolio work, consisting of one or more sustained projects, responding to a theme, and developing it through experimentation of a variety of media. Artists and contextual references are researched, and the findings are linked to final outcomes. These can be in any media chosen by the student (art, textiles or sculpture) and realised to a high standard. Visits to galleries are encouraged to develop wider understanding of visual language. An ability to self-motivate and manage time is beneficial for the project work. 40% of GCSE marks are awarded through an externally set assignment. This is a 12 week project that develops a theme provided by the Exam Board. The same skills as the portfolio are required, but this time with much more independence. The final outcome is created during a 10 hour exam (2 days) at the end of the preparatory period.

Art and Design



BUSINESS | EDEXCEL

Business is designed to equip our students with comprehensive knowledge and skills they will need to overcome challenges presented during their future study and careers. Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour. The assessment methods for Business are such that students require a sound level of numeracy and literacy. Students will need to write extended, analytical essays to questions on a wide range of topics in addition to confidently interpreting financial data and completing their own calculations using formulae.

BUSINESS



COMPUTER SCIENCE | OCR

The future of computing is ever changing with new demands appearing every year. Do you want to be at the cutting edge of artificial intelligence and human-computer interaction? Would you like to pioneer the development of biomedical engineering and medicine? What about developing better security for computer systems or supporting the future of digital democracy? Wherever your career path may take you, a GCSE in Computer Science will enable you to take that next step. At the heart of the course is the focus on developing you as a computational thinker who when confronted with any type of problem is able to determine a range of possible approaches and consider the needs of the end-user and the tools at your disposal. Through solving problems, designing systems and understanding human and machine intelligence we will help you develop and extend your skills in an exciting and engaging manner.

Computer Science



The GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. Students develop their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values, while learning about different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make with confidence. Students learn how to take design risks and develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. Through the evaluation of the outcomes of design and technology activity, both historic and present day, students develop an understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. In doing so, students learn that high-quality design and technology is important to the creativity, culture, sustainability, wealth and wellbeing of the nation and the global community.

Design Technology



DRAMA | AQA

GCSE Drama provides a curriculum to ignite and engage students' creativity, passion and interests. It also provides freedom for them to experiment and take risks with their work. We will explore plays and a range of themes and issues: some are funny, some are moving and some are thought-provoking. You need to be prepared to think deeply about difficult situations and support others. You need to be open-minded and respect different opinions. Most of what we do is carried out practically in groups of varying sizes – you must be comfortable working with different people but also be comfortable with working on your own in the spotlight. This course will suit you if you enjoy performing, going to the theatre, working collaboratively and creatively, if you can put yourself in other people's shoes, self-motivate and work independently.

Drama



TAKE

ROLL

SOUND

FILM STUDIES | EDUQAS

Film is an important part of many people's lives. Those who choose to study it characteristically bring with them a huge enthusiasm and excitement for all things film which constantly motivates them in their studies. They experience a powerful medium which inspires a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective as they are drawn into characters, their narratives, and the issues films raise. The root of that power is the immersive audio-visual experience film offers – one which can exploit striking cinematography, composition, and locations, as well as powerful music and sound. It is not surprising that many consider film to be the major art form of the last hundred years and that many feel it important to study a medium which has such a significant influence on the way people think and feel. The WJEC Eduqas specification in GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on learners' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology.

Film Studies



FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION | AQA

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics - Food, nutrition and health, Food science, Food safety, Food choice, Food provenance. This course is suitable for those who enjoy practical cookery and would like to understand the complexities of the food we eat and how to plan diets for those with nutritional needs. It is an essential part of the course that practical work is undertaken so parents must be prepared to supply ingredients and undertake the cost that this involves. There is a large percentage of written work and you need to be able to understand and apply the principles of food science and nutrition.

Food Preparation & Nutrition



GEOGRAPHY | AQA

This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them. Students will travel the world from within lessons, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. Whilst coursework is no longer a feature of GCSE Geography, fieldwork has enhanced importance, as all students must complete at least two fieldwork enquiries (one physical and one human geography investigation), with the third exam paper featuring questions about their fieldwork.

Geography



HISTORY | AQA

This course provides the opportunity to study history from a variety of perspectives including political, social and economic, thereby helping students appreciate the diversity and complexities of the societies studied. The course actively engages students in the process of historical enquiry to develop them as effective and independent learners with enquiring minds ready for the challenge of being leaders in the 21st Century. The strength of history as a qualification lies in the many possibilities and opportunities it opens. Employees and educational establishments alike will appreciate the variety of transferable skills provided through study of the subject, chiefly the ability to understand and analyse issues and events to a high level of competence. Success in the subject provides students with the ability to express their views and opinions (both oral and written) in a clear manner, to put forward well researched ideas and arguments in a concise manner, to investigate and assess a variety of materials and to organise such material in a logical and coherent way.

History

ur.
Jour.
elle Journée ag
elle Journée agréa
année agréable.

apple: pomme
lemon: citron
orange: orange



le : pomme
omme
omme
omme
pomme
pomme
citron
citron
citron
citron
citron

Bonjour.
Quelle Jour

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH & SPANISH) | AQA

In today's inter-connected world, the ability to communicate in a foreign language is a highly valued skill at all levels. Learning another language can enhance employment prospects whatever career students are considering. A GCSE in a modern foreign language is an interactive course rewarding practical communication and adding an international dimension to the curriculum. The MFL curriculum celebrates our differences and highlights that which we all have in common. The course, which builds on Years 7 and 8 vocabulary, allows pupils to make fast progress and to understand what it is to be a global citizen. French and Spanish are rich and vibrant subjects which help students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while deepening their cultural knowledge. Pupils will be improving their grammatical accuracy in the target language as well as reading authentic texts, watching films, listening to songs and taking part in festivities and traditions.

Modern Foreign Languages



MUSIC | AQA

GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. The course covers performing, composing and listening to music in a wide variety of musical styles – popular music, world music, and western classical music. The aim of the Music course is to enable students to develop skills in performing and composing using voice or instrument, develop skills in listening and be able to respond to music from a variety of historical periods to the present day and to develop awareness and understanding of cultural and stylistic aspects of music. Students with a genuine interest in performing and composing are suitable candidates. A wide range of instruments, plus voice, are acceptable for the recital. It is expected that a Music GCSE student has a weekly lesson on their solo instrument (or voice) and practices regularly. An ability to read music at the start of the course, at least at a very basic level is expected. It is ideal for students to be at least Grade 2 (or equivalent) at the start of the course, although exceptions may be made in consultation with the Director of Music. If you cannot read music well, you may still join the course but you must expect to have to do catch up work from the start. Students who take GCSE music also must take part in at least one extra-curricular music ensemble.

MUSIC



MUSIC WITH MUSIC TECHNOLOGY FOCUS | AQA

GCSE Music (Music Technology Focus) is about making and listening to music. The course covers performing, composing and listening to music in a wide variety of musical styles – popular music, world music, and western classical music. It is worth noting that this course will provide students with a GCSE Music qualification and students will sit the same examination as those taking GCSE music; however, the coursework completed will have a focus on Music Technology as opposed to more traditional music. The aim of the Music (Music Technology Focus) course is to enable students to develop skills in performing and composing using voice, instruments or music technology, develop skills in listening and be able to respond to music from a variety of historical periods to the present day and to develop awareness and understanding of cultural and stylistic aspects of music. Students with a genuine interest in performing and composing are suitable candidates. Students must have an interest in Music Technology and prior knowledge of sequencing software would be an asset, however not a necessity. An ability to read music at the start of the course, at least at a very basic level is expected. If you cannot read music well, you may still join the course but you must expect to have to do catch up work from the start. Students who take GCSE music also must take part in at least one extra-curricular music club or ensemble.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION | AQA

GCSE PE allows students to study the theoretical components of sport, whilst also giving the opportunity for students to further develop their practical skills as a performer. The course enables students to study the physiology and psychology behind what it takes to be an elite performer, whilst also focusing on the social issues in sport. The breadth of the theory content is also reflected in the range of physical activities in which students can be assessed. Students are assessed in either two team sports and one individual sport or one team sport and two individual sports. Therefore, it is important that students looking to take this course are a strong performer across three sports. GCSE PE allows students to gain a greater understanding of how the body works and responds to the demands of exercise. It focuses on providing pupils with opportunities to lead a healthy, active lifestyle through participation in a range of activities. The GCSE PE course gives students a wider insight into the world of sport by looking at the impact of political infrastructure and analysing the social reasons why people take part in sports.

Physical Education



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