



Year 9 Options Booklet

2024

What subjects
should I choose?

How do I make
a decision?

What are
my options?



You will soon need to consider and choose which courses and subjects you hope to pursue in Years 10 and 11 at The Oaks Secondary School. In order to support the decision-making process an options booklet has been designed, an option talk by specialist teachers will be undertaken and a Year 9 Option's Evening will take place for you and your parents/carers to attend.

At The Oaks Secondary School, we believe in providing a curriculum which is appropriate, balanced and relevant for everyone; supporting all students to succeed. This booklet provides important information and guidance about the courses and accreditations on offer for year 10 students. It is to support you in this important decision making process to aid a smooth transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. It is important to get these decisions right for each individual, to enable you to achieve the best results possible and to provide a springboard to your future and your chosen career path.

The next stage is to ensure that you are going to study the most suitable courses and qualifications that are best matched to your strengths, interests and personal / career aspirations. It is very important that you choose courses that you may want to continue and develop after you leave school.

There are three main option blocks at The Oaks Secondary School, allowing you to choose the subjects that are right for you. Further information about these option blocks can be found in the Option Blocks section in this booklet.

Pupil's with severe learning difficulties will be taught technology as a group (pathway 1), they will also complete accreditation at an appropriate level. These courses can be seen in the fourth column on the option sheet. If young people with severe learning difficulties are able to access other qualifications then this can be discussed at the options evening with form staff / option coordinators.

Our general advice is that you should aim for a well-balanced range of courses to leave options open for when you reach school leaving age and have more choices to make.

Most students will study a range of subjects across the curriculum. This booklet covers information about the content covered in each subject option choice and information about the pupil's core curriculum that will be followed.

What's different about Key Stage 4?

- 19 month course (a little over 5 terms)
- Greater responsibility: Important work throughout Key Stage 4
- Higher level and greater amount of expectation.
- More independent learning
- Mock and final examinations
- Be prepared to give time to your studies
- Extra homework
- All the work you do counts towards the qualification

Qualifications

- Find out the requirement for what you want to do
- Will you achieve this?
- What do you like doing?
- Are you being realistic?

Choices after school

- School 6th Form
- College – a variety of different choices but can depend on where you live for the choice of college course that you want to do and where you can go
- Other training provider
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeship
- Supported internship

Everyone will continue to study GCSE Maths and English or an equivalent qualification.

Making the right choices

- Read the booklet with your parents/carers
- Make the right choices for you.
- It is a long time to be doing something you do not like, enjoy or are good at!



The subjects shown below are subjects that everyone in Key Stage 4 must take. These subjects make up the Core Curriculum.

- English - Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- PHSE
- IT/Computing
- CEIAG (Careers)

All of these subjects will lead to some form of qualification or accreditation. This will either be to GCSE level, Entry Level, Short Course, Level 1/2 Functional Skills or AQA Unit Award.



Alongside the Core Curriculum, pupils should also choose three option subjects. Pupils should choose one option from each of the option blocks below.

Option 1 (Choose one option)	<u>Year 10 and 11</u> Resistant Materials (Entry Level)	OR	<u>Year 10 and 11</u> Textiles and Expressive Arts (Entry Level)	OR	<u>Year 10 and 11</u> Food Technology (BTEC Level 1 and 2)	OR	<u>Year 10 & 11</u> Entry Level 1 Food
Option 2 (Choose one option)	<u>Year 10</u> History (GCSE/Entry Level) Geography* (Entry Level) <u>Year 11</u> History (GCSE/Entry Level)	OR	<u>Year 10</u> Horticulture* (EL3) <u>Year 11</u> Employability Skills for Enterprise* (EL3)	OR	<u>Year 10</u> Childcare (Entry Level 3) <u>Year 11</u> Hair and Beauty (Entry Level 3)	OR	<u>Year 10 & 11</u> Independent Living (Entry Level 1)
Option 3 (Choose one option)	<u>Year 10 & 11</u> Art (GCSE/Entry Level)	OR	<u>Year 10 & 11</u> Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze and Silver Award)	OR	<u>Year 10 & 11</u> Skills for employment, training and personal development (Entry Level 3)	OR	<u>Year 10 / 11</u> Employability Skills (Entry Level 1)

*One year course

The Option Form

It is time to make the choice of course you think you would like to study over the next two years. Think carefully about this; consider the course and whether it will interest you, how hard you might find it or whether it will help you get to where you want to go after you leave school.

Option Block 1

Resistant Materials

Resistant Materials Technology

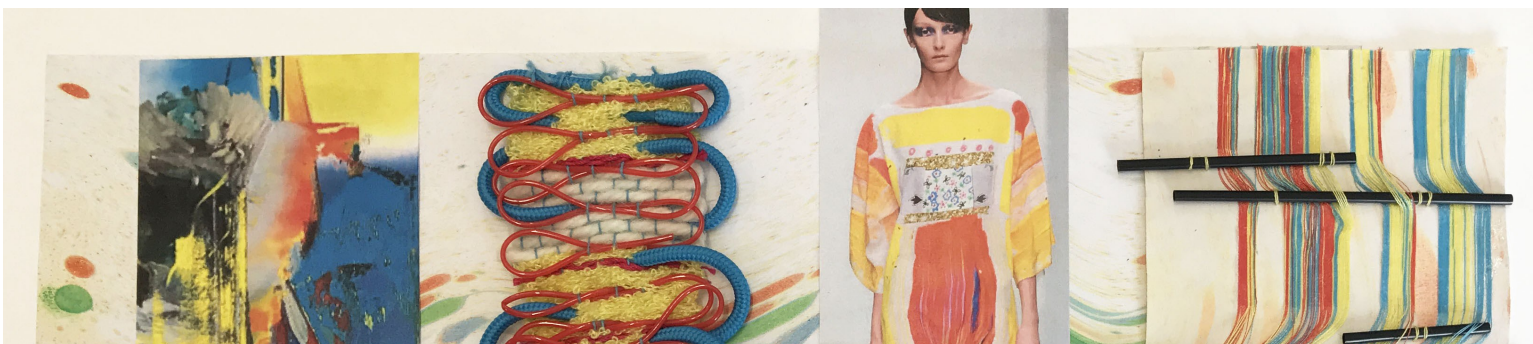
The Design Technology Resistant Materials route gives students opportunities to develop their practical skills and the confidence to design and make quality products. It enables students to analyse and evaluate products and processes. Students engage in focused practical tasks to develop and demonstrate techniques in making products. It enables students to engage in strategies to develop ideas and plan and produce a product. There is no exam involved but a portfolio of work is created which is externally moderated.

Textiles/Expressive Arts

This qualification includes units for developing skills and knowledge in Design and Technology – Textiles. This is delivered through the WJEC programme of study at differing levels across Entry 2 and Entry 3 (Award, Certificate or Diploma)

The course content requires the completion of several projects to allow pupils to produce evidence in the following areas; Designing and Modelling, Making a Product, Planning and Health and Safety. Students will learn how to research and analyse existing products to inform their own design ideas. They explore workshop practices and ensure health and safety issues are highlighted and procedures followed. Students explore materials and components and investigate industrial applications. They make products based on a design brief, testing and evaluating their finished products.

Running alongside the Edexcel course will be an Expressive Arts ASDAN qualification. The aim of this short course is to help students develop a range of skills through Expressive Arts activities such as music, art, dance, theatre, circus skills, textiles, jewellery, crafts and puppeteering. Students will learn about different aspects of Expressive Arts through the following modules; explore, create, arts in action and working in the arts. The course allows students to gain credit for what they have learnt from a wide variety of activities both inside and outside formal education. This course recognises and rewards personal achievement, helps manage students' own learning, develops employability skills and personal effectiveness, as well as helping to build a student's own personal Progress File.



Food Technology



Students who opt to choose the Food Technology route, will have the opportunity to follow Home Cooking Skills (BTEC Level 1/2). This course is highly engaging for learners of all cooking abilities. For some it may be the start of a career in cooking; for others, it will help them to learn the basic skills and recipes that will stand them in good stead throughout their lives. The aim of this qualification is to give students the basic skills and knowledge to be able to cook for themselves in a healthy and cost effective way, and have the confidence to share these skills

with friends and family. Students will gain an understanding of how to budget when planning meals to cook at home. The course will encourage students to transfer skills learnt to other recipes to continue cooking for themselves and their families and to inspire others by passing on their knowledge.

Option Block 2

History

Key Stage 4 History students will have the opportunity to study Edexcel's GCSE and/or OCR's Entry Level Certificate accreditations. Students enrolled on the above courses will study the same subject content, however, GCSE History will be studied in greater depth. GCSE candidates will complete four exam papers at the end of Year 11. Students studying Entry Level Certificate will be required to complete a minimum of two modules and research and write a biography of a selected individual to gain the accreditation.



Geography

In Geography students will follow OCR's Entry Level Certificate in Geography. This specification will encourage learners to develop their knowledge of locations, places and environments and of different scales, gain understanding of the connections between people and environments and change in places over time. They will also develop a range of skills including those used in fieldwork and apply geographical knowledge and understanding to real world contexts, including fieldwork. Each student will complete a Dynamic World Test, Fieldwork Notebook and Personal Project.



Horticultural Studies (Land & Environmental Studies)

Pupils will have the opportunity to work towards an Entry Level 3 Certificate in Vocational Studies (NOCN) whilst studying this particular subject area. Coursework will involve written and practical based tasks. All work completed will focus on practical tasks set in and around the school garden. Regarded as a sustainable project, the school garden provides pupils with a range of opportunities such as learning how to grow, care for and even cook plants, vegetables and related products. Pupils will learn and apply transferable skills which include; principles of health and safety, team working skills and time management.

Hair and Beauty / Childcare

Pupils will follow a programme of study leading to achievement of an Entry Level 3 Certificate in Vocational Studies (NOCN) and an Entry Level 3 (NCFE) in Caring for a Child. Students will complete units in two key areas of study, hair and Beauty and Childcare. Hair and Beauty will include units such as Hair plaiting, maintaining a salon, washing and conditioning hair and providing a manicure. Childcare will include units where pupils will learn key areas such as; confidence building of a child through play, parental responsibilities, routine of children and children's learning environment. As well as this pupils will experience different aspects of vocational education such as personal development, vocational support such as decision-making and time-management. The course will be assessed through a portfolio of evidence which will include coursework and photographs. This will be marked, moderated internally and externally standardised.



NOCN Certificate in Independent Living—Looking after Yourself and your Home (Entry Level 1)

This course aims to develop pupils' independence and helps them to prepare for adulthood. The units have been selected to be most suitable for those pupils who are intending to transition to 6th form, where they will then work towards the Diploma in Independent Living—Looking after Yourself and your Home.

The units cover a range of curriculum areas, including PFA, PSHE and Food Technology, but there could be some scope for pupils to choose some units they are interested in, providing they do not clash with units covered in 6th form

Pupils need to complete 15 credits in total in order to achieve the Certificate.

The units pupils could choose from, with credit values in brackets, are as follows:

PSHE	PFA	Food	Leisure / Misc.
Recycling; managing waste (2)	Using public transport – buses & trains (3)	Basic cooking techniques (3)	Accessing the Countryside (3)
Drug & alcohol awareness (2)	Choosing clothing and footwear (2)	Food safety & storage (3)	Gardening for pleasure (3)
Eating a Balanced diet (3)	Looking after clothes (3)	Make a simple meal (3)	Computer games (1)
Personal Health (3)	Household expenses (3)		Exploring music (3)
Personal Presentation (3)			Hobbies (2)
Personal Safety (3)			
Personal Assertiveness (2)			
Understanding relationships (2)			

Preparing for
Adulthood



Option Block 3

Art

KS4 pupils have the opportunity to work towards either a GCSE (AQA) or Entry Level Certificate (OCR) qualification in this subject area. GCSE pupils are required to complete a minimum of two projects for their coursework portfolio as well as an externally set exam in the final term of year 11. Entry Level students must complete a minimum of one project plus an exam, again during their final term in year 11. As part of their work they will develop a sketchbook that contains a range of independent research, sketches, designs and annotation that will lead them to an eventual idea for a final response. This could be a painting, sculpture, piece of pottery or textiles.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

At The Oaks Secondary School we offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award to anyone in Year 10 and above. It is a programme that is enjoyable and challenging, but above all, rewarding to all who take part.

There are three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has four sections:

- Volunteering - giving something back to the community
- Skills - development of a personal interest
- Physical recreation - an activity that improves the level of physical fitness
- Expedition - a camping adventure over 1, 2 or 3 nights
- Residential section (Gold level only) - undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights.

The award, once gained at any level, shows that a person is well rounded and demonstrates commitment, which is extremely attractive to future employers. Students develop their self-belief and confidence; they gain independence and a sense of responsibility; and they become aware of their abilities and potential.

Skills for employment, training and personal development

Pupils will complete a number of modules which will result in achieving an Entry Level 3 Certificate / Diploma (NOCN). This qualification is an ideal qualification for pupils seeking to learn and increase their skills / qualities enabling them to become more successful. Pupils will have the opportunity to learn the theory and have the opportunity to apply their skills in real life situations and workplace settings. In Year 11 pupils will be able to contribute to the running of the breakfast sandwich enterprise activity during their lessons. The course will be assessed through a portfolio of evidence which will include coursework and photographs. This will be marked, moderated internally and external standardised.

Employability Skills—Entry Level 1

This course is ideal for students who are currently working at Pre-step level / step 1. The Employability Course covers a range of units which allows pupils to develop their confidence, skills and qualities. The course is designed to be as engaging as possible with many practical experiences. This will include using their skills and qualities to positively contribute to the running of small scale enterprise projects. This course will be based within The Oaks but will include a range of encounters within local community workplaces. Pupils will experience a range of roles within the workplace on site at The Oaks and further afield if allows.

Successful completion of this course will result in pupils completing at least 14 credits which is assessed through production of a portfolio of evidence during Years 10 and 11.

