



Welcome to our Sixth Form

We hope you find this Prospectus interesting and useful and that it encourages you to join our Sixth Form for the next crucial stage of your educational journey.

We were obviously delighted when the most recent Ofsted inspection team identified the Sixth Form as a 'strength of the college', where achievement is strong. We believe that the high quality teaching and learning backed by excellent student support and guidance makes Our Lady's the ideal place to study.

The workplace of the 21st century is a demanding, competitive environment. Obviously to be successful, our young people need good qualifications in the right subject areas, and at Our Lady's you will find a wide range of subjects and examination courses to fit the needs of all students. These qualifications, however, must be backed by highly confident work and people skills – qualities that are a high priority for us as we prepare our students to play their part in the world of work or further study.

Don't just take my word for it – come and see for yourself! I'd be delighted to take you on a tour of the Sixth Form during a 'normal working day' – Please contact us to make an appointment.

I look forward to working with you throughout this exciting stage of your educational career.

Helen Seddon
Headteacher

Minimum Entry Requirements

For a Level 3 Programme of Study the minimum entry requirements are:

5 GCSE passes at A*-C

or

BTEC Equivalent

Many of our courses have additional entry requirements which are listed in the course directory.

We endeavour to offer courses to all abilities. Students who do not achieve the minimum requirements above may be offered a Level 2 course which will be provided in collaboration with our partnership schools.

We offer GCSE classes in Mathematics, English and Science for students who have not obtained Grade C in these subjects at the end of Year 11.

Enrichment Opportunities

In addition to our academic and vocational courses, we also offer a variety of enrichment opportunities. Currently these include the Conversational Italian, Debating, Healthy Cooking on a Budget, First Aid, Sign Language, Volunteering, and Sport for Leisure (including football and netball teams).

Types of Course

GCE AS/A Level Courses

All AS/A Level courses involve at least one external assessment. External examinations take place in May/June.

Some subjects have a coursework unit.

Many AS/A Level qualifications are academically demanding and there may be additional entry requirements for these subjects. These are included on each subject page in the Course Directory.

A Level Reform

AS and A Levels are currently undergoing reform. One of the major changes to these qualifications is that the AS is decoupled from the A level qualification, which means that:

- the AS no longer contributes to a candidate's overall A level grade
- schools and colleges are able to decide whether or not to offer the AS qualification

We have made the decision to offer the AS qualification in all subjects. This means that the following pattern of assessment will take place for students on an Academic route:

Students will

- choose 4 AS Levels to study in Year 12
- take the AS examinations at the end of Year 12
- continue with three (or sometimes four) subjects at A Level in Year 13
- take A Level examinations at the end of Year 13.

The points from the AS examinations **do not count** towards the A Level Examinations which means that students will be assessed on **two years** of work at the end of Year 13.

There are **no opportunities for retakes** in the A Level Qualification.

The only exception to this will be AS and A Level Mathematics; the UMS points from the AS examination will count towards 50% of the A level grade. Students may retake the AS units at the end of Year 13 to increase their points score.

Level 3 BTEC Courses

New Level 3 BTEC courses consist of 50% internal assessment and 50% external assessment. Students complete a series of coursework assignments that are internally marked and verified. External assessments can be in the form of a written examination or a task that has been set by and is marked by the exam board and must be completed under exam conditions.

New assessment rules mean that students must complete coursework under controlled conditions and meet all deadlines set.

Work is graded at Pass / Merit / Distinction/Distinction* – depending on the assessment criteria that is met. A student's combined score for all of their units will determine their overall grade.

The BTEC Level 3 Certificate is taken in Year 12 and consists of two units. The Extended Certificate is completed in Year 13 and requires the completion of a further two units. However, the certificate is not available in all subjects

BTEC courses are vocational in nature. The specifications are designed to help students develop deep, specialist, practical skills and understanding essential for successful performance in working life.

Each subject may have different entry requirements, but as a rule, you will be expected to have 5 grade C GCSE passes (including English and Maths) in order to be accepted onto a Level 3 BTEC course.

Many universities and employers value BTEC Nationals highly because they prove that you:

- are prepared for the world of work
- are committed to your chosen career
- have robust practical and theoretical skills.

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

In a Level 3 programme, students may choose to study one of the following alternatives:

- 4 AS levels
- A mixture of BTEC Certificates and AS Levels - totalling four subjects
- 4 BTEC Certificates

When a student is studying BOTH GCSE English and Maths they will only study three Level 3 qualifications alongside three subjects

Higher Education

All of our Level 3 courses allow for progression into Higher Education. The table below shows how A / AS Level grades equate to BTEC grades. This is the new UCAS Tariff which will be applied for entry in 2017.

AS Level		BTEC Certificate		A Level		BTEC Subsidiary Diploma	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
		Distinction*	28	A*	56	Distinction*	56
A	20	Distinction	24	A	48	Distinction	48
B	16			B	40		
C	12	Merit	16	C	32	Merit	32
D	10			D	24		
E	6	Pass	8	E	16	Pass	16

Also, the 'Russell Group' of universities (twenty of the top-rated universities) has stated that they require students to have taken **at least two** 'facilitating subjects' at A Level. These include: Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, French and German.

Please note that some universities will not accept BTEC qualifications on their own.

Our Faith

Our faith underpins everything we do at Our Lady's Catholic College.

So how are we different to other Sixth Forms?

- The most obvious difference that we hope you will observe, is the way in which we treat each other. As the Mission Statement says, we strive for a community in which all students and staff are able to work together. We are proud of the way in which students from other schools and overseas exchange students are welcomed and accepted into this community.
- In form time, tutors lead reflections and allow time for prayer or meditation. These are varied. For example, they may have a moral stance or may consider global issues and current affairs. Students have opportunities to suggest ideas and lead these short sessions.
- Once every two weeks, students attend a General Religious Education lesson. These are led by our highly charismatic team of RE teachers and centre around discussion of topical Religious issues such as Genetic Engineering. This is a great opportunity to improve communication skills and allows students to become more proficient in expressing their moral stance.
- A Sixth Form Retreat is organised at the of January. This is optional but is a wonderful chance for students to reflect on their personal life and beliefs in a comfortable and stress-free environment, in the company of their peers and experienced youth workers. We also hold a 'Day with a Difference' for Year 12 students in February.
- Our Sixth Form is very active in fund-raising. This year we raised funds for Cafod, CancerCare, and Kidney Research. In July 2014, nine Sixth Formers were taken to visit our partner schools in Uganda and raised funds totalling over £18,000 for this project. We have now established the Uganda Action Group which is working to offer continuous support to the schools we visited. We receive regular feedback from these schools and have booked another trip to Uganda in July 2016.

In addition to this, there are regular assemblies and short services throughout the year which provide further opportunities for prayer and reflection. Sixth Form students also deliver assemblies to main school students. Our lay Chaplaincy Coordinator, Rachel Cortes, is keen to meet and chat with sixth form students and will be on hand to offer support and advice when required.

Information and Guidance

We pride ourselves on high quality information and guidance in the Sixth Form

This includes:

- Timetabled PSHE lessons which focus on careers guidance for all potential pathways: university, apprenticeships and employment post sixth form.
- A Careers Fair in school.
- A visit to the Higher Education Conference in March.
- Speakers from industry, colleges and universities are invited to speak to students in regular sessions after school.
- Preparation for university applications is very thorough and students have an enormous amount of support for this from Form Tutors and from Mr Seddon and Mrs Lowe.
- Students receive one-to-one interviews with an experienced tutor on applications for Apprenticeships.

A consequence of this is that our list of student destinations after Sixth Form is very impressive. Many students are successful when applying for highly competitive universities and courses as well as excellent advanced apprenticeships.

AS / A Levels Directory

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ART AND DESIGN

GCE AS / A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Art and Design Grade C

BTEC Art Merit

Course Contact

Mrs K Knowles - Head of Art

k.knowles@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

AS and A level require students to develop their skills recording experiences and observations in a visual form; explore, analyse, discuss and evaluate images and objects; make and record independent judgements understanding the work of others; communicate ideas, solutions and responses in a range of visual forms.

A-level will build on, and allow for, greater depth of study to develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding. For example, greater specialisation in a particular medium or process or further theoretical research.

Within the Art department there is an area designated solely for use by AS and A2 students.

Assessment

AS Level (Year 12)

- Coursework Portfolio – 60%
- Externally Set Assignment – 40%

A Level (Year 13)

- Personal Investigation – 60%
- Externally Set Assignment – 40%

Progression / Career Opportunities

Following completion of A-level Art candidates wishing to follow an artistic career are advised to enrol for the Foundation One Year course before entering University to follow their chosen specialism. Past students are now following various higher education courses including degrees in Architecture, Set Design and Fine Art.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

The department runs a range of extra-curricular activities from various clubs to Arts Award – a nationally recognised qualification in the Arts. We also regularly send work to the National Students' Exhibition in London and have been successful in having work exhibited there.

BIOLOGY

GCE AS / A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Core +Additional Science Higher Grade B

GCSE Biology Higher – Grade B

Course Contact

Mrs A Bates - Head of Science

a.bates@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

AS and first year of A level (Year 12)

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Second year of A level (Year 13)

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating activity within cells

Assessment

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practicals will be assessed.

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practicals.

The AS has two exams at the end of the year.

Progression / Career Opportunities

Biology is useful in a large number of careers and former students have gone on to the following: medicine, pharmacology, teaching, biochemistry, environmental management, forensic science, agriculture, sports science and food science

CHEMISTRY

GCE AS / A Level

OCR Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Core +Additional Science Higher Grade B

GCSE Chemistry Higher – Grade B

Course Contact

Mrs A Bates - Head of Science

a.bates@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

The course builds upon the chemical concepts introduced at GCSE. There is a heavy emphasis on practical work and students are taught to use sophisticated apparatus.

AS and first year of A level (Year 12)

Module 1 – Development of Practical Skills

Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic Table and Energy

Second year of A level (Year 13)

Module 4 – Core Organic Chemistry

Module 5 – Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements

Module 6 - Organic Chemistry and Analysis

The department has excellent links with the Royal Society of Chemistry who have provided speakers, workshops and a number of different competitions. Opportunities for 'Stretch and Challenge' work for gifted and talented students are provided, including training for the Chemistry Olympiad in Year 13. Mrs Lowe is a senior examiner for OCR.

Assessment

- The AS Level has two exams at the end of the year – both are 1 hour 30 mins long.
- The A Level has three exams at the end of the year – two are 2 hours 15 min and one is 1 hour 30 min long.
- At least 15% of the marks for A-level Chemistry are based on practical skills.

Progression / Career Opportunities

Chemistry is essential for medicine, veterinary science, forensic science, pharmacology, pharmacy, biomedicine and dentistry. Other related careers include: polymer science, food technology and the manufacture of cosmetics and dyes.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

GCE AS / A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade C – essential

GCSE Drama (or equivalent) Grade C - desirable

Course Contact

Miss C Bennett – Head of Drama

c.bennett@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Both courses involve the study of set texts, as well as visits to the theatre to develop knowledge, understanding and analysis of theatre work. Students will have the opportunity to engage in scripted and devised performance work and you will take part in frequent practical sessions in one of two well-equipped Drama studios.

The course enables the individual to develop skills of communication, team work, problem solving and negotiation. It is a qualification that relies heavily on independent learning and thinking skills and assists greatly in developing the social skills and self-discipline of the individual.

Each year the college puts on a whole school production of a very high standard. This provides further opportunities for students to develop their acting and/or production skills. Working with younger students gives valuable experience to anyone considering a career in teaching drama.

Assessment

AS Level (Year 12)

- Component 1: Written Paper (1 hr 45mins). This focuses on the study of a set play and a live theatre question. Worth 40% of the total mark.
- Component 2: Practical performance of two extracts from contrasting plays (one will be performed in the style of a practitioner). Completion of an accompanying portfolio. Worth 60% of the total mark.

A– Level (Year 12 & 13)

- Component 1: Written Paper (3 hrs). This focuses on the study of two set texts and a live theatre question. Worth 40% of the total mark.
- Component 2: Devised performance influenced by a practitioner. Completion of a working notebook. Worth 30% of the total mark.
- Component 3: Practical performance of three extracts from contrasting plays (one will be performed in the style of a practitioner). Completion of a reflective report. Worth 30% of the total mark.

Progression / Career Opportunities

Drama and Theatre Studies is a widely recognised qualification due to the skills obtained (team working, problem solving, negotiation, presentation, etc.)

Career opportunities include specific theatre work (performing, design, back stage, management, etc.), but also include wider reaching opportunities such as teaching, management, police work, or any career in the field of Creative Arts.

ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

GCE AS / A Level AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade B and English Literature Grade C

Course Contact

Mrs J Choofon

j.choofon@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Our A-level English Language and Literature specification draws on the academic field of Stylistics in order to create an integrated English Language and Literature course which brings together literary and non-literary discourses. This specification integrates literary and linguistic fields via shared concepts about the way language choices create representations, both in literary and non-literary texts.

At AS, candidates will develop integrated literary and linguistic analysis through the study of set texts and the anthology. Students will develop their own analytical writing skills and develop their understanding of analytical terminology as well as exploring the use of language and style in a text. Students will produce their own writing based on the study of a range of writing genres as well as critically evaluating their own productions.

At A level the specification utilises non exam assessment (NEA) as a means of developing integrated literary and linguistic analysis where pupils work independently to investigate and explore a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse. Candidates will demonstrate the use of appropriate terminology when analysing texts and will discuss and evaluate the relationships between different text types.

Assessment

AS Assessments

- Component 1: **Views and Voices** (written paper) 1hour 30 minutes exam (50%)
- Component 2: **People and Places** (written paper) 1hour 30 minutes exam (50%)

A2 Assessments

- Component 1: **Telling Stories** (written paper) 3hour exam (40%)
- Component 2: **Exploring Conflict** (written paper) 2 hour 30 minutes exam (40%)
- Component 3: **Making connections** (Non exam assessment) 2500-3000 words (20%)

Progression / Career Opportunities

An advanced qualification in English can lead to a wide variety of careers for example in Media, Communications, Education, Management, Law, Tourism, Journalism, Librarianship, to the more specialised areas of theatre, poetry or writing.

GERMAN

GCE AS / A Level

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE German Grade C

Course Contact

Mrs A Banks

a.banks@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

A & AS level listening, reading, writing and speaking skills are taught through the topics of health, travel, the environment, education and aspects of youth culture including music and relationships.

The A2 topics include traditions, national events and the arts.

Assessment

AS Level (Year 12)

- Unit 1 Spoken Expression and Response in German (oral examination) – 30%
- Unit 2 Understanding and Written Response in German (written paper) – 70%

A2 Level (Year 13)

- Unit 3: Understanding and Spoken Response in German (oral examination) – 35%
- Unit 4 Research, Understanding and Written Response in German (written paper) – 65%

Progression / Career Opportunities

Due to the decline in the number of people with good language skills, those with A levels which include languages will find themselves increasingly sought after and marketable in many areas of employment. These range from careers on cruise ships to managers and lawyers where the need to communicate is paramount.

There is also an opportunity to take part in a Y12 trip to Cologne Christmas market.

GEOGRAPHY

GCE AS / A Level

WJEC Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Geography Grade C or above is preferable but not essential – candidates do not have to have studied GCSE Geography but will be considered on their individual merit.

An interest in the environment and current global issues is essential

Course Contact

Mrs L. Wane – Head of Geography

l.wane@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

In Year 12 students study two core units:

- G1: Changing Physical Environments
Within this unit there are 2 themes – Investigating climate change and Investigating tectonic and hydrological change. This is tested by three structured questions with stimulus material, one of which tests research and fieldwork.
- G2: Changing Human Environments
Within this unit there are 2 themes – Investigating Population Change and Investigating Settlement Change. This is tested by three structured questions with stimulus material, one of which tests research and fieldwork.

Skills studied include: investigative, cartographic, graphical, ICT and statistical skills.

In Year 13 students study two units:

- G3: Contemporary Themes and Research in Geography
- G4: Sustainability

In both Year 12 and 13 students will undertake fieldwork when appropriate and will be expected to go to a field studies centre in such places as The Lake District or Malham Cove for 2/3 nights to collect data, practice investigation skills and prepare for their fieldwork investigation and exams based upon it. Where appropriate local geographical sites will be visited to see real geography outside of the classroom.

Assessment

AS Level (Year 12)

- Two written exams based upon the human and physical themes – G1 and G2.

A2 Level (Year 13)

- G3: 2hr 15min written paper – questions are based around themes and individual research
- G4: 1 hr 45mins written paper based around pre released material

Progression / Career Opportunities

There are direct links with careers in town and country planning, cartography, police, army, surveying, public service industries, tourism, transport planning, the water industry and environmental work.

Careers in education, industry and finance can also be linked to the study of Geography.

HISTORY

GCE AS / A Level

OCR Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade C

Course Contact

Miss J Main – Head of Humanities

j.main@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Students can choose to study History to either AS or A Level. The course is linear and all exams will be taken at the end of the course: for AS at the end of Year 12 (2017) and for A Level at the end of Year 13 (2018).

In the first Year students will study one British history unit. This unit focuses on the early Tudors, Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I. It looks at the break with Rome and Henry VIII's struggle for a male heir.

Students also study Russia from 1894-1941. It starts with the rule of Tsar Nicholas II and why there was a revolution in 1917. It then looks at the creation of a Communist State and Stalin's dictatorship.

In the final year of A Level History students will study Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 and this will include Africans-Americans, Women, Trade Unions and Native Americans. Students will analyse the role of key individuals, important legal landmarks, the role of presidents and the importance of activism in gaining equality for disadvantaged groups in the USA.

Students will choose a historical period, topic and an essay of their choice for the coursework element of the A Level. This is their opportunity to pursue an area of history that really interests them.

Assessment

A Level History

England 1485-1558

British period study and enquiry 25% of A Level - one essay question and one document based question (1 hour 30 minutes)

Russia 1894–1941

Non-British Period Study 15% of A Level – one 'mini-essay' question and one essay question (1 hour)

Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992

Thematic Study 40% of A Level – two essay questions and one interpretations question (2 hours 30 minutes)

Coursework

A personal and independent essay of the student's choice 20% of A Level (3,000-4,000 words).

Progression / Career Opportunities

History A Level gives students the opportunity to develop the techniques of critical thinking in a historical context – and the skills necessary to analyse and solve historical problems. Students also develop the ability to communicate historical arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly with reference to appropriate historical terminology.

These are skills sought after by Universities and employers alike. History students go on to a variety of different careers including law, journalism, the media, business, the civil service, accountancy, theatre costume and set design, as well as careers in History such as teaching, museum work and archaeologists.

MATHEMATICS

GCE AS / A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Mathematics Higher Grade B

Course Contact

Mr Woodruff

d.woodruff@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

AS level Pure Mathematics involves:

Algebra and functions, co-ordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, differentiation, integration and exponentials and logarithms.

A2 level Pure Mathematics involves:

Further work in all the above topics plus numerical methods and vectors.

Decision involves:

Algorithms, route inspection, linear programming and sorting data.

Mechanics involves:

Mathematical modelling in mechanics, kinematics, forces, Newton's laws, connected particles, projectiles and momentum.

Statistics involves:

Numerical measures, probability, binomial distribution, normal distribution, Estimation and correlation and regression.

Assessment

Two Pure modules and one Applied module (Decision, Mechanics or Statistics) per year.

AS Level (Year 12)

Pure Maths 1 (MPC1) – June Exam (1 hour and 30 mins) (33.3%)

Pure Maths 2 (MPC2) – June Exam (1 hour and 30 mins) (33.3%)

Applied Module 1– June Exam (1 hour and 30 mins) (33.3%)

A2 Level (Year 13)

Pure Maths 3 (MPC3) - June Exam (1 hour and 30 mins) (33.3%)

Pure Maths 4 (MPC4) - June Exam (1 hour and 30 mins) (33.3%)

Applied Module 2 - June Exam (1 hour and 30 mins) (33.3%)

Modules can be re-taken at the end of Year 13 for the purpose of improving overall grades for both AS and A2.

Progression / Career Opportunities

A-Level Mathematics is universally highly regarded by employers. It can lead to a very broad range of career opportunities e.g. computing, accountancy, engineering, science, medicine etc. and is often an essential qualification.

PHYSICS

GCE AS / A Level

OCR Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Core + Additional Science Higher Grade B

GCSE Physics Higher – Grade B

Mathematics Higher Grade C

Course Contact

Mrs A Bates - Head of Science

a.bates@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Physics A-level content is split into six teaching modules: Modules 1 to 4 constitute the stand-alone AS Level qualification; Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level. The modules can be summarised as:

Module 1: Development of practical skills.

Module 2: Foundations of physics.

Module 3: Forces and motion.

Module 4: Electrons, waves, and photons.

Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics.

Module 6: Particles and medical physics.

Assessment

At AS Level:

Papers 1 and 2 can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4.

At A Level:

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 plus any material appropriately flagged within the specification from Modules 3 and 5

Paper 3 assesses content from Modules 1 to 6.

Progression / Career Opportunities

A-level Physics is an essential qualification, providing potential for progression onto university degree courses necessary for many careers including engineering, electronics and meteorology. You will also develop analytical, numerical and problem-solving skills that are highly valuable in a wide range of occupations and activities.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCE AS / A Level

WJEC Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Religious Studies Grade C

GCSE English Grade C

Course Contact

Mr D Bates

d.bates@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

All pupils study 3 components which include:

A study of Christianity

A study of Philosophy

A study of Ethics

Christianity includes :

The Christian Scriptures as a source of wisdom and authority - their use and treatment in worship and daily life.

Contemporary views about the person of Christ, with reference to at least two key scholars.

Philosophy includes a consideration of ultimate questions such as the existence of God, life after death and the nature of the debate between science and religion. They are taught to construct arguments concerning these areas and consider the evidence put forward by scholars.

Ethics involves initially studying a number of approaches to ethical decision making, such as Utilitarianism, Natural Law and different Christian denominations. Pupils critically assess each of these approaches.

Assessment

AS Level (Year 12)

- Christianity (written paper 1 hour 15 minutes)– 33% of qualification
- Philosophy (written paper 1 hour 15 minutes)– 33% of qualification
- Ethics (written paper 1 hour 15 minutes)– 33% of qualification

A2 Level (Year 13)

- Christianity (written paper 2 hours) – 33%
- Philosophy (written paper 2 hours) –33%
- Ethics (written paper 2 hours) -33%

Progression / Career Opportunities

Those studying Religious Studies/Theology at degree level have entered diverse professions and employment; the ethics component is especially helpful for those considering careers in caring services. Some students with Religious Studies have also entered the teaching profession or specialised in the religious field.

BTEC LEVEL 3
Certificates / Subsidiary Diplomas

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APPLIED SCIENCE

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Extended Certificate

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Core or Additional Science - Grade C

English—Grade C

Maths—Grade C

Course Contact

Mrs A Bates

a.bates@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

A L3 BTEC Applied Science will teach you scientific principles and how to work in a laboratory situation with both chemicals and live organisms. This is a practically based course with the underpinning scientific theory being taught at an academic level. Through your studies you will investigate topics such as the fundamental principals of science, approaches used by scientists and industry, and scientific practical techniques. To analyse your results from your practical work and to write scientific reports successfully you will require good mathematical and literacy skills.

During the course you will be required to have a flexible approach to learning and carry out tasks both independently and as part of a team.

Assessment

BTEC L3 Certificate –(Year 12)

2 mandatory units are studied

1. Principles and applications of science—this involves an externally set and marked 1.5 hour written exam

2. Practical scientific procedures and techniques—you will complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario, marked internally

BTEC L3 Extended Certificate (Year 13)

A further 2 units are studied:

3. Science investigation skills—there will be a three-week period for this task. You will need to study pre-release material and then complete a practical task under controlled conditions. Your written report will be submitted to Edexcel for marking.

4. Optional unit—you will complete a further series of tasks set in a work-related scenario, marked internally

Progression / Career Opportunities

The course allows you to go on to Further Education, Higher Education or into employment. The course prepares you for further study or employment in a range of occupations, such as laboratory technicians, nursing and biomedical scientists.

ART & DESIGN

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Subsidiary Diploma

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

BTEC Level 2 or GCSE Art & Design is preferable.

You should also have a keen interest in the Visual Arts.

Course Contact

Mrs K. Knowles

k.knowles@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

This two year course is aimed at students with a passion for Art & Design.

It provides an opportunity to develop the necessary for further study or a career within the visual arts. The BTEC qualifications are designed to provide highly specialist, work-related qualifications in a range of vocational sectors. They give students the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. The qualifications provide career development opportunities and progression opportunities to higher education, degree and professional development programmes within the same or related areas of study.

Is it for me?

This course suits those who have a passion for Art & Design and who are interested in a career in the Visual Arts.

Assessment

Assessment is by coursework portfolio, not by formal examination.

Certificate Level (Year 12)

- Visual Recording in Art & Design
- Materials, Techniques & Processes in Art & Design
- Ideas and concepts in Art & Design

Subsidiary Diploma Level (Year 13)

- Communication through Art & Design
- Optional Units totalling 20 credits to suit students interests and skills.

Progression / Career Opportunities

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Art and Design and the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Art and Design focus on specific sub-sectors of the creative industries and are skills based qualifications. Students are able to progress on to further and higher education in similar fields of study or on to careers within the creative industries.

Art and Design—Fashion

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Subsidiary Diploma

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE ART & DESIGN GRADES C or

GCSE TEXTILES DESIGN GRADE C

Course Contact

Mrs K Eakhurst

k.eakhurst@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

This qualification will give you specialist knowledge and skills in Textiles which will be achieved by completing 3 units at Certificate level (Year 12) and 3 units at Subsidiary Diploma level (Year 13).

Examples of some of the units you will be studying:

Visual Recording in Art and Design

Exploring Specialist Textile Techniques

Extending Specialist textile techniques to design and make a product which can be a garment, accessory or soft furnishing

Assessment

Certificate Level (Year 12)

Students study two mandatory units such as 'Visual Recording in Art and Design', alongside an optional Textile unit.

Subsidiary Diploma Level (Year 13)

Students study another two mandatory units 'Materials, Techniques and Processes in Art and Design' plus a selection of other units.

Progression / Career Opportunities

This qualification could lead on to studying Fashion or Textile Design in Higher Education or specialising further in Theatre/Costume design. It could also lead to an apprenticeship due to gaining solid relevant practical skills such as use of techniques, machinery and fabric knowledge.

Career Opportunities: as: Fashion Designers, Garment technologists, Hat Designer/Milliner, Pattern Grader/Cutter, Sample Machinist and Production Managers....to name but a few! Could lead to further/higher qualifications in Textile Design, Theatre/Costume design.

Business Studies

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Extended Certificate

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade C

GCSE Maths Grade C

Course Contact

Ms A Newson

a.newson@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Year 12

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign

Year 13

- Personal and Business Finance
- Recruitment and Selection Process

The new BTEC National in Business offers a wide range of assessments including assignments, tasks and a written exam. This balanced approach means that as a student you can showcase your skills for future employers and show how those skills are relevant to everyday workplace challenges. Higher education institutions can be confident that this subject will prepare students well for a higher level of study and assessment.

Assessment

Year 12

- Exploring Business will be assessed internally
- Developing a Marketing Campaign will be externally set and assessed

Year 13

- Personal and Business Finance will be a written exam
- Recruitment and Selection Process will be internally assessed

You will have the opportunity to study a range of different types of businesses, learn about how they are operating, how they are controlled and financed. From there your job will be to advise and design a promotional campaign for a specific business.

Coursework evidence may include reports, interviews, witness statements, presentations, questionnaires, meetings and log books.

Progression / Career Opportunities

A BTEC National in Business carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses. It could also lead to a direct route into employment or onto an apprenticeship.

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

WJEC Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Catering Grade C

BTEC Hospitality Pass

Course Contact

Mrs K Eakhurst

k.eakhurst@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

This is an exciting new course which will allow students to gain a wealth of knowledge about Food Science and Nutrition. They will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as practical skills about cooking and preparing food.

There is a strong emphasis on practical work, making this an ideal choice for students who prefer to learn by doing.

This qualification offers students:

- A chance to develop both practical and academic skills through applied learning
- Assessment through a combination of projects and case studies, catering for differing learning styles.
- A stimulating grounding in the study of Food Science and Nutrition

Assessment

The Qualifications are assessed through a combination of Controlled Assessment, internally assessed and externally moderated and External Assessments

Students can achieve a Certificate or Diploma depending on the number of units studied

Certificate Unit 1

Diploma Unit 1, Unit 2 plus 1 optional unit.

Progression / Career Opportunities

This course supports student progression from GCSE Catering.

This qualification is linked to the National Occupational Standards in Food Technology, Hospitality, Professional Cookery and Food Safety and Manufacturing Suites.

Students will be able to consider employment within the food and drink sectors of Hospitality and Catering, Food Production or Food Retail.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Extended Certificate

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade C

GCSE Maths Grade C

Course Contact

Ms A Newson

a.newson@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Year 12

- Human Lifespan Development
- Meeting Individual Care & Support Needs

Year 13

- Working in Health & Social Care
- Sociological Perspectives

The course has more practical elements than traditional A Level courses. It will include the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. Universities and employers value BTEC Nationals highly because they prove that you:

- are prepared for the world of work
- are committed to your chosen career
- have robust practical and theoretical skills.

Assessment

Year 12

- Human Lifespan Development is assessed by an external examination
- Meeting Individual Care & Support Needs is an internally assessed coursework unit

Year 13

- Working in Health & Social Care is assessed by an external examination
- Sociological Perspectives is an internally assessed coursework unit

You will have the opportunity to set up links with Health and Social Care workplaces. This may include visiting Care Homes or Pre-Schools to interact with service users.

Coursework evidence may include reports, interviews, witness statements, presentations, questionnaires, meetings and log books.

Progression / Career Opportunities

Having completed a BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care students will be ideally placed to progress to higher education or enter employment or continue to Diploma Level.

There are a variety of potential careers that you can explore, all of which will benefit from your studies, for example: Nurse, Social Worker, Health Care Professional.

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT

OCR

Additional Entry Requirements

ICT Grade B in a vocational course **OR** GCSE Grade C

Course Contact

Mr D Nixon

d.nixon@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Unit 1 – Communication and employment skills for IT: This unit allows students to understand what an employer expects of an individual and how to communicate effectively while developing their own personal development needs.

Unit 14 – Computer Animation: This unit allows students to understand different types of animation and their uses. They will gain the knowledge and skills to use software to design and create different types of animation. This unit will allow students to understand how animations are designed and created in industry for different mediums.

Unit 27 – Digital Graphics: Graphics come in a variety of formats, sizes and purposes. Everywhere you look you are likely to see images that have been created or edited using a computer and graphics software. This unit will provide students with the knowledge of hardware and software required to work with computer graphics. It will also guide them in the skills needed to create and use their own graphics appropriately.

Unit 2 – Information Systems: This unit will ensure that students have a greater understanding of how organisations use information internally and externally. The skills gained by completing this unit will give students knowledge of the functionality of information and the ability to produce management systems.

Unit 9 – Project Planning with ICT: The aim of this unit is to help the learner understand how projects are managed and to be able to plan a project using IT. Students will learn how to follow the project plan and review the process that they have followed.

Unit 19 – Spreadsheets: The aim of this unit is to help the student understand how spreadsheets can be used to solve complex problems. Students will learn how to create a complex spreadsheet model and to use a range of formulae and functions. Students will also learn how to automate and customise their spreadsheet models. Finally students will learn how to test and create user and technical documentation.

Assessment

Year 12

- Unit 1: Communication & employment skills for IT (internal portfolio) 33%
- Unit 14: Computer Animation (internal portfolio) 33%
- Unit 27: Digital Graphics (internal portfolio) 33%

Year 13

- Unit 2: Information Systems (internal portfolio) 33%
- Unit 9: Project Planning with ICT (internally assessed portfolio) 33%
- Unit 19: Spreadsheets (internally assess portfolio) 33%

Progression / Career Opportunities

Almost every career path will involve ICT. This qualification provides you with the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

Employers value practical based courses highly as they prove that you:

- Are prepared for the world of work
- Are committed to your chosen career
- Have robust practical and theoretical skills

The areas of study are highly relevant to industry especially if you are planning to pursue an apprenticeship after Sixth Form.

The course also allows you to go onto further study at university. Most universities look favourably on ICT students, especially if you wish to follow a career in ICT applications: Webpage developer, Network technician, Database administrator, Games console tester, Application developer, ICT Forensics.

Everyone has opportunity for progression, the qualifications can be tailored to all needs; there's something for everyone regardless of ability.

MUSIC

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Subsidiary Diploma

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

No additional entry requirements

Course Contact

Mrs A Pendlebury

a.pendlebury@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

This BTEC qualification in Music provides learners with a programme of learning in music focused specifically on performing. This qualification covers a variety of practical skills as well as opportunities to study music from around the world.

Advantages:

- Prepares young people for careers in the performing arts or music industry
- Provides opportunities for musicians to develop a range of skills and techniques
- BTEC qualifications are recognised by employers and education institutions
- Provides a good progression route to more advanced qualifications eg BTEC Nationals

Assessment

Certificate Level (Year 12)

- Students study the mandatory unit 'Music Performance Techniques' alongside a variety of optional units.

Subsidiary Diploma Level (Year 13)

- Students choose from a specialist unit of either 'Solo Music Performance Skills' or 'Working and Developing as a Musical Ensemble' alongside a variety of optional units.

Progression / Career Opportunities

Opportunities for combined /specialist Music degrees / courses are available and could lead to a future in Primary or Secondary teaching, instrumental tuition, session work or work in the Performing Arts.

PERFORMING ARTS

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Subsidiary Diploma

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

Performing Arts Level 2 BTEC or GCSE in Dance, Drama or Music is preferable.

It is essential that you have a keen interest in Dance, Drama and Music. Evidence of taking part in these in an extracurricular form would also be an advantage.

Course Contact

Miss Saltariche l.saltariche@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Mrs Pendlebury a.pendlebury@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Miss Halkic k.halkic@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

This two year course is aimed at students with a passion for Acting, Singing or Dance. It provides an opportunity to develop the necessary skill required for performing in the theatre. The programme focuses upon a broad range of musical theatre, acting and dance skills, delivered through workshop and studio teaching. Learning to work as a member of a company in rehearsal and performance of variety shows is an important part of the programme.

Over the two years, you will have to build up a body of assessed practical work together with background research, written projects and evaluations. You will also develop your skills by participating in acting, dancing, singing and theory classes.

As well as being taught directly by specialist staff, students will be expected to participate in visits and workshops led by professional practitioners, and to undertake private study and work independently. Some evening work may be required for final rehearsals and performances of major productions.

Is it for me?

This course suits those who have an interest in dance, drama and musical theatre and are considering a profession in the Performing Arts industry.

Assessment

Assessment is by coursework portfolio, not by formal examination.

Certificate Level (Year 12)

- Performing to an Audience
- Development Of Movement Skills
- Principles of Acting

Subsidiary Diploma Level (Year 13)

- Musical Theatre Performance
- Drama Improvisation
- Movement In Performance

Progression / Career Opportunities

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma is valued by employers and universities alike. The course is good preparation for further study of acting or dancing and other related areas of the performing arts at drama school or university. This qualification is an asset for any aspect of work in the Performing Arts industry

SPORT

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Additional Entry Requirements

No additional entry requirements

Course Contact

Mr C Brench

c.brench@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

The BTEC Nationals in Sport have been developed to focus on:

- Education and training for employees in the sport sector.
- Providing opportunities for employees in the sport sector to achieve a nationally recognised Level 3 vocationally specific qualification to enter employment in the sports sector or to progress to higher education vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences.
- Giving learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Course Content

The Level 3 BTEC Certificate and Subsidiary Diploma combine into a two year course which gives you specialist and practical knowledge that focuses on particular aspects of sport. Learners will study three mandatory content areas:

Unit 1—Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2—Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 3- Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

Learners will also choose one optional unit from a range which has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas.

Assessment

This is a summary of the type and availability of external assessment, which is 67% of the total qualification.

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Assessed by a written examination set and marked by Pearson lasting 1.5 hours(90marks)

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing

A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions.

In part A, learners will be provided with a case study two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research.

In part B, the supervised assessment period is two hours in a period timetabled by Pearson. It is a written submission (60 marks)

Synoptic assessment

The mandatory synoptic unit requires learners to apply learning from across the qualification to the completion of a defined vocational task.

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being, learners interpret lifestyle factors and health screening data to develop and justify a fitness training programme and nutritional advice for a client.

Learners interpret the data using knowledge and understanding from their studies of the sector and apply both transferable and specialist knowledge and skills.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry and the optional Unit are Internally assessed.

Progression / Career Opportunities

On successful completion of a BTEC National Qualification, learners can progress into employment in the sport and recreational sector or continue their study in the same vocational area or use the qualification to count towards entrance to a range of academic degree courses.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Subsidiary Diploma

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

No additional entry requirements

Course Contact

Mr M Barrow

m.barrow@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

At Certificate level (Year 1) you will investigate the Travel and Tourism Sector, The UK as a Destination and The Business of Travel and Tourism.

At Subsidiary Diploma level (Year 13) you will study Customer Service in Travel and Tourism, Preparing for Employment in Travel and Tourism and European Destinations.

To ensure the course's vocational content students will be expected to study and visit local visitor attractions and complete fieldwork

Assessment

100% coursework.

Portfolio evidence may include reports, interviews, presentations, questionnaires, meetings and teamwork.

Certificate Level (Year 1)

- Investigate The Travel and Tourism Sector
- The UK as a Destination
- The Business of Travel and Tourism

Subsidiary Diploma Level (Year 13)

- Customer Service
- Preparing for Employment
- European Destinations.

Progression / Career Opportunities

Having completed a BTEC Level 3 in Travel and Tourism (The equivalent of one A Level), learners will be ideally placed to progress to higher education, pursue travel and tourism, business or specialist management qualifications or enter employment.

There are a variety of potential careers that you can explore, all of which will benefit from your studies, for example: Air Industry, Travel Agency, Tour Operators, Hospitality Industry, Corporate Event Management, Holiday Representatives.

Please choose six subjects which you are interested in studying and place these in order of preference on your application form.

BTEC LEVEL 3

GCE AS / A Levels

Art and Design

Biology

Chemistry

Drama and Theatre Studies

English and English Literature

German

Geography

History

Mathematics

Physics

Religious Studies

Applied Science

Art and Design

Art and Design—Fashion

Business Studies

Food Science and Nutrition

Health and Social Care (optional Childcare module)

ICT

Music

Performing Arts

Sport

Travel and Tourism

Please note we may not be able to offer some of the options if the demand for the course is very low.

Alongside the AS/A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses we will offer a small number of Level 2 courses for pupils who have not achieved the grades needed to access a Level 3 course but would like to continue at Our Lady's Sixth Form. These courses will be decided on following the GCSE results day depending on the requirements of the students. Guaranteed to be running will be Maths, English and Level 2 Travel and Tourism.
