

Our Lady's Catholic College

Sixth Form Course Directory 2020/21





Welcome to our Sixth Form

As you approach the next stage of your compulsory education you have many important choices to make with a range of opportunities available to you. The next two years should be some of the best years of your life, providing you with memories to last a lifetime. We are immensely proud of our Sixth Form at Our Lady's Catholic College not just for all that they achieve but also for all that they do to contribute to our thriving College and our wider community.

Every decision that we make and everything that we do, places the needs of the individual student first. We are totally committed to providing the very best education we can offer, not just academic but also extra-curricular. We feel that everyone should have the opportunity to study here and hopefully this is reflected in the wide range of courses on offer in school and in collaboration with another local sixth form.

If you are a current student at Our Lady's you will already know that the staff here will go that extra mile for you, in fact Ofsted says so, but don't be fooled into thinking that Sixth Form life is just "more of the same." Whilst the fundamental ingredients which make us such a successful school are still present, Sixth Form life is very different. You will be given greater privileges and responsibilities, both for your own formation and the well-being of others. You will be taught in smaller groups, have more self-directed but supervised study time and will work towards becoming a highly successful, capable and independent learner, ready to tackle the challenges of life after Our Lady's. Those new to our Sixth Form are welcomed with open arms, make new friends quickly and benefit from all that Our Lady's has to offer. We also benefit from the experience you bring with you and together we shape the best future.

Throughout your time with us you will receive the very best pastoral and academic support possible. Sixth Form study has to be challenging and worthwhile, preparing you for life at University and in the workplace but it also has to be enjoyable.

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 or equivalent passes at Grade 4 or higher

(to include at least ONE Grade 4 or higher in English and Maths)

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 will be offered a Level 2 course with a strong emphasis on making progress in GCSE English and Mathematics.

Enrichment Opportunities

In addition to our academic and vocational courses, we also offer a variety of enrichment opportunities. Currently these include Healthy Cooking on a Budget, First Aid, Sign Language, Volunteering, and Sport for Leisure.

Types of Course

GCE A Level Courses

All A Level courses involve at least one external assessment.

Some subjects have a coursework unit.

Many 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 have recently undergone 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 AS Levels.

We have made the decision to offer the AS qualification in **the sciences and mathematics only**.

In response to these reforms and considering the increased rigour of the newly reformed A Levels, we have taken the decision that the large majority of students will start and continue with **3 Advanced Level subjects**. This is in common with most institutions in England. However, at Our Lady's we will give students the opportunity to start with **four** subjects giving them the option to drop the fourth subject either during Year 12 or after they have completed the AS examination (in sciences or maths).

This means that the following pattern of assessment will take place for students on an Academic route:

- Students will choose 3 or 4 A Level subjects to study in Year 12
- take the AS examinations at the end of Year 12 in sciences and maths.
- continue with three subjects at A Level in Year 13
- take A Level examinations at the end of Year 13.

The points from the AS examinations **will 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.

Level 3 BTEC Courses

We are offering a mixture of QCF and NQF BTEC Level 3 courses this year. The QCF courses have no external examination component. The NQF courses consist of both internal assessment and 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.

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.

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.

Many universities and employers value BTEC Level 3 qualifications 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.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The **Level 3** programme is a **TWO** year course. Students may choose to study one of the following alternatives:

- 3 (or 4) A levels
- A mixture of BTEC Certificates and A Levels - totalling 3 (or 4) subjects
- 3 BTEC Certificates

The **Level 2** programme is a **ONE** year course. Students will study

- One Level 2 first certificate BTEC
- English and Mathematics GCSE

After successfully completing a Level 2 course, students could progress to a Level 3 course or apply for an apprenticeship

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 Cert | | A Level | | BTEC Ext Cert | |
|----------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|---------------|--------|
| 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 prefer students to have taken **at least two** 'facilitating subjects' at A Level. These include: Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, French and German.

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.

Every Friday students take part in a Current Affairs Quiz Lead and we also learn about global issues on World Affairs Wednesdays.

Once every two weeks, students attend a General RE lesson. These are led by our highly charismatic team of RE teachers and centre around discussion of topical ethical or 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 in the Spring Term. 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 June. In 2019 it was based on Climate Change and what we should be doing to counter its effects. Our Sixth Form is very active in fund-raising. This year we raised funds for Mind, St John's Hospice, Lancaster Homeless Shelter, MacMillan and the Olive Branch Food Bank. This July, ten Sixth Formers will be visiting our partner schools in Uganda and have already raised £10,000 to provide resources for the schools and a clinic which we have been supporting.

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. Sixth Formers are part of the Chaplaincy GIFT Team which plays a very active role within main school.

Year 12 students all take a role within our SEN Department. Several support students in the Nurture Club or ARK and some help to run the Breakfast Club for these students.

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 and Mini HE Convention 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 A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Art and Design Grade 5 or

BTEC Level 2 Art Merit

Course Contact

Mrs K Knowles - Head of Art

k.knowles@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

A level requires 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.

There is plenty of opportunity for students to have access to specialist Art rooms during the study periods to complete independent work.

There will be the opportunity to visit galleries and major exhibitions throughout the two years.

Assessment

A Level—This is a two year course assessed at the end of 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 Combined Science Higher Grade 5 (Foundation will be considered)

GCSE Biology Higher – Grade 5 (Foundation will be considered)

GCSE Mathematics and English—Grade 4

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
- investigating animal behaviours
- investigating distributions of species in the environment

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 Combined Science Higher Grade 5 (Foundation will be considered)

GCSE Chemistry Higher – Grade 5 (Foundation will be considered)

GCSE Mathematics—Grade 5

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 mins and one is 1 hour 30 mins 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.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

GCE AS / A Level

WJEC Eduqas Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Design Technology or Art – Grade 5

GCSE Mathematics and English—Grade 4

Course Contact

Mr U Chel - Technology Department

u.chel@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

The course builds upon the product design course at GCSE. There is a heavy emphasis on designing and (practical work) - building prototypes to solve real world problems. Learners are encouraged to use creativity and imagination, and to think outside the box.

AS and first year of A level (Year 12)

Component 1 — Design and Technology in the 21st century

Component 2 — Design and make task

Second year of A level (Year 13)

Component 1 — Design and Technology in the 21st century

Component 2 — Design and make project

Assessment

- The AS Level has one exam at the end of the year – 2 hours long and a 40 hour design and make task based on a challenge set by WJEC.
- The A Level has one exam at the end of the year – 3 hours long and an 80 hour design and make project based on a brief set by the student.
- 50% of the marks for A-level Design and Technology are based on practical and design skills.

Progression / Career Opportunities

The course also allows you to go onto further study at university. Most universities look favourably on Design Technology students.

A level Design Technology can lead to apprenticeships with companies such as BAE or other nationally recognised companies. It can also lead to studying at university on courses such as Engineering, Architecture, Design, Games software design, teaching, civil engineering and construction.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

GCE AS / A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade 4 – essential

GCSE Drama (or equivalent) Grade 4- 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 Language or English Literature—Grade 5

Course Contact

Mrs C Monaghan

c.monaghan@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.

In Year 1 candidates will develop integrated literary and linguistic analysis through the study of set texts and anthologies. Students will develop their own analytical writing skills and develop their understanding of different language levels as well as exploring the use of language and style in a text. Students will produce their own analytical essays based on the study of a range of genres

During Year 2 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

Year 1 Assessments

- Component 1: **Telling Stories** (written paper) 3 hour exam (40%)
 - 'The Lovely Bones' - Alice Seabold
 - A Paris Anthology
 - Carol Ann Duffy poetry

Year 2 Assessments

- Component 2: **Exploring Conflict** (written paper) 2 hour 30 minutes exam (40%)
 - 'The Great Gatsby' - F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - 'A Streetcar Named Desire' - Tennessee Williams
- Component 3: **Making connections** (Non exam assessment) 2500-3000 words (20%)
 - Students select a literary and non literary text of their choice to compare

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.

French

GCE A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE French —Grade 5

Course Contact

Ms L Newton

L.newton@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

The A-Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

The core content covers 4 areas:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Literary texts and films

Assessment

Year 13

- Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing—2hours 30mins **50%**
(Covering social issues and trends/political and artistic culture)
- Paper 2 : Writing—2 hours **20%**
(Covering one text and one film from the specification)
- Paper 3: Speaking—21-23 minutes **30%**
(Covering an individual research project and aspects of French speaking society)

Progression / Career Opportunities

A language degree or having languages as part of a degree is useful. Studying languages teaches all the skills that employers look for: an analytical mind; good thought process; amazing memory capacity; fantastic cultural and intercultural awareness; good communication; great team player...and these are just a few.

Languages are great for a wide variety of careers especially those involving translation or communication with people from non-English speaking countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing, and journalism.

GEOGRAPHY

GCE AS / A Level

Eduqas Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Geography Grade 4 or above is preferable but not essential – candidates do not have to have studied GCSE Geography but will be considered on their individual merit.

GCSE in English and Mathematics - Grade 4

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

The units that students will study are:

- Coastal Landscapes
- Changing Places
- Water and Carbon cycle
- Global Governance
- Tectonics
- Ecosystems

Independent Research Project

As part of your course students are expected to undertake a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork. Students are then able to select their own research title, based on the fieldwork that they enjoyed the most and complete a piece of coursework based on their title. This accounts for **20%** of the overall A-level qualification. In previous years students have been on fieldtrips to Hothersall Lodge, Blencathra in the Lake District and Snowdonia, Wales.

Assessment

- Component 1—Changing Landscapes and Changing Places written exam (20.5%)
- Component 2—Global Systems and Global Governance written exam (27.5%)
- Component 3— Contemporary themes in Geography written exam (32%)
- Independent research project based on fieldwork (20%)

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. Geography is a subject that can count towards a career in medicine, careers in education, industry and finance can also be linked to the study of Geography.

HISTORY

GCE A Level

OCR Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade 4

Course Contact

Mr David Howarth – Head of History

d.howarth@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

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 Germany from 1919-1961. This is an overview of the problems that Germany faced after the First World War to the subsequent rise of the Nazi Party, their road to war and then Germany's division in 1945 and the impact of the Cold War on Germany.

In the final year of A Level History students will study Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 focusing on the experience of 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)

Germany 1919-63

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 6

Course Contact

Miss Hirst

e.hirst@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

AS level Pure Mathematics involves:

Proof

Algebra and functions

Coordinate geometry

Sequences and series

Trigonometry

Exponentials and logarithms

Differentiation

Integration, Vectors

Quantities and units in mechanics

Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws

Statistical sampling

Data presentation and interpretation

Probability

A level Pure Mathematics involves:

Further work in all the above AS topics plus Numerical methods and Moments.

Assessment

AS Level (Year 12)

Two written exams, each 1 hour 30 minutes duration.

Paper 1: Pure Maths and Mechanics

Paper 2: Pure Maths and Statistics

Exams are equally weighted (80 marks each)

A Level (Year 13)

Three written exams, each 2 hours duration.

Paper 1: Pure Maths

Paper 2: Pure Maths and Mechanics

Paper 3: Pure Maths and Statistics

Exams are equally weighted (100 marks each)

A mix of question styles will be in each paper, from short single-mark questions to multi-step problems.

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

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Combined Science Higher Grade 5 (Foundation will be considered)

GCSE Physics Higher – Grade 5 (Foundation will be considered)

Mathematics Higher Grade 5

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 5 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:

AS and first year of A level (Year 12)

Module 1: Measurements and their errors

Module 2: Particles and radiation

Module 3: Waves

Module 4: Mechanics and materials

Module 5: Electricity

Second year of A level (Year 13)

Module 6: Further mechanics and thermal physics

Module 7: Fields and their consequences

Module 8: Nuclear physics

Option module: Turning points in physics

Assessment

At AS Level:

Papers 1 and 2 can assess any content from Modules 1 to 5.

At A Level:

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1—5 and 6.1

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 6.2, 7 and 8

Paper 3 assesses practical skills, data analysis and the option module

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 4

GCSE English Grade 4

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

A 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.

Sociology

GCE A Level

AQA Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English Grade 4

Course Contact

Mrs C Porter – Assistant Headteacher

C.porter@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

In the first Year students will study three aspects of Sociology.:

Unit 1– This is an introduction to sociological perspectives including Marxists, functionalists, Feminists and Postmodernist views. It will also explore concepts in society such as inequality, the impact of the media, socialisation.

Unit 2– This focus on the Education system in the UK and the impact it has on society. This includes topics such as the difference in achievement between girls and boys, the function of schools in society and the impact that educational reform has on schools. This unit also includes a focus on how research is undertaken by sociologists.

Unit 3– This focuses on the family and its functions in society. It also includes topics such as how equal men and women are in the family, the changing patterns of marriage and divorce and the reasons for the existence of different family types.

In the final year of A Level Sociology students will study two further topics:

Unit 4– Crime and deviance in society. This includes the types of crimes, the difference in offending rates between women and men.

Unit 5– Beliefs in society. This includes the purpose of religion in society. The difference between religious organisations, is religion still important today.

Assessment

A Level History

Education and research methods

33% of A Level - Series of short questions, two mini essays two longer essay question and one document based question (2hour 30 minutes)

Family life and beliefs in society

33% of A Level – two ‘mini-essay’ question and one essay question for each topic (2 hour)

Crime and deviance. Research and methods

33% of A Level - Series of short questions, two mini essays two longer essay question and one document based question (2hour 30 minutes)

No Coursework element in this exam 100% linear exam

Progression / Career Opportunities

Sociology at A Level gives students the opportunity to develop the techniques of :

- appreciating the complexity and diversity of social situations
- researching, judging and evaluating complex information
- making reasoned arguments, both orally, in tutorials and presentations, and in written work
- a knowledge and understanding of research methods, analysis and statistical techniques
- developing opinions and new ideas, thinking and working creatively with others

Sociology can provide an excellent basis for the following careers:

Social worker, researcher, journalist, teacher, nursing, teaching, the police force, probation work, lawyer, teachers , counsellor and many of the caring professions.

BTEC LEVEL 3
Certificates / Extended Certificates

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Also to be offered Level 3 Public Services (course content to be added soon)

APPLIED SCIENCE

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Extended Certificate

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE Combined Science - Grade 4

GCSE English and Mathematics —Grade 4

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 three short externally set and marked written exams (biology, chemistry and physics units)

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 skills 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.

Business Studies

BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Extended Certificate

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

GCSE English and Mathematics—Grade 4

Course Contact

Mr P Watson

P.watson@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 or BTEC Hospitality Pass

GCSE English—Grade 4

Course Contact

Miss R Ashcroft

r.ashcroft@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. You 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 and GCSE Maths—Grade 4

Course Contact

Mrs C Park

C.park@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Year 12

- Human Lifespan Development
- Meeting Individual Care & Support Needs

Year 13

- Working in Health & Social Care
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs

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
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs 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.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology

Edexcel

Additional Entry Requirements

ICT GCSE Grade 4 or above

GCSE English—Grade 4

Course Contact

Mr D Nixon

d.nixon@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Information Technology is suitable for students who are interested in learning about the Information Technology sector alongside other fields of study. It allows you to gain an understanding of the use of information technology systems in business. The course is part practical and part academic, and suits students who enjoy technical as well as creative subjects. Students are assessed through a combination of coursework and exam.

You will study four units: Information Technology Systems; Creating Systems to Manage Information; Using Social Media in Business; and Data Modelling or Website Development.

Assessment

Students are assessed through a combination of coursework and exam. The first unit is assessed through a written exam, but the other three are coursework units.

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.

PERFORMING ARTS

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

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

Miss Bennett c.bennett@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.

Assessment

Assessment is by coursework portfolio and external assessment.

4 units of study will be undertaken, 2 of which are externally assessed. The 4 units will comprise a mixture of Dance, Drama and Music.

- Investigating Practitioners' Work (external assessment)
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- Group Performance Workshop (external assessment)
- Musical Theatre Techniques

Progression / Career Opportunities

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate is valued by employers and universities alike and is equivalent to one A Level. The course is good preparation for further study of acting, dancing or singing 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

In addition, this course will also complement many other A Levels and BTEC courses. Presentational skills, communication skills and the ability to successfully work as part of a team are fundamental to this course and are all desirable attributes to future employers.

Students embarking on this course will be expected to demonstrate a high level of self discipline and rehearsal/performance work outside of lesson time will be compulsory.

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 Subsidiary Diploma

Edexcel Examination Board

Additional Entry Requirements

No additional entry requirements

Course Contact

Mrs A Farley

a.farley@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

In Year 12 you will investigate the Travel and Tourism Sector, The UK as a Destination and Preparing for Employment in Travel and Tourism

In Year 13 you will study Customer Service in Travel and Tourism, and Business Travel and The Business of Travel and Tourism.

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 12)

- Investigate The Travel and Tourism Sector
- The UK as a Destination
- Preparing for Employment

Subsidiary Diploma Level (Year 13)

- Customer Service
- Business Travel
- The Business of Travel and Tourism

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.

Pearson BTEC Level 1 Award in Home Cooking Skills (1 year course)

Course Contact

Miss R Ashcroft

r.ashcroft@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Course Content

Home Cooking Skills has been developed in partnership with chef Jamie Oliver. It was inspired by his healthy eating campaigns and features over 80 of his recipes. The recipes you will follow are supported by step-by-step photography, 'how-to' style videos and fact sheets. Since the qualification was introduced over two years ago, more than 33,000 students have taken the qualification and the number is continuing to grow - Home Cooking Skills is one of the most popular BTEC courses available across the country.

Cooking is an essential life skill, empowering us to make changes that benefit our health and wellbeing. The Home Cooking Skills course aims to give every young person the basic skills and knowledge to be able to cook for themselves in a healthy, cost-effective way, as well as gain the confidence to share these skills with friends and family.

The course consists of over 80 recipes from Jamie Oliver, covering key topics from eggs and baking to vegetables and quick-cook meats.

You will learn essential knowledge and skills such as:

- kitchen basics: what equipment you need and the best way to stock your store cupboard, fridge and freezer.
- food safety and hygiene: knife safety, fridge management and rotation.
- how to shop cleverly: shopping lists, seasonal food and planning ahead.
- preparing ingredients and understanding confusing food labels.

Assessment

All assessment takes place internally and are internally assessed and externally verified.

There will be a number of assessments throughout the course, which will involve practical tasks such as: following instructions for preparing ingredients, selecting correct ingredients, using measurements and using preparation methods given to produce recipes. There is also a requirement for written evidence to be submitted on: how food has been prepared and cooked safely and hygienically, how the message for healthy eating could be promoted and how this qualification could be used in the future. The final form of assessment is one-to-one discussions with the tutor.

Progression / Career Opportunities

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.

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

**GCE
AS / A Levels**

Art and Design

Biology

Chemistry

Drama

English and English Literature

Geography

History

Mathematics

Physics

Religious Studies

Sociology

BTEC LEVEL 3

Applied Science

Art and Design

Business Studies

Food Science and Nutrition

Health and Social Care (optional Childcare module)

ICT

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, Level 2 Travel and Tourism and the Level 1 BTEC Home Cooking Skills enrichment course.
