



THE
ST LEONARDS
ACADEMY



YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2021



PRIDE THROUGH SUCCESS

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Dear student,

You are at an important stage in your education. Over the next few weeks you are going to choose which subjects to study for your final exams in 2023.

This guide has been designed to help you make your decisions as well as giving you some advice on what to select. In addition to this guide, there are a number of people who you can ask for help and advice about your options. These include:

- Parents
- Tutor
- Subject teachers
- Senior staff

When considering courses, there are a number of questions you should be asking yourself:

Is this subject something that I am likely to be good at?

You should consider your own strengths and weaknesses as a learner when choosing subjects. If you are very shy and dislike performance, for example, then subjects such as drama and music may not be for you. If you are a keen sports person, however, then you may wish to consider BTEC sport.

Will this subject be best for my future career opportunities?

We understand that it is very earlier to start thinking about what jobs you might want to do in future and most of you probably don't know. However, it is important to know that choosing subjects related to a career path now will make it easier for you to pursue that path in future. For example, if you are considering a career in medicine then you may wish to consider opting for triple science as you will need to study science at A level.

Things to do!

- Read the booklet carefully
- Talk it over with your parents/carers
- Complete the online options form by **Monday 8th March**

Useful links

Year 9 options page of the academy website: <https://www.thestleonardsacademy.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/year-9-options>

Examination boards: Edexcel:
 AQA: www.aqa.org.uk
 OCR: www.ocr.org.uk
 WJEC: www.wjec.co.uk

Colleges: Bexhill College: www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk
 East Sussex College Hastings: www.sussexcoast.ac.uk
 Plumpton College: www.plumpton.ac.uk

University guidance: UCAS: www.ucas.com
 Unistats: www.unistats.direct.gov.uk

Careers advice & support: Courses/careers: www.courses-careers.com
 Careers portal: www.careers-portal.co.uk
 Futurewise: www.myfuturewise.org.uk
 Future Morph: www.futuremorph.org
 NHS: www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk
 STEM: www.wherestemcantakeyou.co.uk

And finally ...

Subjects are placed into blocks for timetabling; consequently not all combinations will be possible.

All students must therefore make reserve choices as directed on the option form.

Whilst we do our best to ensure you get the choices you have made, there are times when this proves impossible. There are a number of reasons for this. For example, some courses may not run if there is insufficient demand. Some may clash on the timetable. Others may become oversubscribed due to their popularity. Where we are unable to provide your chosen option(s), we will always consult you. However, it is important that you put as much thought into your reserve choice as you do your other choices.

The online options form should be completed by no later than Monday 8th March.

Please rest assured your future is of the utmost importance to us and we will do our best to accommodate your choices, ensuring they are the best ones to support your future, whatever that may be.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Dean
Assistant Principal



What can I choose?

All students study these subjects

GCSE English Language	GCSE English Literature	GCSE Maths	GCSE Combined Science	P.E. (non-examined)	Personal Development (non-examined)
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You must then choose at least **1 of these:**

GCSE French	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Geography	GCSE History	GCSE Triple Sciences	GCSE Computer Science
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You must next choose a further **2 options from either the blue subjects (above) or the pink subjects listed below:**

GCSE Art, Craft & Design	BTEC Dance	GCSE/BTEC Drama	GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	BTEC Information Technology	BTEC Sport
GCSE 3D Design (Resistant Materials)	GCSE Photographic Art	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Music	GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE Textiles

The Core Curriculum

All students will continue to study English Language, English Literature, Maths and Combined Science (worth two GCSEs). These subjects are compulsory in English schools. Students who are likely to achieve top grades in Sciences may, in addition, be able to take Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects).

All students will also have lessons in core PE and Personal Development, although these will not result in a qualification.

The English Baccalaureate subjects – Please choose a minimum of ONE

The English Baccalaureate, or 'EBacc', is a group of academic qualifications which are preferred by some of the UK's more prestigious universities. Therefore, all students will choose a minimum of ONE 'English Baccalaureate' subject to study in Years 10 and 11 (from the list below).

- GCSE French
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Triple Science

Other Subjects

In addition to your one 'Ebacc' subject you should choose two additional subjects from either the ebacc list or the list below.

- GCSE Art, Craft & Design
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE/BTEC Drama
- GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
- GCSE 3D Design (Resistant Materials)
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Sociology
- GCSE Textiles
- BTEC Information Technology
- BTEC Sport



The Core Curriculum

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined Science (double award)

Physical Education

Personal Development

The Core Curriculum

GCSE English Language

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

- This course is compulsory for all students
- It allows for students to write in a variety of forms, from newspaper to diary entry
- It is both creative and analytical

Whilst English Language is compulsory for all students, the course allows students to have autonomy and flexibility over their own work.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

For English Language students should:

- Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Students will be able to provide extended response to unseen texts, in addition to demonstrating their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge and skills.

Where might the course take you?

English Language is an essential foundation for all careers paths, allowing students to develop their reading and writing skills in a range of areas. It can lead to AS and A level in English Literature, English Language, Media, History and Law. Regardless of your A level/Level 3 choices, passing English at Level 2 (GCSE 4 or above) shows you are an able communicator, which is a pre-requisite for many careers. Students considering the field of journalism, teaching, law, writing, politics, marketing and advertising will also find the course useful.

Subject contact: Acting Head of English Faculty – Miss C Howard-LeVierge:
C.Howard-LeVierge@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

The Core Curriculum

GCSE English Literature

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

- This course is compulsory for all students
- It allows students to study a wide variety of texts, from 19th century novel through poetry to Shakespearean plays

English Literature is compulsory for all students at The St Leonards Academy as it is taught alongside the language qualification; the course allows students to analyse a wide variety of texts and the inferences they make enable them to think creatively, which compliments the language course.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Reading

- Comprehension: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings
- Critical reading: distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features: understanding how these features contribute to quality and impact

Writing

- Producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate
- Using accurate standard English: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Students will be able to read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading. Furthermore, they will be able to read in depth, critically and evaluatively, in addition to developing the habit of reading widely and often.

Where might the course take you?

English Literature is an essential foundation for all careers paths, allowing students to develop their writing skills in a range of areas. It can lead to AS and A level in English Literature, English Language, Media, History and Law. Students considering careers in journalism, teaching, law, writing, politics, marketing and advertising will find the course useful.

Subject contact: Acting Head of English Faculty – Miss C Howard-LeVierge:
C.Howard-LeVierge@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Mathematics

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This is a core subject that all students take. It is essential in life to have good numeracy skills and to be able to solve problems. Many career pathways, apprenticeships and college and university courses require a certain level of mathematics in order for students to be accepted onto them.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

To develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts; to acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems; to be able to reason mathematically, make deductions and draw conclusions and to understand and interpret mathematical information in a variety of ways.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Mathematics falls into 6 key areas and aims to develop these skills and develop an aptitude for problem solving using these skills. The 6 key areas are:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Where might the course take you?

A high level of mathematics is sought by all employers and the types of courses available to you at college and beyond are usually defined by your grade in mathematics.

Mathematics is used in all careers but is a vital skill for careers in accountancy, business, banking, science and technology based careers. Students that achieve good qualifications in mathematics are in high demand in this country and worldwide and are very well paid as a result!

Subject contact: Head of Maths Faculty – Mr J Toogood: j.toogood@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Combined Science

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

Combined Science is a compulsory core subject focusing on aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

The course will cover Combined Science through specialising in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will develop an understanding of the application and theory of scientific principles. You will focus on practical work in all three areas and learn how science in the 21st century is advancing and impacting on the world around us.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

In Biology you will learn about some of the central ideas which underpin life, including ideas about cells, microscopy, enzymes, nutrition, diffusion, osmosis and active transport. You will discover Chemistry and its role in our world. The focus will be around materials and fuels, bonding and reactions. In Physics you will discover universal physics principles such as motion, energy, forces, waves and electricity.

Where might the course take you?

Success in Combined Science will show future employers that you have a logical and enquiring mind and that you will be an asset to any work place. It will ensure that you have the necessary problem solving, logical thinking, team work, and reasoning skills to work in any field of employment. It is anticipated that you will need to achieve a grade 6 or above to go on to study A level Applied Science and A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Colleges also offer alternative science based qualifications.

Subject contact: Head of Science Faculty – Mrs M O'Connor: m.oconnor@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

The Core Curriculum

Physical Education

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

Physical Education is a part of the core curriculum at the academy and is compulsory for all students.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

The PE curriculum aims to inspire all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities. It provides opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness. All students will have opportunities to compete in sport and other activities that build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Pupils will:

- use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games [for example, basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby and tennis]
- develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports,[for example, athletics and gymnastics], or other physical activities [for example, dance]
- take part in activities in a range of environments which present intellectual and physical challenges and which encourage pupils to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group
- evaluate their performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities to achieve their personal best

Where might the course take you?

PE lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. For example, did you know that many nutritionists, physical therapists and chiropractors have a degree in PE? Some careers that you could consider doing with PE include:

- Sports science
- PE teacher
- Physiotherapist
- Professional sportsperson
- Sports coach/consultant
- Sports policy at local and national level
- Diet and fitness instructor
- Personal trainer

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

The Core Curriculum

Personal Development

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

Personal development is a compulsory part of the core curriculum at the Academy and all students are expected to participate.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

We believe that a student's curriculum must encompass more than just subjects. Through personal development students at the Academy learn some of the knowledge and skills that are essential for their success and happiness.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

You will continue to learn about:

- Relationships and sex, including issues around consent, sexuality and sexual health.
- Study Skills such as mind mapping and exam preparation
- Citizenship including learning about democracy, human rights and the UK legal system
- Personal finance and how to budget your money
- Careers including post 16 pathways and employability skills

Subject contact: Head of Personal Development Faculty – Mr Lewis Hall:
L.Hall@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk



**THE
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The English Baccalaureate

GCSE French

GCSE Spanish

GCSE History

GCSE Geography

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Triple Science

The English Baccalaureate

GCSE French

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for anyone who has had an experience of learning this or any other language or living in the country.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

This is a course that is rich in variety. It covers the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening as well as looking at the functions of grammar, vocabulary and lexis to provide confident understanding of how language works and offer students the best possibility to understand and produce language in a variety of contexts

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Theme: Identity and culture

- Who am I?
- Daily life
- Cultural life

Theme: Local area, holiday and travel

- Holidays
- Travel and tourist transactions
- Town, region and country

Theme: School

- What school is like
- School activities

Theme: Future aspirations study and work

- Using languages beyond the classroom
- Ambitions
- Work

Theme: International and global dimension

- Bringing the world together
- Environmental issues

Where might the course take you?

Any experience in a country where the language is spoken will be of considerable benefit to anyone studying a language. The department runs trips abroad to provide this opportunity, subject to sufficient interest. You will ideally have a GCSE in French if you want to continue studying at AS and A level. A language will be of benefit to a wide range of careers and counts as one of the key subjects in the awarding of an English Baccalaureate and the new key Progress 8 measure. These measures recognise where students have secured a C grade or better across a core of academic subjects and are often requested by employers and universities.

Subject contact: Head of Humanities Faculty – Mr T Johnson: t.johnson@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

The English Baccalaureate

GCSE Spanish

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for anyone who has had experience of learning this or any other language or has had an experience of living in the country.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

This is a course that is rich in variety. It covers the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening as well as looking at the functions of grammar, vocabulary and lexis to provide confident understanding of how language works and offer students the best possibility to understand and produce language in a variety of contexts

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Theme: Identity and culture

- Who am I?
- Daily life
- Cultural life

Theme: Local area, holiday and travel

- Holidays
- Travel and tourist transactions
- Town, region and country

Theme: School

- What school is like
- School activities

Theme: Future aspirations, study and work

- Using languages beyond the classroom
- Ambitions
- Work

Theme: International and global dimension

- Bringing the world together
- Environmental issues

Where might the course take you?

Any experience in a country where the language is spoken will be of considerable benefit to anyone studying a language. The department runs trips abroad to provide this opportunity, subject to sufficient interest. You will ideally have a GCSE in Spanish if you want to continue studying at AS and A level. A language will be of benefit to a wide range of careers and counts as one of the key subjects in the awarding of an English Baccalaureate and the new key Progress 8 measure. These measures recognise where students have secured a C grade or better across a core of academic subjects and are often requested by employers and universities.

Subject contact: Head of Humanities Faculty – Mr T Johnson: t.johnson@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

The English Baccalaureate

GCSE Geography

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for students who are curious about the world around them. Students need to have an enquiring mind and want to find out about both physical and human environments.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Studying Geography will help students to develop their knowledge and understanding current events from a local scale to the global scale.

Students need to be able to make links between different topics and analyse the causes, effects and consequences of decisions that influence the physical and human worlds.

Geography allows students to develop their communication skills, graphical and cartographical skills, ICT skills, problem solving skills as well as the awareness of how Geography can help them in the future.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

In the Physical Geography units, you will be adding to your knowledge of volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. You will also need to use your knowledge of 'The Restless Earth' to understand the physical processes along the course of a river and along the coastline. In the Human Geography units, you will need to analyse how the world's population has changed, how the world is developing and how companies across the world connect on a global scale.

Where might the course take you?

Geography could take you into some exciting career choices: urban planner, cartographer, GIS specialists, volcanologists, teaching, to name but a few.

Geography is a very versatile subject, involving aspects of Maths, History, Science and English and a good grade in this subject shows colleges and further education that you are good at a range of subjects.

Subject contact: Head of Humanities Faculty – Mr T Johnson: t.johnson@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

The English Baccalaureate

GCSE History

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for students who wish to study most A levels and who would want to apply to university. Knowledge of history is vital for many professions. Employers in media, journalism, education, law, industry, government and the services (police, fire service, etc) view History GCSE favourably.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

This is a course which will test and improve your reading, writing, thinking, speaking and listening. It will provide you with analytical, evaluative, and interpretational skills. It will show your ability to acquire knowledge, comprehend, evaluate and synthesize in given tasks. It provides opportunity to debate key ideas and consider the development of the world as we know it.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Students will study four main elements:

- Britain: Health and the people, c1000AD to the present day (Medicine through time)
- Norman England: c1066-1100
- Conflict and Tension: 1894-1918 (WWI)
- Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship (Weimar Germany and the rise of Hitler)

Where might the course take you?

This course would be good preparation for A level courses in Politics, History and Sociology. Guidance/examples of the types of careers this qualification could lead to are education, civil services, politics, government, police/fire services, journalism, media, writing, museum work, librarian or researcher.

Subject contact: Head of Humanities Faculty – Mr T Johnson: t.johnson@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Triple Science

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

Triple Science is suitable for anyone who has a keen interest in science and is prepared to work hard to achieve their best. When choosing triple science you will have the opportunity to earn three separate science qualifications (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Students who are thinking of taking further qualifications in science should consider this option as it provides a strong foundation for careers and qualifications in science. Science provides opportunities to work at the fore-front of human understanding in a variety of diverse industries from aeronautics to medicines to the beauty industry.

To gain a place on this course you must demonstrate your commitment to science by showing a good attitude to learning in class and regularly complete homework to a high standard.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Similarly to Combined Science students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students studying this qualification will develop an understanding of the application and theory of scientific principles. You will focus on practical work in all three areas and learn how science in the 21st century is advancing and impacting on the world around us.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

The core areas of study are similar to Combined Science. Through Triple Science, you are offered an opportunity to extend your understanding. In biology you will learn about some of the central ideas which underpin life, including ideas about cells, microscopy, enzymes, nutrition, diffusion, osmosis, active transport, the kidney and the brain. You will discover chemistry and its role in our world. The focus will be around materials, fuels, bonding, reactions, plastics and the chemistry of manufacturing. In Physics you will discover universal physics principles such as motion, energy, forces, waves, electricity and radioactivity.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Triple Science will lead to three GCSE qualifications. You will sit 6 exams in total, 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics. Each exam will be 1hr 45mins long. There are 2 tiers of entry for these exams. Higher papers allow you to achieve grade 4-9 and standard papers allow you to achieve grades 1-5 - it is preferred that triple science students take the higher paper. Students receive separate grades for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Where might the course take you?

These are prestigious qualifications which are very valued highly by colleges, universities and employers. They open a wealth of opportunities to students who are prepared to work hard. You should consider this option if you are considering a career in a scientific field e.g. doctor, dentist, engineer or forensic scientist. Triple science bridges the gap between GCSE and A level sciences.

Subject contact: Head of Science Faculty – Mrs M O'Connor: m.oconnor@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

The English Baccalaureate

GCSE Computer Science

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science will find it provides a superb stepping stone.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

The course will give students a real in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology, however, the course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills through the study of computer programming. For many students, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in everyday life.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Topics covered include:

1. Fundamentals of computer systems
2. Hardware
3. Software
4. Representation of data in computer systems
5. Databases
6. Computer communications and networking
7. Algorithms
8. Coding structures and standard programming techniques
9. Programming using Python, assembly code
10. Testing and evaluation of computer systems

Where might the course take you?

This course could lead to A-Level Computing or post-16 ICT courses. Career areas are constantly evolving due to the dynamic world of ICT and computer programming and include areas such as web design, gaming, computer programming and software design

Subject contact: Head of Personal Development Faculty – Mr L Hall: L.Hall@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk



Other Subjects

GCSE Art, Craft & Design

GCSE/BTEC Drama

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

GCSE Music

GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

GCSE 3D Design (Resistant Materials)

GCSE Photographic Art

GCSE Sociology

GCSE Textiles

BTEC Dance

BTEC Information Technology

BTEC Sport

GCSE Art, Craft and Design

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

GCSE Art, Craft and Design will suit you if you are creative, artistic, organised, motivated and able to work independently. You should be able to make decisions and be brave enough to experiment and make mistakes. You must have an interest in the subject and be able to draw from life. You will be required to produce a large quantity of work for the course which can only be fully achieved by working outside of lessons and independently throughout the course.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

If you choose to study GCSE Art, Craft and Design, you should enjoy working independently using a wide range of materials and processes. You will develop your skills through practical demonstrations and workshops which will enable you to explore and investigate a variety of creative outcomes. You will learn about the ways in which artists from different cultures, both historical and contemporary, have approached creative practices. An essential part of the course will be keeping a high quality sketchbook for researching and developing ideas both in class and also at home. All homework is designed to link with the unit themes and is a crucial part of the course contributing towards the 60% coursework grade. The expectation is that you will complete work independently at home or at after-school sessions each week to support your class work.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Art themes will vary each year but will include:

- Drawing techniques in a variety of media – such as biro, ink, pencil, fine-liner, charcoal, oil pastel.
- Researching a variety of artists and writing your own opinion of their work.
- Working in the style of an artist and trying out their techniques.
- Painting in a variety of media such as watercolour, acrylic paint and inks.
- Collage and low relief using cardboard, papers and fabrics.
- Printmaking - poly-board, lino, Perspex etching.
- Photography – taking photos and using them within your art work
- 3D sculpture using a variety of materials such as wire, Modroc, paper mache and plastics.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Throughout all lessons and independent work you will create coursework which comprises 60% of the final mark. You will undertake an externally set exam project at the end of the course which will run for approximately 12 weeks (Jan-April) and this will account for 40% of the final mark.

Where might the course take you?

Careers that GCSE Art and Design can lead to include graphic design, architecture, fashion design, photography and fine art related, teaching, web design, journalism, stylist, museum/gallery curator, art therapist.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE/BTEC Drama

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

These courses are suitable for anyone wishing to go onto further education and start working in the creative industries. Studying drama will provide you with many skills that will equip you with the right mind-set to go out into the world with confidence and the ability to develop your own career path. As well as studying play texts and visiting the theatre, you will also explore a range of themes, where you develop empathy, confidence, teamwork, creativity and the ability to present your work and ideas to an audience.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

The main aims of the courses are to teach students drama skills from the point of view of a performer, designer or technician. These skills will include script work, devising using a range of stimuli as well as opportunities for puppetry, lighting and sound design.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

GCSE	BTEC
Component 1: Understanding Drama There is a written exam at the end of the 2 year course which is 40% of the final grade.	Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts Exploring different practitioners and pieces of work.
Component 2: Devising Drama Students research and perform a piece of drama based on a relevant stimulus. It comprises two parts: A Devised Log (60 marks) Devised performance (44 Marks)	Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts Developing performance skills through the reproduction of existing work.
Component 3: Texts in Practice It comprises of two short performances from a set script.	Component 3 Responding to a Brief Responding to a given stimulus as either a designer or performer.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

- In Year 9 all students who choose drama will have a foundation year, learning the specialist terminology and developing their performance skills.
- Towards the end of Year 9 a decision will be made on the appropriate course for each individual student, based on practical ability, theoretical knowledge and understanding and preferred learning styles. This decision will be made by the staff, students and home.

Where might the course take you?

Lawyers, politicians, writers, psychologists, film directors, actors, theatre directors and youth workers, to name a few, have all studied drama in depth. Universities and employers look favourably upon students who have taken drama for further study.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

This new GCSE has been designed to cover a range of different areas which ensure students have a broad and deep understanding of all areas of food. Students will study:

- Food Preparation Skills
- Food Nutrition and Health
- Food Safety
- Food Science
- Food Provenance
- Food choice

During the course you will be given the opportunity to practise a wide range of practical skills along with having a greater understanding of nutrition, the science behind food as a material and the wider environmental aspects associated with food. The course is taught in a very "hands on" practical way and so consequently the weekly purchase of ingredients is essential; therefore time to collect ingredients and the cost of them will need to be considered. But if you are worried about this then you can discuss this with your Design Technology teacher.

How will it help me in the future?

The food technology industry is one of the world's fastest and biggest growing industries. In fact over 20% of the top 100 British companies are in food manufacturing. The food and drink industry is booming, with employment reaching the heights of 650,000 people and an annual turnover of £66 billion. The opportunities to work within the food industry really are endless. The food industry contains many multinational companies and opportunities for travel or work abroad exist for those who wish to spread their wings.

Examples of jobs within the food industry include:

Dietician, nutritionist, food buyer, product development, sensory analysis and product testing, chef, baker, caterer, food journalist, environmental health officer, store manager of a supermarket, packing technologist, teacher.

How the course is assessed?

In Year 11 students will complete 2 Non Examination Assessments (NEA):

- **Task 1: investigation** (approx.10 hours) 15% of GCSE.
- **Task 2: Food preparation** Assessment (approx.20 hours including a 3 hour practical assessment) 35% of GCSE.

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minute exam worth 50% of GCSE.

Suitable Candidates

This course would suit anyone with a passion for food and who is interested in learning more about the subject while enhancing their practical skills.

Post 16 progression routes

There are a range of options to study food further at college level including, but not limited to A level Food Technology, NVQ Catering, Health and Social Care, Sports and Nutrition, A Level Science.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE/BTEC Music

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

BTEC Music will suit students who are organized, motivated and able to work independently and in ensembles (groups). You should have an interest and the ability to play an instrument (including the voice). You will be required to produce a large quantity of work for the course. It is important to understand that students will be required to practise outside of lessons throughout the course. Students will be expected to rehearse regularly and attend performances and trips and visits when arranged.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

BTEC Music aims to help you develop your instrumental skills as well as giving you the theoretical knowledge necessary to compose and produce your own music. You will study different eras of music through time and analyse the vast job roles that make up the music industry, overall giving you a comprehensive overview of how music is created.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

The 3 Components studied are:

- Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles
- Component 2: Music Skills Development
- Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

These will be explored through four strands of learning:

- Focussed listening and music-making activities
- Practical application of music theory and music technology
- Theoretical knowledge of the music industry
- Performance in a group/solo

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

- Portfolio of work produced throughout the course including video/audio recordings and commentaries
- One external assessment in Year 11 – Responding to a commercial brief

You would be expected to perform in real-life gig scenarios in order to demonstrate your development as a musician, which would usually take place at a live music venue in the Hastings area.

Where might the course take you?

BTEC Music can lead into A level Music / Music Technology; Bexhill College and East Sussex College Hastings both offer a range of courses that you could go onto study which, in turn can lead onto higher education studies at universities. There are many job opportunities within the music industry for people who have achieved this award and higher qualifications such as sound engineers, music media, radio, TV and session players to name a few.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course is suitable for students who want to be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious, philosophical and ethical issues such as the existence of God, the afterlife, abortion and the death penalty.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

The aims of the course are to develop an appreciation of a range of different perspectives on religious, philosophical and ethical issues. Students will be able to understand these different beliefs and the reasons for them, compare them with other beliefs and evaluate their claims to truth.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

The key areas of study are

- Buddhist beliefs and practices
- Christian beliefs and practices
- Human relationships (families, sexuality etc)
- Religion and life (abortion, euthanasia, animal rights etc)
- Crime and punishment (the aims of punishment, arguments about the death penalty etc)
- War and peace (when is it right to go to war, pacifism etc)
- The existence of God (arguments for and against the existence of God)
- Human Rights and Social Justice (the use of wealth, religious freedom etc)

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

There are two written examination papers to be sat at the end of the year that are each 1 hour 45 minutes in length. Each paper is worth 50% of the final grade. Paper 1 focuses on the two religions studied (Buddhism and Christianity). Paper 2 focuses on your understanding of religious and non-religious responses to the philosophical and ethical themes studied. Both papers have a mix of short and extended responses to questions. Students are expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the topics being examined.

Where might the course take you?

This course is an excellent basis for moving on to A Level study in Religious Studies, Philosophy and other Social Science/Humanities subjects at college. The Russell group of top universities describe this subject as "suitable preparation for university generally" and 20% of students who took places to read Maths at Oxford University in 2011 had a Religious Studies A level (more than had economics, physics or business studies). It is a highly regarded subject and the knowledge and skills acquired through it will support your learning across a wide range of other subject areas.

Subject contact: Mr Chris Dean: c.dean@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE 3D Design (Resistant Materials)

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for you if have an interest in design, and enjoy developing skills in both the practical and theory elements of the subject. You will be willing to explore new ideas and concepts through designing, modelling and making. Attention to detail and presentation skills are seen to be highly important for this course and will be developed throughout each of the projects.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

A design based course which has a major element of practical work included. You will design and make a range of products using mainly wood, metals and plastic to develop your practical skills base. You will gain experience in using a variety of tools, equipment and new technologies in developing and prototyping your design ideas. These will be learnt whilst completing a range of focused practical tasks which will explore the design process. It is important that students realise that the course is no more than 50% practical, the remainder being design and theory work, including gaining an understanding of the key areas of study.

Additional information specific to the course: As part of the course, students will have the opportunity to partake in educational trips and workshops to help build their skills and knowledge base.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Students will gain a breadth of knowledge and technical understanding in the following areas:

- New and emerging technologies such as 3D printing
- Energy storage and generation
- Modern and smart materials
- Systems approach to designing
- Mechanical and electronic devices
- Materials and their working properties

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Students will first carry out a range of design and practical based projects, using GCSE assessment criteria and teacher feedback for guidance, before completing their final project.

The course will be assessed by:

- 50% non-exam assessment portfolio – a substantial design and make task set by the exam board
30 – 35 hours in length
- 50% examination – 2 hour paper – focusing on elements of both design and theory

Where might the course take you?

Resistant Materials always complements STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), and allow you to show future employers that you can understand and solve a problem on your own initiative. This course would be an ideal option for any students considering future career paths in; architecture, product design, carpentry/trades, engineering, interior design, car design, jewellery design, mechanics, electrical trades and many more.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Photographic Art

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

The course would suit someone who is creative, organised, has a passion for art, interested in working with computers and using wide range of materials and processes. The person will also be adaptable and excited by the range of themes and artists covered. The course requires an inquisitive nature, as different cultures, opinions and styles will be investigated and written about. We will attempt to get to grips with the meaning behind art work and use it as inspiration for their own work. The right person will want to gain technical skills and an understanding of how to use a camera and editing software successfully.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Some examples of activities that we focus on:

- Investigating artists and themes.
- Understanding what makes a good photo.
- Experimenting with digital and manual art techniques and processes.
- How to digitally edit photos.
- Problem solving skills.
- Visual analysis.
- Composition.

The expectation is that you will complete photoshoots and research as homework as well as in the classroom as part of the coursework needed.

A digital portfolio will be kept throughout the course with research, experiments and photos. Some work will also be created manually and photographed to add to the portfolio.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

The unit topics change each year, but will include these elements throughout:

- How to use a camera.
- Lighting.
- Portraiture.
- How to use Adobe Photoshop and other software.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Throughout all lessons and independent work you will create coursework which comprises 60% of the final mark. You will undertake an externally set exam project at the end of the course which will run for approximately 12 weeks (Jan-April) and this will account for 40% of the final mark.

Where might the course take you?

Careers within the digital arts, animation, graphic design, film, advertising, sports and travel, architectural, portraiture, forensics, fashion, editorial.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Sociology

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course is suitable for students who want to learn more about people and the different aspects of British society today. If you are interested in considering different points of view on how different groups of people behave and what affects their lives, then this course could be for you.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

You'll consider a number of questions about British society today such as the following:

- Why are families so important?
- Why do girls usually do better at school than boys?
- Why are certain people more likely to commit crime?
- Why is there such a gap between the richest and poorest in British society?

Areas of study – what will I learn?

There are seven key themes of the course with important links between them:

1. The sociological approach
2. Social structures, social processes and social issues
3. Families
4. Education
5. Crime and Deviance
6. Social Stratification
7. Sociological research methods

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

There are two written examination papers to be sat at the end of Year 11 that are each 1 hour 45 minutes in length. Each paper is worth 50% of the final grade. Paper 1 focuses on the sociology of families and education along with relevant areas of social theory and methodology. Paper 2 focuses on the sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification along with relevant areas of social theory and methodology. Both papers have a mix of short and extended responses to questions. Students are expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of the topics being examined.

Where might the course take you?

This course is an excellent basis for moving on to A Level study in Sociology, Psychology, Politics and other Social Science/Humanities subjects at college. It could also take you towards a number of careers that are very people orientated such as teaching, social work, nursing and the police. It is also an excellent qualification that would be useful for a career as a lawyer or journalist. It should definitely encourage you to consider a number of different options in the future but more generally it will help you to have a more open mind about a range of important issues.

Subject contact: Head of Personal Development Faculty – Mr Lewis Hall:
L.Hall@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Textiles

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for you if have an interest in design, and enjoy developing skills in both the practical and theory elements of the subject. You will be willing to explore new ideas and concepts through designing, modelling and making. Attention to detail and presentation skills are seen to be highly important for this course and will be developed throughout each of the projects.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Textiles offers an opportunity for students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests. As a fundamental part of their course, pupils will design and make products. You will be concerned with all areas of textiles from fabrics, colour and decoration to designing and manufacturing a product.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

- fashion trends, influential fashion designers
- fibres and fabrics classification, identification, properties and fabric construction
- computer aided design and manufacture – use of the laser cutter
- fabric embellishment, techniques raising the surface of fabric
- use of the sublimation printer and heat press
- textiles in the real world: smart and modern
- use of photochromic pigments
- industrial methods of production

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in two ways

Non Examined Assessment – 50% - a coursework based element

Exam – 50% - made up of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions

Where might the course take you?

As well as technical skills Textiles' qualifications develop student's self confidence. In addition it also develops skills in ICT, decision making, team work, independence, planning and organisation. These are all important skills for entering any work place or area of further study. Besides developing a broad base of skills concerning the designing and making of products, this course is an excellent preparation for AS/A Level D&T Product Design Textiles. The modern Textiles' industry uses some of the newest and most exciting technology and it offers students an interesting and dynamic career, with many Higher Education courses at degree and vocational level.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

BTEC Dance

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course seeks to provide knowledge, skill and understanding of dance and is an excellent introduction to the subject for those wishing to study dance at an advanced level.

Dance offers you the chance to develop skills in dance performance, choreography and analysis. You will learn a set study and take part in class performances both of which will help to develop your performance skills.

Brief introduction:

The main aim of this course is to teach students dance skills - from the point of view of a choreographer or performer. These skills will include: improvisation, dance technique, performance skill and an understanding of health and safety. Most importantly, this course will contribute to you becoming an analytical, confident, creative and empathetic individual.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Choreography classes will give you the chance to explore your own ideas and provide you with one to one support which will enable you to create your own work. Dance analysis sessions will also help to broaden your understanding of the subject. Basics in safe practice and health and safety for dancers are also covered.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Assessment is based on coursework and performances

- Practical Examination
You will be required to perform 2 solos which will last approximately 1½ minutes each.
You will perform in a large group piece
- Choreography
You will choreograph a dance, which may be a solo or group performance.
- Log Book
You will be required to keep a log of your progress in each area.

Where might the course take you?

- Further Level 2 or Level 3 courses in Dance and Performing Arts including A-level Dance.
- Higher education in Dance, Performing Arts and PE.
- Professional career in television, theatre, cruise ships, Disneyland, entertainment companies abroad, teaching & coaching and community activities.

In addition, the skills acquired through the study of Dance such as teamwork, problem-solving, management and motivation of others, communication and expression are transferable to almost any career and further studies.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

BTEC Information Technology

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course is suitable for students with an interest in I.T. who think they may be interested in pursuing a career in this field.

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

The course is designed around practical skills and tasks that place an emphasis on students demonstrating what they can do rather than what they know in theory. The qualification gives you the opportunity to acquire and develop transferable and sector-specific skills in order to complete tasks and demonstrate a level of achievement that will enable you to progress to further learning.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

You will be given contexts and scenarios to help you develop skills and to acquire knowledge. The exact areas of study will vary but could include:

1. Developing a Personal Progression Plan
2. Solving Technical IT Problems
3. Creating a Spreadsheet to Solve Problems
4. Creating a Website
5. Creating a Digital Animated Graphic

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

You will be assessed using a variety of styles to help you to develop a broad range of transferable skills.

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design. (**Coursework**)

During Component 1, students will:

- explore user interface design and development principles
- investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project
- discover how to develop and review a digital user interface.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data. (**Coursework**)

During Component 2, students will:

- explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations
- draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence
- develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices. (**Written Examination**)

To achieve this aim, students will:

- explore how modern information technology is evolving
- consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing
- understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

Where might the course take you?

This qualification prepares student for further learning at a higher level in IT. The development of transferable skills means that students can also choose a study programme from alternative sectors. For example, this qualification could lead to GCSEs in I.T., Computing or BTEC Level 2 qualifications in a range of subjects. It also helps to prepare students for a career in the computing or IT industry.

BTEC Sport

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course is suitable for any student with a real passion for PE who wishes to learn about a wide range of aspects relating to sport and physical activity. Choosing the course will mean an increase in practical PE as well as classwork so it is important students have a real desire to do extra physical activity in lessons.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

The BTEC course is designed to get students to be able to use information in practical and theoretical based scenarios. It gives students an understanding and appreciation of several key topics relating to health, fitness, sport and physical activity, which are all done in depth.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

BTEC – 25% exam. 75% coursework

Where might the course take you?

The course will support further study in sports science, sports physiology, physiotherapy as well as a career in coaching, personal training or sports centre management.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty – Mr L Boniface: L.Boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk