

YEAR 9 GUIDED CHOICES 2024



PRIDE THROUGH SUCCESS

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 2026.

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 OCR Sport of GCSE PE.

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/tutor/teachers
- Complete the online options form by Friday 19th April.

Useful links

Examination boards:	Edexcel: AQA: <u>www.aqa.org.uk</u> OCR: <u>www.ocr.org.uk</u> WJEC: <u>www.wjec.co.uk</u>
Colleges:	Bexhill College: <u>www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk</u> East Sussex College Hastings: <u>www.sussexcoast.ac.uk</u> Plumpton College: <u>www.plumpton.ac.uk</u>
University guidance:	UCAS: <u>www.ucas.com</u> Unistats: <u>www.unistats.direct.gov.uk</u>

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

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 Friday 19th April

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 Sincerely

Mr C Dean Assistant Principal

WHAT CAN I CHOOSE?

Almost all students at the Academy will be sitting a total of 9 'Level 2' (GCSE or equivalent) qualifications. The Core curriculum consists of those subjects that are compulsory for all students.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

The core curriculum consists of subjects that all students must study.

		THE CORE C	URRICULUM		
GCSE English Language	GCSE English Literature	GCSE Maths	GCSE Science (Double Award)	Personal Development <i>(non-</i> <i>examined)</i>	Core PE <i>(non-</i> <i>examined)</i>

THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)

The Department for Education expects almost all students in England to take the full English Baccalaureate, which is a set of subjects at GCSE that they believe keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

A recent study found that pupil who take the full EBacc are more likely to achieve good English and mathematics GCSEs, more likely to take an A level or an equivalent level 3 qualification and more likely to stay in post-16 education.

The English Baccalaureate consists of (in addition to the core curriculum above), one humanities subject and one language. For this reason, we are asking all year 9 students to select one humanities subject (either History or Geography) and one language (whichever language they are already studying) and we anticipate that most students will study both of these.

Languages are an important part of the EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities. What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes.

HUMANITIES OPTIONS	LANGUAGES OPTION
History	French
OR	OR
Geography	Spanish

THE OPTIONS SUBJECTS

In addition to the above, students will study a further two subjects from the box below. At the St Leonards Academy we take very seriously our responsibility to ensure that all of our students are placed on courses where they have the greatest opportunity to be successful. Please note, therefore, the following considerations;

- Triple science GCSEs are extremely demanding and as such we will only consider students for these who are already very successful in Science.
- Classical Civilisation and Sociology are academic subjects that require a good reading age and writing ability and therefore we will only be considering students for these subjects who have strong levels of literacy.
- Due to budgetary constraints outside of our control we simply cannot afford to run classes with fewer than 25 students (with the exception of a limited number of practical subjects where numbers are limited due to health and safety regulations). In that situation the course will not run and we will reassign students to their reserve options.
- Some practical subjects, such as Food Preparation, are often oversubscribed and in that situation we ask teachers to select the students who they believe are most likely to be successful, based on previous performance.

For these reasons we are asking all students to select **two first choices** from the box and below and an additional **two reserve choices**.

	THE OPTIONS SUBJE	СТЅ
GCSE Sociology	GCSE Classical Civilisation	GCSE PE
GCSE Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE Art	GCSE Design Technology
GCSE Photography	GCSE Drama	GCSE Design Technology (Textiles)
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE Astronomy	GCSE Triple Science
OCR Sports Studies	BTEC Tech Award Music	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Health and Social Care
GCSE Media Studies/ GCSE Film Studies	BTEC Tech Award Dance	GCSE History
GCSE Geography	GCSE French	GCSE Spanish



The Core Curriculum

GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics GCSE Combined Science (double award) Physical Education Personal Development

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, including letters, speeches and articles.
- It is both creative and analytical.

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: Head of English Faculty – Miss D Glaze: d.glaze@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

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: a modern play, a 19th century novel, an anthology of literary heritage and contemporary poetry, and one of Shakespeare's 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.

Main aims 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 their message and intended 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: Head of English Faculty – Miss D Glaze: d.glaze@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 a strong numeracy level and be able to solve complex problems, some of which may require multiple steps. Many career pathways, apprenticeships and college and university courses require a certain level of mathematics in order for students to be accepted on to them.

Brief introduction: Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

To develop fluency of mathematical methods and concept; 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.

The ultimate aim of Mathematics is to develop competent and confident problem solvers who can articulate decisions they have made and demonstrate accuracy in a range of key methods.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Mathematics is arranged into 6 key 'strands' that are explored in a variety of specialist, interconnected ways. The aims are to develop fluency of skills & concepts, understand key mathematical literacy and develop an aptitude for problem solving using these skills. The 6 key strands of Mathematics 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 course 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 around the world and are very well paid as a result!

Achieving a higher grade in GCSE Mathematics would provide strong evidence of a person's ability to solve complex problems through a range of pictorial and worded scenarios. Problem solving skills and quality reasoning are a foundation of any career and would put students in an excellent position to study any other course moving forward.

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 – Mr G Beale: <u>g.beale@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u>

Physical Education (Core)

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 physicallydemanding 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: Assistant Head of Faculty – Mr Boniface: <u>l.boniface@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u> or Assistant Head of Faculty – Mr Adams j.adams@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

Personal Development

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

Personal Development (PD) is a compulsory part of the core curriculum at KS4 so all students will take this.

Brief introduction: Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

We believe that a student's education must encompass more than just GCSE subjects and formal qualifications. Through PD lessons students will learn some of the knowledge and skills that are important in preparation for adult life.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

The three key pillars of the PD curriculum are **Wellbeing**, **Citizenship** and **Employability**. In KS4 PD students will build on the learning they have had in these areas throughout KS3 with a particular focus on the following topics:

- Mental and Emotional Health;
- Community Issues;
- Democracy, Human Rights & Ethics;
- Relationships & Sex Education;
- Finance & Budgeting;
- Parenting & Family Life;
- Staying Safe;
- Careers Education, Work Experience & Post 16 Options.

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

The 'EBacc'

GCSE French GCSE Spanish GCSE Geography GCSE History

GCSE French

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for anyone with an interest in language, travel and anyone that has had experience of learning French before. There are 29 countries where French is spoken so it can provide lots of opportunities.

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 syntax 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?

The following six broad thematic contexts will be studies to provide a focus for the teaching and learning of the vocabulary and grammar.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Where might the course take you?

Studying a language will be of benefit to a wide range of careers, in fields such as business, education, tourism and translation. However, all employers look favourably upon people who can speak another language.

A language is also a key component of the English Baccalaureate, which is the set of subjects that the Department for Education state *keeps young people's options open for further* study and future careers. Any experience in a country where the language is spoken will be of considerable benefit to students of the language. The MFL (modern foreign language) department runs trips abroad to provide this opportunity, subject to sufficient interest.

 Subject contact:
 Head of MFL: Mrs Antonucci – v.antonucci@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

 Head of Humanities Faculty – Mr Wynne: j.wynne@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Spanish

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for anyone with an interest in language, travel and anyone that has had experience of learning French before. There are 29 countries where French is spoken so it can provide lots of opportunities.

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 syntax to provide confident understanding of how language works and offer students the best possibility to understand and produce language in a variety of contexts

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 Subject contact:
 Head of MFL: Mrs Antonucci – v.antonucci@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

 Head of Humanities Faculty – Mr Wynne: j.wynne@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

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. The course aims to build on skills gained throughout KS3 in years 7, 8 and 9. Geography is a subject that lends itself well to most A level subjects, and the skills learnt at GCSE will set students up for university study in geography and other subjects.

Brief introduction: Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Studying Geography will help students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world we live in both at a local scale in Hastings and the UK, and a global scale looking at the differences between the levels of development globally.

Students need to be able to make links between different topics and analyse the causes, effects and consequences of decisions that influence the world we live in. Students will gain an understanding of the impacts of natural events on people, the impact people have on the environment and how the world has developed over time.

Geography allows students to develop their communication skills, graphical and map skills, ICT skills, problem solving skills and analytical skills.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Geography is assessed through 3 examinations of 1hour 30 minutes each. All exams are taken at the end of year 11:

- Paper 1 88 marks (35%) Living with the physical environment. Paper 1 includes tectonics (earthquakes), weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, hot deserts, rivers and coasts.
- Paper 2 88 marks (35%) Challenges in the human environment. Paper 2 includes megacities, urban change in the UK, development gap, changing UK economy and resource management.
- Paper 3 76 marks (30%) Geographical applications. Paper 3 includes own fieldwork done in Hastings, geographical skills such as analysing maps and graphs, and questions about a pre-release document released 12 weeks before the exam.

Where might the course take you?

As geography is a subject that provides lots of transferrable skills, geography could take you into some exciting career choices: town planning, teaching, cartography, transport, tourism, logistics, surveying, development and loads more.

Geography is a very versatile subject providing many skills that are needed in all other subjects including problem solving and analytical skills, a good grade in this subject shows colleges and universities that you are good at a range of subjects. Geography is a popular course at university, lots of universities offer other degrees similar to geography in earth sciences including environmental science, geology, international relations and town planning

Subject contact: Geography teacher – Mr Bonner – <u>d.bonner@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u>

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:

- Medicine in Britain, c1250 present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914 1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches
- Early Elizabethan England, c1558 c1588
- The American West, c1835 c1895
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, c1918 c1939

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 Wynne: <u>j.wynne@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u> Head of History: Miss Hunter : <u>a.desousa@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u>

The Options Subjects GCSE Art **GCSE** Astronomy **GCSE** Classical Civilisation **BTEC Tech Award Dance GCSE** Design Technology GCSE Design Technology (Textiles) **GCSE** Drama **GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition** NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Health and Social Care GCSE Media Studies/ **GCSE Film Studies BTEC Tech Award Music GCSE PE** GCSE Philosophy and Ethics **GCSE** Photography **GCSE** Sociology **OCR Sports Studies GCSE** Triple Science

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 artwork
- 3D sculpture using a variety of materials such as wire, Modroc, paper mâché 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: Miss C. Greenaway: c.greenaway@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Astronomy

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course would be suitable for anyone fascinated by the night sky and are interested in stories about our continuing exploration of our Solar System and Universe.

Brief introduction: Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

GCSE Astronomy will enable students to understand our position in the Universe, the movements of planets and stars, the cycles in the night and daytime sky, and the way in which we use technology to observe and interact with space. Students will follow an incredible story of how scientists, from ancient civilisations to the modern day, have used their imagination and carefully recorded visual measurement to explore the Universe in which we live.

Students will develop an informed interest in current astronomical investigations, discoveries and space exploration. Acquire knowledge and understanding of astronomy theory and practice, and the skills needed to investigate a wide range of astronomical contexts. Develop an awareness that the study and practice of astronomy are subject to limitations by e.g. economic, technical, ethical and cultural influences.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

GCSE astronomy will cover:

• the structures of the Earth, Moon and Sun; and how their interactions produce many of the astronomical cycles and phenomena of our natural world

• the Earth's place within the Solar System and the universe; and the forces which have shaped both our own and other planetary systems

- the forces governing the life-cycles of stars; and demonstrate a knowledge of how stars appear in the night sky
- how astronomers discovered the Earth's position within our galaxy and the Universe; and understand current theories for the evolution of the Universe

• the challenges in making observations in astronomy; and the ways in which technology has aimed to overcome them

Where might the course take you?

GCSE Astronomy cultivates scientific thinking, evaluative skills and methodical thought processes, all desirable skills. This course can aid you to become a meteorologist, planetarium director, curator, engineer, astronomer and much more.

Subject contact: Head of Science Mr G Beale g.beale@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Classical Civilisations

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

This course is suitable for those with an interest in the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome. It provides the opportunity to study ancient literature, visual culture, archaeology, history, and mythology in depth. No prior knowledge is required, and the course provides a solid foundation for further study in classics or ancient history. Reasons to choose GCSE Classical Civilisations include:

- It develops analytical and critical thinking skills through the study of a range of literature and sources.
- The chance to gain insight into fascinating ancient cultures that have influenced later societies right up to the present day.
- A bridge between the humanities and sciences developing literacy as well as visual analysis skills.
- Engaging with stimulating ideas and sources to encourage interest in the ancient world.

Brief introduction:

The GCSE Classical Civilisations course requires the study of both Greek and Roman societies and materials through a literature and culture component, as well as a thematic study component comparing both cultures. No knowledge of other classical languages is required, and topics range from mythology to daily life, gender roles to warfare.

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

This course aims to encourage interest in and enthusiasm for the classical world, and help develop an understanding of how societies and cultures are shaped. Key skills developed include source analysis, critical thinking, argument building, making judgements using available evidence and coherent written expression.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

Areas studied include mythology and religion; the lives of men, women and slaves; experiences of war, city living, and politics. Literary sources range from epic poems to personal letters, and material culture encompasses artefacts, architecture, art and archaeological sites.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Assessment is through two written exams taken at the end of the course. Students answer short and longer response questions using their knowledge and understanding of the sources.

Where might the course take you?

GCSE Classical Civilisations provides a good foundation for A Level Classical Civilisation as well as related subjects like philosophy, history and English Literature. The analytical skills developed support a wide range of careers including law, journalism, academia, government, diplomacy and problem solving across all sectors.

Subject contact: Ben Windsor – B.Windsor@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

BTEC Tech Award in 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. You will perform in front of audiences throughout the course.

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

• Component 1

You will be required to analyse a set professional work and the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in creating dance.

You will perform in a large group piece, smaller groups and as a soloist.

• Component 2

You will learn 2 minutes of set repertoire from a professional dance work. This will be performed for video and is sent off to the moderator.

• Component 3

External Assessment – this brief is set by the exam board in January of year 11. You will work in a group to respond to the brief. There are 3 written tasks and 1 practical task.

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 – Ms Webb: <u>k.webb@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u>

GCSE Design and Technology (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, Resistant Materials gives an opportunity to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts. You will be 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?

Non-Examined Assessment – 50% - a coursework-based element based on an area set by the exam board Exam – 50% - made up of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions

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: Mrs T White: t.white@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Design and Technology (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

A design based course which has a major element of practical work included, Textiles gives an opportunity to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts. You will be concerned with all areas of textiles from fabrics, colour and decoration to designing and manufacturing a product using 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?

- 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, thermochromic and hydrochromic pigments

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in two ways

Non Examined Assessment – 50% - a coursework based element based on an area set by the exam board 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: Mrs T White: t.white@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Drama

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

The course is suitable for anyone wishing to go onto further education and start working in the creative industry. Studying drama will provide you with 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 aim of the course is to teach students the drama skills needed to be a successful performer, designer or technician. These skills will include script performance, devising using a range of stimuli as well as opportunities for puppetry, lighting and sound design.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

GCSE
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 2: Devising Drama
Students research and perform a piece of drama base
on a relevant stimulus. It comprises two parts:
A Devised Log (60 marks)
Devised performance (44 Marks)
Component 3: Texts in Practice
It comprises of two short performances from a set
script.
F-

Course assessment - how will I be assessed?

- Component 1 A 1 hour and 45 minutes written exam paper 3 sections Drama Knowledge, Set Text and Live Theatre Review
- Component 2 A Practical Devised Performance and a portfolio of 2500 words.
- Component 3 2 Practical live performances assessed by an external examiner.

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 contacts:

Mrs E Hart: <u>e.hart@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u>

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 Science
- Food Provenance
- Food Safety
- Food choice

During the course you will be given the opportunity to practise and develop your practical skills along with deepening your knowledge and understanding of nutrition, the science behind food as a material and the wider environmental aspects associated with food.

The course is predominantly theory based to gain the necessary specialist knowledge. There will be some practical lessons to consolidate your knowledge.

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 are booming, with employment reaching the heights of 650,000 people and an annual turnover of \pounds 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.

Both the NEA components are mostly written coursework including elements of research, testing and evaluation.

Suitable Candidates

This course would suit anyone with a keen interest in taking their passion for food to the next level, especially those students thinking about a career in the food industry.

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 Hospitality and Catering, Level 2 Professional Cookery.

Subject contact: Head of Faculty Mrs K Webb: k.webb@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

Technical Award in Health and Social Care

Health and Social Care Level 1/2 Award/Certificate - J801, J811

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

The Technical Award in Health and Social Care is for students who may be considering a career in the health and social care sector working, for example as a care assistant, nurse, doctor, midwife or social worker.

Health and Social Care allows learners to understand how best to provide care and support for others at various times in their lives. Providing effective care for someone can make a key difference to an individual and offer an amazing sense of reward and fulfilment.

Brief introduction:

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. Social care employees, such as care assistants and social workers work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes or nursing homes. Healthcare employees, such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists, work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

The course consists of three components

- 1) Human Lifespan Development
- 2) Health and Social Care Services and Values
- 3) Health and Wellbeing

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. The non exam internal assessment for these components has been designed to demonstrate application of the conceptual knowledge underpinning the sector through realistic tasks and activities.

There is one external assessment (aka exam), for component 3, Health and Wellbeing.

Where might the course take you?

Students might go on to the study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Health and Social Care, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or move on to higher education by studying a degree in the health or social care sector.

Subject contact:

TBC

GCSE Media Studies

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

Media Studies is a highly theoretical course with a small practical element. It involves studying a wide range of media forms should be chosen by students who are already very successful at English Language and Literature

Brief introduction:

The media play a central role in contemporary society and culture. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, viewpoints and messages they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. This course offers students the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of these key issues and the ability to debate important questions about the media.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

You will study four related areas across a wide range of media. These areas are;

- media language: how the media communicates through their forms, conventions and codes.
- media representation: how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups
- **media industries:** how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms
- **audiences**: how media target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of audiences become producers themselves.

Where might the course take you?

Studying the Media could be the first step to a career in journalism, the music industry, radio, film or television production. It could also lead you into the fields of advertising, marketing, promotions or publicity. Media Studies can be taken at A/AS and Degree level and uses skills essential in subjects such as English and the Humanities.

Subject contact: Head of English and Film – Miss D Glaze:

GCSE Film Studies

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

If you choose study film, you will experience a powerful medium which inspires a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective as you are drawn into characters, their narratives and the issues films raise. The root of that power is the immersive audio-visual experience film offers – one which can exploit striking cinematography, composition and locations as well as powerful music and sound. It is not surprising that many consider film to be the major art form of the last hundred years and that many feel it important to study a medium which has such a significant influence on the way people think and feel.

This course is suitable for anyone who loves film and wishes to pursue a career in film production, television, writing or journalism.

Brief introduction: Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Students will learn:

- How to analyse, evaluate and compare films
- Technical aspects of film making such as sound, lighting, location, props and editing
- How to write a screen play
- How to evaluate and justify their own creative choices
- How to use a camera to produce a short film of their own and edit this

Areas of study – what will I learn?

The WJEC Eduqas specification in GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on learners' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology. Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the later 70s and 80s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films – a US independent film as well as films from Europe, South Africa and Australia.

Film production is also an important part of this course and is integral to learners' study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting. This is intended to support learners in producing their own creative films and screenplays in which they can demonstrate their own creative flare.

Where might the course take you?

Students who pass this GCSE at a grade 4+ could continue their studies of media and film in further education. Local colleges offer media/film at A Level and most universities offer media/film as a Batchelor of Arts Degrees.

Subject contact: Head of English and Film – Miss D Glaze:

BTEC Music

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

A BTEC in Music is a great choice for students looking for a practical and creative qualification. The course aims to provide you with the relevant skills and knowledge that employers value, as well as the confidence to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career in the music industry.

This qualification enables students to develop their music skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance and music production, using realistic vocational contexts, and their personal skills, such as self-development, responding to a brief, planning and time management.

Brief introduction:

The music industry is a vibrant, exciting and highly competitive industry that is constantly evolving and offers many different and exciting new work opportunities from journalist to blogger, live sound to recorded music, composer to performer, classroom teacher to instrumental tutor. This qualification can be your first step into that industry.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

You will study three components

- 1) Exploring Music Products and Styles
- 2) Music Skills Development
- 3) Responding to a Music Brief

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. The non-exam internal assessment for these components have been designed to demonstrate application of the knowledge underpinning the music sector through realistic tasks and activities.

Component 3 is assessed externally (aka an exam)

Where might the course take you?

Music can filter into further studies such as Level 3 BTEC Music / Music Technology qualifications. It can open doors to a range of education and employment pathways in Music and other creative areas such as media, film, TV and radio.

Subject contact:

Ms S Carlo: s.carlo@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE PE

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

GCSE PE 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 theory based work and coursework within a classroom environment. GCSE PE is suited to students who play sports outside of school as they are assessed on their practical ability.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course.

The GCSE course is designed to enhance student's knowledge of the wider world of physical activity and sport, whilst also developing their practical skills and application of tactical awareness in specific sports.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

AQA Examination board

GCSE – Anatomy & Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural Influences, Health Fitness & Well-being, Skills and Tactics in a variety of invasion games, net games and individual activities.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

GCSE – 60% Theory Exam (two papers)

Paper 1 involves looking at the human body and movement in physical activity and sport. The areas of study are applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training and the use of data. It is a written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes - 78 marks.

Paper 2 looks at Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport. Paper 2 topic areas include Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and wellbeing and the use of data. It is a written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes - 78 marks.

Both papers have a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

30% Practically Assessed Sports and 10% Coursework

Practical performance is assessed in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). Teachers assess it, moderated by AQA through either video or live moderation procedure.

There is also an Analysis and Evaluation of Performance to bring about improvement in one activity. For each of your three activities, you will be assessed in skills in progressive drills and in the full context.

Where might the course take you?

The course support further study in sports science, sports physiology, physiotherapy, nutrition and sports analysis as well as a career in coaching, PE teaching, personal training or sports centre management.

Subject contact: Mr Adams: j.adams@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 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 photography, 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. We will attempt to get to grips with the meaning behind influences 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. It is beneficial that you can use a PC with confidence as working in lesson involves the use PowerPoint, OneDrive & Teams. Owning a camera is **not** essential for the course.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course

Some examples of activities that we focus on:

- Investigating a wide range of influences.
- Understanding how to take outstanding photographs.
- Experimenting with digital and manual art techniques and processes.
- How to digitally edit photos using Photoshop.
- How to present work to a high standard in portfolios & on boards.
- Problem solving skills.
- Visual analysis.
- Composition.
- Gerneral fun ways of making photography.

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 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:

- The history of Photography
- Dark room processes Photograms
- Manual photography Pin Hole cameras
- Learning the Fundamentals of Photography How to take a photograph correctly with composition.
- Experimenting with different creative outcomes on the theme of Colour & Contrast.
- Learning how to take portraits with the use of photographic backgrounds & Lighting.
- Documenting the "World around me" investigating the local area through street photography Walking trip.
- Responding to a creative brief by using the skills learnt in the course.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

From the first lesson your work will be used as 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. The exam is based on a theme which is released by the exam board – Pearson Edexcel.

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: Miss C Greenaway: <u>c.greenaway@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk</u>

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 will 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

OCR Sports Studies

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

The sport science course will appeal to you if you: are interested in a career in coaching in sport or the Leisure industry; have a real passion for sport and being involved in your PE lessons; want to get involved in sport but may not necessarily be outstanding practically; love your sport; don't want to be assessed on how good you are in Practical activities but are able to cope with doing assignments.

Brief introduction:

Main aims of the course and skills developed throughout the course.

The 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 studied in depth.

Areas of study – what will I learn?

OCR Cambridge National Sports Science (J828) – split into 3 modules studied over 2 years, the first year you learn the content and start to build on your coursework assessment. The second year you complete your assessments and complete an examination paper.

Course assessment – how will I be assessed?

One externally assessed unit (exam)

Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions

In this unit you will learn how to prepare participants to take part in sport and physical activity in a way which minimises the risk of injuries; prepare them to be able to respond to common injuries that can occur during sport and physical activity and recognise the symptoms of some common medical conditions.

One mandatory centre-assessed unit (Coursework)

Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance

In this unit you will learn how to conduct a range of fitness tests, their advantages and disadvantages. You will learn how to design, plan and evaluate a fitness training programme. You will then interpret the data collected from fitness tests and learn how best to feed this back so that participants can go on to make informed decisions about their fitness training.

One optional centre-assessed unit (Coursework)

The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this

In this unit you will learn to understand how the cardio-respiratory and musculo-skeletal systems provide you with energy and movements needed to keep you exercising and how exercise helps develop these systems.

Where might the course take you?

Both courses support further study in sports science, sports physiology, physiotherapy, nutrition and sports analysis as well as a career in coaching, PE teaching, personal training or sports centre management.

Subject contact: Mr Adams: j.adams@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk

GCSE Triple Science

Who is this course suitable for and why choose it?

Triple Science is suitable for our more able students with a keen interest in science who are willing to work hard to achieve their best. When choosing triple science you will have the opportunity to learn three separate science qualifications (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Students who are thinking of a career in a scientific field you should consider this option as it provides a strong foundation for careers 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, regularly complete homework to a high standard and have a target grade of 6 or above.

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.

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Subject contact: Head of Science Faculty – Mr G Beale: g.beale@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk
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