

# OPTIONS BOOKLET 2023-2024

*Key Stage 4*



## **Vocational Studies at Walton Hall**

At Walton Hall Academy we offer a range of vocational options for students to study and enjoy. Our courses prepare students for the world of work and for future study. Most of the options courses are part of the Introductory BTEC Level 1 qualification, with the exception of Humanities and Motor Vehicle Technology which are both accredited separately through WJEC.

The courses that will run next year (subject to enough interest from students) are as follows:

<b>BLOCK 1 (<u>one choice</u>)</b>	<b>BLOCK 2 (<u>one choice</u>)</b>
Motor Vehicle Technology	Digital Media
Performing Arts	Art and Design
Horticulture	Childcare
Sport	Farm
Humanities	Motor Vehicle Technology

An outline for each of these courses can be found within the next few pages. Once you have made your decisions, please complete and return the form that is at the back of this pack.

This form needs to be returned to your class teacher by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

# Land Based Studies - Farm

## BTEC Vocational Studies Level 1 Award/Certificate



### What is the subject about?

This course is designed for students who enjoy the outdoors and working with animals.

As part of a team, you will help to maintain the academy farm and care for its interesting range of animals and birds. This is very much a practical course and will involve working outdoors in all weather conditions. As well as the manual tasks that are routinely undertaken on the school farm, students are also taught about a range of factors that are necessary to maintain the good health and wellbeing of all our different animals and birds.

### What do the lessons involve?

The lessons involve a wide range of different practical activities, to ensure that our animals and birds are healthy and well cared for. These activities involve some set tasks, for example cleaning accommodation and equipment; feeding; sweeping and general health checks. In post 16, our students also take some responsibility for the general maintenance of the farm and learn to use a wide range of tools and equipment safely.

Students complete their own risk assessments and plan different projects as part of the assignment-based work, so some time is spent inside the farm classroom carrying out research and completing a variety of coursework-based tasks.

Working on our school farm and completing assignment tasks that are linked with it, provides our students with the transferrable skills and experience needed for them to pursue a career in this area if they choose to.

### How will this course prepare you for the future?

Studying estate management at Walton Hall Academy provides real-life experience of working on a farm. Students develop both a wide range of transferrable practical skills and an in depth understanding of how to ensure that all of our animals and birds fully have their needs met. Many of our students who have an interest in pursuing a career in this area move onto courses at Rodbaston and Reaseheath once their time with us comes to an end. This course also supports students who would like to access an apprenticeship in this area.



# Digital Media

BTEC Vocational Studies  
L1 Award/Certificate



## What is the subject about?

Media is the study of film, television, radio and the written word, such as magazines and advertising. Throughout the course you will develop skills across many of these areas and will have the opportunity to produce short films, animations and promotional material. You will learn a range of techniques and develop an understanding of pre-production, production and post-production techniques.

## What do the lessons involve?

In the lessons you will:

- Follow a brief in your lessons that fits with particular media genre.
- Improve and build on your media skills as well as learn new ones.
- Learn how to use different media equipment and programmes
- Create work in a chosen media style
- Find out about different media genres
- Pass on the information to others
- Develop communication and evaluation techniques

## Equipment

The Media lessons take place in the Media Room and Recording Studio, although the whole school grounds are used to film in. The students have access to video cameras, digital cameras, editing software and a fully equipped recording studio.

## Progression Paths Beyond Post 16

Specialist College courses in Media Level 1 and 2  
Employment Opportunities and Apprenticeships in  
publishing, professional  
photography, Independent film  
making, Work experience placements





# Motor Vehicle Road Control and Maintenance

Qualification WJEC Entry 2 or 3



## What is the subject about?

### Motor Vehicle Road Control

This is probably the first course which is chosen when students come into KS4 as part of their options. Learning to ride a motorcycle or quad. It will give you the knowledge, practical experience and confidence driving on our internal road systems, skills which are needed when a little older when you have your first car, motorbike or indeed a bicycle. Running alongside this course is a basic maintenance course, each rider has to safety check their vehicle before each ride e.g. tyre pressures, steering, lights etc.

There could also be some light maintenance to keep your machine up and running where you are able to work under supervision in the schools well equipped workshop.

Because of the experience and knowledge you will have gained in this qualification it will better help you to pass a driving test. You will understand the complexities of driving and the hazards associated with being in charge of a vehicle on the highway and how to perform basic checks.

## What do the lessons involve?

Learning how to safely drive a motorbike or quad and the PPE which is needed for your protection. Lessons will involve you learning how to work safely in the workshop and the safe use of a wide range of equipment and tools that can be found in any home mechanics or commercial garage. Classroom based work will include internet research and completing worksheets to show that you have an understanding of driving and maintenance principles. Along with this you will complete practical tasks and assessments as evidence for the examiner.

## Progression Paths

Driving test

Specialist College courses

Employment Opportunities including:

Apprenticeships

Work experience placements



# Performing Arts

BTEC Vocational Studies  
L1 Award/Certificate



## What is the subject about?

Here at Walton Hall, we pride ourselves in producing top quality theatre.

Over the years we have produced many amazing shows and performed at venues such as the Gatehouse Theatre.

This option will see the group entering into the world of live theatre. Spread over a 12-month period, the option group will learn the skills needed to perform, learn the operation and control of a large-scale production and perform to live audiences. The option group will be offered trips to local theatres to watch professional shows throughout the year.

This qualification aims to develop learners' skills in performance with a view to progression towards further qualifications.

Help learners to acquire and develop fundamental practical skills and focuses on learners' performance ability by developing their critical awareness.

Finally, to focus on practical skills also provide an opportunity to develop skills relating to the performance Industry.

Our main objective is to have some fun, laugh, dance and sing.

## Progression Pathways

Specialist college courses

Employment opportunities including apprenticeships

Work experience placements



# Art & Design

BTEC Vocational Studies  
Level 1 Award/Certificate



## What is the subject about?

This aim of this course is to allow you to experience a range of art, design and media techniques and gain a level 1 qualification in art and design. The programme encourages you to explore and enhance artistic and media skills, techniques, and knowledge giving you the opportunity to begin the development of an individual portfolio of art, media and design work. This is achieved through set projects exploring a number of different topics.

## What do the lessons involve?

In your lessons you will:

- Learn skills and techniques to produce various pieces of artwork
- Use materials, tools and equipment safely in healthy environments
- Learning about other artists and styles
- Develop a portfolio of work
- Record and review your work
- Plan, create and display a final piece

## Progression Paths Beyond Post 16

- Specialist College courses
- Employment Opportunities including apprenticeships

# **Sport & Leisure**

## **BTEC Vocational Studies**

### **Level 1 Award/Certificate**



#### **What is the subject about?**

This course is designed for students who wish to develop their knowledge of sport and the leisure industry. This course would prepare you for specialist roles in coaching and mentoring of sports, working in a gym or other fitness service.

During the course you will

- You will learn the skills and techniques for different sports and review your personal performance
- You will develop the leadership skills needed to assist in delivering a sports activity
- As a team you will plan and run a one-off sports event
- Discover what influences people to get active and what they need to stay active.
- Develop the skills needed to make active and healthy lifestyle recommendations to a specific individual

#### **What do the lessons involve?**

Lessons involve lots of sport and practical activities. You will be asked to support lessons in other parts of the school to gain experience in coaching others. There will be research and surveys to find out what others think of sport.

#### **How will this course prepare you for the future?**

You will develop a range of skills that will enable you to progress to a Level 2 course at a specialist college in Sports studies. Other opportunities include apprenticeships and jobs within the sports sector.



# **Caring for Children**

## **BTEC Vocational Studies Level 1 Award/Certificate**



### **What is the subject about?**

This course is designed for students who are looking for experience of working with children under 5. The skills you will learn will enable you to work in a school, a nursery or voluntary capacity. You will also gain insight into caring for your own children in the future.

During this course you will:

- Develop skills in planning and setting up an activity to support children's emotional and social needs.
- You will learn how to keep children safe and plan a safe environment
- You will learn how to encourage children to eat healthily
- Plan and implement different types of creative activities for young children
- Develop your knowledge of physical activities for children and keep them safe and encourage them to take part.

### **What do the lessons involve?**

You will have lots of practical activities, we will invite pre-school children to school to take part in the activities you have planned. We also visit local nurseries and investigate local services.

### **How will this course prepare you for the future?**

This is a great opportunity for those students interested in a career in childcare. You will have the opportunity to progress to a Level 2 course in childcare at a local college or train as an apprentice with a local training provider. Most of all this course will help you in supporting your family in the future.

# **Land based studies - Horticulture**

**BTEC Vocational Studies  
Level 1 Award/Certificate**



## **What is the subject about?**

This course is designed for students who enjoy the outdoors and working with plants.

You will learn all about what different plants need to grow and you will gain a lot of practical experience in growing them yourself. You will help to maintain parts of the school grounds and areas in and around the polytunnel. This is very much a practical course and will involve working outdoors as well as within the polytunnel.

## **What do the lessons involve?**

The lessons involve a wide range of practical activities to teach the students all about how to grow plants from seeds, repot them and care for them over time. This course will help to provide our students with the transferrable skills and experience needed for them to pursue a career in this area if they choose to.

## **How will this course prepare you for the future?**

Studying horticulture at Walton Hall Academy provides real-life experience of working in a plant nursery. Students develop both a wide range of transferrable practical skills and an in depth understanding of how to ensure that they are able to fully meet the needs of different types of plants. Many of our students who have an interest in pursuing a career in this area move onto courses at Rodbaston and Reaseheath once their time with us comes to an end. This course also supports students who would like to access an apprenticeship in this sector of work.

# Humanities

## WJEC

### Entry Level 2 and 3



### **What is the course about?**

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This is a flexible and personalised course that allows us to combine different units to create a programme of study that most interests our students and is most suited to our learners' needs. The units are based on traditional humanities subjects and may include:

- History
- Geography
- Religious Studies

### **What do the lessons involve?**

The lessons will involve a range of activities, including research, discussion and the completion of written tasks. Assessment for this course is through the completion of coursework tasks that are set to achieve the learning outcomes for each unit. There are no exams.

### **How will this course prepare you for the future?**

This course will allow you to progress onto a Level 1 course at college if this is an area in which you would like to study further. You will also further develop your ability to debate, carry out independent research and enhance your communication skills.

## **Key Stage 4 Option Selection Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please select the courses that you would like to study in KS4. Make sure that you choose courses that really interest you as you will need to study these options for at least a full year.

### **Choose 2 options from each option block**

Place a number **1** by your favourite choice and a number **2** by your 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, within each block.

<b>BLOCK 1</b>	Put a <b><u>1</u></b> by your first choice and a <b><u>2</u></b> by your second choice
Motor Vehicle Technology	
Performing Arts	
Horticulture	
Sport	
Humanities	

<b>BLOCK 2</b>	Put a <b><u>1</u></b> by your first choice and a <b><u>2</u></b> by your second choice
Digital Media	
Art and Design	
Childcare	
Farm	
Motor Vehicle Technology	

**Please return this completed form to your class teacher by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

