

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
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November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Your child will be choosing their options for Key Stage 4 courses in January 2023.

So that we can offer the best combination of subjects for your child we would like to gather reasonably accurate information from Year 9 regarding the most popular subjects for GCSE study. This year we are sending home a preliminary survey to gather this information.

**The subjects that are chosen at this stage are not option choices but will provide a useful indication of the most popular subject choices.**

A detailed booklet with subject information will be issued before the courses evening in January 2023 after which options will be chosen.

In Years 10 and 11 some subjects that your child will study will be compulsory for all students. In order to consider a range of curriculum models we ask that you select four subjects from the list in this booklet and put them in rank order – putting the most favoured first and the least favoured number four on the list.

Within this booklet there is a brief description of each of the subjects. Please discuss this with your child and complete the survey form on the final page.

**This form should be returned to your child's form tutor by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.**  
The completed forms will be collated and used for curriculum planning.

Thank you for your assistance with this important survey. The information we collect at this stage will be key to ensuring we make the correct choices when designing the curriculum for your children next year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Matthew Quinn'.

Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**



Subject	Brief description	How you will be assessed
<b>Art</b>	You will develop skills through experimenting with of a variety of media from ceramics and paint through to print. You will use these skills to respond to projects such as Natural Forms and Portraiture.	60% exam 40% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Business Studies</b>	Initially, you will study enterprise and entrepreneurship. Later you will learn about marketing, finance, human resource and operational decision making. In the second year of GCSE your focus will move to growing the business.	100% written exam
<b>Child Development</b>	You will study the development of a child, creating a safe environment and nutrition. In the exam you will study reproduction, child birth and childhood illnesses.	40% written exam 60% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Computer Science</b>	You will learn the principles of computation and algorithms, computer programming, machine data representation, computer systems (hardware and software), computer organisation and architecture, communications and networking, databases and the consequences of using computing.	40% written exam 40% computer-based exam 20% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Design and Technology: Food Preparation and Nutrition</b>	You will learn to interpret recipes to gain a wide variety of food preparation and cooking skills using a selection techniques. You will also learn about how nutrition affects our health, the nutrient sources in our diets and the scientific background of foods and cooking processes. There is a combination of theory and practical lessons.	50% written exam 50% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Design and Technology: Electronic Products</b>	You will study how products are designed and made in the workshop and in industry. You will design and make a number of electronic products.	50% written exam 50% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Design and Technology: Fashion and Textiles</b>	You will be looking at textiles in art form while exploring the work of others. You will develop skills through experimenting with of a variety of textile techniques and media. You will use these skills to respond to different projects designed to extend your understanding of the subject.	60% Coursework and 40% Practical Exam

Subject	Brief description	How you will be assessed
<b>Design and Technology: Resistant Materials</b>	You will study how products are designed and made in the workshop and in industry focusing on those made from wood, metal and plastic. You will design and make a number of products from a variety of materials.	50% written exam 50% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Drama</b>	You will study a set text, Blood Brothers by Willy Russell, and will also visit the theatre to learn about set, costume, lighting and sound for your written exam. For coursework you will perform or design your own original drama work in a group. You can work as a performer or designer and produce scripted performance or design for your practical exam.	40% written exam 20% practical exam 40% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Film Studies</b>	This course is designed to draw on your enthusiasm for film and introduce you to a wide variety of cinematic experiences. You will study films which have been important in the development of film and film technology. You will have the chance to film and edit a short film, based on a set brief.	70% written exam 30% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>French</b>	You will develop the ability to communicate confidently and clearly with native speakers in speech and writing; to express and develop thoughts and ideas and listen to and understand speech. You will learn to understand and respond to a wide range of authentic spoken and written material. You will develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where French is spoken.	100% exam offered at foundation and higher tiers 25% for each of reading, writing, speaking and listening
<b>Geography</b>	You will explore various biomes and cities. You will investigate natural hazards and food issues around the world. You will visit two coastal locations to complete fieldwork activities.	100% written exam

Subject	Brief description	How you will be assessed
<b>History</b>	You will investigate the past using historical evidence and sources. You will explore the causes and consequences of British and world history, developing skills of debate and analysis. You can go on to work almost anywhere, but many choose the legal professions, research, the civil service or the media.	100% written exam
<b>Media Studies</b>	You will study and analyse a variety of media texts, ranging from historic advertisements to online media. You will examine the impact large media industries have on society. You will create your own media design.	70% written exam 30% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Music</b>	You will study a wide variety of musical genres including Pop and Rock Music, World music - Samba, Calypso, Israeli, Palestinian, Concerto - Baroque, Classical and Romantic. You will perform, compose, listen to and appraise music. If you are willing to study a wide variety of music, this is a good course for you.	30% performance exam- solo and group, 30% non-examined assessment (coursework) composing 40% listening exam
<b>NCFE Health and Fitness</b>	You will gain the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. You will develop understanding of how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport. You will also participate in different physical activities and develop skills and techniques whilst selecting and using tactics, strategies and/ or compositional ideas.	40% Written exam 60% non-examined assessment (coursework)

Subject	Brief description	How you will be assessed
<b>PE</b>	You will gain the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. You will develop understanding of how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport. You will also participate in different physical activities and develop skills and techniques whilst selecting and using tactics, strategies and/ or compositional ideas.	60% Written Exam 30% Practical performance 10% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Photography</b>	You will learn through a series of practical workshops, how to use the camera efficiently, to produce work in the dark room, Photoshop editing skills and how to analyse and Evaluate artist's work. Applying their ideas to your own work to generate creative outcomes.	60% exam 40% non-examined assessment (coursework)
<b>Spanish</b>	You will develop the ability to communicate confidently and clearly with native speakers in speech and writing; to express and develop thoughts and ideas and listen to and understand speech. You will learn to understand and respond to a wide range of authentic spoken and written material. You will develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.	100% exam offered at foundation and higher tiers 25% for each of reading, writing, speaking and listening
<b>Triple Science</b>	You will study topics that are supplementary to the Combined Science curriculum which will expand your Science knowledge and support transitions to A-level Sciences. The curriculum includes practical lab tasks, some of which are required and assessed in exams.	100% exam 6 GCSE exams; two for each topic area, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students achieve three GCSE Science grades: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



**PLEASE RETURN TO TUTORS BY WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Y9 Subject Survey November 2022**



**Student Name:** .....

**Tutor Group:** .....

Please choose **four** subjects from the list and complete the choice box.

Your favourite should be choice number 1.

Please note the following:

**All students must study either History or Geography.**

**Students can only choose one Design and Technology subject.**

**Students can choose either Art or Photography but not both.**

**Students can choose either Media or Film Studies but not both.**

Choice Box	Subject
Choice 1 (favourite)	
Choice 2	
Choice 3	
Choice 4 (least favourite)	

**Signature of Parent/Carer:** .....

**Signature of Student:** .....