

Our Lady's Catholic College

13 March 2025



Curriculum & Options

(additional information in the options booklet on OLCC website (Main school/Curriculum/Year 9 Options booklet)

“Aspire not to have more, but to be more”



Curriculum & Option Choices

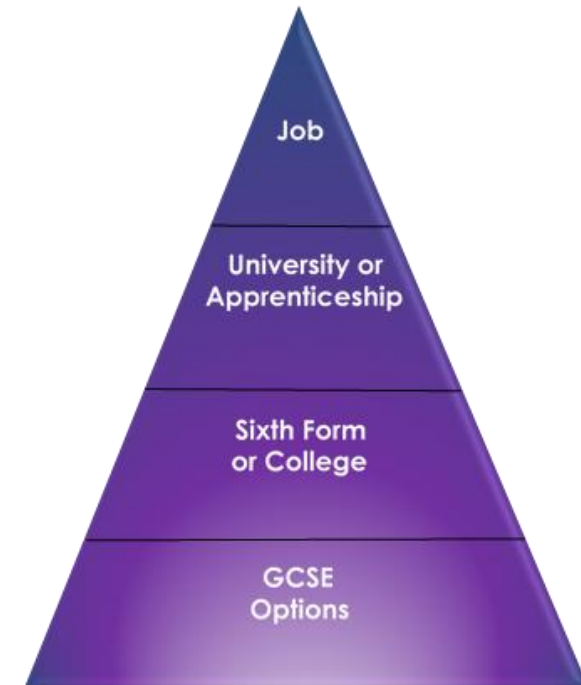


Miss Duncan - Assistant Head Curriculum & Careers
Miss Rowlands- Progress Leader Year 9
Mrs Taylor – Pastoral Support Officer Year 9

“Aspire not to have more, but to be more”

Aims of presentation:

- Careers Information
- The curriculum for Years 10 & 11
- Compulsory subjects
- Options subjects
- GCSEs & BTecs
- Making your choices



Careers: What do we do in Years 7-9?

PSHE lessons

Employer visits

Careers in the curriculum

Pathway assemblies

Year 9 option information

Work with Future U

Visits to Universities/colleges

Group work with the Careers adviser



Options Information & Guidance

January	PSHE lessons – Skills in the workplace – Future U
February/March	Careers Workshops with Careers Advisors
10 March	Careers Week in lessons
12 March	Careers & options assembly



Pathways after Year 11

6th Form



College



Apprenticeship



After Year 11 there are more qualification choices to consider



Level 3 only



Level 2 & 3



Level 2 Intermediate
Level 3 Advanced
Level 4 Higher
Level 6 Degree



Level 3 only

Top growth industries in Lancashire are:



Education



Health & Social Care



Financial & Professional



Digital & creative



Food & Agriculture



Retail



Visitor Economy



Green & low carbon

Careers of the future...



Climate Change

**Your dream
job may not
yet have
been
invented!**



Technology



Medicine

Trends shaping the future of work



The curriculum in Years 10 & 11

- 20 month course (a little over 5 terms)
- Builds on Year 9 skills & content
- A greater amount of work at a higher level throughout Years 10 & 11
- More independent learning - Mock and final examinations

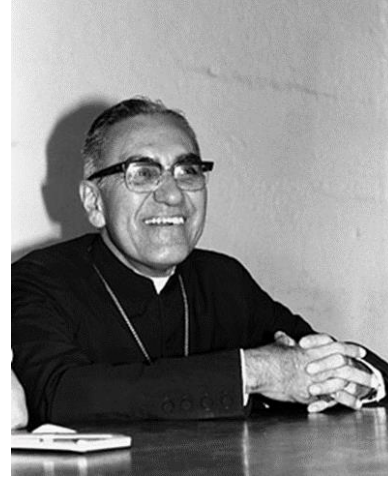


Key Stage 4



Teresa – T Band

Mother Teresa was born in 1910. Aged eighteen she joined the Sisters of Loreto, in India. She taught in Calcutta but she saw suffering and poverty and it moved her to devote her life to working amongst the poorest in Calcutta.



Romero – R Band

Oscar Romero was born in El Salvador in 1917. In 1977 he became archbishop of San Salvador. He was a source of strength and hope for the poor, working with them and for them. Romero spoke out for the need for justice, and was often faced with danger from those against his ideas. On March 24th 1980, while celebrating the Eucharist, Archbishop Romero was shot and killed at the altar by a death squad assassin.

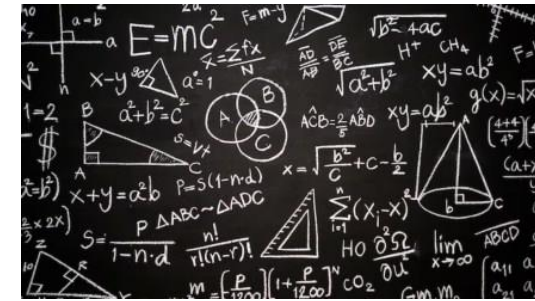
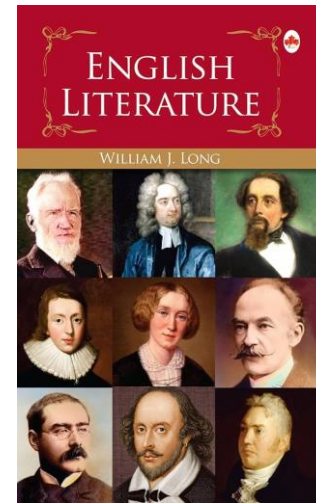
The curriculum in Years 10 & 11

- Compulsory subjects at GCSE
- 3 Options



Compulsory GCSEs

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
- Or Separate Sciences (but you must pick this as an option) (3 GCSEs)
- Religious Education



Compulsory non examinable subjects

- Core PE
- PSHE
- Sex Education
- Careers



Option choices

You will have 3 options choices:

One Option from A B & C Choice (plus reserves)

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Art (Fine Art) GCSE Business BTEC Drama GCSE Geography GCSE Health & Social Care BTEC Hospitality & Catering BTEC PE GCSE Separate Sciences GCSE (Higher) Separate Sciences GCSE (Foundation)	Art (Fine Art) GCSE Business BTEC Child Development BTEC Dance & Performing Arts BTEC Design & Technology GCSE History GCSE ICT Technical Award PE GCSE Spanish GCSE	Art (Ceramics) GCSE Business BTEC Computing GCSE French GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE Health & Social Care BTEC Music BTEC

Where numbers are high for an option, we often run two groups.

Groups with low numbers may not run. We will consult students.

Students who do Separate science as their compulsory science will also have to take this as one of their options

Choices depend on progress and assessment in Year 9. Please ask at Parents' Evening.

Students should not choose the following together:

- Art & Ceramics
- Computing & ICT

For Languages, choose the subject studied in Year 9.

In BTEC, PSA assignments take place over set periods. Full attendance is required for full completion.

Thinking ahead

- Some A level subjects are more frequently required for a degree course than others.
- Facilitating subjects include: Maths; Physics; Biology; Chemistry; History; Geography; Modern languages; English
- Check University websites for their preferred subjects

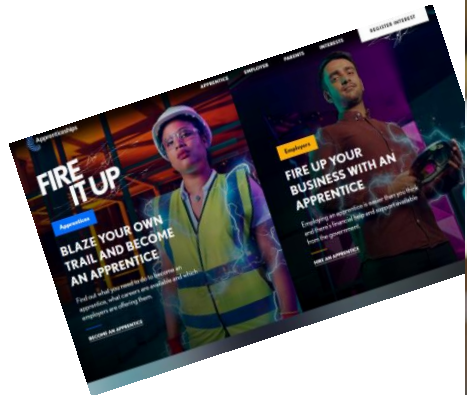


Remind students to think carefully about

- **Choosing subjects they enjoy.**
- If they have a certain career in mind
- Whether they want to go to University
- If they want to be active, practical or creative
- Monitoring from Years 7-9
- The course content, workload and requirements of each subject



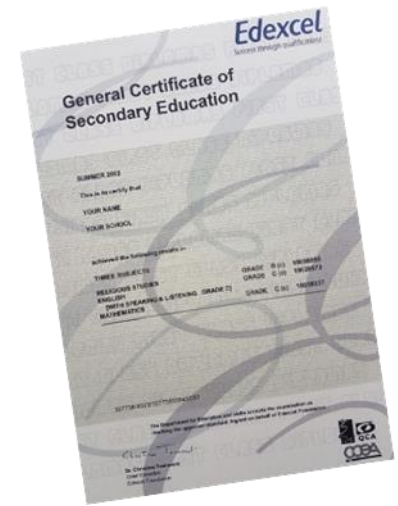
Use the websites in the 'Careers' section of the OLCC school website or check the options booklet



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/ztf3f82>

GCSE qualifications

GCSE:
General
Certificate of
Secondary
Education



- All GCSE qualifications are examined at the end of the two year course.
- Internal assessment still remains part of the course for a few subjects.
- All GCSE subjects are graded on a nine point scale from 9-1 with 9 as the highest grade
- At OLCC, 5 GCSE or equivalent passes at Grade 4 or higher are required to continue the subject at A Level/Level 3 BTEC

BTEC Qualifications

BTEC:
Business &
Technology
Education Council

- Vocational qualifications –knowledge with work place skills.
- Designed with employers to give students the skills required to either go onto further study or straight into work.

We run BTecs in:

- Business
- Health & Social Care
- Children's play
- Hospitality & Catering
- Music

▶ Assessment

▶ 3 Units over 2 Years

▶ 60% PSA
assessment

▶ 40% external exam



Why choose a BTec?



- Practical, real-world and skill development
- Can be taken alongside GCSEs
- Internal PSA assessment requires organisational skills, self-discipline, the ability to meet deadlines and independent study skills
- Strong progression links on to A Level & Level 3 courses in 6th Form

New BTecs



- Are **NOT** the easy option.
- Deadlines must be met
- Assignments are taught through teaching and preparation tasks
- Final grades depend on the outcome of assessment tasks which can only be attempted once.

To help you in your choices

- Use the websites listed in the options booklet
- Look at the careers section of the OLCC website (*students/careers*)
- Options book & Form to complete for options
(*Main school/Curriculum/Year 9 Options*)

Careers Links

Maths	www.mathscareers.org.uk
Science	www.rsc.org/careers www.iop.org/careers www.intobiology.org.uk
History	www.history.org.uk/resources
Geography	www.rgs.org/careers
Technology	www.dba.org.uk/all-about-design/careers-in-design
Hospitality & Catering	www.tastycareers.org.uk
PE	www.careers-in-sport.co.uk
Health & Social Care	nhs-careers.nhs.uk www.healthcareers.nhs.uk
Travel & Tourism	tourismteacher.com/jobs-in-travel-and-tourism
Art	www.creativeskillset.org/creative_industries
Music	www.ukmusic.org
Drama	allaboutcareers.com/careers/career-path/acting
Law	www.lawcareers.net l2b.thelawyer.com
Engineering	www.theiet.org/career/routes-to-engineering
Public Services	nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/emergency-and-uniform-services

There are so many websites and online platforms to help with your choices that it can be confusing to know which ones to look at. Here is a list of reliable and credible careers resources that are used by careers professionals.

The list is also available on our school website in the Careers & IAG section.

Apprenticeships	www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
General Sites	www.icould.com www.successtoschool.com www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers www.nationalcareersservice.gov.uk

What happens next?

- ✓ Progress Evening - talk to Subject Teachers
Thursday 20 March 3:30 – 6.30pm
- ✓ Complete your Options Form online
- ✓ Options form goes live on OLCC website after Parents' Evening
- ✓ Choose one Option from A B C choices plus reserves
- ✓ I will confirm Options' choices after Easter with Parents/Carers



**Final Options choices in
Wednesday 26 March**

