

**Key Stage 4 Curriculum**  
**Oak Tree School**  
**2026**

**Emerald and Forest Pathway**



**OAK TREE**  
SCHOOL

Dear students,

This booklet outlines what you will study in years 10 and 11 at Oak Tree School. This is the first time in your education that you have been able to choose some of your curriculum so please take this seriously. This is the first steps into adulthood and we look forward to seeing you all succeed over the next two years.

Oak Tree School SLT

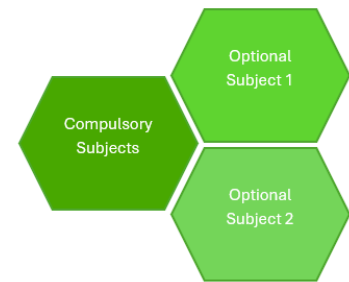


**OAK TREE**  
SCHOOL

# What you will study

## COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

At key stage 4 a number of subjects are compulsory and these are studied by all young people. The level of learning will vary depending on the ability of each individual. Some subjects offer a number of qualifications designed to progressively stretch and challenge learners whilst others are more focused.



## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

In addition to the compulsory courses young people are able to study two optional subjects. Options are another opportunity to work towards a qualification but should also be a chance for young people to choose subjects they enjoy. Details about types of course are included in this booklet. Each option lasts for the two years of Key Stage 4.

Compulsory Subjects	Optional Subjects
English Maths PSHE PE (sports leadership) Duke of Edinburgh Home Skills Digital literacy	Science Arts Award ICT Sport Horticulture Hospitality and Catering

# English

## Functional Skills Level 1 and 2

Students on the Emerald pathway may work through Entry level first.

These qualifications are taken in order with students working their way through level 1 and only moving on when they have passed. Level 1 and 2 will need to be passed before GCSE is considered.

### Overview of content

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification demonstrate a learner's achievements against demanding content that is relevant to the workplace. The qualifications assess learners' underpinning subject knowledge and their ability to apply this knowledge to different contexts. They provide a foundation for progression to employment and further technical education, and they help learners to develop skills for everyday life. Both Reading and Writing components are assessed externally whereas the Speaking, Listening and Communicating component are both set and assessed internally.

### How it provides skills for the future

The qualifications assess learners' underpinning subject knowledge and their ability to apply this knowledge to different contexts. They provide a foundation for progression to employment and further technical education, and they help learners to develop skills for everyday life. Both Level 1 and



Level 2 qualifications offer learners the opportunity to develop their English knowledge and skills as part of an Apprenticeship or in employment.

### Assessment methods

Speaking and listening component is internally assessed under controlled conditions/externally moderated.

Externally-set, Reading (45-50%) and Writing (50-55%) on-demand assessments.

The qualification is graded pass or fail. You must pass all three components to achieve the full qualification.

# English

## GCSE English Language

### Overview of content

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE 9-1 English Language qualification has been designed specifically to be taken by students studying English Language as a stand-alone subject. This GCSE will equip students with lifelong skills and enable progression to further academic or vocational study and employment. This qualification consists of two externally assessed components featuring both Reading and Writing tasks (Paper 1 and Paper 2) and one internally assessed, non-examination component (Spoken Language). The internally assessed component evaluates spoken language skills but does not contribute to the final grade. Students are instead awarded a pass, merit, or distinction, which is recorded on their certificate.

### How it provides skills for the future

The purposes of this qualification are to: provide evidence of students' achievements against demanding and fulfilling content, giving students confidence in the skills, knowledge and understanding that they will have acquired during their study, and provide a strong foundation for further academic or vocational study and for employment. The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to: read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding; read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing; write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately; use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately; acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language, and listen to and understand spoken language.

### Assessment methods

**Paper 1** (50%): Non-fiction texts. Section A – Reading. Section B – Writing. Externally assessed.

**Paper 2** (50%): Contemporary Texts. Section A – Reading. Section B – Writing. Externally assessed.

**Speaking and Listening Endorsement:** Internally assessed under controlled conditions/externally moderated. Students are awarded a grade (Pass, Merit, Distinction).



# Mathematics

## Pearson Functional Skills level 1 and 2.

These qualifications are taken in order with students working their way through level 1 and only moving on when they have passed. Level 1 and 2 will need to be passed before GCSE is considered.

### Overview of content

Pearson's Functional Skills qualifications allow students to explore real life contexts . Functional Skills qualifications are based on Department for Education (DfE) approved subject content.

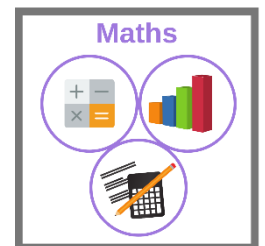
### How it provides skills for the future

Functional Skills qualifications provide reliable evidence of a learner's achievements against demanding content that is relevant to the workplace. The qualifications assess learners' underpinning subject knowledge and their ability to apply this knowledge to different contexts. They provide a foundation for progression to employment and further technical education, and they help learners to develop skills for everyday life.

### Assessment method

External exam Paper 1 Non-calculator Written exam:

Duration:25 minutes Paper based 14marks/25% of the Functional skills exam Paper 2 Calculator Written exam: Duration:1 hour 30 minutes Paper based 42marks/75% of the Functional skills exam Set and marked by Pearson.



# Mathematics

## AQA GCSE Foundation tier and Higher tier

### Overview of content

Subject content:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

### How it provides skills for the future

GCSE qualification is engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. AQA GCSE supports to enable students to engage with, explore, enjoy and succeed in maths.

### Assessment method

External exam.

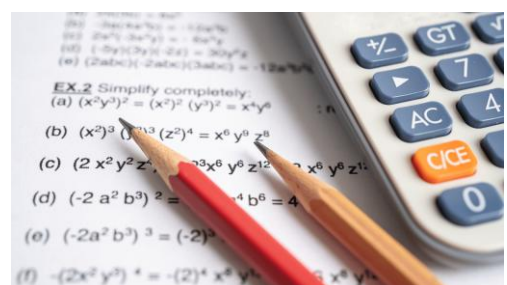
Paper 1 Non calculator Written exam: Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes  
80 marks 33 % of the assessment.

Paper 2 and Paper 3 Calculator Written exam: Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes each 80 marks each paper.

Each paper is 33 % of the assessment.

Set and marked by AQA.

Students must take three question papers from the same tier.



# PSHE

## SEND Association Curriculum

### Overview of content

The curriculum covers key areas including respectful relationships, consent, personal boundaries, online safety, puberty and body changes, sexual health, and the law relating to relationships.

### How it provides skills for the future

The curriculum promotes independence, self-advocacy, and informed decision-making, enabling our young people to develop the knowledge and skills needed to build healthy relationships and keep themselves safe.

### Assessment method

Students are assessed against the PSHE association SEND framework criteria by tutors.

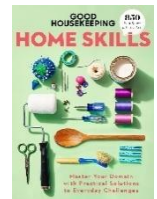


## Home Skills

### AQA Unit Awards

#### Overview of content

These lessons each week will cover a range of skills needed for future independence in the home. These include home maintenance such as cleaning, identifying hazards at home, budgeting and electrical safety. Units covered will reflect the needs of the group.



#### How it provides skills for the future

The home skills program will provide skills for the future including, independence, budgeting, staying safe at home.

#### Assessment methods

Class work is internally assessed for the AQA awards.

# Digital Literacy

## Digital Functional Skills (DFSQ) Entry Level

### Overview of content

- Unit 1 Using Devices and Handling Information
- Unit 2 Creating and Editing
- Unit 3 Communicating
- Unit 4 Transacting
- Unit 5 Being Safe and Responsible On-line

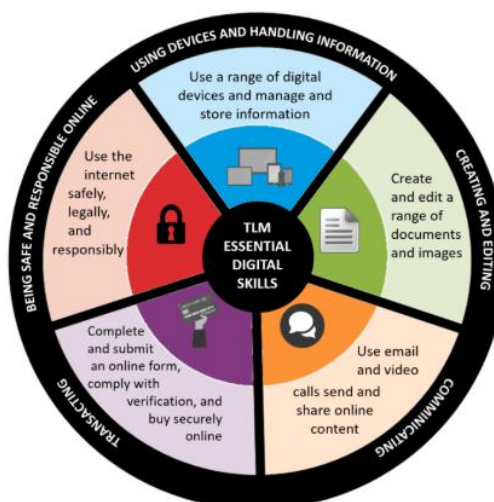
### How it provides skills for the future

Learners to strengthen their IT skills for life and skills for work, The qualification is designed to meet the requirements of the Digital Functional Skills DfE content frameworks and is designed for learners with some experience of using digital devices and the internet who wish to strengthen their information technology skills.

This will equip learners with the IT capabilities to complete learning tasks in school and build a foundation for experiences beyond Oak Tree.

### Assessment methods

Practical on-screen assessment and online examination. Both externally set and marked by the exam board.



# PE: Sports Leadership

## Level 1

### Overview of content

Students will complete 2 Units:

Unit 1 - Establishing leadership skills – know the skills, behaviours and roles and responsibilities of a sports leader

Unit 2 Plan – plan and assist in leading and reviewing sport/physical activities

### How it provides skills for the future

The Level 1 Qualification in Sports Leadership is a nationally recognised qualification that enables successful learners to assist in leading purposeful and enjoyable sport/physical activity, under direct supervision.

### Assessment methods

Completion of sports leaders booklet and practical assessment of supporting/leading a practical activity



# Duke of Edinburgh

## Bronze Award

### Overview of content

- Volunteering (3 months): Helping the community, environment, or animals.
- Physical (3 months): Improving health and fitness through sport or activity – there are lots of choices.
- Skills (3 months): Developing a new talent or improving an existing one (e.g. cooking, coding, gardening, candle making, chess)
- Expedition (2 days, 1 night): Planning and completing a self-sufficient, team-based adventurous journey (this is very flexible for those that are not ready for those nights away)

### How it provides skills for the future

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award is a voluntary, non-competitive, and personalised program focusing on building confidence, resilience, and life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and independence.

### Assessment methods

Accumulating hours in 3 sections and a final expedition event.



# Work Related Learning and Careers

## Overview of content

Students will experience a vast range of work related learning across Key Stage 4. This will be happening through careers lessons, enterprise projects and work experience both in school and in external work experience placements.

## How it provides skills for the future

- **Skill Development:** Students gain practical skills like time management, IT systems, organisation, and professional communication.
- **Skill transference:** Students are able to use skills they have developed at school in different contexts, but with safe adult support initially.
- **Career Clarity:** It allows students to test industries, helping them decide if a particular career path suits them.
- **Increased Employability:** Work experience makes students stand out to employers by demonstrating initiative and real-world experience.
- **Confidence & Maturity:** Interacting in a professional environment helps students gain independence and maturity.
- **Networking:** Building connections with industry professionals can lead to future job opportunities or references.

## Assessment methods

Students will be assessed against their engagement in the processes and in their ability to generalise skills learnt- these criteria will be set by Oak Tree School.



# Science

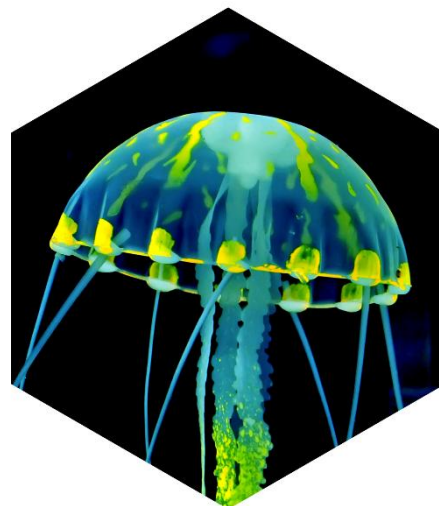
## BTEC Level 1 First Award in Principles of Applied Science

Level 1 is taken in year 10 and level 2 in year 11, providing level 1 is passed.

### Overview of content

The Pearson BTEC Level 1 First Award in Principles of Applied Science has four mandatory units.

- 1 Principles of Science
- 2 Chemistry and Our Earth
- 3 Energy and Our Universe
- 4 Biology and Our Environment



### How it provides skills for the future

1. Builds a strong science foundation which helps you move on to higher science courses such as BTEC Level 2 First Award in Applied Science or GCSE Combined Science.
2. Develops practical laboratory skills- These are real skills used in science jobs and further science study.
3. Improves key transferable skills such as: · Problem solving · Teamwork · Communication · Research and report writing These skills are valued by employers and colleges.
4. Introduces science careers such as: · Healthcare · Environmental science · Laboratory work · Engineering

### Assessment methods

Unit 1 is assessed by exam and the other three units are assessed by coursework marked in school by teachers. The units are given equal weighting meaning the assessment is 25% Exam, 75% Coursework.

# Science

## BTEC Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science

### Overview of content

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science has four mandatory units.

- 1 Principles of Science
- 2 Chemistry and Our Earth
- 3 Energy and Our Universe
- 4 Biology and Our Environment

### How it provides skills for the future

1. Practical Laboratory Skills e.g. Carry out scientific experiments · Record and analyse data
2. Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking
3. Understanding Real-World Science Topics often include: · Energy and electricity · Chemical reactions · Biology and human body systems
4. Communication and Report Writing
5. Teamwork and Independent Learning

### Assessment methods

Unit 1 is assessed by exam and the other three units are assessed by coursework marked in school by teachers. The units are given equal weighting meaning the assessment is 25% Exam 75% Coursework.



# Arts Award

## Bronze (Level 1)

### Overview of content

4 Areas to cover:

- Take part in the arts- Where we will experience many different types of art. Including shows, galleries and music opportunities.
- Review an arts event/experience- After our experience we will use different methods to record our thoughts and anything we learnt during that experience.
- Research an artist or craftsperson- They will have the opportunity to choose their own interest in a person within the arts to research their art and what they do.
- Pass on arts skills to others- Using their research they will create a workshop, idea or presentation to deliver to a chosen group of people where they share and inform others of the skills they have learnt.

### How it provides skills for the future

- Leadership skills- this will be beneficial for jobs and leadership roles in the future.
- Vocalising their own opinion- This skill will be useful for being able to express their own views but also listen to others.
- Working as a team- Important for future work and experiences, being able to listen to others, respond and disagree politely. Reflection
- Researching
- Communication
- Performing arts knowledge and skills



### Assessment methods

Portfolio- using different methods of recording such as images, videos, writing and created documents on the computer etc.

# Arts Award

## Silver (Level 2)

### Overview of content

Unit 1 :

- 1- Plan an arts challenge
- 2- Implement and review this challenge
- 3- Review arts events
- 4- Research a career pathway within the arts.

Unit 2 :

- 1- Plan the project
- 2- Find issues and how to combat these in their project
- 3- Understand their own and other roles within the project
- 4- Working with others
- 5- Project review

### How it provides skills for the future

Leadership skills

Working as a team

Organisation

Reflection

Observation

Researching

Communication

Performing arts knowledge and skills



### Assessment methods

Portfolio- using different methods of recording such as images, videos, writing and created documents on the computer etc.

# ICT

## Pearson BTEC Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Information Technology

### Overview of content

This course will cover two core units: Being Organised and Developing a Personal Progression Plan.

There will then be three sector units which will be around: Developing Digital Information Using IT, Solving Technical IT Problems and Creating a Computer Program

### How it provides skills for the future

Communication (including electronic and social media)

Working with others

Problem solving

Managing information

Self-management and development

### Assessment methods

This course is 100% project based. The pupils will cover a unit and complete a piece of coursework to be assessed.



# ICT

## Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate for IT Users

### Overview of content

This course will include units on Improving Productivity using IT, ICT Fundamentals, Set up an IT System, IT Security, using the internet, Multimedia software.

### How it provides skills for the future

This qualification is suitable for anyone who uses ICT in their daily lives, or is looking to develop skills for working in the ICT industry.

### Assessment methods

This course is 100% assessed through assignments. Evidence can be taken from the following methods:

Direct observation, outcomes from questioning, products of learner's work, personal statements, assignments, projects, witness testimony.



# Sport

## Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Sport Level 1/2

### Overview of content

Students will complete 3 units:

1 - Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

2 - Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

3 - Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (Externally assessed unit)

### How it provides skills for the future

The BTEC Tech Award in Sport Level 1/2 equips students with a range of transferable skills that prepare them for further education, employment, and active lifestyles. Through practical participation and coursework, students develop communication, teamwork, and leadership skills while learning how to plan and deliver sporting activities. They also build organisation, time management, and analytical skills by evaluating performance and identifying areas for improvement. In addition, the course promotes an understanding of health, fitness, and wellbeing, helping students make informed lifestyle choices. Together, these skills support progression into further study in sport or related fields and provide valuable workplace skills relevant to many future careers.

### Assessment methods

2 internally assessed units

1 externally assessed unit – exam



**BTEC Sport**  
Level 1/2 Tech Award  
Component 1



# Hospitality and Catering

## Level 1 or 2 Certificate in Catering Skills

### Overview of content

The AIM Level 1 and Level 2 Certificate in Catering Skills introduces learners to the core knowledge and practical skills required in the catering and hospitality industry. Students develop an understanding of food safety and hygiene, safe working practices, and the correct use of kitchen equipment. They learn basic food preparation and cooking techniques, with Level 2 learners progressing to more complex dishes and greater independence in the kitchen. The course combines practical tasks with underpinning knowledge to ensure students understand professional standards within a catering environment.

### How it provides skills for the future

This qualification helps students build essential skills that prepare them for future employment and further study. Through hands-on learning, students develop teamwork, communication, organisation, time management, and problem-solving skills. They also gain confidence working in a professional environment and understand employer expectations within the hospitality sector. These transferable skills are valuable not only in catering careers but across a wide range of industries, supporting students in becoming work-ready and adaptable for the future.

### Assessment methods

Coursework/Portfolio



# Horticulture

## Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Working in the Horticulture industry.

### Overview of content

Students will cover a range of skills and techniques relating to Horticulture. These units include:

- Garden horticulture skills
- Plant propagation
- Soils and Crop plants
- Pruning

### How it provides skills for the future

The Horticulture Level 1 Certificate covers different areas of horticulture, including gardening and landscaping, floristry, horticulture and working in horticulture. Learners will also be able to develop the essential communication, information technology, English and maths skills they will need to succeed in the industry.

### Assessment methods

- 1 internally assessed portfolio for each unit.

