Falconer School

Achieving the extraordinary together

Headteacher: Carmel Fox

Falconer School

Key Stage 4

Curriculum Information Booklet

Dear Student,

Welcome to our Key Stage 4 Curriculum Information booklet.

In this booklet you will find information about what subjects you will be able to study during Years 10 and 11 in Falconer School.

You have spent time in school considering which options might suit your learning style and your career ambitions – in lessons, in sessions with external experts and in discussions with Tom, the advisor from Services for Young People.

Recently you completed a form showing which subjects you would be interested in studying in Key Stage 4. The information in this booklet is based upon the responses we received from students across the year group.

The school wants you to be successful in gaining qualifications that will help you to achieve your ambitions in life. It is important that you think carefully about which subjects you wish to choose.

We look forward to seeing you succeed in your Key Stage 4 studies.

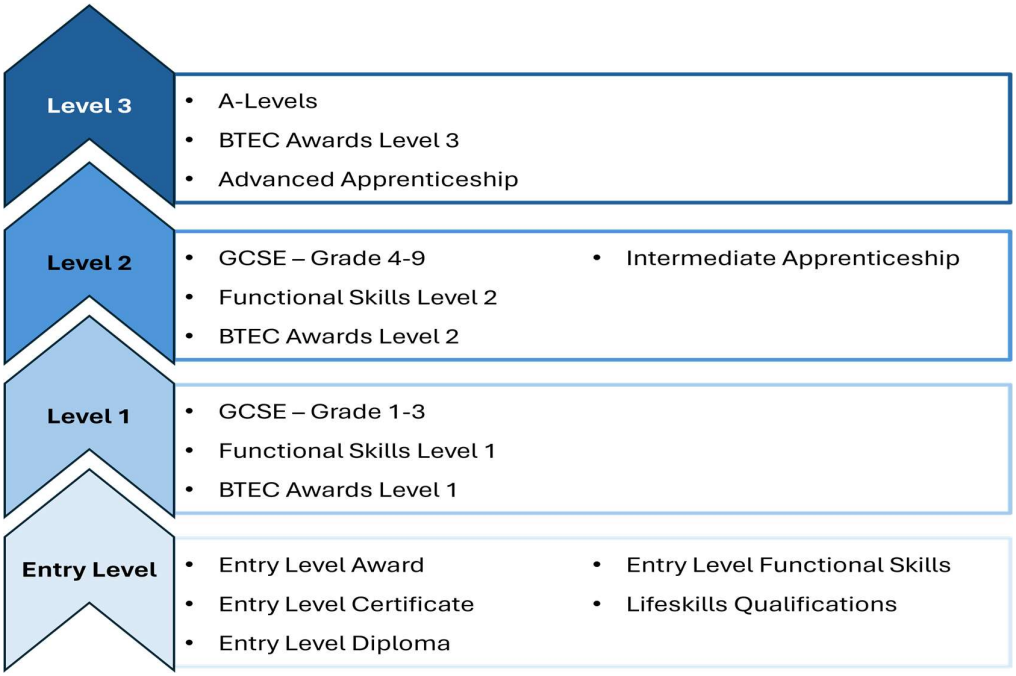
Yours sincerely,

Mrs Fox

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

1. Qualifications

We know that the language of qualifications can be confusing. The diagram below shows how qualification levels build on each other.



At Falconer School, no courses are higher than Level 2. We have included Level 3 in the diagram so that you can see the progression available when you move on to college or an apprenticeship.

It is important to recognise that some of our subjects will offer a range of qualification levels. This is so that you can be successful in reaching your full potential in that subject.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

2. Subjects at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)

The table below shows which subjects are 'Core' – meaning everyone will study them, and which are 'Options'.

Core Subjects	Options Subjects	
• English • Maths • Science (Core) • Personal Development & PSHE	• Construction • Design Technology • Food Technology	• Motor Vehicle Maintenance • Music • Sport Studies

Important:

You will choose 2 Options subjects.

It is possible that not all subjects will be able to be offered. It will depend on how many people choose a subject and also whether it is possible to fit together everyone's preferred choices. (Information about preferred options is on the last page of the booklet – page 15.)

The Option subjects listed in this booklet reflect the subjects that would be viable based on the responses of students when completing their 'expression of interest'.

3. Subject Information

On the following pages you will find information about all the subjects.

If you have any questions about any of the subjects we are always happy to answer your questions. Please speak to your form tutor, Head of Year, the subject leader or any of the Senior Leadership Team.

ENGLISH (Core)

What you should know:

You can be whatever you want to be in English.

If you like to argue or being right, we hold debates on all sorts of topics.

If you are a day dreamer and enjoy a good story, there is lots of room to have a go yourself. We have opportunities for you to do your own creative writing. That may not be story - it may be a play or podcast script. It can be whatever you chose it to be.

If you're more into your facts than your fiction, there is plenty of opportunity to read up on interesting factual material catered to your interests. We then take this material and try to see if there is a hidden message the writers are trying to communicate to us.

In short, English is a subject that everyone can enjoy and find their special interest.

What you can use this subject for:

Achieving a GCSE or equivalent in English opens doors to a wealth of opportunities.

Journalism is an obvious career for those enjoying English. However, there is an endless list of less obvious careers that rely on good skills in English including actors, presenters, news readers, podcast hosts, podcast writers, advertising, lawyers, teachers, coaches, sales and many more.

If you wish to continue studying English beyond your time at Falconer School you can pursue English language, literature or both at A-Level offered by most colleges.

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- Functional Skills English Level 1 and Level 2
- Pearson Edexcel GCSE Literature 2.0
- Pearson Edexcel GCSE Language 2.0

MATHS (Core)

What you should know:

Maths is a fundamental skill for life. The basics of maths are needed every day - for example shopping or cooking, checking bills and bank accounts, or working out how much paint you need for your front room!

In addition, maths is about the general skill of problem solving, and helps you break down a problem into steps.

Employers value maths skills in nearly every job. This doesn't mean you need to be able to do algebra, or use pi, but good numeracy is helpful for everything. We offer GCSE for those interested in having broader, more academic maths skills, as well as qualifications which are more focussed on every day, practical, maths.

Whatever subject you wish to take at college, you will need to keep doing maths to try and get a level 2 pass (GCSE 4 and above, or Functional Skills Level 2). We will give you the opportunity to achieve this if appropriate, or give you stepping stones to move along that pathway.

What you can use this subject for:

In addition to using maths in everyday life, there are several educational paths that can be taken.

Maths can be taken as a subject on its own at college, potentially leading to a career involving maths. Or if you do any kind of science course you are likely to need good maths skills.

Courses that are regarded as more practical or vocational will usually need maths skills too – for example in joinery calculations will need to be made about how much wood to buy, how long a piece needs to be etc.

Even if you see yourself as more of a Humanities person you will also need maths as sometimes data needs analysing.

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- Pearson Edexcel GCSE 9-1
- Functional skills level 1 or 2 (level 1 is equivalent to GCSE grades 1-3, level 2 equivalent to GCSE grades 4-9
- Entry level qualifications

SCIENCE (Core)

What you should know:

Lots of students say "I don't need Science" – but without even realising it most of us are doing science every day. It is involved in practically everything we do, products and technology we buy, and many aspects of our lifestyle.

Science is divided into Biology, Physics and Chemistry. Students cover all three disciplines. There is a mix of practical work and written work.

Science also teaches problem solving and analytical skills. These are general skills that employers value.

All students will study core science.

What you can use this subject for:

Apart from the general problem solving skills we mentioned earlier, core science can be used to go into a variety of technical and scientific college courses or careers.

This could include working in healthcare, dentistry, laboratories or analysis services. It could also be a pathway to working with animals, food production and services. The list is long!

Even students going on to more practical or vocational courses still will benefit from a science education – even building or joinery for instance rely on physics!

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- Entry Level Certificate in science – double or single award at Entry Level 1, 2 or 3
- AQA Trilogy GCSE. This is a double-award GCSE combining the three sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & PSHE (Core)

What you should know:

These will be the subject where you have a chance to explore a huge range of topics and learn more about the world around us including the law, basic finance, personal effectiveness, relationships, keeping safe and healthy, communities, local and national government and much more!

It is a flexible programme where you will learn about things such as applying for a college place, writing a CV, personal finance, basic work-skills and current issues in society.

You will also develop lots of important lifeskills such as developing communication, working as part of a team and personal goal-setting.

What you can use this subject for:

This course is designed to prepare you for life beyond school so will be useful in all areas of your life.

It will be particularly important for:

- Applying for college / apprenticeships;
- Understanding the world of work and what employers are looking for;
- Developing interpersonal and communication skills.

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- OCN London Award in Progression

CONSTRUCTION

What you should know:

Construction is a big industry within the UK and employs thousands of people.

This course gives you an opportunity to develop skills in a wide range of construction areas including:

- Bricklaying
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Carpentry

The course is run on-site in our construction studios. It is delivered by professional trainers from Building1Zone – a training provider that has a proven track record in developing learners to be successful in the construction industry.

What you can use this subject for:

This course is designed to prepare you for application to college or apprenticeship in the construction industry.

Students completing Building1Zone's programme have gone on to do the following:

- College programmes in level 2 Construction and Multiskills
- Apprenticeships within construction industry companies

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Basic Construction Skills
- OCNLR Personal Effectiveness

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What you should know:

This qualification is designed for learners who wish to develop skills and knowledge in designing, planning and making. It can develop into a specialised artisanal craft.

In Design and Technology the aim is to:

- extend and further develop learners' skills
- extend learners' knowledge and understanding of the creative craft process
- provide recognition for enterprise skills and attributes
- investigate creative enterprise and employment opportunities is the creative sector
- extend learners' understanding of health and safety issues provide the opportunity for further development
- provide a basis for progression onto further study.

The objectives of this subject are to help learners to:

- use raw materials, tools and equipment in a safe and competent manner
- develop analytical and research skills
- evaluate own work, develop ideas and learning through the craft process
- develop an understanding of health and safety considerations in the design environment.

What you can use this subject for:

After learning and applying design and technology a person could go into carpentry, product design, industrial design, architecture, maintenance and handy-man work, boat building, van-conversions, building tiny houses, construction, sculpture, and teacher.

They could also work in traditional craft, film, carpenter, construction, Heritage restoration, and set design.

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- NCFE: Level 1/2 Award or Certificate in Creative Craft

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

What you should know:

This qualification provides a flexible and alternative range of learning opportunities for a varied group of learners with a variety of differing learning needs and interests.

You'll be having fun learning whilst achieving a nationally recognised qualification.

Through a variety of theory and practical work you'll have the opportunity to gain different cooking skills that will help you in school and at home.

You'll gain the confidence needed to use specialist equipment and cook dishes independently.

What you can use this subject for:

The catering and hospitality industry is huge and this qualification can help you work towards a career within it.

In the UK around 3.5 million people work in hospitality and catering. And, of course, it is an industry that is truly worldwide. You could end up working in a five-star luxury resort or on a cruise ship seeing the world!

You may choose to go on to study hospitality and catering at college, join an apprenticeship scheme or just be confident in knowing that you're able to look after yourself.

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- **OCN London Entry Award**
- **Food Safety and Hygiene Certificates**
- **Home Cooking Skills**

MOTOR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

What you should know:

The Motor Vehicle industry within the UK is ever changing and developing and therefore employs thousands of people in all skill/ability ranges.

This course gives you an opportunity to develop skills in a wide range of Motor Vehicle areas including:

- **Servicing**
- **Electrics**
- **Brakes**
- **Steering**
- **Suspension**
- **Engines**
- **Wheels & Tyres**

The objectives of this subject are to help learners:

- **use tools and equipment in a safe and competent manner**
- **develop fine motor skills alongside problem solving**
- **support good housekeeping**
- **develop communication/team working skills**

Through a variety of theory and practical sessions you'll have the opportunity to gain different skills that will help you in school and at home.

You'll gain the confidence needed to use specialist equipment / tools.

What you can use this subject for:

This course is designed to prepare you for college or an apprenticeship programme in the Motor Vehicle industry. It can give you the skills & mindset to maintain or modify your own vehicles in the future!

Students completing Motor Vehicle Studies at Falconer School have gone on to:

- **College programmes in Level 1/Level 2 Motor Vehicle Studies**
- **College study programmes with vocational training alongside Maths/English.**
- **Apprenticeships within the Motor Vehicle industry.**
- **Work at independent/franchised garages.**

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- **OCN London Entry Award**
- **C&G Entry Level 3 Diploma**

MUSIC

What you should know:

Music performance and audio recording has never been more exciting at Falconer!

We have moved away from sitting exams to enable you to shine by doing what you enjoy… playing! You'll specialise in an instrument of your choice, learn new music to play on your own and in a group, explore aspects of the music industry as well as history and theory which helps everything to make sense.

Using state-of-the-art recording equipment, you'll also make and edit recordings of yourself and others, being able to compose if you want to and find a musical path that suits you!

What you can use this subject for:

With any number of qualifications in music, you'll be able to access courses at college for BTEC and other vocational courses which utilise a range of musical skills, from sound engineering to playing in bands or promoting events.

There are many careers which need people with these skills all the time, so the opportunities are endless.

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- **OCN London Entry Level Award in Music Technology**
- **BTEC First Award in Music Level 1/2**

SPORT STUDIES

What you should know:

Entry Pathways:

Our Entry Pathways Healthy Living and Fitness qualification provides learners with the opportunity to participate in a variety of sporting and health and fitness activities.

Learners will develop an understanding of factors which contribute to their own and others healthy living and fitness. This qualification is available at Entry 2 and Entry 3.

Pearson BTEC Level 1 Introductory in Sport:

The purpose of these qualifications is to develop the transferable skills, attributes and behaviours needed for learners to progress to further study and ultimately to employment. The qualifications are designed to be delivered in an applied way, bringing together appropriate content with practical and technical skills. As a Level 1 qualification the pass standard requires learners to complete routine, simple and directed tasks by applying their knowledge and skills. It is expected that learners complete tasks fully under supervision, direction or with guidance. At merit and distinction levels, learners may be expected to complete tasks in greater detail or with greater confidence or independence

What you can use this subject for:

Entry Pathways:

Entry Pathways will provide a foundation for level 1 and 2 qualifications. An example of this would be the WJEC GCSE physical education. This course also develops the skills and confidence you will need when you leave school or college in preparation for the workplace.

Pearson BTEC Level 1 Introductory in Sport:

A BTEC level 1 can lead learners moving to college to start a level 2 in BTEC sports in sports coaching or sports science.

Qualifications you may achieve in this subject:

- **Pearson BTEC Level 1 Introductory in Sport**
- **Entry Pathways Healthy Living and Fitness**

4. Preferred Options

NAME: _____ FORM: _____

Important:

You will study 2 Options subjects. This sheet is showing us what your preferred choices would be.

Please indicate your 3 preferred options in rank order with number 1 being the subject you are most interested in:

Construction		Motor Vehicle Maintenance	
Design Technology		Music	
Food Technology		Sport Studies	

Signed: _____

Date: _____