

2025

KS4

**Options
Booklet**



Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Student,

Welcome to the options process for Key Stage 4 students, parents and carers. Choosing your options for KS4 is an important stage in your education. This process allows you to think about your future goals and supports you to choose some of the subjects that you will study in the coming years. We know that it can be a difficult time and can cause anxiety because there are a lot of questions that you might have: Which subject is right for me? What if I don't know what I want to do at all? At Fen Rivers Academy we are all here to help you to make choices about your future learning that are right for you.

This booklet and the options process are designed to make this time less worrying for you and your parents/carers. They will help you to start making decisions about your learning and to choose subjects that suit your goals, skills and needs. One bit of advice I can give you through this process is to explore all the support that is available to you. Speaking to teachers will be a key part of the process, making sure you understand the course you are signing up for. Make sure you ask all the questions you want to before starting on the next two or three years of education. Your parents/carers will know you and may be able to provide you some extra guidance in making your decision. Talk to people who already have gone through their Key Stage 4 options process who may also be able to provide you with extra information. Wherever possible, we will do our best to ensure you are able to study your first choice in each of the option subjects. You can select options using the 'Options Form', which is part of this document. The completed form should be given to Mrs. Fewkes or Mrs. Leggett. Your options will be used to shape the curriculum next year and to help staff advise you about your choices. Please talk to the subject teachers, your class teacher, Mrs. Fewkes or Mr. Thompson.

Due to the size of our school, in some cases it may not be possible for you to access your first choice subject, so make sure that all your choices are equally something you will want to engage in. Occasionally, an option course is not for you. We understand that, however, once we are four weeks into the courses you will not be able to change a subject selected as the KS4 exam boards will have been informed of candidates.

I am sure you will be excited about planning your options and look forward to working with you over the coming years, as you achieve your goals.

Mrs. Fewkes,

Head Teacher at The Fen Rivers Academy.



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Making the right choices

Students should aim to choose a range of subjects across the different curriculum areas. This will help keep your future options and aspirations open. The following points may help your decision making:

DO choose the course because:

- It will give you a well-rounded access to the curriculum
- You enjoy the subject
- You feel you are good at the subject and you try hard in it
- It is possibly a career route that you would like to follow
- You know what is going to be happening in the subject and are ready for the whole process
- You have spoken with the teacher that is leading the subject
- You want to achieve and excel in this subject

DO NOT choose courses because:

- Your friends are choosing them – they may not be right for you
- You like a particular teacher- you may have a different teacher next year

We are always here to discuss the options process and want to help you make the best choices you can for your future. It is important to note that the information in this booklet may change when we start to deliver the courses so that the level is appropriate for the students involved.



Understanding the jargon

In 2018 the traditional grading scale (A-U) was replaced with a numerical system. In addition to this we also run a series of different qualifications based on the needs of the young people in the classroom. Some of this language will be different and has changed over the years so we have created a table that hopefully will help better explain the options that we have on offer.

The old and new GCSE grading scales do not directly compare but there are three points where they align, as the diagram shows:

- The bottom of grade 7 is aligned with the bottom of grade A
- The bottom of grade 4 is aligned with the bottom of grade C
- The bottom of grade 1 is aligned with the bottom of grade G

The Department for education recognises a grade 4 as a standard pass.

OLD GCSE	NEW GCSE	BTEC	NCFE vocational awards/certs	ASDAN Personal Development Programme (PDP)
A*	9			
A	8 7	Level 2 Distinction		GOLD Award (18 credits)
B	6			
C	5 4	Level 2 Merit Level 2 Pass	Level 2	SILVER Award (12 credits)
D				
E	3			
F	2			
G	1	Level 1	Level 1	BRONZE Award (6 credits)
U	U		Entry 3 Entry 2 Entry 1	

The KS4 Curriculum

In September, lessons will be similar to the way they are now. There are still some courses that are considered 'core', that all students will be doing, for example our core PE lessons. Each subject area will have more information about what it contains later on in this booklet.

Core offer

These subjects are compulsory, and they are studied by all students. The core curriculum will be able to offer you meaningful qualifications that many Post-16 colleges will desire. These are English, Maths and Science. PSHE will continue to give you transferable skills that you can use in other subjects and learning for everyday life. Level 1/2 accreditations are also achieved in *Employability* and *Occupational studies for the workplace* as part of our wider careers offer to students in preparing them for the next stage of their lives. PE and RE will continue to be delivered as core, due to statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

Option subjects

In addition to these core subjects each student will study three option subjects. You are therefore required to rank option subjects that will make up the remainder of the curriculum. Each student must indicate where they rank all the subjects (see on page 7). We will do our best to make sure each student gets their preferred choices, however, due to the size of the school it is unlikely to be all the highest ranked preferences. But we will do our best!

Core offer

English

Maths

Science

PE

Employability studies

PSHE

Occupational studies

RE

Personal development,
behaviours and attitudes (PDBA)

Option subjects

Expressive Arts

History

Geography & The Wider World

Sports Studies

Creative iMedia

Food and Cookery

Art & Design

Mechanics (off site)

Construction (off site)

Independent living

English Literature

Selecting Options

Each student must rank the following subjects available. Please can you order your subject preferences as it shows below by indicating a number in the box next to the subject:

First choice subject = 1

Second choice subject = 2

Third choice subject = 3

Forth choice subject = 4

Fifth choice subject = 5

Sixth choice subject = 6

Seventh choice subject = 7

Eighth choice subject = 8

Ninth choice subject = 9

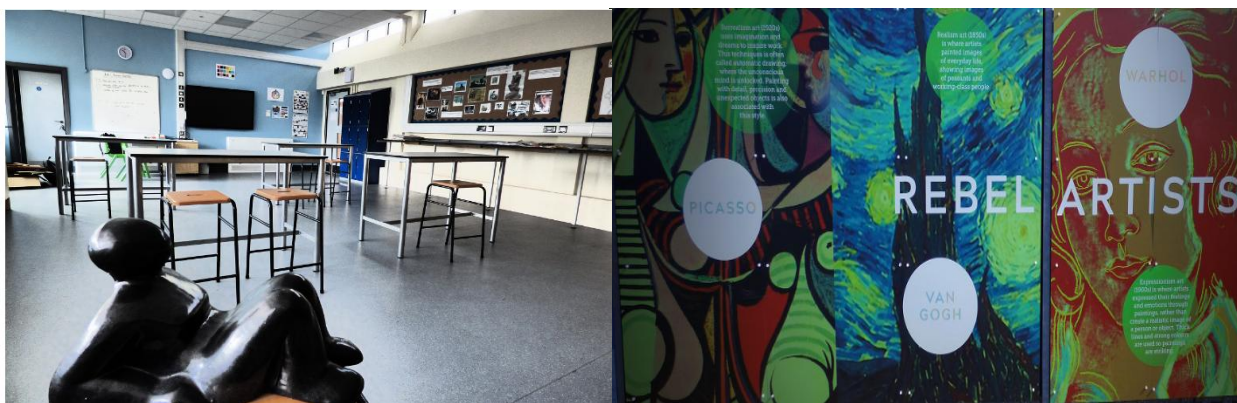
Tenth choice subject = 10

Eleventh choice subject = 11

Subjects	Preference Number
Expressive Arts	
History	
Geography & The Wider World	
Sports Studies	
Creative iMedia	
Food and Cookery	
Art & Design	
Mechanics (off site)	
Construction (off site)	
Independent living	
English Literature	

Example Timetable

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lesson 5	Lesson 6
MONDAY	English	Maths	BREAK	History	History	LUNCH	Science	Science
TUESDAY	Creative iMedia	Creative iMedia		English	Maths		Food & Cookery	PE
WEDNESDAY	English	Maths		Expressive Arts	Expressive Arts		PE	Creative iMedia
THURSDAY	Employability skills	Expressive Arts		English	Maths		Science	Careers/ Citizenship / RE
FRIDAY	English	Maths		Food & Cookery	Food & Cookery		Tutor Time	PSHE



Art and Design

What will I study?

Arts Award

During the course you will learn about lots of different ways of working in pencil, paint, print, sculpture, photography and textiles. You will investigate a huge range of Artists, Crafts people and cultures and societies to learn about how others make Art. You will create a personal and artistic portfolio of evidence based on your skills and learning.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn how to develop a portfolio showcasing your artistic application and use a sketchbook (this could be digital) to record your creative journey. You will learn how to present a personal response, perhaps a canvas painting or a clay sculpture.

How will I be assessed?

Bronze, Silver and Gold level accreditations. Portfolio are evidence collected.

What career can this lead to?

Artist, Craftsperson, Teacher, Architect, Graphic Designer, Digital artwork careers, Interior Designer, Gallery or Museum Curator.

Pick this subject if you...

are interested in being creative, like making things, enjoy looking at and learning about how other people make things, are open to new ways of doing things or like to reflect on how to improve your own work as it progresses.



Food and Cookery

What will I study?

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery

What skills will I develop?

Independence, budgeting, meal design and planning and a wide range of cooking skills and techniques. You will also be going out on trips to buy the ingredients you need yourselves.

How will I be assessed?

60% Project – Non-exam Assessment (NEA), 40% Exam Assessment

Each week you will evaluate your cooking skills. At the end of each course you will complete a work pack including a cooking diary, ingredients lists, nutritional information and budgeting. You will then be assessed on one (level 1) or two courses (level 2) that need to be prepared independently with safety and with skill. These dishes will also need to be presented attractively. There is will also be a requirement to give a short presentation on the skills you have learnt.

What career can this lead to?

One of the many careers in the catering industry.

Pick this subject if you....

continue enjoying cooking or if you want to help yourself become more independent. Too many people are reliant on premade food and takeaways. You will learn to produce meals safely and nutritiously. It will also be a stepping stone onto further catering qualifications in college

Expressive Arts



What will I study?

Expressive Arts (ASDAN Award)

Options are flexible depending on student interest and could include:

Performing, learning an instrument, illustration of an artist, writing of poems, lyrics, song or music composition, extended art projects, presenting and drama play.

What skills will I develop?

Personal Development Programme will enable you to:

- recognise your own personal qualities and abilities
- choose what topics you like to learn about
- explore new activities and become more confident in trying new things
- develop skills that will be invaluable when you start work and begin living independently
- record your achievements in and outside of education

How will I be assessed?

You are accredited with a Bronze, Silver or Gold award through complete the specified hours of challenges through different modules that you will study. There is no final examination and practical evidence is assessed to determine the level of award.

What career can this lead to?

Actor, song writer, arts administrator, digital marketer, entertainer, events manager, lighting technician, live sound engineer, musician, set designer, jobs in media, social media manager, TV presenter, film producer, performing artist.

Creative iMedia

What will I study?

Creative iMedia (OCR Cambridge National)

What skills will I develop?

Creative iMedia is a practical, accessible and exciting to learn. It will inspire you to develop real-world skills to prepare you with knowledge and skills in the iMedia industry. On this course you will develop skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision making and analysis. Deeper knowledge of iMedia products in relation to theoretical framework.

How will I be assessed?

Creative iMedia in the media industry – Exam (90mins only)
Visual identity and digital graphics – Extended independent project

Additional optional modules include:

- Characters and comics
- Animation with audio
- Interactive digital media
- Visual imaging
- Digital games

NEA units of study are tailored to student interests

What career can this lead to?

This provides you with the foundational skills to prepare you for college or media-based work experiences such as presenter; copywriter; broadcast journalist; Writer or film reviewer; social media manager; journalism; screen-writing. Digital career pathways, visual and animation career pathways.

Pick this subject if you....

are interested in ICT, computing and interactive media and visual animation.





Sports Studies

What will I study?

Level 1/2 NCFE Technical Award in Sports Studies

Our V Certs are designed in collaboration with employers to ensure they equip individuals with the skills the workforce needs. They empower pupils with industry-relevant skills and knowledge appropriate to a range of growing sectors. V Certs are combined Level 1 and Level 2, to recognise the achievements of pupils of all abilities. They're graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, through to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which is the equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1.

What skills will I develop?

Focusing on a range of important and topical content areas – from ethics and technology in sport to psychology for sports performance – the qualification supports a career in sports coaching, sports management, and physiotherapy.

How will I be assessed?

Vocational Certificate Technical Awards are designed to be delivered over two years. The first year of delivery is entirely dedicated to teaching and learning, with all summative assessments taking place in the final year of study.

The Sports Studies Vocational Certificate technical award is assessed by:

- Non-Exam Assessment (60%) and
- Examined Assessment (40%)

What career can this lead to?

Further study: an A Level in Physical Education and Sport, or a Level 3 study programme in sports coaching at college or sixth form.

Apprenticeship: as a personal trainer or community sport and health officer



History

What will I study?

GCSE History (AQA)

What skills will I develop?

Knowledge of the key issues such as historical conflicts, understanding what drives change and how the past influences the present. Be able to explain and evaluate how the world around us got to exist in its current landscape. Build on knowledge and understanding of some of the most popular topics from historic periods in time.

How will I be assessed?

All the studies from across the course will culminate in your final exam assessment papers:

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world – 50%

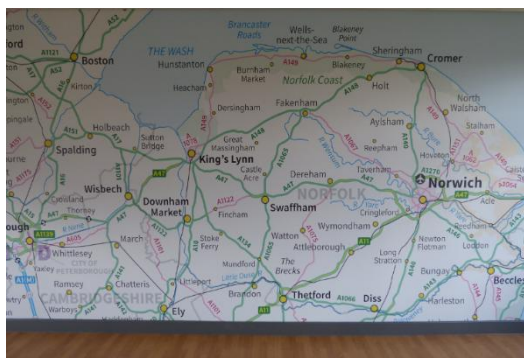
Paper 2: Shaping the nation – 50%

What career can this lead to?

Further studies in history at KS5 and the foundational knowledge to explore wider careers: historian; heritage museum manager; specialist tour guides; journalist; media or museum curator; archeologist; geologist; events manager.

Pick this subject if you...

have a keen interest in historic events, powerful political and warfare leaders. The enthusiasm to study the following is also really desirable: 1800s America, 1900s Germany, Russia 1894-1945, inter-war years, tensions in Asia, the Gulf and Afghanistan.



Geography and The Wider World

What will I study?

ASDAN award or GCSE Geography (OCR)

What skills will I develop?

Knowledge and understanding of challenges associated with natural hazards, examining physical landscapes and preparing you with geographical skills for life. Fieldwork skills will be developed, including investigations into urban issues and challenges that exist in the world around us right now.

How will I be assessed?

- You are accredited with a Bronze, Silver or Gold award through complete the specified hours of challenges through different modules that you will study (ASDAN).
- Living with the physical environment; Challenges in the human environment; Geographical applications (GCSE topic areas).

What career can this lead to?

Environmentalist job routes, geology, climatologist, weather broadcaster, national park tour guide or management, conservationist, geography teacher, working with wildlife.

Pick this subject if you want to...

develop your communication and teamwork skills, as you'll often work on group projects. You'll also develop your research and analysis skills including in IT, lab and fieldwork, which means you will be able to collect and look for patterns in data.



English literature

What will I study?

GCSE English Literature (AQA)

What skills will I develop?

Reading comprehension and reading critically

- *literal and inferential comprehension*: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events
- *critical reading*: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text
- *evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features*: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation
- *comparing texts*: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above

Writing

- *producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as*: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references
- *accurate Standard English*: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How will I be assessed?

All the studies from across the course will culminate in your final exam assessment papers:

- Paper 1 (40%) - Shakespeare and a 19th Century Novel
- Paper 2 (60%) - Modern texts and poetry

What career can this lead to?

Further studies in KS5 English

Independent living



What will I study?

Independent living (ASDAN Award)

TITAN award

Options are flexible depending on student interest and ability to complete a wide range of independent tasks and overcome daily challenges that will support their future confidence. This could include:

Washing, ironing, tidying, emergency communication recycling, food storage, helping my local community, baking and cooking, health and safety in public places, basic repair, shopping, road safety and travel.

What skills will I develop?

Personal Development Programme will enable you to:

- recognise your own personal qualities and abilities
- choose what topics you like to learn about
- explore new activities and become more confident in trying new things
- develop skills that will be invaluable when you start work and begin living independently
- record your achievements in and outside of education

How will I be assessed?

You are accredited with a Bronze, Silver or Gold award through complete the specified hours of challenges through different modules that you will study. There is no final examination and practical evidence is assessed to determine the level of award.

What career can this lead to?

Being confident and self-sufficient in the next stage of life. Develop a broad understanding of skills and application of daily challenges and barriers that you will need to safely overcome.

Construction (off site)

What will I study?

Designed for learners wishing to gain an introduction to a chosen vocation area. The Award offers the opportunity for learners to study a sector unit and plan for their next steps by completing the mandatory unit: Developing a Personal Progression Plan.

What skills will I develop?

Knowledge of a broad range of construction skills and application that will be the best insight into early career pathways in construction.

No prior knowledge, understanding, skills or qualifications are required before learners can register for this qualification.

How will I be assessed?

Completion of this Certificate Qualification will support the learner's progression into Foundation Learning (Level 1) or High (Level 2) Diploma. It can also supplement their progress to GCSEs and other appropriate destinations, such as apprenticeships and employment.

What career can this lead to?

It can support their progress to a Pearson *BTEC Level 1 Award introductory Certificate in Construction* and also supplement their progress to GCSEs and other appropriate destinations, such as apprenticeships and employment.

Mechanics (off site)

What will I study?

This qualification consists of a combination of units from:

- Health and Safety practices
- Foundation skills
- Automotive Maintenance

With such a variety of units, learners can get a real taste for developing their knowledge and skills onto further studies in their main area of interest.

What skills will I develop?

Knowledge of a broad range of mechanics skills and application that will be the best insight into early career pathways in mechanics.

How will I be assessed?

Completion of this Certificate Qualification will support the learner's progression into Foundation Learning (Level 1) or High (Level 2) Diploma. It can also supplement their progress to GCSEs and other appropriate destinations, such as apprenticeships and employment.

What career can this lead to?

The Award is ideal for those Learners who wish to undertake a qualification which provides a steppingstone to the IMI Level 1 Certificate in Automotive Maintenance.