



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

Key Stage 4

Curriculum

Handbook

The Options Process

This handbook is intended to provide you with all the essential information about our curriculum offer at Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and Year 11) as well as outlining the options process.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum aims to provide all pupils with a broad and balanced range of subjects, through the study of which pupils will acquire the knowledge and develop the skills they need to succeed; both in their GCSEs and in whatever they choose to do beyond Y11.

Core subjects

All Y10 and Y11 students are required to study these **non-optional** subjects:

Subject:
GCSE English Language & GCSE English Literature [2x GCSEs]
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Combined Science Trilogy [2x GCSE's]
Core PE
Core Personal Development <i>This includes Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE); Careers and Finance Education along with core Religious Education. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a work experience placement in the Summer term of Y10.</i>

Guided Option

Students are required to **choose one** subject from the following list:

GCSE History
GCSE Geography
GCSE French
GCSE Spanish

Free Choice Options

Students are required to choose **any three subjects** and **a reserve** from the following list:

GCSE Art and Design
GCSE Art and Design (Photography)
GCSE Business Studies
GCSE Computer Science
GCSE Design Technology

GCSE Drama
Level 1 /2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering
GCSE French (<i>if not Guided Option choice</i>)
GCSE Geography (<i>if not Guided Option choice</i>)
GCSE History (<i>if not Guided Option choice</i>)
BTEC Level 1/2 in Health and Social Care
BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice
GCSE PE
GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple Science)
GCSE Spanish (<i>if not Guided Option choice</i>)

The first part of the ‘Options Process’ is to indicate subjects your child is interested in. The ‘Preference Survey’ needs to be completed on the **‘My Child at School’ App** by **Friday 6th November**.

Please note that these are ***not*** final choices. Instead, the preference survey enables us to construct option blocks within the timetable that ensure the lowest possible disappointment factor—i.e., that enable as many students as possible to take their preferred combination of subjects.

There will be further events in the Spring Term to help guide you through this process.

- Thursday 28th January - Year 9 Parents’ Evening
- Thursday 11th February - Year 9 Options Evening

Please note that timetabling constraints mean that we cannot guarantee to accommodate the individual options requests of every student. We will contact parents where this is an issue, or where we feel that course choices are inappropriate for an individual student, given their academic profile.

Please be aware that, as we design our timetable in response to curriculum choices, we are unlikely to be able to accommodate late changes. We also reserve the right to not run courses in circumstances where low uptake makes them economically unviable to run.

If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Mr R. Battle

r.battle@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

[CORE] GCSE English Language

Awarding Body: EDUQAS

Staff contact: Mr C Webb-Cook [Director of English] c.webb-cook@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE English Language:	This is taught in Year 10 and 11 and assessed at the end of the year.	
Who might enjoy this course?	English is a core subject that all students take.	
What will I study?	The two papers are made up as follows:	
Exams	Paper 1 Section A: Unseen modern Fiction • An extract from a modern fiction text of approx. 650 words. • Students will be required to answer short comprehension-style questions which focus on close reading of the text and longer response questions to show their understanding of the whole text. Section B: Creative Writing • Students will have a choice of four tasks linked to the theme of the text in Section A. • Assessed for writing for audience, purpose, tone and style as well as spelling, punctuation and grammar. Spoken Language Endorsement: • Presenting, listening to questions and responding and the use of standard English. • Teacher set and assessed. • Separate endorsement reported as a separate line on the certificate. Not included in the GCSE grade.	Paper 2 Section A: Comparison of two unseen texts, one 19th Century and one modern. • Both will be non-fiction extracts. • Extracts will be up to 1,000 words in total. • Shorter response questions will focus on the close reading of the individual texts; a longer response question will ask students to compare the writers' use of language. Section B: Transactional Writing • Two short writing tasks linked to the theme of Section A. • Choice of newspaper article, letter etc. • Assessed for writing for audience, purpose, tone and style as well as spelling, punctuation and grammar.
What could I do next with GCSE English Language?	English is a vital GCSE to have; it is a passport to further education and in all aspects of the world of work. Potential careers include English as a Foreign Language Teacher, Secondary/Primary Teaching, Copywriter, Proof-reader, Lexicographer, Media researcher, Advertising, Editorial assistant, Web content manager.	

[CORE] GCSE English Literature

Awarding Body: EDUQAS

Staff contact: Mr C Webb-Cook [Director of English] c.webb-cook@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE English Literature?	English Literature focuses on the study of a variety of literary texts.	
Who might enjoy this course?	English Literature is studied by all pupils as it complements the English Language course and many of the skills overlap. There is a high success level in examinations.	
What will I study?	The course begins in Year 10 and is assessed at the end of Year 11 by two examinations. The two papers are made up as follows:	
Exams	Paper 1 Section A: Shakespeare – Macbeth • Two questions – one based on an extract of approx. 30 lines and one essay on the whole play. Section B: Poetry Anthology (provided by EDUQAS) • Two questions - one analysing a poem that has been studied and one comparing this poem to another from the anthology.	Paper 2 Section A: Post-1914 British drama – An Inspector Calls • One question - students are given an extract from the play to analyse and then must range to other points in the play. Section B: 19th Century Fiction – A Christmas Carol • One question - students are given an extract from the novel to analyse and then must range to other points in the novel. Section C: Unseen poetry • Two questions - Students are given two poems. They analyse one closely and then have to compare the two poems.
What could I do next with GCSE English Literature?	Progress to study a combined English Language / Literature A Level or individual Language or Literature courses, with a view to accessing further education to study syllabi such as English and Media. Potential careers include Librarian, Teaching, Digital copywriter, English as a Foreign Language Teacher, Journalism (including sports, fashion etc.) Lexicographer, Proof-reader.	
Skills developed	You will develop the ability to work independently, plan and research written work, articulate knowledge and understanding of texts plus hone analytical skills, time management and organisational skills.	

[CORE] GCSE Mathematics

Awarding Body: Pearson Edexcel

Staff contact: Mr Creed (Head of Maths) m.creed@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Maths:	You have to study Using and Applying Mathematics, Number and Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data. You will investigate the application of these in real life contexts and look for interconnecting patterns between them. You will strengthen your numeracy, calculating skills and mathematical thinking as you understand better how mathematics is a present reality in all daily life.		
Who might enjoy this course?	There is a satisfaction that only Mathematics can give, particularly when you have worked hard to understand a topic that you initially found difficult! You are required to take this course because a solid understanding of the subject will not only help prepare you for later life but will also be highly valued by potential employers.		
What will I study?	There are 2 tiers of Mathematics, Higher and Foundation. Both tiers will be assessed at the end of the course through 3 exam papers.		
Exams	Exam 1: 33.3% Paper 1 Non-Calculator Written paper with a range of question types. 1 hour and 30 minutes	Exam 2: 33.3% Paper 2 Calculator Project Written paper with a range of question types. 1 hour and 30 minutes	Exam 3: 33.3% Paper 3 Calculator Written paper with a range of question types. 1 hour and 30 minutes
What could I do next with GCSE Maths?	A high grade in GCSE will entitle you to continue to study Mathematics at A-Level where you will deepen and enrich your understanding of the subject. Most employers have a high regard for Mathematics and there is a similarly high regard for the subject in Post-16 study.		
Skills developed	Resilience, critical thinking, problem solving, analytical thinking, quantitative reasoning and time management skills.		

[CORE] GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

Awarding Body: AQA

Staff contact: Mr J. Allen [Head of Science] j.allen@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy:	In Year 10 all students study GCSE Science. Students can either follow the combined course pathway or specialise further by opting for GCSE separate sciences. Students that do the combined science course will learn all 3 sciences but gain 2 GCSEs overall. Separate science students will gain 3 GCSE grades, one for each science. (More details in the next section).		
What will I study?	<u>Biology</u> Paper 1 topics: 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics Paper 2 topics: 1. Homeostasis and response 2. Inheritance, variation and evolution 3. Ecology	<u>Chemistry</u> Paper 1 topics: 1. Atomic structure & the periodic table 2. Structure & bonding 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes & energy changes Paper 2 topics: 1. The rate and extent of chemical change 2. Organic chemistry 3. Chemistry of the atmosphere 4. Using resources	<u>Physics</u> Paper 1 topics: 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure Paper 2 topics: 1. Forces 2. Waves 3. Magnetism & Electromagnetism
Exams?	GCSE science is assessed using 100% exams. Students sit 6 papers: 2 for Biology, 2 for Chemistry and 2 for Physics (75 minutes each). Students can be entered for foundation or higher entry tiers.		
What could I do next with GCSE Combined Science Trilogy?	GCSE Science can lead to a huge range of employment opportunities both locally and internationally. Students have secured careers in the medical profession, engineering, pharmaceuticals, marine sciences and the energy industry to name a few. Most colleges and 6th forms require 6-6 grade to access A levels. Some BTEC courses in science require a 5-5 grade. Many apprenticeships starting at age 16 value the skills developed in the GCSE science course.		
Skills Developed	GCSE Science allows students to explore the field of science in greater depth, to develop investigation skills further, evaluate and analyse data and make connections between topics in the curriculum.		

[OPTION] GCSE Art & Design

Awarding Body: Eduqas

Staff contact: Mr P. Calvesbert-Rearden [Head of Art]

p.calvesbert-rearden@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Art & Design?	You will be assessed on how well you: - o Creatively generate individual work independently - o Refine, modify and adapt ideas to overcome problems as your work progresses - o Study the work of artists, craftspeople and designers - o Develop your skills, experimenting with different materials, techniques and processes - o Draw and record from observation - o Complete finished pieces of work.
Who might enjoy this course?	If you're a creative, ideas person and you like working hard to make things that are visually appealing, exciting, individual and sometimes challenging or odd, GCSE in Art & Design is the course for you!
What will I study? Exams	The GCSE course is made up of two parts. Component One is your Personal Portfolio (60% of your final grade). This is a body of work that you build up throughout Year 10 and the beginning of Year 11. In this you will be guided to follow your own ideas in a wide range of personally explored pieces. Component Two is your Externally Set Assignment (40% of your final grade) In January of Year 11 the exam board will send out a range of themes for you to select from, to then creatively develop a personal response. You will have a full term to develop ideas which you will finish at the end of the year by making an outcome over a 10-hour period. The work you will make for your portfolio and your externally set assignment may consist of: drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, illustration/graphics, textiles and digital work.

What could I do next with GCSE Art & Design?	After Year 11, you may want to progress to Art and Design based courses at 6th Form or College or an apprenticeship. Studying GCSE Art and Design can open up a world of creative and dynamic career possibilities for students with a passion for visual expression. Beyond traditional roles such as fine artists and illustrators, it provides a strong foundation for careers in graphic design, fashion design, architecture, interior design, and animation. Students may also explore opportunities in photography, product design, advertising, or digital media, where creativity is highly sought after. The skills developed—such as visual communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving—are transferable across many industries, including marketing and education. With further study, students can thrive in the ever-evolving creative industries, contributing to visual culture and innovative design solutions.
Skills developed	Many employers want to recruit people who are lateral thinkers and creative problem-solvers - natural qualities of artists and designers. Whether you're designing ships as a naval architect or creating cutting edge art as a fine artist, the one thing that all these careers have in common is creativity.

[OPTION] GCSE Art & Design (Photography)

Awarding Body: Eduqas

Staff contact: Mr P. Calvesbert-Rearden [Head of Art]

p.calvesbert-rearden@aldevally.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Art & Design?	You will be assessed on how well you: 1) Creatively generate individual photographic work independently 2) Refine, modify and adapt ideas through planning, shooting and editing 3) Study the work of photographers and lens-based artists 4) Develop skills by experimenting with cameras, lighting, composition and digital processes 5) Record observations through photography, drawing and annotation 6) Produce finished photographic outcomes
Who might enjoy this course?	If you're a creative and visually curious person who enjoys using cameras, phones and digital tools to explore ideas, experiment with images and develop personal responses, and enjoy producing extended coursework projects, GCSE Photography is the course for you.
What will I study? Exams	The GCSE course is made up of two parts. Component One is your Personal Portfolio (60% of your final grade). This is a body of work that you build up throughout Year 10 and the beginning of Year 11. In this you will be guided to follow your own ideas in a wide range of personally explored pieces. Component Two is your Externally Set Assignment (40% of your final grade) In January of Year 11 the exam board will send out a range of themes for you to select from, to then creatively develop a personal response. You will have a full term to develop ideas which you will finish at the end of the year by making an outcome over a 10-hour period. The work you will make for your portfolio and your externally set assignment may consist of: photography, film, web-based and digital work.
What could I do next with GCSE Art & Design?	After Year 11, you may want to progress to Photography, Art & Design or Creative Media courses at 6th Form or College or an apprenticeship. Studying GCSE Photography can open up a world of creative and dynamic career possibilities for students with a passion for visual expression. Beyond traditional roles such as commercial photography, it supports careers in graphic design, advertising, media production, fashion, marketing and digital content creation, where creativity is highly sought after. The skills developed—such as visual communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving—are transferable across many industries, including marketing and education. With further study, students can thrive in the ever-evolving creative industries, contributing to visual culture and innovative design solutions.
Skills developed	Photography develops creativity, visual communication, problem-solving, technical and digital skills. These transferable skills are valued across a wide range of creative and non-creative careers.

[OPTION] GCSE Business Studies

Awarding Body: Pearson Edexcel (1BSO)

Staff contact: Mr D. Neill [Head of Business & Computing] d.neill@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Business Studies?	In GCSE Business you will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of business concepts and issues. You will apply knowledge and understanding of business concepts and issues to a variety of contexts both locally and nationally. You will also analyse and evaluate business information and issues to demonstrate an understanding of business activity, make judgements and draw conclusions
Who might enjoy this course?	Anyone with a keen interest in the local and indeed wider area. The course focuses on looking at key business concepts and issues concerning the activities of a business. It also explores Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. It would also appeal to anyone who is considering going into business for themselves.
What will I study?	There are two themes (units) for this GCSE which will both be examined at the end of the course in 2 exam papers Theme 1 – Investigating Small Business (50% of final grade) In this theme you will look at 5 key areas: Topic 1 – Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Topic 2 – Spotting a Business Opportunity Topic 3 – Putting a Business Idea into Practice Topic 4 – Making the Business Effective Topic 5 – Understanding External Influences. Theme 2 – Building a Business (50% of final grade) In this theme you will look at 5 key areas: Topic 1 – Growing the Business Topic 2 – Making Marketing Decisions Topic 3 – Making Operational Decisions Topic 4 – Making Financial Decisions Topic 5 – Making Human Resource Decisions
What could I do next with GCSE Business Studies?	Progress to AS and A Level Business at 6th Form. You could also progress to further Business courses at college. Potential careers include: Running your own business, Supply Chain Manager, Advertising, Production, Marketing, Accounts, Finance, Management or Administration.
Skills Developed	You will develop analytical skills, problem-solving skills, critical-thinking skills and resilience.

[OPTION] GCSE Computer Science

Awarding Body: OCR J277

Staff contact: Mr D. Neill [Head of Business & Computing] d.neill@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Computer Science?	Computer Science allows you to understand and apply the underlying fundamental principles and concept around Computer Science. You analyse problems in computational terms via problem solving projects. You will also understand the components that make up current digital systems and how they communicate with each other, as well as their impact on individuals and wider society. You will also apply relevant mathematical skills within the course as well.
Who might enjoy this course?	Anyone with a keen interest in the technical use of computers and how they work. You must also have an aptitude for planning and writing your own computer programs.
What will I study?	Component 01: Computer systems Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science. Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators. Practical programming Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).
What could I do next with GCSE Computer Science?	Progress to AS and A Level Computing at 6th Form. You could also progress to further courses at college. Potential careers include: Web Designer, Computer Games Developer, Software Developer, Network Engineer, Systems Analyst, Network Manager, Database Administrator, Archivist, Cartographer, Information Scientist, IT Support, Media Researcher, Data Entry Clerk, Technical Author, Security Service personnel
Skills Developed	You will develop analytical skills, problem-solving skills, critical-thinking skills and resilience.

[OPTION] GCSE Design & Technology

Awarding Body: Eduqas

Staff contact: Ms. V. Gibson [Head of Design & Technology]

v.gibson@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Design and Technology?	GCSE Design & Technology is an exciting and creative course that combines theory and practical work to help you develop design and problem-solving skills. Throughout the course, you will explore how products are designed, developed, and manufactured.
Who might enjoy this course?	This course is perfect for students who enjoy working with their hands and have an interest in how things are made. If you like to solve practical problems, think creatively, and work on projects that require both design and technical skills, this course is for you. It is also ideal for students who have an interest in engineering, architecture, product design, or any other field that involves making and improving products. GCSE Design & Technology offers a great way to develop skills that will be useful in both further education and in the workplace.
What will I study?	Core Knowledge and Understanding –This section is designed to develop learners’ knowledge and understanding in design and technology and its impact on daily life. Learners should develop a broad understanding of materials, systems and processes and have the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding from other subject areas including mathematics and science. Core knowledge and understanding is presented in five clear and distinct topic areas: ● design and technology and our world ● smart materials ● electronic systems and programmable components ● mechanical components and devices ● materials Learners are required to study all of the content in these five areas, to ensure they have a broad knowledge and understanding of design and technology and that they are able to make effective choices in relation to which materials, components and systems to utilise within design and make activities.

	In-depth knowledge and understanding is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas: • electronic systems, programmable components & mechanical devices • papers & boards • natural & manufactured timber • ferrous & non-ferrous metals • thermoforming & thermosetting polymers • fibres & textiles Learners are required to study at least one of these six areas, to ensure they have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of a specific material area and/or components and systems to support their design and make activities. Designing and Making Principles –This section is designed to develop learners' knowledge, understanding and skills when designing and making prototypes.
	Written exam (50% of the final grade) Non-Exam Assessment (50% of the final grade)
What could I do next with GCSE Design and Technology?	Further education would lead to A-Level Product Design, Level 3 Engineering or construction courses or apprenticeships with a trade/engineering route. This course would develop skills useful for many different career paths such as; engineering, product design, product development, architecture, carpentry, electrical and mechanical trades.
Skills developed	Identifying and investigating design possibilities, producing a design brief and specification, generating design ideas, developing design ideas, realising design ideas and analysing & evaluating. You will also develop a variety of hands-on and practical skills such as operating and using machinery including CAD/CAM and hand tools.

[OPTION] GCSE Drama

Awarding Body: AQA

Staff contact: Miss Sorrel Grundy - Head of Performing Arts

s.grundy@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Drama:	Drama is a practical and creative course which explores performance skills, script analysis and the creation of original work. You look at both performance and technical/design roles in the theatre, with the opportunity to focus on either.
Who might enjoy this course?	GCSE Drama is well-suited to a variety of students, particularly those who enjoy creative expression and collaboration. Students who have a passion for either performing or the design aspects of theatre. Those who appreciate analysing scripts, characters and theatrical techniques as well as critiquing live performance. Those who want to practically explore many styles of drama and expand their own repertoire.
What will I study? Exams	In AQA GCSE Drama, you will explore a variety of practical and theoretical aspects of drama. The course is made up of three components: <u>Component 1</u>, Understanding Drama (40% of your final grade), which covers the study of a set play and the analysis of live theatre performances. <u>Component 2</u>, Devising Drama (40%), you will work collaboratively with your peers to create an original piece of drama, demonstrating your creativity, skills in performance, and ability to reflect critically on your work. <u>Component 3</u>, Text in Performance (20%), focuses on performing a scripted extract or a monologue. GCSE Drama offers students the opportunity to specialise in various theatrical roles, allowing them to showcase their talents and creative skills. Acting is a popular option, where students can perform scripted pieces, demonstrating character development and stage presence. For those interested in the technical and creative aspects of theatre production, design options are available, such as costume, set, sound, and lighting design, where students craft imaginative visual elements to enhance performances. These diverse options enable students to explore different facets of theatre, developing specialised skills that can lead to further study or creative careers in the performing arts industry.
What could I do next with GCSE Drama?	After your course, you may wish to progress to Drama-based courses at 6 th Form or College or an apprenticeship. Potential careers this course could lead to include: Actor, Community Arts Worker, Dancer, Drama Therapist, Theatre Director, Arts administrator, Broadcast presenter, Film Director, Theatre Stage Manager, Designers
Skills developed	The course aims to create independent thinkers with skills in collaboration, creativity, empathy, communication, time management, problem solving, planning and organising, analysis, critical thinking and research.

[OPTION] GCSE French

Awarding Body: AQA

Staff contact: Mrs J. Thompson [Head of Modern Languages]

j.thompson@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What will I study?	Building on the work undertaken in year 9, students will continue to develop the four core skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. The GCSE French course is organised into 3 engaging and relatable themes, which are relevant to students' current and future needs. Theme 1: People and lifestyle Unit 1: Identity and relationships Unit 2: Healthy living Unit 3: Education and work Theme 2: Popular culture Unit 4: Free-time activities Unit 5: Customs, festivals and celebrations Unit 6: Celebrity culture Theme 3: Communication and the world around us Unit 7: Travel and tourism Unit 8: Media and technology Unit 9: The environment and where I live The teaching style retains a communicative methodology, emphasising the importance of understanding and communicating in everyday situations. A sound knowledge of French grammar is required for success at GCSE so grammar teaching is an integral part of the course, giving students the tools to manipulate the language and have greater creativity when communicating in French. We also continue to explore the French speaking world, deepening students' understanding of the world and other cultures.
Exams	Paper 1: Listening (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to understand and respond to different types of spoken language. Paper 2: Speaking (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. The exam will be taken with your classroom teacher and will include a role-play, a photo card stimulus. You will be given preparation time after having seen the roleplay and photocard. Paper 3: Reading (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to understand and respond to different types of written language. There will also be a translation text from French to English. Paper 4: Writing (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. The writing exam

	will include a number of tasks, ranging from writing a short message to an opening ended writing task of 150 words. There will also be a translation text from English to French.
What could I do next with French?	In today's global economy, speaking more than one language is a skill that employers are looking for in hundreds of different careers. Foreign language skills will enhance your opportunities in fields such as business, computing, marketing, science, medicine, law, technology and industry. Speaking French can also be a significant career advantage if you want to progress at Sizewell, for example, particularly with the development of Sizewell C. While the day-to-day operations on-site in Suffolk are conducted in English, Sizewell C is in direct collaboration with EDF in France as it is the lead developer. Learning a foreign language also improves your communication skills and confidence and can open up a whole new world for you. Continuing a language to GCSE level will help you to understand how a language works, support your literacy skills in English and give you an insight into the culture of the country. It can also open doors to a wider choice of university courses, provide you with a great bonus for a Travel and Tourism course or enable you to work abroad in the future, either later in life or as part of a gap year in Europe. For some university degrees, a GCSE language qualification is a requirement. And once you have developed the skills to learn one language, you'll find that it is easier to learn another – perhaps Chinese, Mandarin, Japanese or Arabic. The choice is yours!
Skills developed	Listening skills, communication skills, problem solving, creativity, lateral thinking and tolerance of other people and cultures.

[OPTION] Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

Awarding Body: Eduqas

Staff contact: Ms. V. Gibson [Head of Design & Technology)

v.gibson@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering?	The Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is a dynamic and hands-on course that equips you with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about food and nutrition. Unit 1 enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety. Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.
Who might enjoy this course?	This course is ideal for students who have an interest in cooking, nutrition, and understanding the role food plays in our lives. Whether you love experimenting with recipes, are curious about healthy eating, or want to learn more about how to manage food in everyday life, this course offers something for everyone. It's particularly suited for those who are practical learners and enjoy working with food, but it also challenges you to think critically about the wider issues related to food and health.
What will I study?	Unit 1 - In this unit learners will gain a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety. Topics include; • Hospitality and catering provision • How hospitality and catering providers operate • Health and safety in hospitality and catering • Food safety in hospitality and catering Unit 2 - In this unit learners will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn

	the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively. This unit is synoptic and draws upon the knowledge gained in Unit 1. Learners will need to apply knowledge gained in the following topic areas in order to be able to complete this assessment: • the operation of the front and back of house • hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements • health and safety in hospitality and catering provision • food safety • preventative control measures of food-induced ill health.
Exams	Written exam (40% of the final grade) Non-Exam Assessment (60% of the final grade)
What could I do next with a Hospitality and Catering qualification?	Career opportunities in the food industry are vast, ranging from roles in nutrition, food safety, restaurant management, product development, and food marketing. This course also provides valuable life skills, such as the ability to prepare healthy meals and make informed decisions about food, which can be beneficial in both personal and professional life.
Skills developed	Good health and safety practises relating to food, nutrition, and the cooking environment. How to explore recipe development and how recipes can be adapted. Understand how to cater for people with specific dietary requirements. Evaluation and reflection on how to improve completed dishes and hands -on practical skills and techniques needed to create recipes and dishes.

[OPTION] GCSE Geography

Awarding Body: AQA

Staff contact: Mr J MacRae [Head of Humanities] j.macrae@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Geography all about?	GCSE Geography covers traditional physical geography through topics such as coasts, rivers, earthquakes & rainforests as well as a more modern approach to human geography through studying our changing urban world, development issues & resources. Candidates are also required to participate in two geographical field trips.
What will I study?	• The challenge of natural hazards • Physical landscapes in the UK • The living world • Urban issues and challenges • The changing economic world • The challenge of resource management Geographical & mathematical skills are embedded throughout the course. These include working with OS map skills, graphical skills & numeracy.
Exams	GCSE Geography is a linear qualification. This means that you will sit all 3 exams at the end of the course in Year 11 and will be graded 1-9. Fieldwork is a compulsory component of this course. <u>Paper 1 is a written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35% weighting)</u> <u>Paper 2 is a written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35% weighting)</u> <u>Paper 3 is a written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (30% weighting)</u> Prior to this paper you are required to conduct 2 field geographical trips: one focussing on physical geography and another with a focus on urban issues. You will then have to answer questions on these trips in your Paper 3 exam. You will also have to complete a section on a geographical issue using pre-release materials you will have access to 12 weeks before the exam.
What could I do next with Geography?	This qualification opens up many potential career pathways, both in the private & public sector, including local government & the Environment agency, conservation work, areas of tourism, transport planning and of course teaching. GCSE Geography can also be a gateway to studying the subject further at college, A Level and then on to degree level should you wish.
Skills developed	Geography is for any young person who takes an interest in the world they are growing up in. It is a recognised academic qualification that will help you develop vital skills such as communication, analytical and problem solving. All of which are useful in a wide range of jobs.

[OPTION] BTEC Level 1/2 in Health & Social Care

Awarding Body: Pearson Edexcel

Staff contact: Mrs. S. Daley [Head of Physical Education / Health & Social Care]

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What is BTEC Level 1/2 in Health and Social Care	The award gives you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on three areas: • Skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing. • Attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them. • Knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.
Who might enjoy this course?	This course is suited to those who are interested in a career in nursing, midwifery or working with early years or the elderly.
What will I study? Exams	The course consists of three separate components: 7) Human Lifespan Development (2 assignments that are internally assessed) 8) Health and Social Care Services and Values (2 assignments that are internally assessed) 9) Health and Wellbeing (1 controlled assessment, externally set and marked)
What could I do next with GCSE Health and Social Care?	If you succeed in Health and Social Care you can progress to a Health and Social Care Level 3 course or a range of other subjects at 6th Form or College or an apprenticeship. This course can lead to careers in a wide range of roles including Social Work, Nursery Nurse, Child Minder, Youth Work, Nursing and the Allied Health professions, Occupational Therapist, Medical technician, Health Care Assistant, Community Support and Outreach worker.

Skills developed	You will develop the ability to analyse and critically evaluate information, communicate effectively with individuals, groups and organisations and produce accurate records and make informed decisions.
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[OPTION] GCSE History

Awarding Body: Pearson Edexcel

Staff contact: Mr J MacRae [Head of Humanities] j.macrae@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

Who might enjoy this course ?	If you have a keen interest in how the past has impacted the world we live in today, you will enjoy this course. There are key terms that you will need to master, dates that you will need to memorise, and a lot of content to understand: History is a demanding course but highly rewarding for those with interest and commitment. Studying History encourages you to produce strong and reasoned arguments, based on the evaluation of evidence. You will find that you become more critical of arguments, politically aware and self-confident in framing and expressing your own views. These skills are for life.
What will I study ? Exam s	British depth study: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88. This will focus on the religious tensions at the start of her reign, focusing on Mary Queen of Scots and the Spanish Armada. Modern depth study: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39. The fall of the Weimar Republic and the rise of the Nazi Party into power. Interpretations of life in Nazi Germany will also be studied Period study: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91. This unit focuses on the rise in tension between the great powers, key crisis and the ending of the Cold War. Thematic study: Migrants in Britain, c800–present and historic environment: Notting Hill, c1948–c1970. This is a study over 1000 years. One of the main themes spanning the period will be the experience and impact of migrants in Britain. There are three exams at the end of Y11: Paper 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes (30% weighting) Paper 2: Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes (40% weighting) Paper 3: Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes (30% weighting)
What could I do next with	The world is changing fast and it can be scary. However, having an interest in the past can help us identify trends and patterns that our world might be going in. Students can progress into A Level History from here. Then onwards into some fantastic and exciting careers using your knowledge, such as: Archaeology, Journalism, Civil Service, Law, Teaching, Politics

History?	and many more!
Skills developed	You will become a very well-equipped student in the skills needed for life and work in the 21st Century. Your ability to question sources will help you make informed judgements in life. You'll become more confident in forming & communicating an argument with strong evidence and explanation. You will become better at understanding a lot of information quickly being able to select what is important. These skills will equip you for all areas of working life.

[OPTION] BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Staff contact: Miss Grundy (Head of Performing Arts)

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What is GCSE Music?	Music is a deeply rewarding subject to study; a unique form of communication that can change the way people feel, think and act. Music forms part of an individual's identity and brings together intellect, feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. An integral part of culture, past and present, music helps us understand ourselves, relate to others and develop a sense of cultural awareness.
Who might enjoy this course?	The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance and music production, using realistic vocational contexts, and their personal skills, such as self-development, responding to a brief, planning and time management through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment
What will I study?	● Component 1 - Exploring Music Products and Styles (30% weighting) - Internally Assessed Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles. You will also practically explore the key features of different styles of music and music theory and apply your knowledge and understanding to developing your own creative work ● Component 2 - Music Skills Development (30% weighting) - Internally Assessed Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement. You will learn how musicians share their work and collaborate with others, and will develop your skills as a musician in how to use blogs, YouTube™, Soundcloud™ and other platforms to share your work and skills development with others. ● Component 3 - Responding to a Music Brief (40% weighting) - Externally Assessed

	Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief. You will focus on a particular area of the music sector that excites and appeals to you and respond to a music brief as a composer, performer or producer.
What could I do next with GCSE Music?	If you are thinking of working in a creative industry or simply would like to have a rounded, balanced education, then BTEC Music is for you. Music is held in high regard by employers and higher education providers because they recognise that musicians are creative, organised and tenacious. They are focused, good at problem solving, independent, team players and are able to focus on the finer details. Studying BTEC music could open careers in performance, broadcasting, film, education, music therapy, events management, music production and publishing.
Skills developed	Studying BTEC Music helps you develop a wide range of transferable skills that will benefit you in many areas of life. As you learn to perform, compose, and analyse music, you will enhance your creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Whether you play an instrument, sing, or use music technology, you will improve your technical skills and your ability to interpret and express ideas musically. Through both individual and group work, you will also build valuable teamwork, communication, and time-management skills. Music encourages discipline, perseverance, and attention to detail, all of which are useful in other academic subjects and future careers. Additionally, the ability to analyse, collaborate, and creatively express yourself will prepare you for success in a wide variety of fields, from the arts to business and beyond.

[OPTION] GCSE Physical Education

Awarding Body: OCR

Staff contact: Mrs. S. Daley [Head of Physical Education / Health & Social Care]
s.daley@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

Who might enjoy this course?	Students who feel successful in different aspects of PE on a practical level. Students who are interested in the anatomy and psychology of sport and who will enjoy the implications of sport on the fitness, health and well-being on themselves and on society.									
What will I study?	You will participate in and study all of the practical activities below in school time and we will submit your best three scores from your practical assessments. Students will be expected to attend the clubs appropriate to their preferred sports to enhance their experience and performance. <table><tr><td>Netball</td><td>Football</td><td>Rugby Union</td></tr><tr><td>Dance</td><td>Tennis</td><td>Athletics</td></tr><tr><td>Badminton</td><td>Swimming</td><td>Trampolining</td></tr></table> Students who perform to a high level through personal club time may also submit video evidence in any of the following: Boxing, Golf, Equestrian, Skiing. This will be done in conjunction with the PE department to ensure the criteria for assessment is met. Analysis of one of the 3 sports submitted is worth 30% of the final practical assessment. The final 10% of the practical grade will come from controlled coursework which is based upon analysis of either your own or another's performance in a self-selected sport.	Netball	Football	Rugby Union	Dance	Tennis	Athletics	Badminton	Swimming	Trampolining
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Dance	Tennis	Athletics								
Badminton	Swimming	Trampolining								
Exams	This is worth 60% of the final grade: Paper 1 - Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis & physical training Paper 2 - Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, health fitness and well being There will be data work across both papers									
What could I do next with PE GCSE?	If you succeed in your PE GCSE, you can progress to Sports based courses and a range of other subjects at 6th Form or College or an apprenticeship. Potential careers this course can lead to include Sports Science, Personal Trainer, Diet and fitness instruction, Sports policy and Development, Physiotherapist, PE Teacher, Sports Psychologist, Professional Sportsperson.									
Skills developed	You will develop strong communication skills, leadership skills, team working, organisational skills, analytical skills and the ability to evaluate your own progress, plus physical fitness of course.									

[OPTION] GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple Science)

Awarding Body: AQA

Staff contact: Mr J Allen [Head of Science] j.allen@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk

What is GCSE Separate Sciences?	This course is designed for students who have a passion for science. Students who opt for the course should ideally be already considering a career in science, particularly more traditional roles, such as doctors and veterinary surgeons. This course is taught as one of the options allowing an additional 4 lessons a fortnight on top of the 8 lessons to cover the combined science course. The topics are the same as combined science but are more academically challenging in terms of detail and application of knowledge. At the end of the course, students will receive 3x GCSE grades - 1x for Biology, 1x for Chemistry & 1x for Physics. One extra topic is taught in the Physics curriculum which is Space. The extra content is shown below for each science. This course is recommended for students that are currently working at or are very close to gaining a grade 6. Students that may not currently be working at/near a grade 6 are welcome to sit an entry assessment to help make the right decision.											
What will I study?	<table><tr><th><u>Biology</u></th><th><u>Chemistry</u></th><th><u>Physics</u></th></tr><tr><td>Paper 1 topics as well as combined content: 1. Monoclonal antibodies 2. Plant diseases and defence </td><td>Paper 1 topics as well as combined content: 1. Transition metals 2. Nanoparticles 3. More quantitative chemistry 4. Titration 5. Fuel cells & batteries </td><td>Paper 1 topics as well as combined content: 1. Electric fields & static electricity 2. Fission & fusion </td></tr><tr><td>Paper 2 topics as well as combined content: 1. Structure & function of the brain, eye & kidneys 2. Plant growth & hormones 3. Protein synthesis 4. Speciation & evolution 5. Food security & biotechnology </td><td>Paper 2 topics as well as combined content: 1. Chemical Analysis & instrumental methods 2. Corrosion 3. Making fertilisers 4. Formulations </td><td>Paper 2 topics as well as combined content: 1. Space 2. Applications of waves 3. Applications of electromagnetism 4. Applications of forces </td></tr></table>			<u>Biology</u>	<u>Chemistry</u>	<u>Physics</u>	Paper 1 topics as well as combined content: 1. Monoclonal antibodies 2. Plant diseases and defence	Paper 1 topics as well as combined content: 1. Transition metals 2. Nanoparticles 3. More quantitative chemistry 4. Titration 5. Fuel cells & batteries	Paper 1 topics as well as combined content: 1. Electric fields & static electricity 2. Fission & fusion	Paper 2 topics as well as combined content: 1. Structure & function of the brain, eye & kidneys 2. Plant growth & hormones 3. Protein synthesis 4. Speciation & evolution 5. Food security & biotechnology	Paper 2 topics as well as combined content: 1. Chemical Analysis & instrumental methods 2. Corrosion 3. Making fertilisers 4. Formulations	Paper 2 topics as well as combined content: 1. Space 2. Applications of waves 3. Applications of electromagnetism 4. Applications of forces
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Exams	GCSE science is assessed using 100% exams. Students sit 6 papers: 2 for Biology, 2 for Chemistry and 2 for Physics (105 minutes each).											

[OPTION] GCSE Spanish

Awarding Body: AQA

Staff contact: Mrs J. Thompson [Head of Modern Languages]

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What will I study?	Building on the work undertaken in year 9, students will continue to develop the four core skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. The GCSE Spanish course is organised into 3 engaging and relatable themes, which are relevant to students' current and future needs. Theme 1: People and lifestyle Unit 1: Identity and relationships Unit 2: Healthy living Unit 3: Education and work Theme 2: Popular culture Unit 4: Free-time activities Unit 5: Customs, festivals and celebrations Unit 6: Celebrity culture Theme 3: Communication and the world around us Unit 7: Travel and tourism Unit 8: Media and technology Unit 9: The environment and where I live The teaching style retains a communicative methodology, emphasising the importance of understanding and communicating in everyday situations. A sound knowledge of Spanish grammar is required for success at GCSE so grammar teaching is an integral part of the course, giving students the tools to manipulate the language and have greater creativity when communicating in Spanish. We also continue to explore the Hispanic world, deepening students' understanding of the world and other cultures.
Exams	Paper 1: Listening (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to understand and respond to different types of spoken language. Paper 2: Speaking (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. The exam will be taken with your classroom teacher and will include a role-play, a photo card stimulus. You will be given preparation time after having seen the roleplay and photocard. Paper 3: Reading (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to understand and respond to different types of written language. There will also be a translation text from Spanish to English. Paper 4: Writing (25% weighting) The purpose of the exam is to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. The writing exam will include a number of tasks, ranging from writing a short message to an

	opening ended writing task of 150 words. There will also be a translation text from English to Spanish.
What could I do next with Spanish?	In today's global economy, speaking more than one language is a skill that employers are looking for in hundreds of different careers. Foreign language skills will enhance your opportunities in fields such as business, computing, marketing, science, medicine, law, technology and industry. Learning a foreign language improves your communication skills and confidence and can open up a whole new world for you. Continuing a language to GCSE level will help you to understand how a language works, support your literacy skills in English and give you an insight into the culture of the country. It can also open doors to a wider choice of university courses, provide you with a great bonus for a Travel and Tourism course or enable you to work abroad in the future, either later in life or as part of a gap year in Europe. For some university degrees, a GCSE language qualification is a requirement. And once you have developed the skills to learn one language, you'll find that it is easier to learn another – perhaps Chinese, Mandarin, Japanese or Arabic. The choice is yours!
Skills developed	Listening skills, communication skills, problem solving, creativity, lateral thinking and tolerance of other people and cultures.