

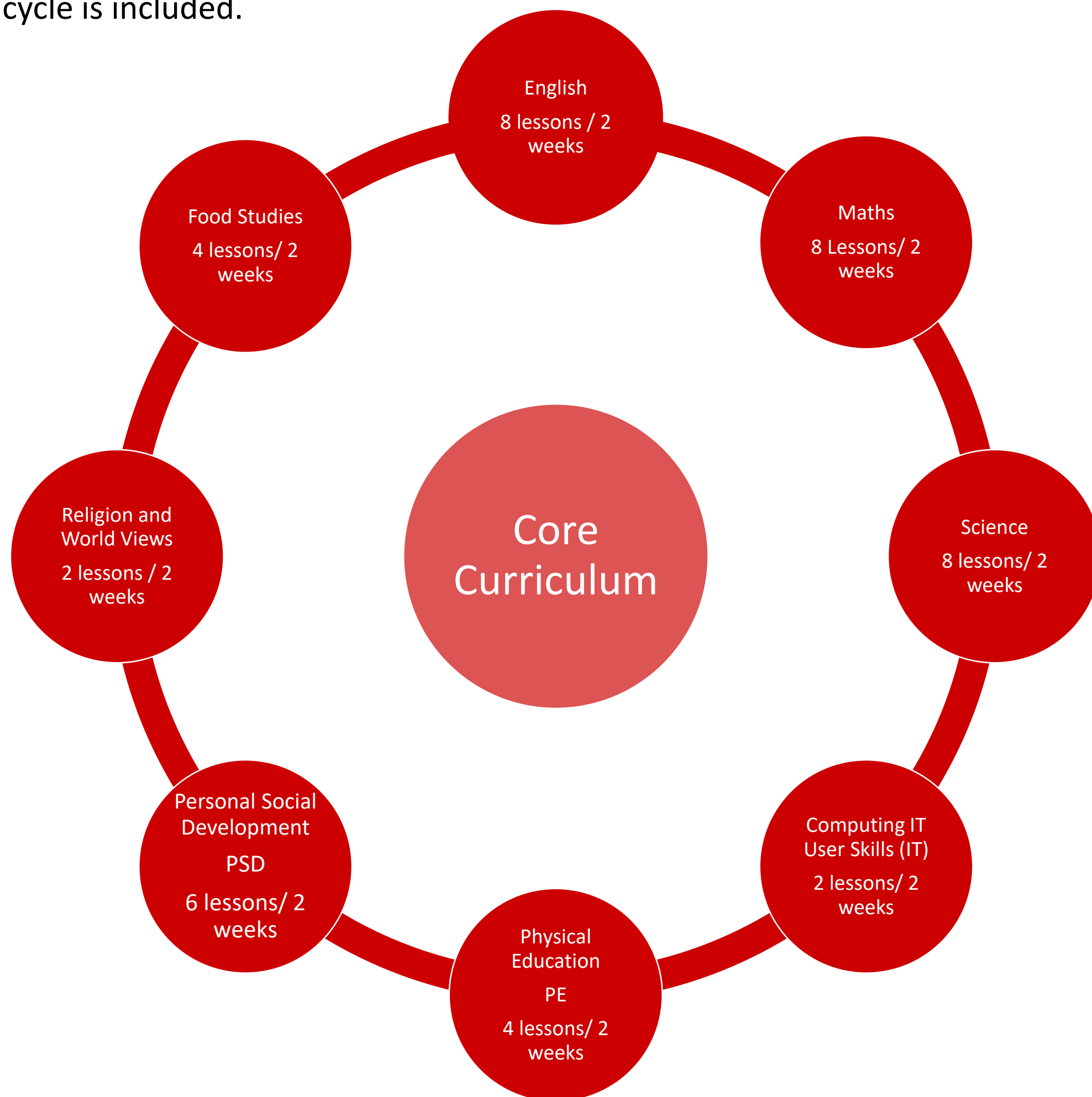


Alderman Knight School

Key Stage 4
Core Curriculum
September 2025

The Core Curriculum

The curriculum will be made up of two parts. The subjects shown below are all part of our core curriculum and are subjects **all** pupils at Alderman Knight School will study as part of their Key Stage 4 curriculum. As you know we have a 2 week timetable so number of lessons in each subject per 2 week cycle is included.



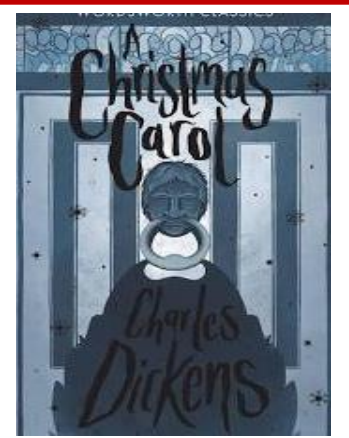
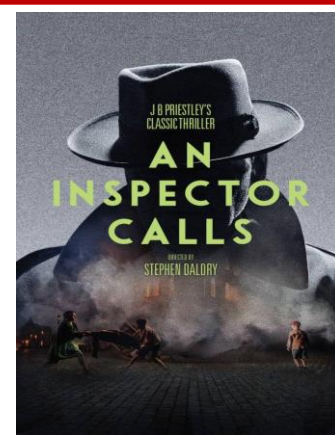
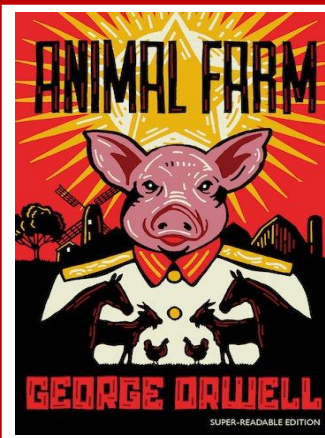
Qualification levels explained

At AKS, our core subjects can be taught at many different levels. Some are offered as GCSE subjects and some are offered as alternative accreditations. All are extremely valuable accreditations. This approach allows pupils to be entered for the level of qualification that best suits them.

The table below provides an overview of the different levels of qualification and how they relate to each other.

Qualification Level	Equivalent GCSE Grade	Vocational Awards, Certificates
Level 2	9	GCSEs Grades 4-9 (C to A*) BTEC Level 2 Functional Skills Level 2
	8	
	7	
	6	
	5	
Level 1	4	GCSEs Grades 1-3 (G to D) BTEC Level 1 Functional Skills Level 1
	3	
	2	
Entry Level	1	1, 2 or 3 (Entry Level 3 is the highest) Entry Level Awards
	EL3	
	EL2	
	EL1	

Each of the core subject pages will explain the levels at which the qualifications are taught.



Overview

There are three accreditations available for pupils within English; GCSE English Language, Functional Skills Level 1 and Step Up to English Entry Level. The decision about which qualification pupils will take will be done on an individual basis ensuring the right qualification is chosen for each pupil. In each of the qualifications pupils will be expected to undertake 3 separate parts of the qualification: Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening.

What current pupils have said?

I love English, it is fantastic! I learn so much and really enjoy all the different texts we get to read.

Why English?

All of our English accreditations will enable pupils to develop their understanding of different types of literature. They will write and read for a range of audiences and purposes including non-fiction texts such as a formal letter and persuasive speech.

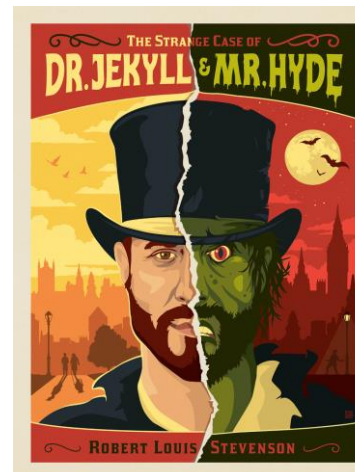
What you will learn about...

Pupils will learn how to use language for effect and create a response in their target audience. They will develop their research skills and presentation skills in the speaking and listening component of the course.



Potential trips and enrichment activities:

Theatre trips
Cheltenham Literature Festival
Opportunities to meet authors
Cross-phase reading partnership
Aiding the planning of world book day



You will develop the following skills:

- Reading a range of texts
- Writing for different purposes
- Group discussion and debates
- Drama based activities
- Presentations

What you could do next?

An English accreditation can enable you to progress onto further English qualifications if you so wish. This can help you with many roles as you progress into adulthood. Key careers that involve English are that of journalist, author, playwright, teacher, advertising, blogger... and many more!



We offer a range of qualifications in English – to suit the needs of each individual. These include:

- Step up to English Entry Level (AQA)
- Level 1 Functional Skills (TQUK)
- English Language GCSE (Eduqas)

Mathematics



Overview of the subject

In maths we aim for our pupils to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of basic mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason and think mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.



What current pupils have said

"We learn maths that we can use in our other subjects like science and food."

Qualification overview

We offer different levels of qualification in Mathematics. The decision on the qualification taken by each pupil is made on an individual basis to ensure each learner studies a course appropriate for them.

- EdExcel GCSE (9-1)
- AQA Maths Entry Level Certificate, 1, 2 and 3.

What current pupils have said

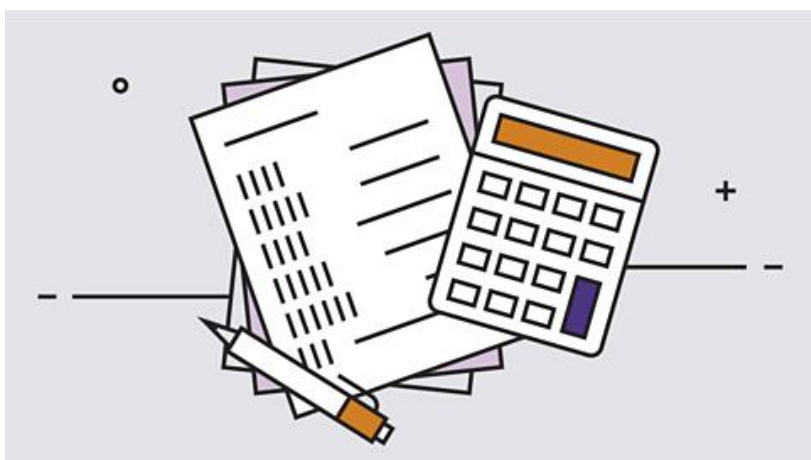
"It can be challenging but you get lots of support."

You will develop the following skills:

numeracy measure algebra
geometry calculus trigonometry
critical thinking problem-solving

What you could do next?

A qualification in Maths can enable you to progress onto studying the next level accreditation in maths. A maths qualification can help in many roles as you progress into adulthood. All roles involve maths in some way.



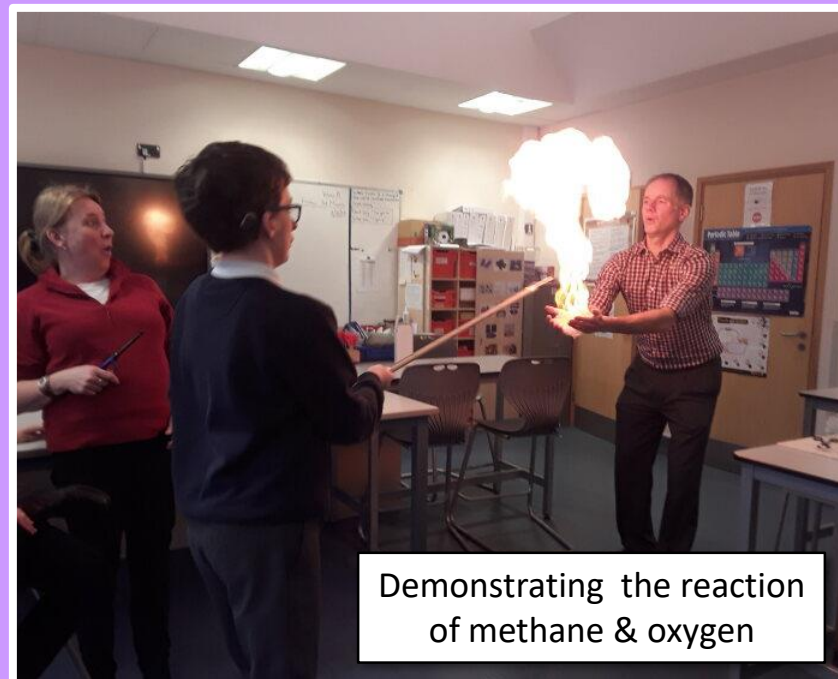
How is Mathematics assessed?

GCSE Mathematics is assessed through an examination in Year 11.

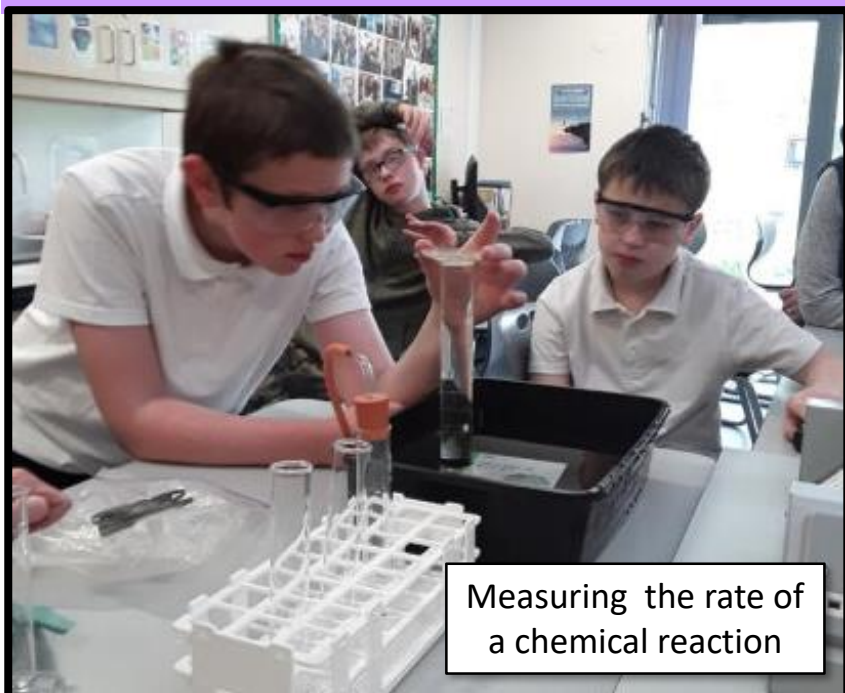
Entry Level is assessed through a blend of externally set assignments and internal classwork.

Science is a core subject, and all pupils will study either Biology GCSE or Physics GCSE or Entry Level Science. The actual course pupils will study will be based on the views of the pupil and their teacher taking into account their interests and academic ability.. The information on each of these courses is outlined below.

In all science lessons pupils will learn through experiments, demonstrations, modelling ideas and concepts, videos, animations, using computers for simulations, interactive quizzes and complete research, along with presentations to explain the ideas and concepts.



Demonstrating the reaction of methane & oxygen



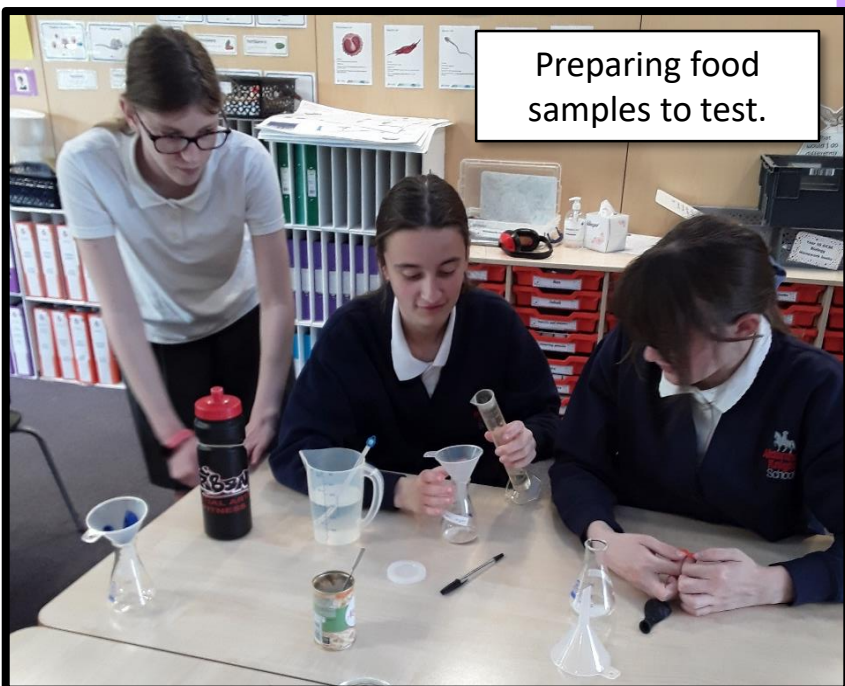
Measuring the rate of a chemical reaction

AQA Entry Level Certificate (ELC) in Science

This course provides an excellent foundation for pupils who are not yet working at GCSE standard. It covers all three sciences; biology, chemistry and physics along with developing pupils' working scientifically skills and is excellent preparation for progressing to a science GCSE.

The topics covered are

- | | |
|--|--|
| B1 – The Human Body | C4 – Chemistry in our World |
| B2 – Environment, Evolution & Inheritance | P5 – Energy, Forces & Matter |
| C3 – Elements, Mixtures Compounds | P6 – Electricity, Magnetism & Waves |
- Each topic will have an Externally Set Assessment (a small 20 mark test) and a Teacher Devised Assessment (a practical investigation). Completing 6 assessments will gain a Single Award ELC and completing all 12 assessments will gain a Double Award ELC. Homework will not be set.



Preparing food samples to test.

AQA Trilogy GCSE Biology or Physics (pupils will only study one)

Pupils will gain a GCSE grade (1-9) in either Biology or Physics. This will be based on two 1h 45min final exams in Y11. Topics covered are below.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| B1 – Cell Biology | P1 – Energy |
| B2 – Organisation | P2 – Electricity |
| B3 – Infection and response | P3 – Particle Model of Matter |
| B4 – Bioenergetics | P4 – Atomic Structure |
| B5 – Homeostasis and response | P5 – Forces |
| B6 – Inheritance, Variation & Evolution | P6 - Waves |
| B7 – Ecology | P7 – Magnets & Electromagnets |
| | P8 – Space Physics |

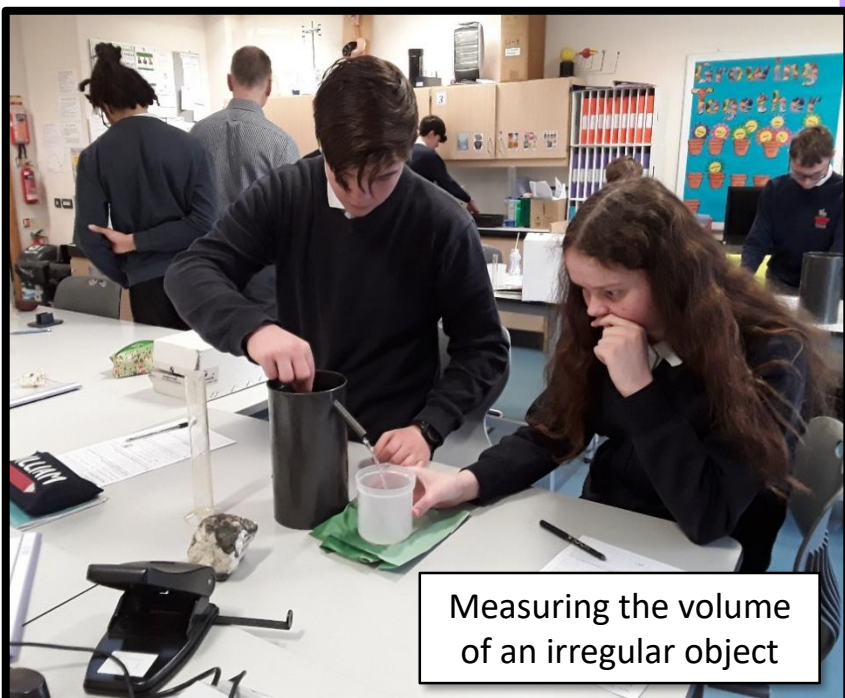
The final grade will be determined by two 1h 45m external exams at the end of Y11. 40% of the questions will involve maths skills for physics and 10% for biology. Biology has a higher demand on learning scientific words.

Next Steps

A GCSE in Biology or Physics will allow progression to either a Level 2 or Level 3 science related course depending on the grade you get. It is also very useful if you are thinking about any science related careers such as medicine or engineering.

Homework

Pupils will be provided with a revision guide and workbook. Homework will often be to complete questions in the workbook using information in the revision guide, reinforcing what has been learnt in lessons. Homework will be set weekly and will usually take 30 minutes to complete.



Measuring the volume of an irregular object

Trips & Visits

In Year 10 all pupils will visit the Cheltenham Science Festival to attend a talk, take part in interactive experiments and have the opportunity to see what careers involve science.

Computing- IT User Skills



Overview

Core ICT will allow you to continue to develop the skills that have learnt within Years 7, 8 and 9. You will learn about safe working practices when using IT equipment through practical tasks. You will learn how to efficiently research information for a given task ensuring that the information that you find is reliable and unbiased. You will discover how to create a range of ways to present information into a format that is easily readable for the intended audience. As well as a range of skills for using specific software. You will be undertaking a program of study that will prepare you for the rigours of student life that you will encounter after year 11. These skills will enable you to create a gateway for future development within a Post 16 environment.

What will I learn about?...

You will learn about how to use your IT skills to a competent level that will allow you to enhance your learning within other subjects by developing your practical ICT skills, such as internet searching, word processing and presentation skills and using email.

Skills that you will develop include:

Collaboration and Team working, problem solving, becoming more efficient and working smart, communication skills, researching skills, online safety skills as well as your organisational skills. Pupils will use a range of software throughout the course, which will help develop transferable skills preparing them for College and work placements.



The structure of the ITQ units enables progressive formal qualifications for those with varying experience.

We offer a range of qualifications in IT – to suit the needs of each individual

Entry Level 1- 3 ITQ Units

Pupil's will be entered at Entry Level 1, 2 or 3 (or a blend of these) dependent on their progress with individual units over the two years.

Level 1 ITQ Units

You will be entered at Level 1 and dependent on your progress there is a possibility that you will be able to develop your work to adequately meet the requirements of the Level 2 Award.

Level 2 ITQ Units

You will initially complete the Level 2 Award, however, based around your progress you may have the opportunity to complete the Level 2 Certificate and even complete the Extended Certificate



Work will be moderated externally through an e-portfolio of evidence and will include.

MS Word—Learning to create a range of documents for specific purpose and audience

MS PowerPoint—To develop not just skills using tools but to develop confidence by delivering a presentation to their peers

Email—Enabling pupils to get experience in using and understanding the etiquette required when sending email.

Internet security—researching how to stay safe when using online tools

Food Studies



The qualification:

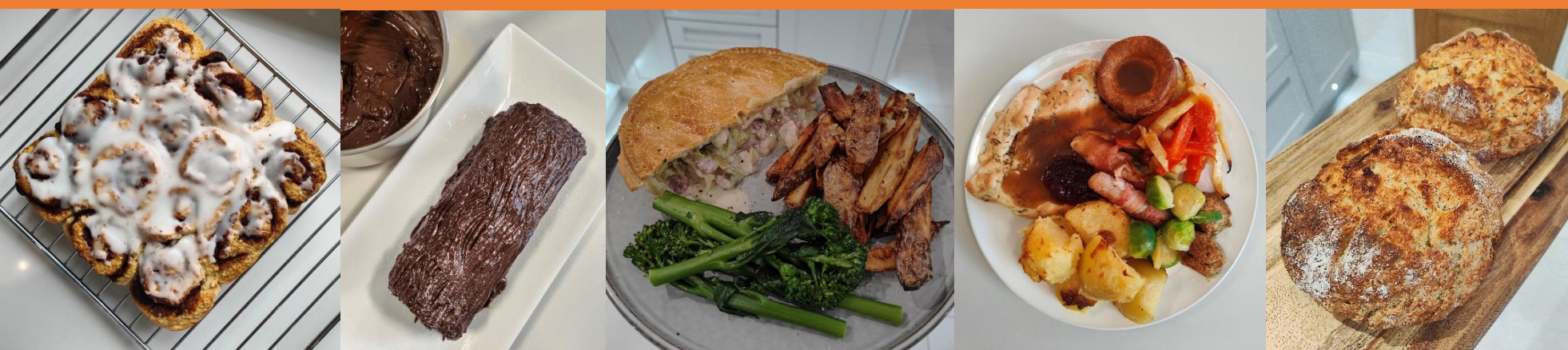
Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Award in Home Cooking Skills

Being able to cook is an essential life skill. Here at AKS, we are determined to provide you with the food knowledge and confidence which will allow you to proudly prepare, cook and present a whole range of different dishes for you and your family to enjoy at home!

**Full-English breakfast • Homemade bread • Sticky toffee pudding
Lasagne • Chicken, bacon & leek pie • Yule log • Christmas dinner**

The learning in year 10 & 11:

- Be able to plan a nutritious, home cooked meal using basic ingredients
- Be able to prepare, cook and present a nutritious, home cooked meal using basic ingredients
- Understand how to cook economically at home
- Be able to pass on information about cooking meals at home from scratch



**Starters • Savoury • Main courses • Sweet • Dinner
• Lunch • Desserts • Snacks • Drinks • Breakfast**



The assessment in year 11:

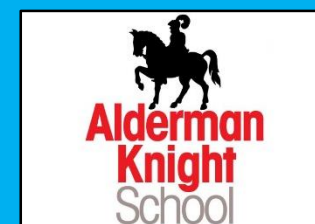
- Plan a two-course meal
- Find suitable recipes
- Prepare your ingredients
- Show off your cooking skills
- Be safe & hygienic
- Present the two-courses
- Explain how to save money when shopping and cooking
- Share recipes and cooking with others

**Planning • Selecting ingredients • Nutrition • Preparing ingredients • Following recipes •
Cooking skills • Portioning • Serving • Presentation skills • Food safety & hygiene •
Budgeting • Economising • Sharing • Collaboration • Timings • Preparation for Adulthood •**

Personal and Social Development (PSD)



“The KS4 PSD curriculum is designed around the ASDAN (Personal and Social Development) framework.”



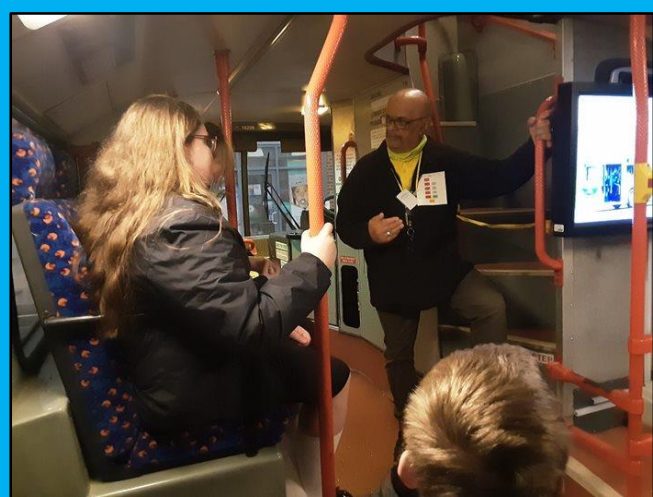
In Key Stages 2 & 3, pupils will have covered Healthy Lifestyles, Self-Awareness, The World I Live In, Self-Care, Support and Safety, Managing Feelings and Changing and Growing. With 6 lessons across a fortnight, Key Stage 4 pupils will follow the ASDAN (Personal and Social Development) framework with many of the units mentioned below. Building on prior learning, they will give you the knowledge, skills and values to help you to make positive choices on how to stay safe and be prepared for life and work in modern Britain

- External visitors
- Exciting Trips
- A wide range of learning methods
- Group Work
- Computer work
- Life Skills
- Mental Health Skills

The learning in years 10 & 11 – units covered could include:

- Preparation for Adulthood
- Making the Most of Leisure Time
- Parenting Awareness
- Healthy Living
- Healthy Eating
- Individual Rights and Responsibilities
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Preparation for Work
- Using Technology in the Home and Community
- Independent Travel Training

There is also the possibility for pupils to achieve AQA Unit Awards alongside the learning that takes place in KS4.



Topics covering Careers Education, Puberty and Healthy Relationships, Online Safety and the Use of Technology, Healthy Meal Planning, Aspects of a Healthy Lifestyle as well as Key Elements of Preparing for Adult Life, Independence and Parenting and much more.....

- Debating
- Discussing
- Designing leaflets
- Creating a healthy meal plan
- Designing and completing a circuit
- Presentation skills
- Exploring the Job Explorer Database
- Sharing opinions
- Collaboration
- Life Skills
- Budgeting



Core Overview

The AQA Unit Awards in Religious Studies offer flexible, bite-sized learning for pupils to explore key themes and beliefs across major world religions. Units cover topics such as moral issues, religious festivals, worship, and sacred texts, encouraging critical thinking and personal reflection. Tailored for learners of varying abilities, the awards support engagement with diverse perspectives, fostering understanding of cultural and spiritual values. Pupils gain recognition for their achievements, with a focus on accessible, practical learning and skill development.

What might I learn about in KS4 Religion & Worldviews?

- Crime and Punishment
- Religious Art
- Religion and Belief
- Philosophy of Religion
- Islam: The Five Pillars
- Animal Rights: A moral Issue
- Rites of Passage
- Buddhism
- Christian Beliefs and Teachings

Why is studying R & W useful?

The study of Religion and Worldviews provides the opportunity to understand and recognise diverse beliefs, cultures, and ethical perspectives in a globalised world. It fosters critical thinking, empathy, and respect, helping navigate complex social and moral issues. The subject sharpens analysis, debate, and communication skills, which helps prepare an individual for potential careers in education, law, healthcare, politics, and more. It also promotes personal reflection, broadens worldviews, and equips learners to engage with diverse communities and global challenges.

How can Religion & Worldviews help me in the future?

“Studying R&W, helped me understand how beliefs affects peoples’ lives. My job takes me to different countries, and I meet people with different beliefs. This has been really useful in my career.

Sports reporter

“When you work in a hospital, you come across a lot of people from different cultural backgrounds. Studying R&W helped me to prepare for this.”

NHS worker

What course will you be studying? : AQA Unit Awards.

Pupils gain a certificate for each completed unit, no exams, all coursework.

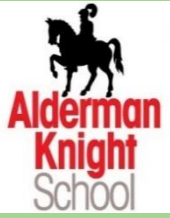
Religion & Worldviews helps to develop key skills in; communication, working with others and problem solving. It will also give you transferable skills and help you to think about your own beliefs and that of others.

For some pupils there may be an opportunity to enter a short course GCSE.

“I enjoy R&W because I like learning and understanding different worldviews. It encourages me to think about different views and to understand my own beliefs.

I can also use the skills learnt across my other subjects too!”

Student voice



Physical Education Entry Level

Overview

Entry level PE is a practical subject where you will develop your learning and understanding of six different sports over a two-year period. This is also an opportunity to improve your health and fitness and learn how to analyse performances helping you develop.



Trampolining

Hockey

Badminton

Football

Athletics

Basketball

What will I be learning?

- **Individual skills** e.g. the release of the shot put and swivel hips in trampolining.
- **Selection and use of skills** e.g. When to play an overhead clear in badminton and when it is appropriate to pass or shoot in basketball.
- **Applying tactics** (attack and defence) e.g. defensive strategies in basketball and how to find space to attack in hockey.
- **Awareness of rules and conventions** e.g. identifying double dribbles and travelling when officiating basketball and umpiring a game of badminton.
- **Understanding of roles and positions** e.g. Understanding that a goalkeeper in football has a different role to an outfield player and badminton formations.
- **Teamwork and communication** in team games such as football and hockey.

What qualification may I gain ?

OCR Entry Level Certificate in Physical Education Levels 1-3

Pupils will study 6 sports over a two-year period.

Pupils will also need to provide analysis for one of these four sports and this will account to 20% towards their final grade.

“ Staff always make lessons fun but we also learn how to play the game”



What is analysis?

Analysis is looking carefully at a performance and identifying what was good and what could be improved. You will also be required to give ideas on how to improve. You will be asked these four questions:

- What are the key skills of the activity?
- What is the performer doing well in their performance?
- What could the performer do better in their performance?
- How could they improve their performance?