

SCIENCE

The study of Science is important for students in giving them a way of understanding and interpreting the world.

The Science Department in Oakgrove College aims to provide an enjoyable and educationally enriching programme of study suited to the needs and abilities of all our students.

At Key Stage 3, all students follow an integrated Science programme which offers a range of experiences from investigations and other practical work to trips and creative representation of Science themes.

At Key Stage 4, students follow either Single Award or Double Award Science, both of which require students to complete a series of module examinations, coursework and terminal papers to gain these GCSE qualifications.

Having been supported through KS3 and KS4 by an enthusiastic and committed team of teachers and technicians, many of our students choose one or more of the Sciences at AS/A level, through which they can develop their knowledge and practical skills in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Applied Science to pursue further study at University and Careers in the Scientific work-place.

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

Technology and Design is a very interesting and varied subject studied throughout Key Stage 3 by all students. The department is currently very well resourced throughout, consisting of two workshops, two systems rooms and a planning room. Topics studied include electronics, mechanisms, computer graphics, computer control and pneumatics. The students are encouraged to develop their ability to solve problems and make quality products. They also are given opportunities to develop their knowledge base and practical skills through working with a wide range of materials, tools and machinery.

This subject can also be studied at GCSE Level when students engage in problem-solving projects and develop individual ideas and skills and learn how to make decisions for themselves. This is expanded further through studying A/AS level Design and Technology. To date, our students have been very successful and have chosen to study a variety of University courses as diverse as Automotive Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Product Design and Music Technology.

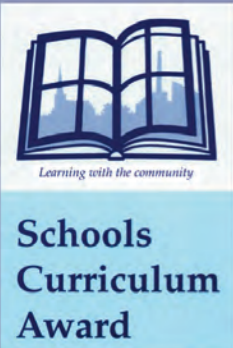


Oakgrove Integrated College

Subjects



Together towards a shared future





ART AND DESIGN

The Art and Design department offers students a wide range of artistic activities from Year 8 through to Year 14. These include: fine art painting, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, 3D model making and art through ICT.

The department has 2 fully equipped art rooms and a ceramics work area with kilns and access to a multi-media room.

Both GCSE and 'A' level Art and Design courses offer pupils the opportunities to experiment in more depth and are coursework based.

MOVING IMAGE ARTS - AS & A2 COURSES

Moving Image Arts is a relatively new qualification and was introduced into the Northern Ireland Curriculum by CCEA (the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment). Developed by CCEA with the support of the British Film Institute and the Nerve Centre, this new qualification provides a complete introduction to digital film-making covering skills such as directing, lighting, camera, editing and sound-tracking.

The structure of the AS and A2 course involves producing two units of practical coursework and taking an on-line examination. As the first online examination undertaken within the Northern Ireland Curriculum, Moving Image Arts is playing a significant roll in the development of a digital curriculum. Students log on to a secure website and are presented with a series of clips which they are asked to critically analyse. Having filled in their answers on screen, their completed exam is submitted 'online' to a central database and marked on screen.

Moving Image Arts is situated within the art curriculum and is an important subject to take for students who are interested in film, animation or multi-media industries. Many of the major creative roles on a film set stem directly from art, cinematography, art direction, set design and costume.

BUSINESS STUDIES

In this Department students can study for a variety of qualifications. In Year 11 and 12 students study GCSE Business Studies which looks at types of businesses, their finance, marketing, production and human resources. In Year 11 we also give a number of pupils the opportunity to become involved in Key Camp which is a cross-border, cross-community initiative and involves students in a series of

residential focusing on outdoor pursuits and enterprise education. Students are also involved in visits to businesses throughout the two years.

In the Business Studies Department students in Year 13 and 14 can study for AS and A2 Business Studies. In Year 13 students study 3 modules and sit 3 exams in order to achieve the AS qualification. The modules are Marketing and Accounting and Finance, People and Operations Management and External Influences and Objectives and Strategy. In Year 14, the modules stay the same but they are studied to a higher level and there are another 3 exams to sit.

Alternatively, we also offer students the opportunity to study BTEC First Diploma Business in Year 13. This is equivalent to 4 GCSE's and can act as a stepping stone onto further education or into employment. This course includes 2 weeks work experience in industry.

The teachers in the Business Studies Department are also involved in the delivery of a number of ICT qualifications. The rooms in the department are fully equipped with computers and printers and provide an ideal location for the delivery of business courses. Internet access enables students to research their work effectively and various websites can be used in the teaching of this subject.

For further information on Business courses please see Ms J Morris (HOD).



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. is a compulsory subject on the school curriculum. Every pupil from Year 8 to Year 14 participates in the P.E. programme.

The departments school year is broken up by the sporting seasons:-

The year starts with fitness training, because we feel that the pupils need to be fit in order to play games, to swim, to dance etc.

Throughout the year each group takes part in Games, Dance, Swimming, Gymnastics, Dance Athletics, Cricket and Outdoor Activities. While the main aim of the programme is to teach and develop sporting ability we also incorporate health related issues into our programme.

The P.E. department encourages the development of hand to eye co-ordination, balance, self-expression, competition, self-esteem, confidence, co-operation, team work, a sense of fair play and leadership qualities. As part of these objectives we participate in a number of inter and intra competitions, covering all aspects of the curriculum. To this end we have a large after-school extra-curricular sporting programme. We feel that over the years we have grown into a formidable sporting school and hope to go forward from strength to strength. Thanks to the excellent efforts of the PE Staff we have had a number of outstanding successes in Irish Athletics, Northern Ireland School Boy Soccer, Northern Ireland School Girls netball and Ulster Schools Swimming.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

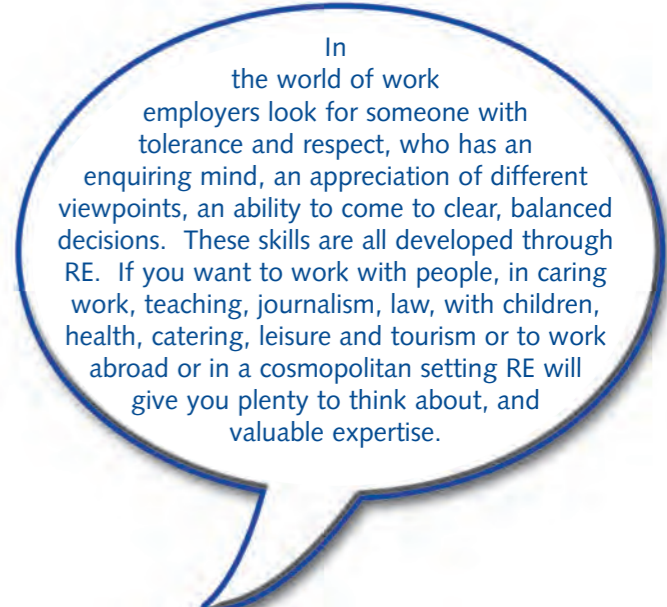
Religious Education is seen to be an integral subject to the main aim of Oakgrove College – Integration. The subject is a compulsory area of study from Year 8 to 10 and follows the Northern Ireland Curriculum. In years 11 and 12 all students have Core RE, which is a non-exam subject. Core RE covers many different themes from Life at the time of Jesus to Capital Punishment and Teen Pregnancy. RE may also be chosen for study at GCSE and is a popular choice for further study in Year13 and 14 at AS and A levels.

In addition to the Northern Ireland Curriculum, the school in conjunction with the Board of Governors, has also introduced modules on World Religions. This is included as we recognise that there are other religions within our school community and to have a full sense of Integration, students need to gain knowledge and understanding of different faiths.



All students regardless of their religious affiliation and backgrounds have RE classes together. The subject is taught in a non-denominational and non-converting manner and welcomes those who have no religious convictions. It is hoped that students will learn to listen to one another, to make moral decisions and to gain a sense of tolerance and respect for everyone in the community and the world around them. In conjunction with our teaching towards this goal, we may invite guest speakers into school throughout the year. They will share their experiences and are always open to questions from the students.

Why RE matters!!



In the world of work employers look for someone with tolerance and respect, who has an enquiring mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints, an ability to come to clear, balanced decisions. These skills are all developed through RE. If you want to work with people, in caring work, teaching, journalism, law, with children, health, catering, leisure and tourism or to work abroad or in a cosmopolitan setting RE will give you plenty to think about, and valuable expertise.



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is one of the core subjects in the Northern Ireland Curriculum and so is an important part of every student's education at Oakgrove. A thriving department of specialist Mathematics teachers works hard to ensure that all our pupils develop the mathematical skills that they need for employment and further study. We also try to encourage a sense of fun and enjoyment in Mathematics through a variety of activities and challenges. Our pupils have had great success in public examinations and have won many certificates in the UK Maths Challenge and Mathematiques Sans Frontieres. A school team has won a province-wide problem solving competition for two years running.

We are able to cater for the full range of abilities in Maths and enter pupils for examinations from Certificate Level up to Advanced Level Further Maths. We also offer GCSE Additional Mathematics.

Evenings are organised for parents to provide information on the Mathematics programme of study and advice on how to help children at home.

MODERN LAUNGUAGES

At Oakgrove we offer classes in French, Spanish and Irish. Students coming in at year 8 study French and those students who show an aptitude for language throughout that year are given the opportunity to opt for a second language. This second language will be chosen from either Irish or Spanish and students can study this along with French. All three languages are offered at GCSE level and AS/A2 level where there is sufficient demand.

In the language department we use the most modern audio listening equipment, interactive CD-Roms, web-sites, facilitation of penpal correspondance and we have monthly subscriptions for foreign magazines and newspapers. We have the services of language assistants for all the languages studied in the school: native speakers from the countries where the languages are spoken.

Where possible, we sometimes organise trips abroad and to the Gaeltacht areas and every week we, (in conjunction with the language assistants), run a lunchtime language club so that all pupils have the opportunity to sample a variety of different cultures and languages.

MUSIC

Pupils develop their musicianship and self-esteem through a wide range of individual and group making activities, both curricular and extra curricular.

Pupils also perform in WELB bands, senior and junior orchestras and civic choirs. Many attend lessons and workshops at the Nerve Centre.

Pupils are encouraged to develop their performing skills through vocal and instrumental work using a wide range of acoustic and electronic instruments. They have the opportunity to join the orchestra, senior or junior choirs. Approximately 75 pupils have instrumental lessons. Lessons are offered on brass, woodwind, violin, cello, guitar, drums, djing and keyboard. Tutors are from both the WELB and the Nerve Centre.

Through links set up with outside agencies, pupils have also experienced performing with 'Different Drums' and recording music for an animation with the Nerve Centre.

Recently pupils have participated in a 'Stars in Your Eyes' show both at school and board level. Due to the large number of bands in the school a 'Battle of the Bands' competition was held last year.

Pupils also compose music using exploratory and improvisatory approaches. They have the opportunity to store and develop their work using the computer programmes cubase and sibelius. Some pupils are being trained to use the school recording studio. This is a very important tool for GCSE and A Level work.



ENGLISH

As a core subject of the Northern Ireland curriculum, English in Oakgrove College is taught across the three key stages. Students are encouraged to develop their literacy skills through sustained and varied exposure to poetry, prose and drama. A team of seven specialist English Teachers delivers the curriculum using a wide range of strategies which promote the centrality of literacy to learning and encourage the students to see their work in English as crucial to their development as articulate, flexible, literate thinkers in a world where communication plays an increasingly important role.

The eclectic nature of English as a subject is reflected in the range of activities in which students are encouraged to participate within and beyond the classroom. Students are taken on trips to the theatre, are actively involved in media, drama and poetry workshops organised by outside agencies and encouraged to enter external writing competitions. Our young writers have met with sustained success in the Derry City Writing competition and in the Father Mulvey Poetry competition whilst the appeal of the Library Club and Student Librarian scheme is evident in the numbers of keen, active reader-members in Year 8. Moreover, the Debating Club attracts enthusiastic speakers from all year groups and our school debating team has met with real success in external competitions.

Reading texts are chosen carefully and writing tasks adapted to the needs and abilities of our students.

The inter-active nature of work in the English classroom encourages involvement in discussion and problem-solving activities, thereby promoting motivation and self-esteem in all our students.

Parent workshops are organised to help parents develop their children's reading skills.

LIBRARY

The Library is staffed by Mrs L Friel (Teacher Librarian) and Mrs S Lynch. The Library has the following resources: six computer workstations; a scanner; Internet access; Cd-ROM's; books (fiction, non-fiction and reference books); newspapers; journals; audio and video cassettes.

The role of the Library as an information resource has changed its emphasis from books, as a traditional source of information, to the Internet and computing.



Whilst the main aim of the Library is to promote reading on all levels, developing multi-media information is important to the growth of the Library. The changing environment involves a greater co-operation between the Library and I.T. so the full benefits of future acquisitions are relevant to the school and accessible to a wider range of users. The continual review of Library stock will hopefully allow a constant updating of materials in this fast changing environment of information retrieval. Oakgrove Integrated College Library aims to provide a central learning resource for the whole school and to work in conjunction with the I.T. department to develop a range of multi-media information alongside traditional resources.





GEOGRAPHY

The aim of this department is to provide a broad and balanced geographical education and to stimulate interest within and beyond the classroom.

The geography department intends to expose all pupils to positive learning experiences. Through these it is hoped that they will acquire a positive attitude towards themselves, fellow citizens and others in the wider world. It is also hoped to encourage a positive attitude towards their environment.

The department strives to give pupils the skills and knowledge that can lead to being informed and concerned citizens and gaining employment and enhanced leisure time.

Pupils who are interested in Geography at Key Stage 3 can go on to do GCSE Geography. Those who show interest and flair at this level may participate in the A/AS Level programme.

GEOLOGY

Students are invited to study OCR's geology syllabus post 16 to AS and A2.

Geology is a study of the Earth and the forces operating within it. Students will complete modules in, Rock Identification, Fossils, Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Economic and Environmental Geology, and a fieldwork investigation that will comprise 20% of their final A2 exam.

Students will go on fieldwork twice a year at both AS and A2.

A combination of fieldwork skills and theory will provide students with an excellent grounding for an honours degree in Geology, and a career in the industry.



APPLIED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

At Oakgrove we run an extremely successful Applied Health and Social Care course which is equivalent to two A Levels. Students who study this qualification will be interested in following a career in Health, Early Years (care and education), Care of Older People or Individuals with Specific Needs.

Students study 12 separate units over the two years and the majority of the units are coursework based and internally assessed. This is an excellent course which gives students the opportunity to either move on to study at University or to find employment within this area.

HISTORY

All students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge of History at Key Stage 3. The students discover that learning about the past is interesting and varied. They get to find out about the Normans, they learn about the causes of conflict in the sixteenth century and study other topics such as the Spanish Armada. They find out about the gruesome aspects of Trench Life when they study World War 1. The pupils are encouraged to develop their skills as Historians and many enjoy the detective work which is carried out on primary sources of evidence. Pupils are also given opportunities to use ICT, to engage in role-play activity and to participate in display work.

Pupils who realise that they are fascinated by the people, events and wars of the past have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of History by taking it at GCSE Level. Those who have a keen interest and flair for History expand their knowledge and skills of this subject by studying A/AS level History.

HOME ECONOMICS

Home Economics is studied by all students at Oakgrove up to Year 10. The subject is offered at both GCSE, AS and A Level. In Home Economics, the students have the opportunity to learn about diet and health, the home and family, consumerism and managing resources. Students participate in practical lessons as part of this subject.

HOME ECONOMICS CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Child Development encourages an understanding of pregnancy, the responsibilities of parenthood and the overall needs of young children.

The subject provides learning opportunities which promote the practical aspects of Home Economics. Child Development is offered at GCSE level and provides a sound basis for the further study of Home Economics and related subjects at a more advanced level.



ICT

At Key Stage 4 we offer courses which allow all of our pupils the chance to leave Oakgrove with a qualification in ICT. We offer GCSE ICT which combines a strong practical element with an in-depth knowledge of the theory of ICT. We also give pupils the chance to study the Short Course in ICT which focuses on the practical elements at ICT.

At Post-16 we offer the Applied GCE in ICT at Single Award and Double Award level (the Double Award is the equivalent of 2 A Levels). Both courses are very popular with our students.

In the ICT department pupils will learn in 2 fully networked, modern ICT suites, with access to the latest learning and teaching technologies.

A Computer Club operates at lunch time for those pupils who wish to develop their skills through taking part in competitions, games etc.

