

GUIDED PATHWAYS

2022

Core subjects



The Halifax Academy





CORE SUBJECTS

Core subjects will be studied by everyone to ensure that all students undertake a broad and balanced curriculum:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

MATHEMATICS

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SCIENCE





GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

This subject requires you to study the three key areas of English Language – reading, writing and communication. The English Language course equips you with the skills that you need to become a confident speaker, reader and writer. These skills also enable you to progress in your other subjects as you learn how to argue/persuade, describe/narrate, read for meaning, retrieve information and communicate with others effectively.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

- Being a fluent and confident speaker will enable you to succeed in your Speaking and Listening exam
- Being a good reader will significantly help you, it will enable you to expand your vocabulary and infer and deduce meaning from texts
- Being creative in your writing and having a good imagination will help you to write to describe/narrate

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Studying English Language opens up a lot of career prospects. Potential careers include teaching, journalism, becoming a writer etc. However, there are lots of other jobs where English Language is incredibly useful such as going into marketing, law and advertising. The possibilities are endless! The majority of possible career paths will require you to communicate effectively with others, read and create documents and use your skills to describe/argue/persuade.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Any member of the English Faculty, KS4 students.



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

English Literature is the study of a variety of texts such as novels, plays and poetry. Studying English Literature enables you to become a critical thinker and expand your mind. An enjoyment and appreciation of literature will give you the ability to develop this into an interest in books and reading. You will have the confidence to approach and tackle new forms of novels, plays and poetry. In addition, this subject will also educate you about different cultures and writing in a range of time periods.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

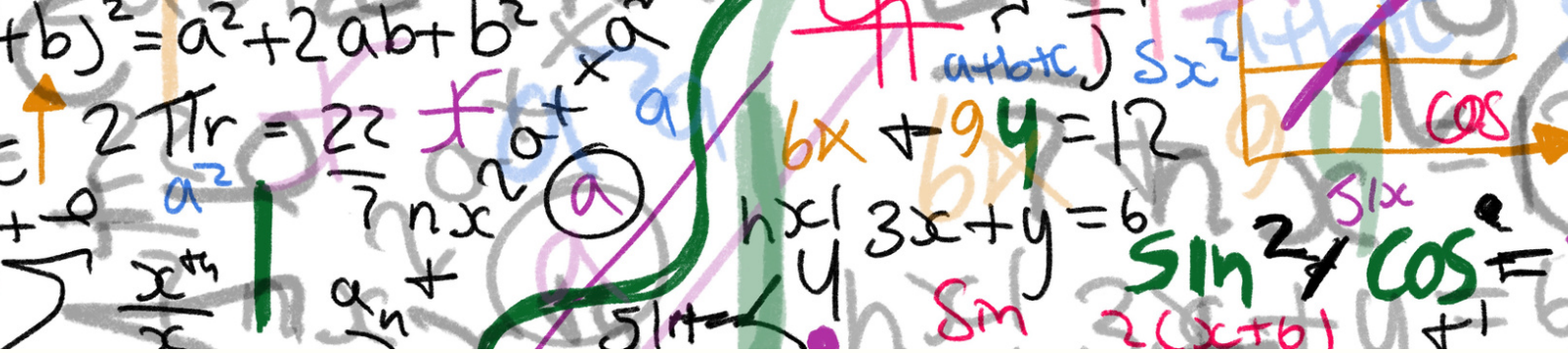
Have an enquiring mind so that you can uncover layers of meaning in a text. A love for literature would also be hugely beneficial – you should read for pleasure and develop an appreciation for literary texts. You can discover a vast selection of fiction books in our library.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

English and English Literature graduates have a range of literate careers at which to aim, including: publishing, journalism, the creative arts, arts administration and teaching. In terms of wider careers, advertising and public relations are popular options, while English graduates can also be found in the civil service and in banking, law and accountancy.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Any member of the English Faculty, KS4 students.



GCSE MATHEMATICS

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

"Maths is the study of patterns abstracted from the world around us – so anything we learn in maths has literally thousands of applications, in arts, sciences, finance, health and leisure" Professor R. Lawrence – MIT university.

Mathematics GCSE is organised into five main areas of study – Number; Algebra; Ratio, proportion & rates of change; Geometry & Measures, Probability & Statistics. Maths is a compulsory GCSE subject for all state school pupils up to the age of 16/17 depending upon achievements. However, we believe it is more than just a gateway subject. We will continue to challenge you to think in depth about your learning, apply your knowledge in unfamiliar contexts and become truly confident mathematicians to face the challenges of further training and employment.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

- Communication – expressing ideas precisely, concisely and unambiguously
- Application of number
- ICT – websites, graphical packages, spreadsheets and databases
- Working with others – leadership and independence
- Problem solving – strategic thinking

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Mathematics is recognised as being important in everyday life, in many forms of employment such as: science, technology, medicine, the environment, development and in public decision making.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

You are welcome to speak with any member of the Mathematics department.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

This subject involves the study of the modern world and how people and places interact. You will develop and extend your knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes. You will apply this to different scales including local, national, global and social, political and cultural contexts.

Although controlled assessment has been removed from the GCSE specification you will still participate in, and be examined on two geographical investigations. We investigate and visit a tributary of the River Calder in Mytholmroyd and have a day out in Leeds investigating the city's sustainability.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

If you like asking questions and investigating the answers then this subject is for you! Geography is at the centre of many of the major issues affecting the world today. What are we going to do about an aging population? How do we respond to environmental threats to our planet? How will we ensure the world is sustainable for future generations? Geography is interesting, diverse and covers so many key skills.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

You need to have good communication skills – the course will develop your communication and leadership skills whilst also giving you knowledge of the physical and human world around us. Geographers are problem solvers, team players and flexible thinkers!

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

The skills you use in your geographical studies make you very employable to a wide range of people. Careers include: working with development agencies, environmental work, using Geographical Information Systems, working for the census office and in tourism and recreation. Many people also go onto work in finance, marketing, education and management.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Mrs Geall, Ms Badge, Mr Ali and Mrs Rhodes.



GCSE HISTORY

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

History is the analysis and interpretation of the human past that enables us to study how people's lives have changed over time. Historians use all forms of evidence to examine, interpret, revisit, and reinterpret the past.

Historians are trained in the methods of discovering and evaluating these sources, and the challenging task of making historical sense out of them. Nevertheless, historians do not always agree on interpretations of the past.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Through the study of history we can investigate and interpret why society developed as it has and determine what influences have affected the past and present and shape the future. It helps one to understand the immense complexity of our world and provides insights to help cope with the problems and possibilities of the present and future. History also provides us with a sense of identity.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

History involves a variety of skills. Students must think, write, criticise and analyse. These are skills that virtually any job requires. History also provides practical skills that can be used in all aspects of life, not just a profession. The developed skills of a historian include writing, critical analysis, research, curiosity and a world view.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

The skills used in history mean a variety of occupations are available to students who study history. Here are just some examples of the sorts of jobs history students go on to have: small business owners, military officers, insurance brokers, bankers, politicians, lawyers, librarians, researchers, environmentalists, writers, newspaper editors, social workers, activists, police officers, salespeople, teachers and stockbrokers.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Please speak to Mrs Kennedy, Miss Nortcliffe, Ms Nazir, Ms Saddique or Mr Henderson .



CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

All students are timetabled one hour of compulsory core PE a week. During these lessons students are offered a variety of sports and physical activities with the aim of guiding lifelong participation. Activities include: trampolining, handball, football, netball and health related fitness.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

In order to make progress and enjoy core PE lessons, students need to be motivated and keen to make the most of the opportunities provided to them in order to reach their potential.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Within core PE lessons students are given opportunities to access a variety of sports and physical activities with the aim of students being motivated into lifelong participation and making the choice to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle. A keen interest and participation in sport and physical activity can lead to post 16 options at A Level or BTEC in PE or Dance. There is a wealth of opportunity in the sporting industry for successful careers in one of the largest grossing industries in recent years.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

All members of staff in the PE Faculty can be approached if you want to know more about what we offer through Core PE lessons.



GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

- Learning how science explains everything in the material world around us
- An opportunity to acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for life as a citizen
- Studying organisms and our environment in biology
- Studying chemical reactions and chemical resources in chemistry
- Finding out about energy, forces, space and electricity in physics

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

Active involvement in the learning process, enthusiasm, independent approach, hardworking, work well with others and above all an interest in the subject.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

The progression pathway is as follows:

KS3 Curriculum → KS4 Science → A level Science → Further Education, Higher Education & Employment.

There are plenty of courses which will give you an opportunity to have a career in science: genetics, immunology, microbiology, virology, pharmacology, healthcare, biomedical sciences, environmental science, physics and engineering.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Science teachers and KS4 students.



GCSE BIOLOGY

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

GCSE Biology aims to give students opportunity to:

- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, biology
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Choose this subject if you enjoy learning about:

- the human body
- the environment
- plants and animals

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

Active involvement in the learning process, enthusiasm, independent approach, hardworking, work well with others, strong maths skills, analytical and above all an interest in the subject.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

The progression pathway is as follows:

KS3 Curriculum → KS4 Biology → A level Biology → Further Education, Higher Education & Employment.

The course options available for those interested in pursuing studies in biology are extremely wide ranging. You can do a degree in biomedical science, genetics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, optometry, Marine Biology etc.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Science teachers and KS4 students.



GCSE CHEMISTRY

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

GCSE Chemistry aims to give students opportunity to:

- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, chemistry
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Choose this subject if you enjoy learning about:

- the structure of the atom
- the rate of chemical reactions
- Learning about chemical changes, the atmosphere and environment

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

Active involvement in the learning process, enthusiasm, independent approach, hardworking, works well with others, strong maths skills, analytical and above all an interest in the subject.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

The progression pathway is as follows:

KS3 Curriculum → KS4 Chemistry → A level Chemistry → Further Education, Higher Education & Employment.

The course options available for those interested in pursuing studies in chemistry are extremely wide ranging. You can become a chemist, pharmacist, nutritionist, dietitian, chemical engineer, medical technician, criminologist, laboratory assistant, science technician, chemical operator, laboratory analyst or teacher.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Science teachers and KS4 students.



GCSE PHYSICS

WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

GCSE Physics aims to give students opportunity to:

- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, physics
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Choose this subject if you enjoy learning about:

- Forces, energy and electricity.
- Space, Astronomy and waves
- Atoms and radioactivity

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS SUBJECT?

Active involvement in the learning process, enthusiasm, independent approach, hardworking, work well with others, strong maths skills, analytical and above all an interest in the subject.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

The progression pathway is as follows:

KS3 Curriculum → KS4 Physics → A level Physics → Further Education, Higher Education & employment.

There are a number of physics based careers: medical physicist, research scientist, scientific laboratory technician, architect, optometrist, Space scientist and also in the armed forces and defence industry. Physics graduates also find employment in academic institutions and government research organisations as well as industries such as aerospace, engineering, manufacturing, teaching, engineering, oil and gas, space exploration and telecommunications.

WHO CAN I TALK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Science teachers and KS4 students.



USEFUL INFORMATION

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

The best way you can help your child is to speak with them and help them make their research. Ask them what they're interested in and use the resources available to you, to help with your decision making.

WHERE DO I FIND ALL THE INFORMATION?

Read both the Core Subjects booklet and Pathways booklet to best inform yourself about what is on offer at The Halifax Academy. Follow the links below to UniFrog and the C&K Careers Website to help your conversations.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS WORRIED AND I CAN'T ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS?

Ask them to speak to Mrs Kozic-Shaw or their subject teachers.

USEFUL LINKS

[UniFrog](#)

[C&K Careers](#)

[Skillsometer](#)



The Halifax Academy

www.thehalifaxacademy.org

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