



Year 9

OPTION CHOICES

2026 - 2028

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Choosing your Year 9 options is an exciting step in your educational journey. This booklet is designed to guide you through the process so that you can make well-informed decisions about the subjects you will study over the next two years.

These choices will shape not only your experience in Key Stage 4, but also the opportunities available to you as you move on to further education and future careers.

At Furness Academy, we are committed to ensuring that every student follows a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. We want you to enjoy your learning, play to your strengths, and also challenge yourself to discover new interests and skills. As you read through this booklet, take time to reflect on what motivates you, where your talents lie, and which subjects will help you achieve your aspirations.

I encourage you to discuss your ideas with parents and carers, your teachers, and our careers team, who are all here to support you. Remember: there is no single "right" choice — only the choices that are right for you.

I wish you every success as you take this important step towards your future.

Headteacher,
Mrs Helen Robinson



"Leaders have created a calm, purposeful atmosphere and have ensured that the curriculum is suitably ambitious for pupils. Pupils behave well during lessons, and they are keen to try their best."
- Ofsted 2023

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VISION & VALUES

At Furness Academy, we aim to create an inclusive culture where every student is valued. Through our core values of respect, responsibility, and relationships, and our commitment to high expectations, we strive to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and self-belief they need to make a positive contribution to their community and beyond. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure consistency of experience: that every day, in every classroom, every student benefits from a powerful learning experience.

RESPECT



- My learning and the rights of others to learn;
- Each other: valuing different views, beliefs and cultures;
- Our environment, resources and facilities;
- The Academy rules and expectations;
- Our community and present a positive image of Furness Academy.

RESPONSIBILITY



- Making good progress and being a successful learner;
- Setting high standards of behaviour, appearance, attendance and achievement;
- Being independent learners, taking initiative and supporting others;
- Meeting life's challenges with resilience and self-belief;
- Making a positive contribution to the Academy community.

RELATIONSHIPS



- Are positive and enthusiastic promoting effective learning;
- Help you to know and value other people;
- Embrace and support the Academy community;
- Are built around taking the time to listen and understand;
- Considers the wellbeing of others.

PURPOSE

To build kind, independent and successful young people with high expectations of themselves.

"At the heart of our community."

OUR KEY STAGE FOUR CURRICULUM

At Furness Academy, we understand that every student is unique. Each young person brings their own talents, interests, and ways of learning. Our curriculum is broad and balanced so that every student can succeed, grow with confidence, and be ready for their future learning and careers.

As students enter Year 10, we want them to feel excited and confident about choosing their option subjects. We offer a strong core curriculum alongside a wide range of options, and we thoughtfully guide students to make informed decisions. This helps every student to thrive, achieve, and follow their ambitions.

CHOOSING OPTION PATHWAYS

To make sure every student can reach their goals, we have created two different pathways for Key Stage 4: **The Honours Pathway** and **The Universal Pathway**.

If any student needs additional support, adaptations are offered.



THE HONOURS PATHWAY

Students on our Honours Pathway follow a highly academic route, designed for learners who embrace challenge, and show high levels of independent thought and curiosity. This pathway offers a broad range of academic subjects that build strong foundations for progression into Further and Higher Education. Students choose two additional subjects from our full options offer, giving them opportunities to explore their interests, extend their strengths, and continue to aim high as they work towards their aspirational goals.

Students on this pathway study a language and have the opportunity to travel abroad. Studying a language helps every learner broaden their experiences, and benefit from research showing that multilingual skills can support higher achievement across GCSE subjects.

THE UNIVERSAL PATHWAY

Students on our Universal Pathway are offered a wide range of option subjects to help them gain the important knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's world. This popular pathway allows students to build a strong understanding of their core subjects while also developing their own diverse talents. It helps every young person feel they belong in our learning community and supports each student to achieve as they explore subjects that inspire and motivate them.



	Honours Pathway	Universal Pathway
Core Subjects (Compulsory)	English Language English Literature Mathematics Combined Science (Combined Science is part of our core offer which all students will study). Personal Development Physical Education	
Compulsory Options (At least one of the following)	History or Geography	
Open Options	Pick two options from this list: Triple Award Science (Higher)* History Religious Studies Geography Hospitality and Catering Engineering Design Technology Performing Arts (Dance) Sport Studies Health and Social Care Drama Music Creative Media Production Fine Art Photography Information Technology Computer Science Travel and Tourism	Pick three options from this list: Triple Award Science (Higher)* History Religious Studies Geography Spanish French Hospitality and Catering Engineering Design Technology Performing Arts (Dance) Sport Studies Health and Social Care Drama Music Creative Media Production Fine Art Photography Information Technology Computer Science Travel and Tourism

* All students will study **Combined Science** as a core offer, unless **Triple Award Science (Higher)** is selected as one of their options choices.

Please note: **Students will be informed by their Science teacher** if they are eligible to select **Triple Award Science (Higher)** as an option. Only students who have produced the highest scores in assessments during Years 7, 8 and 9 will have this option.

GRADING STRUCTURE

Depending on the pathway, students will sit a mixture of GCSEs and Technical Qualifications that have different grading structures.

GCSE (Non-Tiered) Structure

These subjects have one exam for everyone. Grades go from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest).

Subjects:

- Fine Art
- Geography
- Computer Science
- History
- English Language
- Religious Studies
- English Literature
- Design Technology
- Performing Arts (Acting)
- Music
- Photography

GCSE (Tiered) Structure

These subjects have two levels of exams to choose from.

Subjects:

- Mathematics
- Foundation Tier – Grades 5 to 1
- Science
- Higher Tier – Grades 9 to 4
- French/Spanish

Foundation Tier	1	2	3	4	5	-	-	-	-
Higher Tier	-	-	-	4	5	6	7	8	9

Important:

- On Foundation Tier, the highest grade is 5.
- If you take Higher Tier and score too low, you get U (Unclassified).

Technical Qualification Structure

Subjects:

- Health & Social Care
- Creative Media
- Sport Studies
- Performing Arts (Dancing)
- Hospitality and Catering
- Information Technology
- Travel and Tourism
- Engineering

These subjects have no tiers, and students receive a GCSE Equivalent Technical Grade.

Technical Grade	GCSE Equivalent
Level 2 Distinction *	9
Level 2 Distinction	8
Level 2 Merit	7
Level 2 Pass	6
Level 1 Distinction	5
Level 1 Merit	4
Level 1 Pass	3
	2
	1

CORE SUBJECTS



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Subject Lead: Dr V Rogan
Contact: vrogan@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: English Language helps you to become a confident communicator, and develop the vital skills needed for all careers and further study. The main aim is to improve three core skills: reading, writing, and speaking.

Assessment Components

Paper 1 (50%): Creative Reading and Writing

Students read one story or extract, analyse how the writer uses language and structure, and write their own descriptive piece or short story.

Paper 2 (50%): Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Students read two non-fiction texts to compare their viewpoints and methods. Students then write an article, speech, or letter to share their own opinion on a linked topic.



English Language will teach you to read and understand different kinds of texts. You will also learn how to write for different purposes, speak, and present confidently.

English Language could lead to nearly all further study (A-Levels, apprenticeships, T Levels, BTECs) and job pathways. It confirms you can read well, write clearly, and share ideas effectively. These strong communication skills are necessary for success in all future education and employment.

Further
Information:



Specification



Sparx
Reader



Voiceover



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Subject Lead: Dr V Rogan
 Contact: vrogan@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: English Literature helps you read and deeply understand important fiction books, plays, and poems. You will study set texts, including a Shakespeare play (Romeo and Juliet), a 19th-century novel (The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde), a modern play (An Inspector Calls) and a selection of poetry (Power and Conflict Anthology), which will help you to develop deeper insight into human nature and society.



Assessment Components

Paper 1 (40%): Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel
 Students write about one Shakespeare play and one older novel, showing they understand characters, themes, and writers' ideas.

Paper 2 (60%): Modern Texts and Poetry
 Students write about one modern play or novel and a collection of poems. They show they understand the writers' messages and can compare different poems.

English Literature will teach you to look closely at important plays, novels, and poems. You will learn how to explore characters, themes and writers' ideas in detail. You will learn how to think well and write strong, clear arguments about the texts you read, showing your understanding of why these works of literature matter.

English Literature could lead to further study, especially in Arts, Humanities, and Law. It shows you can think deeply, examine complex ideas and express arguments clearly. These skills are valuable for many jobs that need strong understanding and written communication.

Further Information:



Specification



GCSE Pod



Voiceover



MATHEMATICS

Subject Lead: Mr M Smith
Contact: msmith@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Pupils deepen their mathematical knowledge and confidence, as they discover its importance in everyday life. Students will study a range of topics including: Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry and Measure, Probability, and Statistics.

Assessment Components

Paper 1 (33 %): This is a non-calculator paper which is 90 minutes in length.

Paper 2 (33 %): This is a calculator paper which is 90 minutes in length.

Paper 3 (33 %): This is a calculator paper which is 90 minutes in length.



Mathematics teaches you how to reason and solve mathematical problems. It will develop your problem solving and analytical skills which can be applied in many areas outside of Mathematics. Key numeracy skills have many real life applications, including financial calculations.

Mathematics could lead to further mathematical study including A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Practical applications include construction and engineering. As a core subject, all careers and apprentices require a certain level of mathematical ability.

Further Information:



Specification



Sparx Maths

 Voiceover



COMBINED SCIENCE

Subject Lead: Ms E Coulter
 Contact: ecoulter@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Studying Science develops students understanding of the natural world through Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Students build knowledge, practical skills, and critical thinking through experiments and inquiry. The subject encourages curiosity, problem-solving, and informed decision-making about real-world scientific and technological issues.



Assessment Components

- Biology Paper 1
- Biology Paper 2
- Chemistry Paper 1
- Chemistry Paper 2
- Physics Paper 1
- Physics Paper 2

Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes in length.

For Combined Science, scores from papers are combined and two science grades are awarded.

* For Triple Award Science, three separate grades are given.

Science teaches you to ask questions, seek answers, and learn the importance of making mistakes and learning from them.

Science could lead to further study including A-level biology, chemistry, physics or psychology. Or you may prefer an engineering qualification. There are many career options that involve science, both locally, and nationwide.

* For students who have produced the highest scores in assessments during Years 7, 8 and 9, there will be the option to study Triple Award Science (Higher). Students will be informed by their Science teacher if they are eligible to select Triple Award Science (Higher) as an option.

Further Information:



Specification



Careers in Science

Voiceover



SUBJECT OPTIONS



HISTORY

Subject Lead: Miss R Douglas
Contact: rdouglas@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: GCSE History lets you explore British, European, and world events. You will learn what caused these events, what happened because of them, and why they matter. You will also use real historical sources and look at the different views of historians.

Assessment Components

Paper 1 (30 %): Medicine in Britain 1250-Present Day

Paper 2 (40 %):

Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991 (20 %)
Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c.1060-1088 (20 %)

Paper 3 (30 %): Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939



History teaches you how to create well explained arguments, giving clear reasons for your viewpoints. You will become a more independent learner, develop your critical thinking skills, and learn to judge how useful various sources of historical information are.

History could lead to various career paths, as well as further study at A-Level. History improves your ability to write clearly, build strong arguments, research information, and think critically. Employers value these skills because they show you can communicate well and problem solve.

Further
Information:



Edexcel
(Bitesize)



Careers in
History

Voiceover



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Subject Lead: Ms S Bainbridge
 Contact: sbainbridge@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Students explore religious, philosophical, and ethical issues with a focus on Christianity and Islam. They learn the beliefs and practices in both religions and explore different viewpoints, including religious, humanist, and atheist ideas. Topics include life and death, marriage and family, crime and punishment, and peace and conflict, helping students understand others.



Assessment Components

Paper 1 (50 %): Religion and Ethics: Christianity

Paper 2 (50 %): Peace and Conflict: Islam

Religious Studies will teach you to evaluate arguments and understand different religious and non-religious viewpoints on issues like crime and justice. Students develop strong speaking and writing skills by explaining ideas clearly. They also build cultural awareness and empathy, learning to respect different beliefs while forming balanced, well-justified opinions.

Religious Studies could lead to further study at A-Level, including Religious Studies, Philosophy and Humanities. The skills and knowledge gained from Religious Studies are valuable in a range of careers including law and legal services, media and communications, education and welfare, the public sector and healthcare.

Further
Information:



Matters of
Life and
Death



My Future,
My Career

 Voiceover



GEOGRAPHY

Subject Lead: Mrs S Warren
Contact: swarren@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Through Geography students study the physical world, including natural hazards, rivers, coasts, and ecosystems like rainforests and deserts. They also learn about people and places, such as cities, the global economy, and resources.

Assessment Components

Paper 1 (35 %): Natural Hazards, Physical Landscapes and The Living World

Paper 2 (35 %): Urban Issues and Challenges, Changing Economic World and Resource Management

Paper 3 (30 %): Geographical Skills and Evaluation



Geography is for you if you love exploring! You'll build your skills with fieldwork and real-life problem solving. You'll learn how nature shapes our world, climate change, and the impact of people.

Geography could lead to various careers including environmental scientist, town planner, weather forecaster, cartographer, travel agent, and more. Students learn skills useful for many jobs, such as collecting data, making maps, reading graphs, solving problems, and understanding how people and the environment are connected.

Further
Information:



Careers in
Geography

Speaker icon
Voiceover



SPANISH

Subject Lead: Mr J Bailey
Contact: jamesbailey@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Students study People and Lifestyle, Popular Culture, Communication and the World Around Us. You develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, learn about Spanish-speaking cultures, and gain valuable skills for future jobs and travel. Learning Spanish helps you build confidence when speaking to people from other countries.



Assessment Components

Listening (25 %): Listen to recordings, answer questions and complete a dictation.

Speaking (25 %): Role-play, read aloud and discussion, describe 2 photographs, general conversation.

Reading (25 %): Answer questions and translate into English.

Writing (25 %): Write texts and translate into Spanish.

Spanish is for you if you like learning languages and exploring other cultures. It will teach you to speak, listen, read and write in the language. You will improve communication skills, gain confidence, learn new ways of thinking and develop skills useful for travel, work and everyday life.

Spanish could lead to further language study at A-Level. Knowing Spanish can help you with jobs in business, tourism, translation or teaching. Speaking another language is a useful skill that can make life easier, help you meet new people and open doors to exciting opportunities.

Further Information:



Specification



How Languages
Help your
Career

Voiceover



FRENCH

Subject Lead: Miss A Rothnie
 Contact: arothnie@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: You develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, learn about French culture, and gain communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Students study People and Lifestyle, Popular Culture, and Communication and the World Around Us.

Assessment Components

Listening (25 %): Listen to recordings, answer questions and complete a dictation.

Speaking (25 %): Role-play, read aloud and discussion, describe 2 photographs, general conversation.

Reading (25 %): Answer questions and translate into English.

Writing (25 %): Write texts and translate into French. Grammar task.



French is for you if you like learning languages and exploring other cultures. It will teach you to speak, listen, read and write in the language. You will improve communication skills, gain confidence, learn new ways of thinking and develop skills useful for travel, work and everyday life.

French could lead to further language study at A-Level. Knowing French can help you with jobs in business, tourism, translation or teaching. Speaking another language is a useful skill that can make life easier, help you meet new people and open doors to exciting opportunities.

Further Information:



Specification



BBC Languages

Voiceover



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Subject Lead: Miss E Rees
Contact: erees@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Hospitality and Catering teaches students how cafés, restaurants, and catering businesses work. Learners study healthy eating, nutrition, food safety, and basic cooking skills. The course builds useful skills such as planning, organisation, time management, communication, and problem-solving, helping students succeed in school and future jobs in hospitality and catering.

Assessment Components

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action



Hospitality and Catering teaches you how food businesses work, how to cook safely, and how to plan meals. You will learn useful skills like teamwork, organisation, and problem-solving. This subject is for you if you enjoy food, being creative, and want a future job in catering or hospitality.

Hospitality and Catering leads to courses in hospitality and catering. Learners can study professional cookery at Level 2 or Level 3, or take courses in food, science, and nutrition. These pathways can lead to jobs in restaurants, cafés, hotels, and catering.

Further Information:



Specification



Further Study



Voiceover



ENGINEERING

Subject Lead: Miss E Rees
Contact: erees@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Learners understand real-world engineering while developing creativity, problem-solving skills, and confidence in designing and improving their own work. Students plan ideas, build models, and improve designs to meet targets.

Assessment Components

R038: Design process, ideas, planning, and choices.

R039: Engineering drawing skills, and computer-aided design (CAD).

R040: Test model development, and design improvement.



Engineering teaches you how to design, make, and test products. You will use tools, machines, and computers to create models and real products. You will learn about materials, maths, and problem-solving.

Engineering could lead to further study at A-Level or Applied Engineering. You could also study diplomas in areas like automotive, electrical, electronic, maintenance, tool making, power, or construction engineering. These courses can lead to apprenticeships or jobs as engineers, technicians, or mechanics.

Further
Information:



Specification

 Voiceover



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Subject Lead: Miss E Rees
Contact: erees@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Students design and make products, sketch ideas, test materials, and use CAD/CAM. Students solve real-life problems by designing for people's needs. The course builds drawing and communication skills through hands-on 2D and 3D modelling, using a range of materials and simple electronics or textiles.

Assessment Components

Unit 1: Non-Exam Assessment (50%)

Integrated design and manufacturing project. Understanding environmental, sustainable, social, economic and industrial commercial relevance.

Unit 2: Exam (50%)

Technical principles, design and making principles.

Design and Technology is for you if you enjoy working creatively, using practical skills to solve real life problems. It allows you to take risks, make mistakes and to become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable.

Design and Technology could lead to studying Product Design, a popular choice at A-level. Students who choose these subject often go on to work for companies, nationally and internationally, such as Dyson, BAE Systems, Ralph Lauren, and Lego.

Further
Information:



Specification



Careers



Voiceover



PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE)

Subject Lead: Miss E Stirzaker
Contact: estirzaker@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Students explore professional works, develop choreography and performance techniques, and participate in workshops. The course builds communication, practical dance skills, leadership, and industry knowledge.

Assessment Components

Component 1:

Students understand different styles and dance creation.

Component 2:

Developing technical, performance, and interpretive skills through reproducing dance repertoire.

Component 3:

Choreographing and rehearsing a group performance.



Dance is for you if you are passionate about dance, and combining creativity with practical skills. Students gain insight into the performing arts industry while building confidence, teamwork, communication, and leadership skills for future education and careers in the arts.

Dance could lead to progress to A-Levels or vocational Level 3 courses such as Dance, Performing Arts, Sports Studies, or Sport and Exercise Science. These routes can lead to employment, apprenticeships, or higher education, including degrees in dance, performing arts, or teaching.

Further Information:



Specification



Voiceover



SPORTS STUDIES

Subject Lead: Mr C Maclean
Contact: cmaclean@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Sport Studies explores modern issues in sport, such as participation, ethics, values, major events, and technology. Students develop practical skills by performing in sports and leading activity sessions. The course also includes outdoor activities, focusing on safety and benefits, while building leadership.



Assessment Components

Unit 1: Exam
Exploring contemporary issues in sport.

Unit 2: Non Exam Assessment
Performance in two sports and leadership of a sports session, covering planning, delivery, and self-review.

Unit 3: Non Exam Assessment
Focuses on outdoor and adventurous activities, teaching students to research opportunities, plan for safety.

Sport Studies is for you if you enjoy sport, leadership, and adventure. The course combines theory and practical learning to build confidence and key skills. Students learn about ethics, technology, major events, and barriers to participation, improve sporting ability, lead activity sessions, and explore outdoor and adventurous activities.

Sport Studies could lead to further study at A-Levels or a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as Sports Studies or Sport and Exercise Science. These prepare learners to enter employment, apprenticeships, or to higher education, studying a degree in the Sport Sciences or teaching sectors.

Further Information:



Specification

 Voiceover



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Subject Lead: Mrs A Rawlinson
Contact: arawlinson@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: This course explores caring skills and values, and looks at factors affecting health and wellbeing. Students learn about different health conditions, how they are managed, and the services that support people, such as hospitals and care homes.

Assessment Components

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing



Health and Social Care is for you if you want to learn how care services help people to stay healthy. It will teach you about health conditions, useful care skills like empathy and respect, and the many jobs in health and social care.

Health and Social Care could lead to work as a nurse, doctor, midwife, pharmacist or care assistant. You could also work as a counsellor or therapist. Many people work in this sector, and demand for these important jobs is growing.

Further Information:



Specification

 Voiceover



DRAMA

Subject Lead: Mr R Kitchin
Contact: rkitchin@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: This course teaches you how theatre performances are created, from first ideas to the final show. Students study plays, create their own work, and practise using voice and body to build characters. Lessons build confidence, teamwork, and creativity, through practical work, and explore design elements like costume and lighting.



Assessment Components

Component 1: Devising (40%)

Create your own play from an idea and keep a log of your process and choices.

Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)

Act or design two short scenes from a play.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)

Answer questions on a play you have studied and write about a live theatre show.

Drama is for you if you enjoy theatre, teamwork, performing or designing and being creative. You'll learn acting skills, explore theatre styles, and take part in practical projects. You can also choose to design work for costume, set, lighting or sound.

Drama could lead to drama or performing arts courses at college, university or drama school. You can train to be an actor, work backstage with costumes, sets, sound, or lighting. It also helps you gain confidence, work in a team, and be more creative

Further Information:



Specification



Further Study

Voiceover



MUSIC

Subject Lead: Ms M Larcombe
Contact: mlarcombe@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: You will learn how music is made, played, and listened to. Exploring classical, film, and popular music, you will discover how music can create feelings. You will also compose your own music and perform both on your own and in a group.

Assessment Components

Performing (30%): Play solo and group pieces, with one piece linking to an area of study.

Composing (30%): Write two pieces of music, with one set to a brief and one is your own free choice.

Appraising (40%): A listening exam covering, musical forms, ensemble music, film music, and popular music.



Music is for you if you enjoy being creative. It will help you grow in confidence by performing alone and in groups. You will learn how to write your own music, understand different styles, and listen more carefully. Music also builds teamwork, imagination, and problem-solving skills.

Music can lead to many exciting paths. You can go on to take GCSE, A-Level, BTEC, or diploma courses in Music, Music Technology, or Performing Arts. It can also lead to careers such as a performer, composer, music teacher, sound engineer, producer, theatre technician, film and game music writer, arts manager, lawyer or journalist.

Further Information:



Specification



Bitesize



Voiceover



CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION

Subject Lead: Mr R Kavanagh
Contact: rkavanagh@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Creative Media Production allows students to investigate different media products, including print, moving image, and interactive texts. Students explore how media is planned, produced, and edited, while developing practical digital media skills. The course helps learners understand media processes and build creativity and technical confidence.

Assessment Components

Component 1:
Exploring Media Products.

Component 2:
Developing Digital Media and Production Skills.

Component 3:
Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief.

Creative Media Production is for you if you are a creative person who enjoys communication, design, planning, presentation, evaluation, critical thinking, culture, research, filming and photography.

Creative Media Production could lead to A-Level Media Studies, A-Level Film Studies and Level 3 BTEC Media as a pathway to any career in communication and the media industry.

Further Information:



Specification



The Media
Insider
(YouTube)


Voiceover



FINE ART

Subject Lead: Ms M Bond
 Contact: mbond@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: This course helps students develop artistic skills through practical work and learning about art ideas and history. Students use different media styles, explore interests, and create original, individual artwork based on set themes.

Assessment Components

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

Learners create a comprehensive artwork collection on natural forms and cultural or Gothic investigations.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (40%)

This involves a period for research and development, followed by a 10-hour supervised final assessment.



Fine Art is for you if you enjoy making things, love to experiment with materials like paint, pencil, printmaking and want to explore ideas by looking at different artists and cultures. It's for people who like to express themselves visually.

Fine Art could lead to careers in creative industries like architecture, fashion design, graphic design, animation, film, or teaching. It develops vital skills in problem-solving, visual communication, and creative thinking, preparing for further study at A-Level or BTEC.

Further Information:



Specification



Bitesize



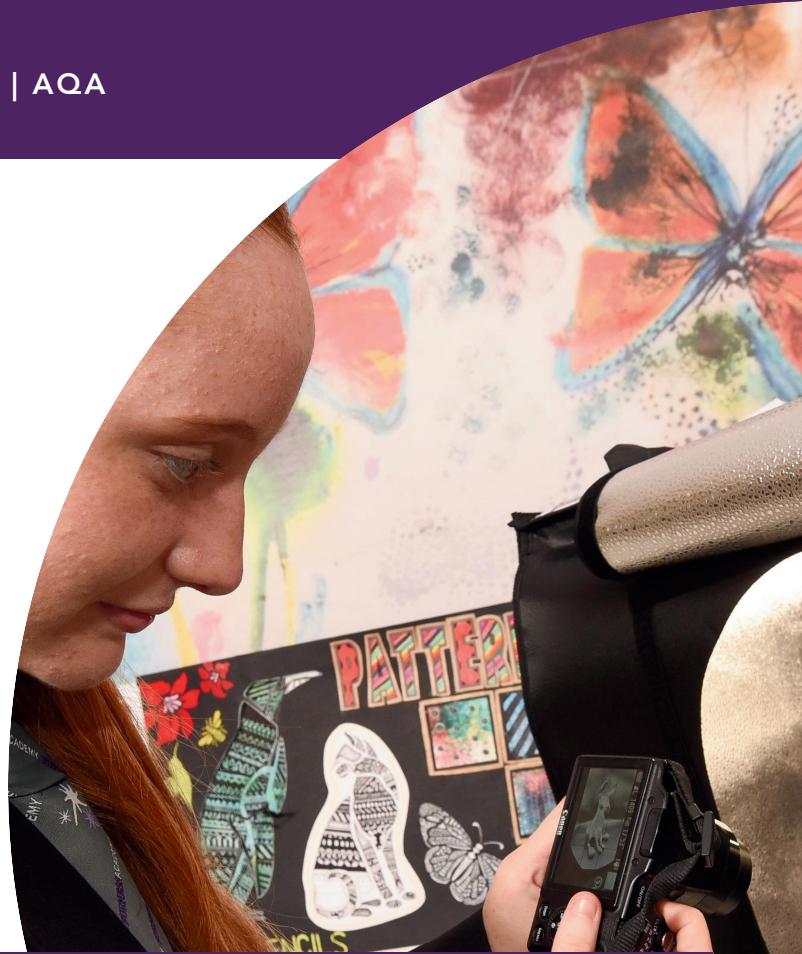
Voiceover



PHOTOGRAPHY

Subject Lead: Ms M Bond
Contact: mbond@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: This course helps students develop photography skills through practical work and learning about photographic history and ideas. Students use techniques such as digital editing, studio lighting, and location photography. By studying different photographers, learners develop personal interests, build technical and creative skills, and produce original portfolios and final work based on set themes.



Assessment Components

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

Learners create a collection of research, experimental and photography work.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (40%)

The exam board provides a starting point to which the learner selects and responds.

Photography is for you if you love capturing moments, enjoy experimenting with light, digital tools, and want to explore ideas by looking at different photographers. It's for creative people who like to express themselves visually through the lens.

Photography could lead to careers in creative industries such as architecture, fashion, graphic design, animation, and film. It develops vital skills in visual communication, problem-solving, and creative thinking. This prepares you perfectly for further education, like A-Level or BTEC courses.

Further Information:



Bitesize



Specification



Voiceover



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Subject Lead: Miss C Thomson
Contact: cthomson@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Through IT students build problem-solving skills and efficient use of digital tools, helping students prepare for further education, apprenticeships, and future careers in a changing digital world.

Assessment Components

R050: IT in the Digital World (40%)

R060: Data Manipulation using Spreadsheets (30%)

R070: Using Augmented Reality to Present Information (30%)



Information Technology will teach you how to use spreadsheets, create digital projects for real-life situations, and use IT tools. You will develop skills in problem-solving, thinking creatively and logically, and gain confidence in using computers effectively.

Information Technology could lead to further study in IT and related subjects such as Networking, Cyber security and Web development. A qualification in IT will help open doors to a wide range of future careers, as digital skills are valuable in almost every job today.

Further
Information:



Specification

Voiceover



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Subject Lead: Miss C Thomson
Contact: cthomson@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Computer Science teaches students how computers work and how to solve problems using coding and logical thinking. Students design, write, and fix programs while learning about algorithms, data, and digital systems. The course also explores how technology affects society and suits students who enjoy challenges and creating practical solutions.



Assessment Components

Unit 1: Computer Systems (50%)

Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50%)

Computer Science will teach you how to become a good problem solver, understand technology better, and think in smarter, logical ways that you can use in other subjects and everyday life.

Computer Science could lead to further opportunities to study computer science, IT or programming either vocationally or at A-level. It can lead to careers in games designing, app making, web development or cybersecurity. It also helps if you want to work in maths or engineering because you'll learn important skills like problem-solving and coding.

Further Information:



Specification

 Voiceover



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Subject Lead: Mrs K Moody
Contact: kmoody@furnessacademy.co.uk

Overview: Students learn how the industry works, why people travel, and how holidays and trips are planned. You'll learn about popular destinations, customer service, and how tourism affects places around the world.

Assessment Components

Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations (30%)

Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism (30%)

Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism (40%)



Travel and Tourism is for you if you enjoy learning about global destinations, have an interest in customer service, and want practical skills for real-world careers.

Travel and Tourism could lead to Level 3 BTEC Nationals, A-Levels, apprenticeships, or degrees in tourism, hospitality, or business. Career options include travel agencies, airlines, tour operators, hotels, events, and visitor attractions, offering roles in customer service, planning, and management.

Further
Information:



Specification

 Voiceover



QUESTION & ANSWER

Will I get my first choice?

Most students will get their first-choice subjects. Sometimes it is not possible for everyone to get all their choices. Make sure your reserve subject is one you like, as no changes can be made once options are finalised.

What if I change my mind after submitting my form?

It is not possible to amend your option choices after the form is submitted. Please speak to Mr Kelly to discuss this as soon as possible.

When will I find out which options I have been allocated?

Final choices are confirmed week beginning 23th February 2026.

What happens if I miss the deadline to submit my form?

Speak to Mr Kelly as soon as possible.

Will my choices influence what I can study at Post 16?

Almost all subjects at Post 16 can be studied whether you have taken them at KS4 or not.

Can I swap subjects at the start of Year 10?

If needed, swaps may be possible after a discussion between parents, students and the school. Please note swaps cannot be guaranteed.



Proud of our place
at the heart of the Barrow Community.

Please contact us if you require any further information about option choices;

Mr S Kelly, Deputy Headteacher: skelly@furnessacademy.co.uk

Mr J Riley, Director of Learning & Standards (Year 9):
jriley@furnessacademyco.uk

Miss V Hatton, Year Manager (Year 9): vhatton@furnessacademy.co.uk

Miss R Noble-Gay, SENCO: rgay@furnessacademy.co.uk

Contact details for each subject leader can be found on the subject pages