

COURSES FOR YEAR 10 AND 11

In the near future, students in Years 8 and 9 will be making a choice of subjects to be studied in Years 9, 10 and 11 of their schooling. All students will study English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, ICT and Languages as examination subjects. They will, in addition, study a variety of other subjects chosen from a wide range of options, and some of these subjects may be entirely new to them. A further session each week will be spent on the core curriculum, covering aspects of Religious Education, Citizenship, Personal and Health, Social Education, and Physical Education activities.

For the first time students have some choice - **YOU** have to make some decisions.

It is important that you talk to people before you make any decisions.

KNOWING ABOUT YOURSELF

What kind of person are you? This is never an easy question to answer but it's worth thinking about. The kind of person you are can affect your choice of school subjects and the type of work you might be interested in. For many jobs, what you are like as a person is as important as qualifications. For example, can you imagine somebody having all the qualifications to be a nurse but not enjoying talking and listening to people? Or a lighthouse keeper who didn't enjoy being alone, or almost alone, most of the time?



Remember:

- Everybody's different so there's no right or wrong answer to the question 'What kind of person are you?'
- We all change in time. Members of your family or older friends will tell you how different they are now from when they were your age.
- Other people's views of what kind of person you are may be different from your own.

When you are thinking about possible types of work that could interest you:

- Try to list the personal qualities needed in those jobs.
- Try to be honest with yourself and see if you have those qualities.
- Ask yourself what you could do to develop the right kind of personal qualities for jobs that appeal to you.
- Ask friends and family if they think you've got the right kind of personal qualities for particular jobs.

For example, to be a salesperson all the following would be important

- Being able to talk to different types of people without being shy or awkward.
- To be able to work closely with other staff in a team.
- To be able to work on your own with no supervision.
- To sound cheerful when dealing with customers even if you aren't feeling happy yourself.
- To be able to cope with customers who are angry about a product they've bought which won't work.



For work as a Police Officer the following would be important:

- Being able to talk to different types of people.
- To be able to collect information which is accurate, write it down and give evidence in court.
- To be able to keep your temper.
- To be able to keep calm when everyone else is in a panic.
- To be methodical.



**THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF, WHAT YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE,
THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THE TYPE OF
WORK WHICH WILL INTEREST YOU!**

Do I need to have a Career in mind before I make my choice?

No:

A good general education is important whatever you are going to do. Most employers and training officers look for young people leaving school with a good standard in English and Mathematics, together with a wide variety of other subjects.



Employers also want young people with good employability skills.

If you do have a career in mind, then your decisions will be easier to make. Try and find out what subjects it may be necessary to study for the career you have in mind.

What happens if I have no career in mind?

Don't worry too much - most people change their mind between 14 and 16 anyway!

The following points should be noted:-

- Make sure your subject choice reflects your strengths and interests.
- Try to keep 'doors open' to different careers as long as possible.
- Make sure you know the effect upon your future choice of career if certain subjects are dropped.
- If in doubt - **ASK!**

It follows that one way of becoming an all-rounder is to study a group of subjects which together make some kind of unity and balance. The main subject groups are:-

- English, English Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Foreign Languages
- Technologies (Food/Resistant Materials/Graphics, and Textiles/Health & Social care comes under the Technology department.
- Humanities (History, Geography, R.E.) Travel and Tourism BTEC (two options)
- Creative Subjects (Art/Music/Drama/Dance/P.E.) P.E. BTEC (two options) - See Diplomas
- ICT/Business Studies Subjects
- NVQs – Vocational Off-Site courses



Types of Qualification

GCSE is the main qualification in core subjects such as English and Mathematics, Science offers GCSE and BTEC. GCSEs exist in other subjects – see later.

BTEC First Certificate in Travel and Tourism/Sport/Health & Social Care
Equivalent to two GCSEs

Or

Four for hard working students



OCR Level 2 National Certificate in ICT
Worth four GCSEs at grade C.



OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT
Worth two GCSEs at A* A B



AS Level French for Fast Track students with good French GCSE grades at Year 9
Worth half an 'A' Level.



Asset Language qualifications
Worth half a GCSE



BTEC courses comprise a series of modules which are assessed as they are completed, and can be worked on until they reach at least the equivalent of GCSE grade C – the people who struggle with learning for exams will have more success with these courses.

The Diploma in Creative Arts and Media

This will be assessed by a mixture of cross curricular projects and some stand alone activities in specific areas such as Art, Graphics and Media. Assessment will be ongoing over the two years, not in an end-of-course exam.



What happens now?

After various assemblies and careers guidance sessions, the programme will be as follows:-

- You have the opportunity to talk with your subject teachers. (Make sure you know what is demanded in each subject - especially at examination level.) You can ask the teacher in charge of subject also (their name is at the top of subject info).
- The majority of you will be interviewed to discuss your choice of subjects. Parents will be able to come to those interviews if they wish. There will be a slot on the final options matrix for parents to indicate whether they wish to come. If any changes are needed because certain courses are over or under subscribed, or it is considered that a better choice could have been made then you will be asked to discuss this matter with the Pupil Progress Director, Assistant Pupil Progress Director, or the Curriculum Deputy Headteacher (Mr. Taylor) Mrs. Wilkins will see students with SEN and contact their parents.

Vocational Courses

A number of students who have clear ideas about wanting to pursue a vocational path such as in Construction, Hair & Beauty etc. may be offered a placement for one day a week away from the school site.

Selected students who may not benefit from studying the normal full range of GCSEs are allowed to apply now and the idea will be discussed with parents.

Mr. Hackett, the Careers teacher will be the school coordinator for these courses.



IMPORTANT POINTS

For success in any examination course, it is essential to:

1. Attend school regularly.
2. Hand in homework at all times.
3. Complete coursework, projects and field studies on time
4. Be prepared to work hard



CAREERS

When selecting option subjects, you may want to bear in mind any future career plans to ensure that you choose the right subjects. If you are in any doubt, speak to your Careers teacher or your Connexions personal advisers.

Connexions

Connexions are a service for all 13 to 19 year olds. Its aim is to help young people make the most of their potential. Connexions are for all young people, whatever their ability or background but provides extra support to those who need it.

We currently have two Connexions personal advisers who regularly visit school and provide an impartial and independent service to students and parents. For more information – Telephone 0161 743 0163 (Salford Connexions Office) or email: info@connexions-salford.com or visit the Connexions Resource Centre in Walkden (next to what was Sport Life)

Generally your chance of getting a good job and better pay will depend on the qualifications and skills that you're able to offer an employer. After Year 11 there are several ways to carry on **learning** and gain more **qualifications**.



Here are your options.....

You could:

- continue in full time education
- go into work based learning (including Apprenticeships)
- go into other employment.

There are incentives that make staying in learning easier like

- Education Maintenance Allowance
- being paid to learn through an Apprenticeship

What's best for you?

Work based learning might suit you if you

- already know what career you'd like to go into
- are ready to start working for a company
- want to earn a wage and learn at the same time
- only want to attend college for one day a week
- want to learn how to do a job by actually doing it



Some employers prefer to recruit their junior staff at 16 or 17 and you could look go get an Apprenticeship where you'll work in a company and learn specific skills through an NVQ (National vocational Qualification). You might have the option to go onto higher education at a later date.

Talk to your Personal Advisor about what Apprenticeships there are that might suit you. You can also get more information at www.realworkrealpay.info.

What about other employment?

You may get a job that's not an apprenticeship, where the company has its own training programme – but what if they don't?

All 16-17 year olds, who don't have five A*-C grades have the right to **time off for study or training** leading to an NVQ2 or equivalent qualification. For more information ask your Connexions Adviser or look at

www.dfes.gov.uk/tfst/

Young workers of 16 or 17 who are not on an Apprenticeship are guaranteed wages of £3.53 per hour under the National Minimum Wage legislation.

FULL TIME EDUCATION – THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

There is a choice of colleges in the local area that students can easily access. During Years 10 and 11 there will be ample opportunities for taster sessions, visits, and open evenings for students and parents to obtain all the necessary information needed to make informed decisions.

It is essential that students check entry requirements for individual courses and colleges as they vary considerably.

Remember whatever your GCSE results you'll be able to go to college because courses are offered at different entry levels.

All three colleges come under the umbrella of Salford City College from January 2009.



Sixth Form Centres – Eccles / Pendleton

- larger than a school sixth form – average a thousand plus students
- there may be a wider range of courses available mainly 16-19 year olds

Centre of Further Education – Salford/Worsley

- larger than a Sixth Form College, possibly a thousand or more students
- wide range of courses, often including full time, part time and evening courses
- caters for all ages
- may be spread over different sites

EMA's

An Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a government scheme that gives 16-19 year olds three brilliant reasons to stay on at college:

1. Get Paid Every Week

You could **receive** between **£5** and **£30** each **week** in term time – the amount depends on how much your parents earn.

You are entitled to **£30 a week** if your **parents' taxable income** is **less** than **£13,000** per year. If your parents earn between **£13,000** and **£30,000** you'll receive **£5 a week**, maybe more.



3. Extra £50 at the End

At the end of the school year, you'll receive an extra **£50** once you have **successfully completed your course**.

WORK BASED LEARNING

What is it?

- Think of it as **Earn while you Learn**
- It's where you'll learn how to do a job by practicing and doing all of the tasks whilst you're employed.
- As well as training 'on the job' you will spend time training 'off the job' at a college or training centre. It's often called 'Day Release'.
- Apprenticeships are examples of work based learning.



Who's it for?

Most people start at 16 or 17, but you can go to college and apply later provided you're 16 -24

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships let you get hands-on experience of working with the chance to study for qualifications. So you get the best of both worlds. There are apprenticeships in different job areas like:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administration and Professional• Agriculture• Construction• Customer Service, Retailing and Wholesaling• Engineering• Finance, Insurance and Real Estate• Health and Beauty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Care and Public Services• Hospitality• Manufacturing• Media and printing• Recreation and Travel• Transportation
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Here's the deal

- As an Apprentice your employer will pay you a wage, usually the going rate for the job, and you'll get paid holidays too.
- You'll agree to a learning plan with your employer. It'll set out what you can expect from the Apprenticeship, and what's expected of you!

What qualifications are needed?

Entry requirements are flexible because Apprenticeships aren't just based on GCSEs, practical skills count too. Employers will expect you to be interested and keen to learn. However, apprenticeships in many areas, e.g. electricians, plumbers etc. insist on high grades in at least English, Mathematics and Sciences.



QUALIFICATIONS FROM COLLEGES

There's a wide range of subjects, qualifications and routes that you can take Post-16. Here are some typical qualifications and where you could take them. Ask your form tutor, Connexions, subject teachers etc about what might best suit you.

Advanced subsidiary (AS) and A Level GCE

- 'A' Levels are made up of six units three AS units and three A2 units and involve a combination of coursework and formal exams; passes are graded A-E. You can take Key Skills alongside the AS and A2 subjects
- You need at least 5 GCSEs at grade C and above to do AS/'A' Levels, and most likely A*-B grades in several subjects especially the ones you are continuing to study to be sure of being able to start the AS courses.
- You can take subjects similar to those you studied at school as well as new subjects like Economics, Law, Philosophy and Sociology.
- You can also take 'A' Levels in **Applied subjects** like Applied Art and Design, Business, ICT, Science, Health and Social Care and Engineering. They have the same structure as AS/A2 courses, but some are offered as double award at both AS (six units) and 'A' Level (twelve units).
- AS is the first half of an 'A' Level and a qualification in its own right. Expect to study three/four AS Level subjects in Year 12. In Year 13 you go onto the 'A' Level course; you'd usually take three subjects so you may drop one of the AS subjects.
- Both AS and 'A' Levels count towards the UCAS points for entry to higher education.
- From 2010 an A* award will be awarded to the most able candidates in A2 papers.

It may be possible to do a mix of these options

Where can you take them?

- College of Further Education
- Sixth Form College
- School Sixth Form



BTEC First and National

- Usually work related
- First Diploma: Need grade D-G in GCSEs to do the course. Takes one year to complete. Equal to NVQ Level 2
- National Diploma: Need 4/5 GCSEs at Grade C and above to do the course. Takes two years to complete. Equal to NVQ 3 or two 'A' levels.
- Follow on from BTECs done to Level 2 at school in Sport, Travel & Tourism, Health and Social Care, Science can be taken to Level 3 equivalent to 'A' Levels and used for many vocational type university courses e.g. nursing

Where can I study them?

- Sixth Form Colleges
- College of Further Education
- Some Work Based Learning



So What Now?

We've tried to offer you some advice here, but you and your family will know your interests best. Your teachers can also advise on which subjects to continue with.

We wish you an exciting 2 or 3 years as you complete your time at Walkden and look forward to achieving your first successes on the journey to your chosen career.

Have a happy, healthy future!

