



Curriculum Booklet

Aims

At The Lodestar Academy, we deliver a curriculum that is dynamic, interesting, broad and balanced to ensure that our students gain the most from their time with us.

The staff team is fully committed to supporting each individual student in developing the emotional and academic resilience needed to engage with learning. We seek to equip our students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for successful future work and study, with a focus on the employment sectors available to them within the local community.

Students will experience learning in a range of settings as we enhance classroom based learning with extended educational experiences in all subject areas throughout the school year.

Our model of teaching - The Lodestar Way - ensures consistency in the routines of the classroom and provides staff and students with clarity over our expectations around behaviour and learning.

The Burton Way

Teachers	The Burton Way	Students
Meet and greet at door. Recognition of uniform and good behaviour.	Threshold	Enter the classroom calmly and ready to learn.
"Do Now" task immediately available to students. Complete register.	Do Now	Independent work begins on task.
Share the lessons objectives with students, achievable within a lesson.	Learning Objectives	Understand what they will be able to do by the end of the lesson.
Explanation and modelling of a good outcome.	Success Criteria	Understand what a good outcome is and what is needed to achieve it.
Teach something new, led by objectives and building on prior learning.	I do	Learn something new, following objectives.
Check all students for K/U/S. Adapt teaching following findings.	Mini plenary	Prove knowledge, understanding or skill.
Set tasks that allow students to practice the new learning together. Be alongside students.	We do	Apply new learning in a group/paired task.
Check all students for K/U/S. Adapt teaching following findings.	Mini plenary	Prove knowledge, understanding or skill.
Set tasks that allow students to embed and demonstrate their new learning independently. Tasks adjusted according to student attainment. Engage with students throughout.	You do	Use new learning within an independent task. Let staff know if you need help.
Check all students learning against the success criteria. Feedback WWW/EBI/Next Steps.	Plenary & feedback	Know what went well and even better if.
Inform each student how many stars they achieved during the lesson. Record RAG.	5 stars RAG	Understand their behaviour for learning rating for the lesson.
Stand by the door as students leave the room.	Orderly Exit	Leave the room calmly.

Curriculum Overview

The curriculum at The Lodestar Academy is comprised of two strands: our core curriculum offer and our personal pathway offer.

Our core curriculum offer ensures that each student has the opportunity to make progress and achieve in subjects that are essential to their educational and personal development.

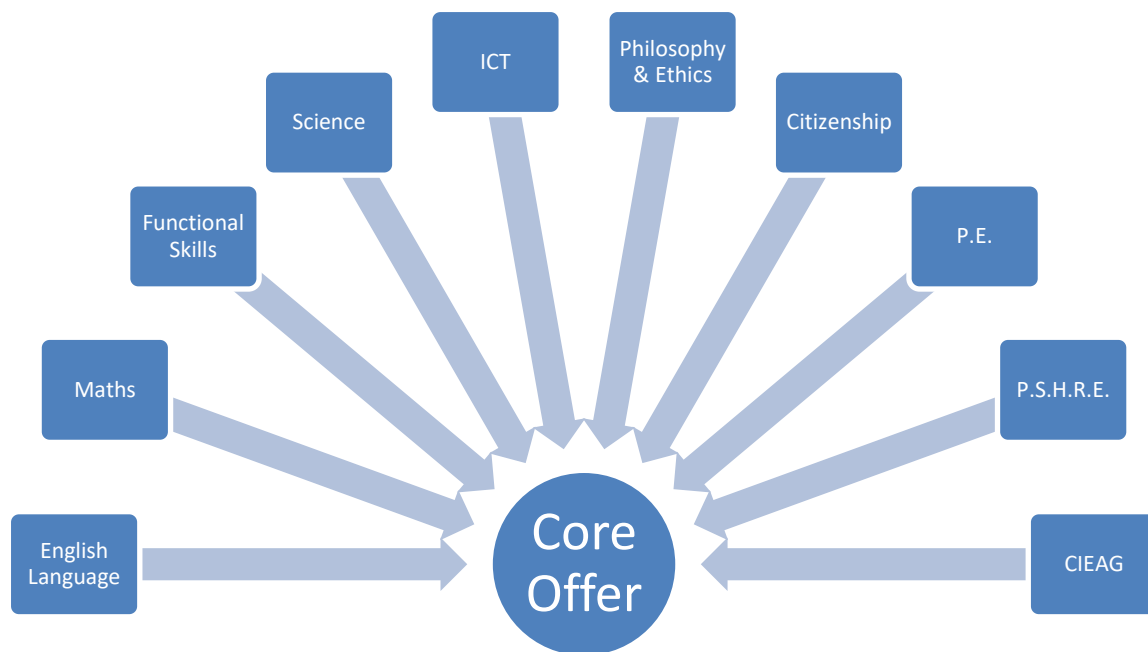
Our personal pathway offer provides students with an opportunity to develop key employability skills as well as explore subjects relating to the local employment market.

Year	Core Offer	Personal Pathway
7, 8, 9	English Language Mathematics Functional English Functional Maths Science I.C.T. Philosophy and Ethics Citizenship Humanities (KS3) P.E. P.S.H.R.E. CIEAG	Skills Builder
10		Block A English Literature Media Studies Travel and Tourism
11		Block B ASDAN Art GCSE /Arts Award Food Technology Duke of Edinburgh

All students will study each subject in the core offer.

Students in KS3 will undertake project based learning for the personal pathway focusing on the 8 Essential Skills: listening, speaking, creativity, problem solving, staying positive, aiming high, leadership, teamwork.

Students in Years 10 and 11 will select two of the pathway subjects (one from Block A, one from Block B) to study.



English Language

Why this subject is important

English is essential for communicating with others and is fundamental to learning in all curriculum areas. By studying English students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing which will enable them to participate in society and to gain employment.

Exam boards

AQA Step up to English
Eduqas GCSE

What you will learn

Through studying a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from different periods of history, you will develop your reading and text analysis skills. You will explore themes of conflict, music, animal rights and crime and punishment, supported by a range of extended experiences. The development of your coursework portfolio will support your progress in writing of fiction and non-fiction texts.

How you will be assessed

2 written examinations
1 spoken language assessment

Extended Experiences

Film club, museum trips, music sessions, Occombe farm trip, Paignton Zoo, Dartmoor Prison visit, Bodmin Jail visit, creative writing master class, London Theatre trip

What you can achieve

Year 9 – Step Up to English Silver and Gold
Year 10 – GCSE
Year 11 – GCSE

Mathematics

Why this subject is important

The study of maths can help to develop a huge range of skills: reasoning, problem solving, creativity, communication and organisation. A maths qualification is essential to most jobs and will open doors to a wide range of career opportunities.

Exam board

AQA

What you will learn

You will study a range of topics within the areas of number, algebra, shape, space and measure and data handling.

How you will be assessed

Entry Level Certificate: 1 examination in each of the 8 topics studied.

GCSE: Three written examinations at the end of year 11.

- Paper 1 (non-calculator) 1hr30mins
- Paper 2 (calculator) 1hr30mins
- Paper 3 (calculator) 1hr30mins.

Extended Experiences

Smart Stocks investment competition, casino event, orienteering trip, geocaching trip.

What you can achieve

Entry Level Certificate

GCSE

Functional Skills: English and Maths

Why these subjects are important

Obtaining a basic level of literacy and numeracy can greatly improve many factors in your life, including your social life, education and career prospects. The ability to read, write and understand information can hugely affect your employability as well as your ability to function in day-to-day life.

Exam board

AQA Functional English

Edexcel Functional Maths

What you will learn

You will learn how to interpret written information to extract key points and how to present written information in letters and emails. You will develop speaking and listening skills to improve your communication through presenting information to others and answering questions on the topic of choice. You will learn how to apply basic numeracy skills to a range of real-life scenarios.

How you will be assessed

Written examinations throughout the year in reading, writing and mathematics.

Speaking and Listening assessment on an agreed topic of your choice.

What you can achieve

Step Up to English Silver and Gold.

Functional Skills Maths Level 1 and 2.

Science

Why this subject is important

The study of science will help young people to ask and answer a variety of questions about the world they live in. Science promotes creativity and problem solving and teaches methods of enquiry and investigation.

Exam board

Edexcel

What you will learn

You will study the following 6 components:

- The human body
- Environment, evolution and inheritance
- Elements compounds and mixtures
- Chemistry in our world
- Energy, forces and the structure of matter
- Electricity, magnetism and waves

How you will be assessed

6 practical experiments

6 written assessments

Extended Experiences

Workshops at Paignton Zoo, Dawlish trip, Jurassic Coast trip, @Bristol visit, The Eden Project visit.

What you can achieve

Double Award Entry Level Certificate Level 1, 2 or 3

Single Award Entry Level certificate Level 1, 2 or 3

I.C.T

Why this subject is important

The role of I.C.T. (information and communication technology) in our society is an ever growing and constantly evolving one. An understanding of basic ICT skills is essential to all young people entering the world of work and the functional ICT course we offer will provide our students with the necessary skills to carry out the ICT related tasks involved in a range of job roles.

Exam board

NCFE

What you will learn

The course provides you with opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and skills around three strands:

- Using ICT
- Finding and selecting information
- Developing, presenting and communicating information

How you will be assessed

An assessment task will be taken at Lodestar Academy, with up to 2hrs 30mins for completion, depending on the level of qualification entered for.

What you can achieve

ICT Functional Skills qualification at:

Entry Level 1

Entry Level 2

Entry Level 3

Level 1

Level 2

Philosophy and Ethics

Why this subject is important

A study of philosophical and ethical issues enables us to develop skills of critical thinking, debate and communication. The study of philosophy and ethics supports us in developing and evolving a moral compass, providing us with a means to explore what we, as individuals and as a society, value, and equipping us with the skills required to align our actions to those values we hold as essential.

Exam board

Eduqas

What you will learn

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs. You will develop your ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured arguments.

The course has three components:

1. Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World
2. Study of Christianity
3. Study of a World Faith

How you will be assessed

Component 1 – written examination, 1 hour

Component 2 – written examination, 35 minutes

Component 3 – written examination, 35 minutes

What you can achieve

GCSE Religious Studies, short course

Citizenship

Why this subject is important

Citizenship studies provide young people with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of democracy and law, and develop skills of reasoned argument and debate. Engaging with this course will help students develop a sense of agency and encourage them to become thoughtful, active citizens.

Exam board

AQA

What you will learn

Topics covered in Citizenship include Life in Modern Britain, Rights and responsibilities, Politics and Participation and Active Citizenship. You will gain a deeper understanding of how society functions and your role within it as an active, responsible citizen.

How you will be assessed

You will sit two written examinations.

Extended Experiences

An active citizenship project with individualised roles and responsibilities, Crown Court visit, guest speakers.

What you can achieve

GCSE

P.S.H.R.E.

Why this subject is important

Personal, Social, Health, Relationships and Economic education is a subject through which our students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to manage their lives now and in the future. PSHRE equips young people to be healthy, safe, and well prepared for life in modern Britain.

What you will learn

Topics covered in PSHRE include sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol, financial management, British Values, careers, healthy lifestyles and emotional wellbeing.

How you will be assessed

Teacher devised assessments are taken for each unit studied. These are marked by staff at Lodestar Academy.

Extended Experiences

Mock interviews, museum trip, guest speakers, setting up a bank account.

P.E.

Why this subject is important

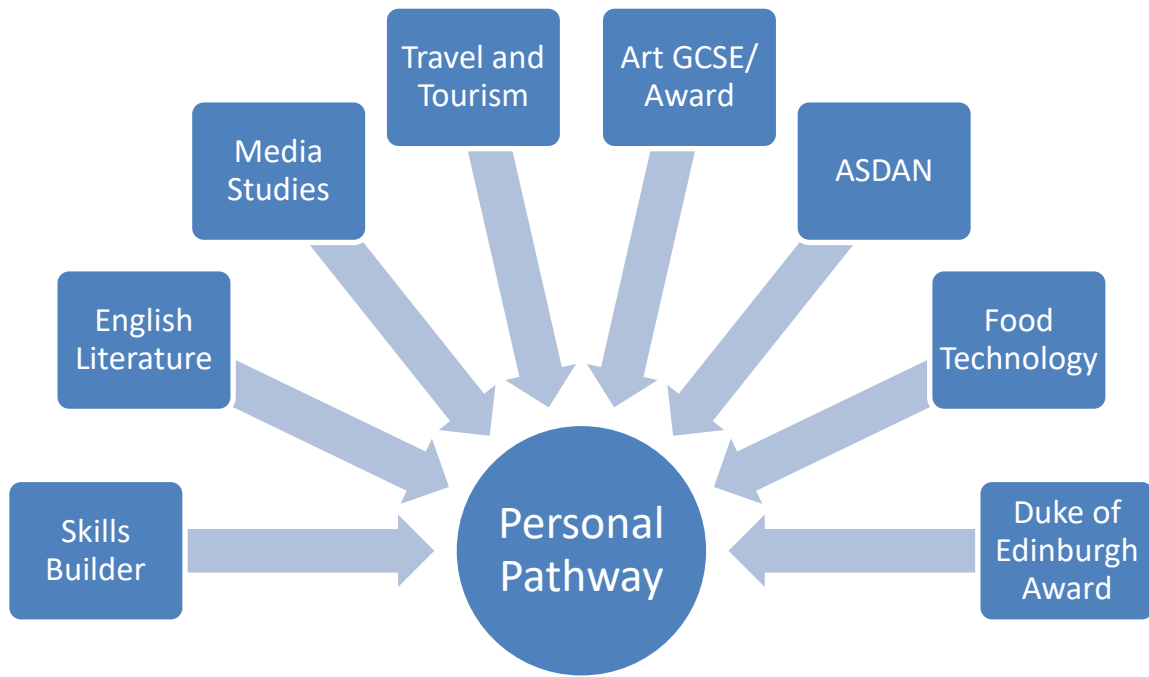
All students have a statutory right to PE lessons, reflecting the importance of students taking regular exercise in order to maintain healthy minds and bodies. PE provides students with opportunities to become physically confident as well as develop healthy competitive spirits and uphold values such as fairness and respect.

What you will learn

Students have 2 PE lessons every week and will participate in a varied range of sports including badminton, basketball, cricket, tennis, football and rounders.

Extended Experiences

Our end-of-term trips seek to provide students with opportunities to try additional physical activities such as swimming and ice-skating.



Skills Builder

Why this subject is important

Skills Builder project work provides students with an opportunity to develop the 8 Essential Skills identified as important by employers. These skills will not only support students in being able to meet the challenges of their academic careers but can be transferred to all areas of their lives.

What you will learn

- **Listening:**
This skill is all about being able to effectively receive information - whether it comes from customers, colleagues or stakeholders.
- **Speaking:**
This skill is all about how to communicate effectively with others, being mindful of whether they are talking to customers, colleagues or other stakeholders and in different settings.
- **Problem Solving:**
This skill focuses on how to solve problems, recognising that while part of Problem Solving is technical know-how and experience, there are also transferable tools that individuals can develop and use.
- **Creativity:**
Creativity is the complement to Problem Solving, and is about generating innovations or ideas which can then be honed through the problem-solving process.
- **Staying Positive:**
This skill is all about individuals being equipped to manage their emotions effectively and being able to remain motivated, and ultimately to motivate others, even when facing setbacks.
- **Aiming High:**
This skill is about being able to plan effectively - both to achieve organisational goals, and also to set their own personal development targets. Initially, this is about knowing when something is too difficult, and having a sense of what doing well looks like for an individual.
- **Leadership:**
This skill is relevant not only for individuals in positions of management with formal power, but also for individuals working with peers in teams.
- **Teamwork:**
This skill applies to working within both formal and informal teams, and also with customers, clients or other stakeholders. Initially, this is about individuals fulfilling expectations around being positive, behaving appropriately, being timely and reliable and taking responsibility. This extends to understanding and respecting diversity of others' cultures, beliefs and backgrounds.

English Literature

Why this subject is important

The study of English Literature allows people to explore new ideas and standpoints on a range of issues. Literature connects people with broader ideas in a global society and provides a starting point for discussion and debate.

Exam board

Eduqas

What you will learn

You will study *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Taste of Honey*, *Jayne Eyre*, and a range of poetry.

Throughout the course, you will develop skills of text analysis and comparison.

How you will be assessed

You will sit two written examinations:

1. Shakespeare and Poetry
2 hours, 40% of final mark
2. Prose and Unseen Poetry
2 hours 30 minutes, 60% of final mark

Extended Experiences

Royal Shakespeare Company student workshop, ghosts and legends tour, museum visit, POETRY LIVE!, Stonewall workshop.

What you can achieve

GCSE qualification

Media Studies

Why this subject is important

From television to cinema, radio to podcasts, social media to blogs and vlogs, and everything in between – media studies plays a big part of our every day. As technology, creativity, and competition increases, these skills become more in demand all over the world. Media studies will equip you with the communication and technology skills needed to succeed in the modern workplace, whether in the media industry or not.

Exam board

Eduqas

What you will learn

The course follows three key components:

1. Exploring the media
2. Understanding media forms and products
3. Creating media products

How you will be assessed

You will sit 2x 1 hour 30 minute written exams (70%).

You will create a media product for a Non-exam assessment (30%).

Extended Experiences

Regular showings of film and television; local media companies and music based groups visit and engage with learners.

What you can achieve

GCSE qualification

Travel and Tourism

Why this subject is important

4.5 million people visit Torbay every year, spending over £435 million. A relevant qualification will enable you to tap into this job market by providing you with the relevant knowledge, understanding and skills to build a successful career in the local community.

Exam board

Cambridge, IGCSE

What you will learn

You will study units covering:

- The travel and tourism industry
- Features of worldwide destinations
- Customer care and working procedures
- Travel and Tourism products and services
- Marketing and promotion
- The marketing and promotion of visitor services

How you will be assessed

Two written examinations

Extended Experiences

Living in Torbay provides a wealth of opportunities to visit places linked to the course: hotels, entertainment venues and beaches will all be visited as part of your programme of study.

What you can achieve

IGCSE

ASDAN

Why this subject is important

ASDAN Short Courses are flexible, portfolio-based programmes designed to accredit activity and skills development across a range of topics and curriculum areas.

Exam board

ASDAN

What you will learn

- Personal Finance short course
- Living Independently short course
- Roadwise short course
- Beliefs and Values short course
- Peer Mentoring short course
- Environment short course

How you will be assessed

You will complete a personal portfolio for each short course you study. This evidence will support the assessment of your successful completion of the necessary elements of each course.

Each course successfully completed will earn you credits toward the overall qualification.

Extended Experiences

The course will offer you opportunities to engage with learning outside the classroom linked to the different units being studied.

What you can achieve

Personal Development Programme Bronze

Personal Development Programme Silver

Personal Development Programme Gold

Art GCSE or Arts Award

Why this subject is important

Studying the arts helps to develop emotional intelligence and hones a student's organisation and attention to detail. The creativity and self-discipline which students of art develop is highly sought after in a range of career sectors.

Exam board

Eduqas (GCSE)

Arts Award

What you will learn

This course will enable you to:

- discover the enjoyment of creating and participating in arts activities
- experience arts events
- develop creative and communication skills that are essential for success in 21st century life
- explore the work of artists and craftspeople and gain insights into the professional arts world

How you will be assessed

GCSE:

Portfolio (60%)

Externally set assessment (40%)

Arts Award:

Your work throughout the course will be collected in an individual portfolio, which will be assessed by your teacher and moderated by Arts Award staff.

Extended Experiences

Art exhibitions (visiting and hosting), music workshops, dance workshops.

What you can achieve

Explore (Entry Level 3)

Bronze (Level 1)

Silver (Level 2)

GCSE

Food Technology

Why this subject is important

Food Technology allows students to explore their creativity using a range of materials and techniques. Students have the opportunity to design and make products that respond to a wide variety of problems within a range of contexts. Students are taught how to become competent in a range of cooking processes such as selecting and preparing ingredients, using utensils and electrical equipment and how to adapt their own recipes.

What you will learn

The course gives a basic understanding of all safe food handling procedures, including temperature control, personal hygiene, cleaning and preventing contamination.

Throughout the course, you will also compile a portfolio of recipes to take forward to a further education course, or even into personal life to help provide yourself and your family with balanced, nutritious meals.

How you will be assessed

Online modules and assessments for both levels of the course.

Extended Experiences

Catering for academy events; fairtrade breakfast; hosting a governors event

What you can achieve

Food Hygiene Certificate Level 1

Food Hygiene Certificate Level 2

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Why this subject is important

Achieving an Award will give you skills, confidence and an edge over others when you apply for college, university or a job. Beyond your academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of so called 'soft skills' that you have developed through extra-curricular activities, such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork.

What you will learn

There are four main sections of a DofE programme; Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition.

- Volunteering is about choosing to give time to help people, the community or society, the environment or animals. For your volunteering activity you need to choose to give time to do something useful without getting paid (apart from expenses). You can also volunteer in a team.
- For your physical activity you need to choose any sport, dance or fitness activity – in short, anything that requires a sustained level of energy and physical activity. For example, playing a sport regularly and showing personal improvement would count.
- For your skills activity you need to choose an activity that will allow you to prove you have broadened your understanding and increased your expertise in your chosen skill.
- For your Expedition section, you will need to plan, train for and complete an unaccompanied, self-reliant expedition with an agreed aim. Your route should also be a continuous journey.

How you will be assessed

Your DofE tutors and leaders will observe your participation in the different elements and record this on your online portfolio.

Extended Experiences

The DofE Award provides lots of opportunities to learn outside of the classroom, to visit local areas and meet members of the local community.

What you can achieve

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Choosing Your Pathway

Please read the information about each Personal Pathway subject carefully.

You will be able to take **one subject from Block A** and **one subject from Block B**.

Use the form below to record your preferences for each block.

1= Top preference

2= Second preference

3= Least preferred subject

Name: _____

BLOCK A	
SUBJECT	PREFERENCE
ENGLISH LITERATURE	
MEDIA STUDIES	
TRAVEL AND TOURISM	

BLOCK B	
SUBJECT	PREFERENCE
ART	
ASDAN	
FOOD TECHNOLOGY	
DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD	

Wherever possible we will endeavour to give you your top preference in both blocks. Due to places on courses and demand, it may be necessary to give you your second or third preference.

