

Birmingham Ormiston Academy, Curriculum Information for Higher Education Admissions Tutors

Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) is committed to providing high quality and distinctive education through a specialist curriculum delivered in outstanding facilities.

BOA is a 14 to 19 independent, state-funded academy. BOA is a regional academy, selecting most students from the West Midlands area and some from the wider regions of England.

Students are admitted to the academy through demonstrating aptitude in the creative, digital and performing arts. Students have a wide range of academic ability and socio-economic backgrounds. Students are taught by qualified teachers with significant input from industry professionals, and go on to a wide range of higher education and vocational courses and employment.

All students in Year 12 and 13 study for a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in the subject of their choice. Assessed work for this course is submitted unit by unit over the two years, and is graded according to BTEC criteria. Around half of the units are completed by the time of predicting BTEC grades, giving confidence in the accuracy of predictions. The BTEC is given teaching time equivalent to three A levels.

Students also have an option to study for one or two A level subjects in addition to their BTEC. Some students study for A levels to broaden their options and not as an academic priority. These subjects are delivered in teaching time equivalent to a fourth and fifth A level. Students have to achieve at least a GCSE grade B in a relevant subject to be eligible for each A level.

The academy has decided to routinely teach A levels as a two year course without students being entered for AS level. This is regardless of whether the subject is a legacy or revised specification. This approach has been taken to maximise the teaching time for A level subjects, to allow for student maturation, and to match the two year teaching programme for their BTEC studies. Predicted grades for A levels are awarded from information from internal assessment.

For further details about the curriculum please see our website www.boa-academy.co.uk