

Birmingham Ormiston Academy 16-19 Study Programme

This document summarises how the 16-19 curriculum at BOA meets DfE requirements as laid out in “16 to 19 study programmes: Departmental advice for education providers on the planning and delivery of 16 to 19 study programmes” (DfE, January 2016)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/493452/16_to_19_study_programmes_departmental_advice_Jan_2016_update.pdf

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.

Students taking applied and technical qualifications

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. The BTEC has guided learning hours equivalent to three A levels, and successful completion provides a qualification which in itself gives eligibility for a wide variety of university and vocational courses, and skilled employment.

Our BTEC qualifications are classified either as Technical Level or Applied General depending on the subject area. All of our qualifications have Section 96 approval for teaching to 16-19 year olds. We aim to always provide qualifications which are included in 16-19 performance tables, but on rare occasions we have chosen to continue in the short term with a qualification which has been removed from the performance tables because we believe that it gives students in that area the best preparation for higher education and future vocational training in that industry.

Students taking 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 knowledge, some to give additional options for access to

HE. 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.

Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities

Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities are catered for within our 16-19 programme. Our aptitude process is adapted for students individual needs where required. We have a SENCO who with two assistants works with 16-19 students with a wide variety of needs. Our industry focussed curriculum with a vocational, unit based qualification at its core suits many SEND students who have often struggled in their previous school.

GCSE Maths and English, further study of maths

Any student who has not achieved a GCSE grade C in English and/or Maths continues with their studies in those subjects in a taught programme culminating in GCSE resit(s). The timing of these resits is decided based on students' prior attainment and an assessment of their progress in the year of study.

Students who have passed GCSE maths at A*-C have the opportunity to further study maths at level 3 through a Maths A level.

Work Experience

There are a wide variety of extra curricular and work experience activities available which allow students to work with industry professionals and in industry settings. We have a dedicated member of teaching staff whose role is to liaise with students who are lucky enough to gain extended work experience. For example, a recent student had a major role in the BBC drama "Peaky Blinders" yet still completed his Extended Diploma with a high grade.

Other activities within a study programme

Our students participate in a taught programme called Personal Development Time. Sessions are delivered in vertical tutor groups and include tutorials, study skills, leadership, team-work and self-management. Areas covered over the year include internationalism, democracy, entrepreneurship, action, lifestyle and service. The programme covers all the aspects of SMSC and Fundamental British Values. There is a student council, the Voice of BOA, and plenty of charity activities organised by students throughout the year.

Progression

Our study programmes reflect the students' longer term aims and aspirations, and supports them to achieve their goals. We have a full time Information Advice and Guidance officer who supports students throughout their time at the academy, but especially with advice and applications for their next step after Year 13.

As of 2 September 2016, shortly after results were confirmed for Year 13, we already had confirmation that 69% of students were in Higher Education, 10% were in Employment and Self Employment, 1% in Further Education and 2% in Apprenticeships. Final figures for the 2015 cohort showed that 97% of students were in education, employment or training. Our students have gone on to the following top institutions: Leeds College of Music, Birmingham School of Acting, Urdang, Bird College, LIPA, Rose Bruford, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Guildhall Conservatoire, Guildford School of Acting and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

Accountability

We are committed to high quality delivery of our study programme and are accountable for the results and outcomes achieved. Our 2016 Key Stage 5 cohort achieved an average grade of D*D*D for the BTEC, with 95% of students achieving DDD (equivalent to AAA at A level) or better. Their overall Average Point Score including A levels was 856, equivalent to A*AA.

Tony Dean, Vice Principal (Curriculum)

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