

Careers and Individual subjects

Art & Design

Students within Art and Design are encouraged to develop and nurture their creative skills through the application of a variety of media, techniques and processes; with the addition of academic skills. They learn to manipulate materials to realise their intentions in a 2D or 3D style; giving a personal response to a given theme. Students are encouraged to consider cultural and historical links within Art and Design to widen their knowledge of important artists and movements and the vast range of techniques and processes used by these artists, craftspeople and designers.

Students can work independently, through joint thinking or collaboration with their peers; which is a skill reflected in industry. Creative skills are of huge importance in a range of careers within the Art and Design but can also be utilised within management roles and other careers not directly linked to formal creative practices. To develop opportunities for our students to consider future careers within Art and Design, we organise trips to Museums and Galleries; college visits to view A Level and BTEC exhibitions; forge links with local industries such as The Glass House in Wordsley and Think Creative Graphic Design Company. We have a careers display board within the Department and have extensive knowledge of career paths for this subject coupled with success stories of students who have gone onto study Art and Design at degree level leading onto a career within the Visual Arts.

Computing

In Computing we strive to ensure all students know the career paths available to them; whether it be IT, Programming, Game Design, Networking or Artificial Intelligence. We do this explicitly through regular conversations with students about their options and choices from as early as Year 7. We believe it is important that students have high aspirations in Computing and strive to be better. We also have display boards around the department which help encourage and inspire students towards careers, apprenticeships & university. Furthermore, we provide extra-curricular opportunities including “coding clubs” to engage young programmers and also external trips to Sheffield University and Jaguar Land Rover to introduce our students to working environments.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is a phenomenally important subject. “Logical, creative and practical. It’s the only opportunity students have to apply what they learn in Maths and Science” (Sir James Dyson – Founder and Chairman of Dyson and The James Dyson Foundation).

Design and Technology (Product Design, Materials Technology, Fashion and Textiles, Food and Nutrition) opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields e.g. medicine, law and computer science. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers. The average salary for designers is growing much faster than the UK average and engineers typically earn £25,000 to £40,000 more than the national average.

Alternatively, you may decide to be an entrepreneur and start your own business.

One third of all UK jobs are in D&T – more than any other sector! To help encourage a career in D&T we have life changing opportunities available for all Crestwood KS4 students that include: Arkwright Engineering Scholarships and Jaguar Land Rover Apprenticeships.

<http://www.arkwright.org.uk>

<http://www.jaguarlandrovercareers.com/jlr-roles/future-talent/apprentices/>

English

There is no doubt that English and English skills are a fundamental basis for many careers throughout the world; the acquisition of strong English based skills opens the doors to many careers including: Journalism, Media, Law, Education, Museum Curating, Archival Research and Customer Service. Students at Crestwood are made aware of their career options from the day that they join the school! English skills are embedded in every subject and the whole school supports the value of lifelong literacy skill improvement. The English team in particular converse with students on a daily basis about career pathways, and encourage a passion in both English language and literature alike. Trips to the theatre, visits to historical establishments, virtual tours of literary landmarks, entry into nationally recognised writing competitions, and the subsequent publication of their work, all encourage learners to take an interest in the many positive aspects of studying English. These experiences also provide a powerful insight into careers which can be undertaken through the study of English language and English literature; the possibilities are literally 'endless'.

Humanities:

History

History provides you with a set of skills which are not just confined to the study of the past, but ones that can be applied to every day life. At Crestwood, we learn and practice these

skills from year 7 right through to GCSE, to ensure students have a solid base of being able to weave these skills into their day to day. The skills of interpretation, debates, seeing arguments from different side and forming opinions are invaluable skill sets students will develop. Discussing how places, people and life have changed over time. Skills of analysis are invaluable in most jobs, and the ability to prioritise information is vital to decision making. Also, history is relevant – and employers know this! In order to make sense of current affairs, it is important to study the past.

If studied at University level, a degree in History can be an impressive and attractive feature on a CV or personal statement. At many universities you can also study history as part of a combined degree or another degree e.g. Art History, Archaeology, History and Music.

History is a valuable subject which will add value to any further education or career – there are so many careers you can go into with a history background. Careers that are directly related to history include; Heritage Manager, Historical Buildings Inspector, Conservation Officer, Museum Education Officer, Museum or Gallery Curator, Secondary School Teacher, Archaeologist

Jobs where history would be useful include; Academic Librarian, Archivist, Journalist, Editorial assistant, Politician, Solicitor, Lawyer.

Geography

Geography gives a unique blend of both the social and physical sciences helping to give our students a broad base of skills and understanding which employers are looking for.

Geographers gain an understanding of processes, place, people, environments and their interrelationships. This gives them a firm understanding of the world and their part within it. Alongside this, geographers gain many valuable skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, data analysis and data mapping using new GIS technologies. We give our students the opportunity to put their skills into practice each year by going on local field trips to collect primary data which can be mapped and evaluated.

Geography is a valuable subject which will add value to any further education or career. Some more direct careers include Environmental Management or Protection, Sustainable Energies Industries, Cartography & Data Mapping, Climate Change Research or Management and the Leisure and Tourism Industry.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies makes a magnificent contribution to a students' success in their future career whatever that might be. In our increasingly multicultural world it is vital in our work that we understand and are tolerant of how others live their lives and Religious Studies is vital in making sure that happens. Whether it be taking into account the religious

observance of Muslims at Ramadan or understanding different views on divorce; people that have these skills do better at work.

However, Religious Studies also leads into many careers. In particular people going into the caring professions often study it and gain valuable careers skills from it. Future doctors, nurses, care assistants, nursery nurses and teachers often say how useful the skills learnt in Religious Studies are to their careers. People who wish to follow the law often find the subject very useful too with its focus on right and wrong (moral issues).

Lastly, in these days of very stressful working environments a study of a religion like Buddhism gives them the chance to think about how they will cope with the “humps and bumps” of a working life.

Balanced, thoughtful students do better in their careers and that is what Religious Studies is all about.

Mathematics

Mathematics is at the heart of thousands of different careers and underpins almost every discipline. Mathematics is among the most useful and valued qualifications, greatly regarded by universities and employers. Employers highly value problem-solving skills, thinking logically, analytical and numerical skills. Mathematics qualifications open doors to many careers such as: Engineering, Commerce-orientated courses, Architecture, Software Development, Banking and Finance, Operational Research, Statisticians and potential Medics. The Mathematics Department raise students’ awareness regarding future careers from the moment they arrive at Crestwood. Being numerate helps us to function responsibly in everyday life and contribute effectively to society. As a whole school, we support the need for students to have strategies to develop their numeracy skills through their learning across the curriculum.

Modern Foreign Languages

In MFL, we regularly explore in class the practical applications of foreign language learning. This is done through dialogue with students about higher education and career opportunities involving languages. The Modern Foreign Languages Department also works closely with local universities to give our students access to the Routes into Languages programme. Past events have included visits to Wolverhampton University to take part in Business and Languages workshops, and a visit to their Telford campus to attend a Formula 1 Languages Day.

PE

In PE careers are a topic for discussion on a regular basis. We have our Sports Leadership course that looks at developing skills that are applicable in the workplace such as communication skills, planning and dynamics of teamwork. Our BTEC course is also vocational, which means that the work is set in workplace scenario and is therefore directly relevant towards students understanding the workings of a career in sport. Students throughout year groups are inspired to achieve via our STEPS targets that generate areas where students need to progress, this in turn creates an environment where students have high aspirations. We also run a multitude of trips and events that raise aspirations by introducing students to sports that they may not otherwise have had the chance to attempt, such as clay shooting, sailing and rock climbing.

Psychology

Studying Psychology equips students with invaluable analytical and essay writing skills, as well as the ability to evaluate ideas and think critically, which can be applied to further study of any subject and a wide range of occupations.

Psychology develops an understanding of people and helps to explain why people behave the way that they do. As such, knowledge of Human Psychology will be beneficial in careers that involve interaction with others, which includes the vast majority of professions.

Furthermore, professions where studying Psychology is particularly useful include careers in the NHS, schools, the police force, the criminal justice system, counselling, social services, business and marketing – to name a few! This is due to their strong focus on understanding people and working with others – skills that will be developed by studying Psychology. Links to these subjects, as well as the skills developed, are regularly made throughout the Psychology course through discussion, videos and activities.

Science

Science education plays an important role in our students' life and potential future careers. As a result, lessons are designed to show students how science is all around them and how it impacts on their lives and possible futures. We are surrounded by technology and the products of science every day. Decisions that affect every aspect of our lives are based in scientific evidence. The immensely complex natural world that surrounds us illustrates infinite scientific concepts. As students grow up in an increasingly technologically and scientifically advanced world, they need to be scientifically literate to succeed and kept up to date with modern and future possible career prospects.

Science is everywhere. As student travels to school by car, on the bus or simply by walking, there are many examples of technology based on the scientific method. The car and the bus are a product of many areas of science and technology, including mechanical engineering and innovation. The roads, houses they pass, and even the clothes and shoes they wear are carefully designed by scientists and engineers. The smartphone in the student's hand is a product of numerous scientific discoveries and creations and its design will evolve as future discoveries are made. The trees they pass turn sunlight into stored energy and create the oxygen we need to survive. Man-made or natural every aspect of a student's life is filled with science — from their own internal biology to the flat-screen TV they are playing their PlayStation on.

Throughout KS3 and KS4, teaching the scientific method to students is teaching them how to think, learn, solve problems and make informed decisions. These skills are integral to every aspect of a student's education and life, during school and beyond. Students use the gained scientific techniques and curriculum content to advance their education and their learning as a whole. These qualifications in biology, chemistry, physics and combined science give endless opportunities of future employment from Biochemist, Environmental Scientist, Forensic Scientist, Microbiologist, Doctor, Nurse and Chemist to name but a few. Our department promotes these possible futures through detailed careers information boards around the department, visits to colleges and universities and lectures from established scientist and groups.

Scientific thought, method and inquiry helps us to come to our decisions. Students need to solve problems which arise from curiosity or from necessity. We nurture students' curiosity and enthusiasm throughout our practical driven curriculum and science club. Being able identify the question, formulate a hypothesis, plan a method, investigate through practical, conclude and evaluate their findings. This process of inquiry is how we find meaningful answers supported by evidence. This is essential to making good decisions that lead to achievement and success during and after school.