

St. Olave's Grammar School
Sixth Form



Year 12 Elective Options Guide 2021

Introduction

As part of the Year 12 curriculum, students are required take **one** additional subject which forms the Year 12 'Elective' programme. This programme is in addition to studying four main academic subjects and provides an opportunity for greater enrichment within the curriculum. Students can choose from a range of options within the programme. Each course is taught on one fifty-minute period per week and will run during the Autumn, Spring and the first half of the Summer term.

Please note that students studying Further Maths will not take an Elective.

The aim of this booklet is to give students more information on each of these options. Students are required to rank their choice of options in order from 1 to 8 (1 represents their most preferred option and 8 their least preferred) on the relevant form. All courses bar one (Russian AS-Level) are non-certificated.

The options that are available are:

- Higher Education Preparation (HEP)
- Preparation for Entrance to Medical, Dental and Veterinary Schools
- Drama
- Graphic Communication and Branding
- Robotics and Engineering
- Strength and Conditioning Course

The School strongly recommends that students considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge Universities, or intending to study Law at degree level, should choose the Higher Education Preparation course as their top preference option choice. Students applying to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry should choose Preparation for Entrance to Medical, Dental and Veterinary as their top preference option choice. Students applying to study Mathematics should choose the Mathematics problem solving course.

Please note that whilst we will endeavour to offer students their preferred choice of option this can not be guaranteed.

Option Choices

Higher Education Preparation (HEP)

Higher Education Preparation is a course that is unique to St. Olave's and has been primarily designed to support students in the university application process. Throughout the course, you will be required to undertake critically engaged wider reading on a weekly basis which will help provide evidence of your interest for your desired degree course beyond the confines of the curriculum. The course itself is divided up into two main sections.

The first section of the course aims to equip students with reasoning skills that are incredibly important in life, work and further academic study. It will involve the analysis and evaluation of information in an argument, and develop a range of skills to allow you to reach a clear, structured and reasoned conclusion within a given context. These skills will then be applied and developed within classroom discussion sessions, in which we will debate ethical and cultural issues in society.

The second section of the course will focus entirely on the university application process. We will hold sessions in which you will have the opportunity of practising and familiarising yourself with university-style admissions tests, building further on the skills that you developed under the first section of the course. In addition to this, students will gain a strong insight into how they can differentiate themselves as a candidate for university through sessions on gaining work experience, writing a personal statement and building an academic profile. Finally, students will be given guidance and advice on performing well in the interview process, whether this be for university or for working life beyond.

Taking this course will provide students with the following skills;

- To be able to reason arguments through evidence and examples.
- To be able to critically evaluate the arguments of others and strengthen them.
- To develop confidence in classroom discussion and improve articulation skills.
- To develop an opinion on some important ethical and cultural issues in society.

- To develop soft skills in students in preparation for university and working life beyond.

Whilst this course is appropriate for all university applicants, it is particularly recommended that you take this course if you are aspiring to study any courses at Oxbridge other than the following: Mathematics, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. (If you are aspiring to study these subjects you should opt for the Mathematics Elective or the Medics' Elective).

This course will not be examined or certificated.

Preparation for Entrance to Medical, Dental and Veterinary Schools

Competition to gain entrance to Medical, Dental and Veterinary Schools is exceedingly fierce and this course is designed to help students prepare for and maximise their chance of being offered a position on these courses.

Most University courses for these subjects require students to take an aptitude test as part of the entrance requirements. The BMAT is one such test, and forms part of the admissions process for Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial, Leeds and the Royal Veterinary College. The more universally required UCAT is the alternative aptitude test. Many students, consequent on their University choices, will find that they are required to sit both tests. This course aims to provide students with guidance regarding the format and assessment criteria of these tests.

A good personal statement, with appropriate reference to related work experience, is paramount in securing the offer of an interview, whilst self-confidence, significant subject knowledge and an insight into the medical field and associated ethical dilemmas are all instrumental in achieving a successful outcome at interview. This course aims to provide an opportunity for students to engage in activities which will support and promote these achievements, with the intention of assisting them in securing a conditional offer.

This course will not be examined.

Drama

In the Drama elective we will be looking at a range of plays before students are put into smaller groups to work on short scripts. We will be developing acting skills, focussing on naturalistic acting. At the end of the course there will be an opportunity to perform their plays.

This course will not be examined.

Graphic Communication and Branding

This course helps to develop students' awareness and understanding of the visual world and the impact that graphics, advertising, branding and other visual stimuli have on us. This is a practical course that will develop skills in creating Graphic Design and Communication outcomes as well as leading students to create their own branding and a visual identity towards the end of the year.

Students will start the course by looking at the key concepts in Visual Communication and then applying that understanding to developing a brand/advert for an in-school society, club or department. They will be introduced to Photoshop and Illustrator as well as looking at more traditional image-making methods to support their practical work. At the end of the year students will be able to exhibit their work as well as taking away their own brand identity to use as part of their own self-promotion in the future.

This course would suit any student looking to go into the Creative Arts areas after 6th form as well as students interested in advertising, marketing, design, web or app based industries or working in freelance capacity where having an understanding of brand is important.

Robotics and Engineering

Max 20 students

Become part of a team to take part in the 4x4 In Schools Land Rover Challenge, VEX EDR 'turning point' or the UK Space Design Challenge.

4x4 Land Rover Challenge:

This is a challenging competition that involves between three and six team members working together to design and build a radio controlled four-wheel drive (4x4) vehicle, to set specifications. The vehicle must be able to successfully negotiate a specially designed test track emulating real life and it must perform as a full scale 4x4 vehicle would do in an off-road situation. Successful teams will have the opportunity to compete at Regional level for places in the National competition. This competition can be used to complete CREST awards at an additional cost.

VEX EDR:

VEX EDR involves between four and six team members working together to design, build and programme a robot using VEX robotics parts to compete in this year's 'Turning Point' challenge. The robot must comply with specific rules and successful teams will have the opportunity to compete at regional level for places in the National competition. This competition can be used to complete CREST awards at an additional cost.

UK Space Design:

Students will spend the elective researching and sharing their findings on a wide range of topics in preparation for the day competition. During this day teams are given a list of requirements for a space settlement, and have a day to come up with a detailed design which they present to a panel of judges who include experts in the field and representatives of the UK Space Agency.

Strength and Conditioning Course

Max 12 students

Target audience – Sports men or women who are representing the school at a sport.

This course will give you an opportunity to become inducted in the new strength and conditioning suite at the school and be given the chance to

undertake a training program to enhance your ability to perform at the highest level you can.

The weekly sessions will be split between some high intensity conditioning games and some dedicated gym sessions. The course is aimed at those students who are keen to develop their physical conditioning to benefit their chosen sport. Students will undertake fitness tests, which will allow them, with guidance, to plan their individual training programs, which they will then carry out.

Students will be given the opportunity to further their understanding of how the body works and develops with strength training and how to plan training programs specific to their needs and to that of their sport.

Students may choose to extend the number of sessions they have each week as the facility will be available throughout the school day as long as the sessions are supervised. The students will be able to plan for the number of sessions per week that they intend to train for.

In summary, only those students who wish to train hard and who want to develop physically over a long period of time to benefit their sport should undertake this course. The sessions will be tough and you will be expected to work at your maximum intensity level every time you train. Regular testing will take place to ensure progress is being made and students aren't standing still.

You should choose your elective using this [link](#)