

**Mulberry**  
Academy Woodside

2025-26

# ELECTIVES

*Exceptional Education and Experiences:  
Every Child, Every Day*



# MULBERRY ACADEMY WOODSIDE *ELECTIVES* PROGRAMME

**Dear Students, Parents and Carers,**

We are delighted to launch the Elective Curriculum which provides a wide range of stimulating extra-curricular courses that allow students to have a deep learning experience, preparing them not just for their GCSEs but for future careers. We know from our partner sixth forms and colleges that the participation in electives make Woodside students stand out from their peers.

The Electives run as an additional session of the school day **every Tuesday from 3.10- 4pm** and allow the statutory curriculum to be delivered whilst offering exceptional opportunities for our young people. This booklet will provide you with a description of the electives currently being offered including an overview of the skills students will learn, alongside links to future careers and opportunities. Each elective will run at least one trip and there will be guest speakers at points in the year.

Students will pick an elective and this will run until February 2025. Students will then have the opportunity to pick a new elective for the Spring term. The Elective is compulsory and is part of the extended curriculum we run for our students. Please be aware that on the elective evening students will remain in school until 4pm on Tuesdays and students will leave later at this point.

Please direct questions or for further information regarding the electives curriculum , please contact:

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# THE ELECTIVES OFFERED

|           |                         |                  |                  |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gardening | Duke of Edinburgh Award | Music Production | Creative Writing |
| Netball   | Table Tennis            | Taekwondo        | AI               |
| Robotics  | Performing arts         | Sketching        |                  |

**Additional sessions - in addition to electives, at periods in the year some students will be placed into other curriculum sessions**

## **Maths:**

It is really important that all Year 9 students reach a minimum ability in Maths to access the GCSE curriculum. If students are falling behind in Maths they will receive extra tuition in small groups for a period of time to get them up to speed. These highly supported sessions will allow young people to build confidence and the necessary Mathematical skills.

## **English:**

It is really important that all Year 9 students reach a minimum ability in English to access the GCSE curriculum. This includes reading, if students are falling behind in English they will receive additional support with their reading and comprehension skills. These highly supported sessions will allow young people to build confidence and the necessary skills.

## **Sporting Activities:**

At Woodside we offer a comprehensive after school extra-curricular. These clubs often run at a different time scale to the electives and will be working towards the borough cup. If students are involved in sports club in September on a Tuesday they can be exempt from the Electives Programme. Students will have the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular club in addition to an elective.



# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ROBOTICS

## Course Summary

The Artificial Intelligence and Robotics elective gives pupils the skills and opportunity to design a Chatbot that adjusts to new inputs and performs human-like tasks. AI examples include Alexa, Siri, and Google Assistant (Python version). Throughout this elective pupils will develop their computational skills and application through a variety of challenging and fun activities. There are opportunities to participate with STEM activities from the wider Mulberry Academy Trust and hear from people who are currently working in the Tech industry.

## Skills

- Computational thinking
- Programming skills
- Problem-solving Skills
- Creative and analytical thinking

## Experiences

- IT Industry
- Museums

## Career Links

- Gamer
- Graphic Designs
- Programmer
- Teacher
- Designer



# TABLE TENNIS

## Course Summary

Table tennis is a fast-paced sport that offers many benefits. It improves hand-eye coordination, reflexes, and concentration while providing a full-body workout that builds agility and balance. The game is low-impact, making it suitable for all ages, and it helps keep the mind sharp through quick decision-making. Playing table tennis is also a fun way to relieve stress and enjoy social interaction with friends, family, or teammates.

## Knowledge

Students will take part in table tennis the Hub every Tuesday

## Experiences

Regularly running sporting events, participation in competition, trips to new river, a team building experience either sailing or climbing.

## Skills

This course will help students develop fitness and endurance and hand eye coordination. Students over time will build up speed and stamina as well as the strength for the physical activities.

## Career Links

- Sports Leader
- Coach
- Teacher
- Journalism
- Personal trainer



# CREATIVE WRITING

## Course Summary

Creative writing has many benefits for both the mind and wellbeing. It encourages imagination, self-expression, and original thinking while improving vocabulary and communication skills. Writing stories, poems, or personal reflections can also build confidence, strengthen problem-solving abilities, and help process emotions. It's a relaxing activity that reduces stress and gives people the freedom to explore ideas in unique and meaningful ways.

## Knowledge

Understanding and developing writing skills, with a direct link to AQA English Language GCSE specification

## Experiences

- British Museum
- Story writing competition
- Author visit

## Skills

- Language learning
- Linguistics
- Literacy and creativity

## Career Links

- International relations
- Interpreting
- Translation
- Journalism
- Diplomacy
- Marketing
- Business
- Politics





# NETBALL

## Course Summary

Netball is a dynamic team sport with many benefits. It improves fitness, agility, and coordination while developing teamwork and communication skills. The game helps build stamina and strength through fast-paced movement, jumping, and quick changes of direction. Netball also encourages strategic thinking and boosts confidence, making it a great way to stay active while enjoying the fun and support of being part of a team.

## Knowledge

Playing netball requires both skill and understanding of the game. Players need to know the rules, including positions, footwork, and scoring. They must understand team strategies, such as passing patterns and defensive tactics, and be able to make quick decisions under pressure. Good awareness of space, timing, and teamwork is essential, along with knowing how to communicate effectively on court.

## Skills

- Spatial awareness
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Agility
- Fitness and endurance
- Maturity

## Experiences

Chance to play for the school netball team

## Career Links

- Athlete
- Coach
- Instructor





# PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

## Course Summary

Performance pathways is a course, where students will explore all aspects of theatre. Design, Creation, Improvisation, Rehearsal and Performance.

## Knowledge

You only need to bring the KS3 knowledge that you've already learnt. You will gain knowledge that will help you progress in your drama lessons or if you pick GCSE drama.

## Skills

You will learn, communication skills, team working skills, time management, conflict resolution, Acting.

## Experiences

Trip to Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA), Theatre Workshops, Trips to local theatres.

## Career Links

- Performer
- Writer
- Director
- Creative arts director
- Creative director
- Drama teacher
- Script writer
- Playwright

## Further Reading Info

- Stage to stage: My journey to Broadway by Josh Groban
- The complete Brecht Toolkit by Stephen Unwin

# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

## Course Summary

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a voluntary, non competitive program that challenges young people to develop skills and experience in a variety of areas.

## Knowledge

Students complete 3 sections during the year on their EDofE login. Skills, physical, and volunteering.

During the elective students develop a range of skills linked to the expedition from cooking outdoors to orienteering ready for their camping trip in the summer term.

## Skills

- Personal discovery: The DofE encourages young people to discover new interests and talents
- Self-reliance: The DofE helps young people develop a sense of responsibility and self-reliance
- Social interaction: The DofE helps young people build confidence and make friends
- Teamwork: The DofE helps young people develop teamwork skills
- Skill development: The DofE helps young people improve existing skills or try new ones
- Employability: The DofE helps young people build skills and experience that can improve their employability

## Experiences

Opportunity for an overnight camping experience in Epping Forest

## Career Links

The DofE looks fantastic on your CV when applying to colleges and universities. Find out more at <https://www.dofe.org/do/>

# SKETCHING

## Course Summary

Sketching is a creative activity with many benefits. It helps improve observation skills, hand-eye coordination, and attention to detail. Sketching encourages imagination and self-expression, allowing people to explore ideas visually and experiment with different styles and techniques. It can also be relaxing and reduce stress, making it a fun way to develop artistic skills and boost creativity.

## Knowledge

Sketching requires understanding basic artistic principles and techniques. This includes knowledge of shapes, proportions, perspective, shading, and composition. Artists also need to understand how to use different tools and materials effectively, as well as how to observe and interpret what they see. Developing an eye for detail, balance, and creativity is also important to bring ideas to life on paper.

## Skills

- Creativity
- Artistry
- Mindfulness
- Organisation

## Futher Reading Info

- Proko ([proko.com](https://proko.com)) – tutorials and videos on figure drawing, anatomy, and sketching techniques.
- Drawspace ([drawspace.com](https://drawspace.com)) – free lessons on fundamentals, shading, perspective, and more.
- Ctrl+Paint ([ctrlpaint.com](https://ctrlpaint.com)) – digital and traditional sketching techniques, good for exercises and inspiration.



# GARDENING & DIY

## Course Summary

This is a course, where students will explore various aspects of gardening, from planning and designing, cultivating and growing our own produce as well as brightening up areas of the school with a range of plants, shrubs and herbs. So if you like getting your hands dirty and seeing the reward of physical work this is the course for you.

## Knowledge

This elective gives you the opportunity to explore the wonderful world of gardening and developing physical spaces into: interesting, more aesthetically and sustainable areas that all of our school community can enjoy/experience.

If you like working outside in the fresh air, physical exercise, have a creative/can do mindset as well as seeing what hard work and a group of dedicated people can do to transform areas of our school into more appealing, vibrant and interesting spaces where you can learn and developing a range of skills make sure you sign up.

## Skills

- Teamwork
- Design skills
- Analysis skills

## Experiences

Visits to some of the amazing green spaces in our local area as well as further afield.

## Career Links

- Gardner
- Landscaping
- Construction

## Futher Reading Info

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/>

# TAEKWONDO

## Course Summary

Taekwondo is a traditional martial art originating from Korea. Taekwondo is excellent for building confidence, learning about respecting yourself and others, and teaches strong ethics and moral values

## Knowledge

In this elective you will have the chance to learn about the origins of and the theory behind the Korean martial art of TaeKwondo. You will practise the basic blocking techniques and attacks that lead to performing the 3 white belt sequences to demonstrate your application of attacks and defensive movements. In each class we will work on basic fitness as well as learning to spar and break boards! You should leave the course ready to join an official tkd club and take your first colour belt grading.

## Skills

- Teamwork
- Coordination
- Fitness
- Memory
- Discipline
- The art of Do

## Experiences

- Opportunity to visit Institute of Korean Culture

## Futher Reading Info

<https://www.britishtaekwo>

# MUSIC PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION

## Course Summary

Are you the next Alicia Keys or Ed Sheeran? Would you like to develop your performing or music production skills? You will build on your technical skills and ensemble awareness as an instrumentalist or singer. You will also build on your songwriting and producing skills using music technology.

## Knowledge

You will develop how to read a lead sheet or scores from different genres. You will also develop how to produce music using music technology such as Logic Pro X and Fruity loops.

## Skills

- You will build on different personalised skills such as listening skills, team work, communication, confidence and social skills
- You will have an opportunity to perform, compose and produce different genres of music

## Experiences

You will have an opportunity to perform live music. You will also have an opportunity to see a live performance or participate in a music workshop.

## Career Links

- Music Producer
- DJ
- Sessional Musician
- Music Teacher
- Radio Presenter
- Performing Artist

## Further Reading Info

Music radar music website, BBC Bitesize, This Business of Music, DJ Culture in the Mix.