

GCSE SPORTING FUTURES PATHWAY

The Sporting Futures Pathway is a new GCSE programme for pupils in Years 10 and 11 who want sport to play a meaningful role in their education.

It is designed for motivated, sport-loving young people, not just elite athletes. Rather than asking pupils to balance school and external training in isolation, the pathway brings academic study, coaching and personal development into one integrated programme.

Pupils study eight GCSEs within a timetable built to support rounded academic success and sustained sporting development. The result is not simply more sport, but a clearer sense of direction for the future.

WHO IS IT FOR?

At Oakham, we believe pupils should have the flexibility to shape a pathway and combination (and number) of subjects that truly suits them. The Sporting Futures Pathway reflects this philosophy: a natural extension of our commitment to providing routes that support different strengths, interests and ambitions.

It is ideal for pupils who want to explore their passion for sport more deeply - whether by developing their performance, understanding the science behind training and rehabilitation, or discovering the many roles that sit behind the sporting world. It suits young people who enjoy challenge, thrive with structure, and are motivated by clear purpose.

Open to UK and international pupils, day or boarding, it offers the right environment for those excited to grow academically while exploring where their interest in sport could take them next.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PATHWAY?

This balanced pathway gives pupils the chance to push their sporting potential - with no compromises on GCSE success!

A tailored timetable, expert coaching and joined-up support mean they're never choosing between success in the classroom and progress on the pitch. They learn, train and grow with people who know how to help them thrive.



HIGH QUALITY COACHING AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT

Through this pathway, pupils benefit from a combination of one-to-one and small-group coaching in key sports, all designed to support long-term athlete development in an age-appropriate way. They also receive up to two weekly strength and conditioning sessions, performance analysis, and personalised development reviews, helping them maximise the opportunities offered by Oakham's exceptional facilities and industry partnerships.

SUPER-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

We recognise that sport reaches far beyond on-field performance. Pupils are encouraged to explore a wide range of avenues, including coaching, leadership, sports management, performance analysis, sports science, and community sport. To support this broader outlook, The Sporting Futures Pathway has built in super-curricular experiences that reflect the realities of the modern sports industry. These include visits to university sports science departments and cutting-edge research centres, as well as specialist trips to organisations such as the Matt Hampson Centre, offering real-world insight into performance, rehabilitation and sports medicine.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Pupils study eight GCSEs - meeting the minimum requirement for university applications - within a bespoke timetable designed to support both academic achievement and sustained sporting development. Including a choice of either GCSE PE or the Cambridge National Level 2 in Sports Science, the timetable ensures pupils have dedicated training time without losing academic momentum.

Alongside the curriculum is a strong team of staff offering additional support in areas such as EAL, learning support, and pastoral wellbeing.



WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

The Sporting Futures Pathway opens doors to a wide range of exciting next steps, from progression into Oakham's Sixth Form to specialist sports institutions and high-performance programmes. Alongside strong academic preparation, pupils gain meaningful exposure to the breadth of modern sporting careers, from coaching, analysis and sports science to journalism, management and medical or rehabilitation pathways.

Just as importantly, the programme develops the transferable qualities that set young people up for long-term success: confidence, resilience, teamwork and the ability to manage themselves effectively in demanding environments.

INTEGRATION INTO SCHOOL LIFE

Pupils on the pathway are fully immersed in vibrant school life. They join their peers in academic lessons and activities, alongside optional music, drama, CCF and DofE. Far from being separate, they benefit from the same pastoral care, community and opportunities, ensuring a balanced, rounded school experience alongside their enhanced sporting development.

GCSE Sporting Futures Pathway

8 GCSEs

compulsory:

- English Lit & Lang
- Maths
- Sciences
- GCSE PE or Cambridge National Level 2

optional:

- Flexible Humanities, Languages and Arts options

Service Activities:
VA, CCF or DofE

Pastoral Learning

Music & Drama

Typical GCSE Pathway

Up to 11 GCSEs

compulsory:

- English Lit & Lang
- Maths
- Sciences
- One Humanities subject
- One Modern Foreign Language

optional:

- All other option subjects

Service Activities:
VA, CCF or DofE

Pastoral Learning

Music & Drama

The reduced number of GCSEs within the Sporting Futures Pathway enables time for the extra super curricular experiences and education beyond the sports pitch.

READY TO TURN YOUR SPORTING PASSION INTO A FUTURE?

We encourage you to register your interest online or call +44 (0)1572 758758 for an initial conversation to explore joining the GCSE Sporting Futures Pathway in September 2026.

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