



ESTYN Spotlighted

RUTHIN SCHOOL

Electives
Programme

2025-2026

A GATEWAY TO
TOP UK UNIVERSITIES



RUTHIN
SCHOOL

TAKING
LEARNING
FURTHER



What is the purpose of Electives?

At Ruthin School, Electives are designed to take learning further. They are not simply add-ons to the timetable, but part of our commitment to providing a world-class education that develops the skills, habits and curiosity students need to thrive in the future.

Each Elective is built around High Performance Learning principles – encouraging creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and confidence – while opening doors to career pathways that may not even exist yet.

Electives vary by year group and Key Stage, giving students the chance to explore new interests, work with peers in different contexts, and apply their classroom learning in practical, ambitious ways.

Alongside the daily programme, we also run after-school clubs from 4.15pm (Monday to Thursday). Many Electives extend naturally into these sessions, giving students more time to deepen their knowledge and pursue their passions.



Unifrog is our core careers and futures platform, giving students a world-class tool to explore career pathways, university options, and apprenticeships. At Ruthin, we also use Unifrog to record Electives and track the skills developed through them – from leadership and teamwork to problem-solving and creativity.

This growing portfolio becomes a powerful resource when students apply for university or apprenticeships, showcasing the breadth of their experiences and the High Performance Learning attributes they have built along the way.





KS3 Electives - Years 7 to 9

+ **Drama** *Years 7 & 8*

Drama focuses on developing oracy skills, creativity, and confidence in speaking to large audiences.

! **Arts Award (certificated)**

The Arts Award is a nationally recognised qualification that develops creativity, critical thinking, and reflective practice. Offered at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, it encourages students to build a portfolio showcasing their skills, problem-solving, and artistic growth. Along the way, they gain confidence, broaden their horizons, and prepare for future study. The Arts Award also carries UCAS points, supporting university applications.

+ **Cookery** *Available to students in multiple year groups*

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy learning the basics of cooking for one term. We hope that this is a good life skill beyond Ruthin School.

+ **Local culture studies** *Spring*

Learn about local music (UK based) and arts. You'll get the opportunity to try different musical instruments as well as learn about local folk histories and individual stories that are attached to place.

+ **Eco-School** *All Year*

Our school is aiming for Eco school status. There will be plenty of opportunities to develop student voice as well explore solutions to preserving the environment.

+ **Historical Project Skills** *All Year*

Students will undertake a local history project. The main aim of this elective is to improve project management skills as well as learning a little bit of local history at the same time. Students will get the opportunity to visit local interest sites.

+ **Robotics** *Autumn and Spring term only*

Students will learn practical skills associated with electronics and design. Students will have the opportunity to engage in competitions.

+ **Rock Band Group** *Spring term*

You will have the time and the space to develop your own rock band. You'll will be supported by a tutor.





+ Iox Challenge *Young Enterprise Challenge*

Students receive £10 and the freedom to launch their own business. From planning to sales, they learn how to take risks, solve problems, and work creatively as a team – developing entrepreneurial skills that will stay with them for life.

+ Folk Music

Students explore the roots of traditional music and its place in cultural history. Through practical sessions, they will learn how folk music has been passed down through communities and how it continues to shape our shared heritage.

+ Ethics and Debating

This elective develops critical thinking and oracy skills. Students debate real-world ethical issues, research evidence, and learn to argue with clarity and confidence while respecting different perspectives.

+ Upcycling

A hands-on elective in the run-up to Christmas. Students repurpose materials to create festive products, then market and sell them within the Ruthin community. Proceeds go to a charity chosen by the students, building entrepreneurial skills with a strong sense of social responsibility.

! Oracy *Year 9*

This elective focuses on the art of public speaking – from structuring arguments to delivering with confidence. It provides an essential foundation for leadership, university interviews, and future careers, giving students the tools to communicate with impact.

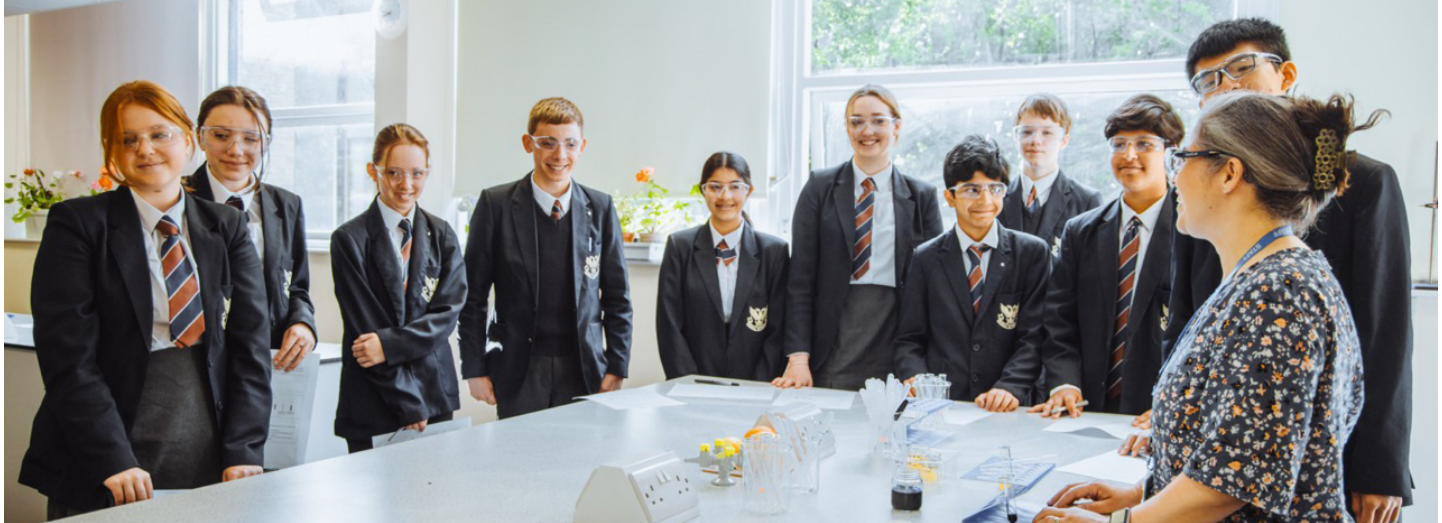
+ Woodland Skills *Autumn term only*

Students step outside the classroom to explore local habitats, learning tree identification, ecological awareness, and practical fieldwork skills that build respect for the environment and an understanding of sustainability.





KS3 Electives



+ Science of Emotion

Led by a psychology teacher, this elective explores emotions through a scientific lens. Students examine research on anxiety, fear, anger, and happiness, uncovering their evolutionary roots and real-life benefits. The course encourages curiosity, resilience, and reflective practice – turning feelings into insights that help us thrive.

+ The Crest Award

The CREST Award is a nationally recognised STEM qualification that challenges students to think like scientists and engineers. Through hands-on projects, they develop problem-solving, teamwork, and research skills while investigating real-world issues. At Bronze level, students design and carry out a project of their choice, building independence and creativity.

+ Leadership Through Sport

This elective develops leadership and coaching skills through sport. Students learn how to motivate others, plan activities, and support teams to achieve their best. The focus is on communication, responsibility, and collaboration – qualities that matter both on and off the field.

+ Indoor Athletics

Students train indoors during the Spring Term to prepare for summer athletics. With expert guidance, they develop technique, stamina, and competitive focus, giving them the opportunity to build their athletic potential earlier in the year.

+ Swimming

This elective focuses on skill, stamina, and water safety. Students refine their swimming technique while also learning lifesaving skills recognised by the Royal Lifesaving Society – gaining confidence in the pool and vital abilities for life.

! COMPULSORY

+ OPTIONAL



Year 10 Compulsory Electives

Year 10 have one compulsory elective and one optional elective as part of their timetabled lessons. Year 10 Compulsory Elective is organised on a three-week rotation. The purpose of the compulsory elective is to offer a three – four-week taster of skills that are useful in both the workplace and at an undergraduate level.

! Autumn term programme

Compulsory Electives in Year 10 (3-week rotation, Autumn term) These include;

Debate

It's also optional - All year

Students get an introduction to the art of debate, learning how to build arguments, analyse issues and speak with confidence. This develops critical thinking, linguistic skills and awareness of current affairs – valuable for future studies and applications.

Basics of Photoshop

A practical taster in digital design. Students learn the essentials of Photoshop, a key tool in creative industries, gaining skills that will give them an edge in both study and the workplace.

Health and Lifestyle

Students explore fitness and wellbeing through a mix of activities such as HIIT, circuit training and cardio. The aim is to build healthy habits and give students the tools to maintain long-term fitness.

! Spring term programme

Compulsory Electives in Year 10 (3-week rotation, Spring term) These include;

Spreadsheet Design

An introduction to Excel's key functions, from formulas to pivot tables. Students discover how to design and organise spreadsheets effectively, building a foundation they can develop further – skills that support academic study and are essential in modern workplaces.

DIY skills

A hands-on elective covering practical tasks such as drilling, plugging and basic masonry. Students develop problem-solving and independence through learning useful skills for life.

CV Writing

Students create a CV they can adapt for future applications, while also learning how to present themselves with clarity and impact. This elective supports preparation for university, apprenticeships, and employment.



Year 10 Optional Electives

Both Elective Slots are optional Electives during the summer term.

+ **Cooking**

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy learning the basics of cooking for one term. We hope that this is a good life skill beyond Ruthin School.

+ **Archery** *All year round. Offered dependent on timetable availability*

A chance to try a new sport while developing focus, resilience, and patience. Archery sessions take place on site and provide a fresh challenge for students of all abilities.

+ **Electronics** *GCSE, Years 10 & 11*

Students can work towards a GCSE qualification in Electronics. This two-year course combines theory with practical projects and is offered both as an elective and as a club.

+ **Creative Media**

An introduction to media and design. Students experiment with photography, visual storytelling, and creative projects that encourage innovation and digital confidence.

+ **Model United Nations** *All year round, usually available from Year 10 upwards*

Students step into the shoes of world leaders, debating global issues and responding to crises. This elective builds confidence, public speaking, and an understanding of international affairs – excellent preparation for university applications.

Typical Summer Electives

+ **Survival Skills**

Reconnect with nature. Students will learn the basic of camp craft cook food in the outdoors.

+ **Summer Sports**

Enjoy Athletics, Volleyball? This is the elective that will provide a taster of sports that are traditionally played in the summer. Sport provides a great way to meet people.

+ **Summer Walks/Navigation**

If you enjoy walking in the outdoors and exploring new trails and routes this could be an elective that interests you. This elective will aim to develop and work on existing navigation skills.



COMPULSORY



OPTIONAL



+ Girls' Football

Students take part in football training and matches, building teamwork and resilience. This elective also feeds into our lunchtime and after-school programme, to form a competitive team.

+ Leadership Through Sport

Students step into coaching roles, learning how to motivate and guide others. This elective develops leadership, communication, and responsibility – skills transferable to sport, school and beyond.

+ Fashion Elective *Year 10 + Year 12*

A creative elective exploring fashion design and art. Students design, upcycle and adapt clothing, developing practical skills alongside innovation and sustainability.

+ Biology Ecology Group *Year 10*

Supporting the GCSE Biology Ecology module, this elective offers fieldwork and investigation into habitats and ecosystems, led by our Biology staff. It builds scientific understanding through hands-on enquiry.



Year 11 and Sixth Form Electives

Electives in Year 11 and the Sixth Form are designed to bridge the gap between school and university. They give students the chance to extend their academic knowledge, explore career pathways, and develop the High Performance Learning skills that set them apart in competitive applications.

+ **Maths Modelling** *6th form Only – Autumn Term*

Students explore how mathematical modelling is used to solve real-world problems, from climate change to finance. This elective develops analytical thinking, teamwork, and cross-disciplinary skills while building insight into careers that use advanced maths.

+ **An Introduction to University Mathematics** *Year 13, Spring term*

A taster of undergraduate-level mathematics, ideal for students considering maths or engineering. It challenges students to think critically and prepares them for future study.

+ **6th Form Robotics** *All year round*

Students design, build and programme a robot from scratch to compete in the Student Robotics competition. This elective combines engineering, electronics and coding, encouraging innovation and problem-solving.

+ **LAMDA** *London, academy of music and dramatic art. All year round*

Through drama, literature and performance, students develop confidence, clear communication, and teamwork. Success in LAMDA examinations also carries UCAS points.

+ **Super Curriculum Development** *Year 12, Autumn or Spring term*

Students explore their wider academic interests in a chosen subject area, building intellectual curiosity and preparing for university-level study.

+ **UCAT & MMI Preparation** *Year 12*

Focused preparation for students applying to medicine or dentistry. Weekly sessions cover UCAT strategies and practice for multiple mini-interviews (MMIs).

+ **Archery** *All year round. Offered dependent on timetable availability*

A challenging sport that develops patience, focus, and resilience, while offering students the chance to try something new.



COMPULSORY



OPTIONAL



+ Tennis *All year round. Offered dependent on availability of courts and timetabling*

Coaching and match play for beginners and intermediates. Students develop fitness, skill and confidence on the court.

+ Electronics *GCSE, Years 10 & 11. All year round*

Students can pursue a GCSE in Electronics, blending theory with practical projects. Offered as both an elective and club.

+ Exercise and Physiology *Years 10 & 11. All year round*

For students interested in medicine, sport or health. They study anatomy and run a personal exercise programme, with work feeding into an HPQ.

+ Model United Nations *All year round, usually available from Year 10 upwards*

Students represent countries in simulated UN debates, exploring global issues and crisis management. This elective develops debating, confidence and global awareness – a strong foundation for university applications.



+ Chess *All year round. Availability depends on timetabling.*

Students strengthen memory, planning, and strategy through regular sessions with an external coach. A chance to sharpen thinking skills in a competitive but supportive environment.

+ Ruthinian Magazine *All year groups can access via club. Autumn Term*

Students work together to create the school magazine, writing and editing on topics that matter to them. This elective develops communication, teamwork and critical thinking – useful for future applications.



Year II and Sixth Form Electives

+ Creative Media *Spring Term*

Students explore media and design through photography, visual storytelling, and creative projects.

+ Dungeons and Dragons *Currently Year II, All year round*

A collaborative game that develops communication, perspective-taking, creativity and problem-solving – building skills that extend beyond the classroom.

+ Materials Prize *Year 12, Autumn term*

A challenge for students interested in science and innovation, rewarding creativity and curiosity in materials research.

+ Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) *Sixth Form, All year round*

A standalone qualification worth half an A level. Students undertake independent research on a chosen subject, developing critical thinking and preparing for university-level study.

+ Oracy

For prefects and others keen to build confidence in public speaking. Students learn how to express ideas clearly and persuasively.

+ Ruthin Oracy Prizes

A language competition where students research a set topic and deliver a short speech. It strengthens public speaking, critical thinking, and university applications.

+ Ethical Choices

Ideal for aspiring medics or lawyers. Guided by the Careers team, students explore ethical dilemmas and prepare for interviews, including MMI formats.

+ Art Project

Students develop creativity through independent art projects. This elective offers space for experimentation and is especially useful for those considering art, architecture, or design-related courses.

+ Biology Revision Club

Targeted support for GCSE Biology. Students work with staff to revise content, practise exam questions, and strengthen understanding.



COMPULSORY



OPTIONAL



+ Ethics and Debating *Year 12*

Students debate moral and social issues, developing empathy, reasoning, and oracy skills while refining their ability to argue persuasively.

+ Fashion *Year 12*

Students design, upcycle and adapt clothing, learning practical design skills while expressing creativity.

+ Summer Walks

Students explore the local area while building fitness, awareness of place, and basic map-reading skills.



Clubs offered at Ruthin

Badminton	Basketball	Books in Translation
Chess	Chinese for Non-Native Speakers	Choir
Creative Writing	Cyber Security ¹	Debating
Duke of Edinburgh Awards (certificated)	Film Club	Football
Humanities Trivia	LAMDA	LMAT ²
Mindfulness	Model Making	Netball
Orchestra	Table Tennis	Tabletop Gaming
Touch Rugby	Model United Nations ³	UKMT
Upcycling	Welsh Conversation Club	

1. Cyber Security – An online guided course covering the basics of ethical hacking. Suitable for all ability levels, it introduces the principles and practical uses of cyber security.

2. LMAT – Targeted preparation and support for students needing an additional university entrance exam in the Spring Term. This is particularly relevant for law, medical, and some engineering courses.

3. Model United Nations – Students represent countries in simulated UN debates, discussing global issues and crisis responses. This elective develops debating skills, confidence, and international awareness – excellent preparation for university applications.





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