

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our own school vision for education is that we want to enable all students *to succeed and thrive*. This means that they are *academically successful* and can continue to the next phase of their education or employment. It also means that we create an environment where *students and staff can thrive as people*, as members of their community and society as a whole

Within our KS4 curriculum (Year 10 and 11), we will ensure that all students can access a personalised curriculum which is broad, balanced and suitably challenging. It builds on prior learning, whilst providing enhanced opportunities and ensures that students are equipped to progress onto Post 16 education, apprenticeships, or employment beyond the age of 16.

In Year 10 and 11 (2026-2027), most students will be working towards gaining 9 GCSEs or GCSE equivalent:

The Core Curriculum offer includes:

1. GCSE English Language
2. GCSE English Literature
3. GCSE Mathematics
4. GCSE Combined Science
5. GCSE Combined Science

Most students will then study:

6. GCSE History or GCSE Geography
7. GCSE Modern Foreign Languages French or Spanish

With TWO other pathways.

8. Option 1
9. Option 2

Whilst the core curriculum is a statutory requirement, we value all subjects as highly as each other. The purpose of our three part curriculum design is to offer an element of choice for students, whilst still providing a range of subjects which will enable them to succeed and thrive. For the majority of students their studies will be through GCSE learning, meeting the requirements expected nationally.

Examinations in all KS4 subjects are linear which means that the examinations are taken at the end of year 11. For GCSE courses, attainment will be reported as a number (1-9). Grade 9 is highly aspirational and is a higher achievement than the previous A*. The Level 1/2 vocational qualifications are equally as challenging to GCSE and the final grade will be reported as a Pass, Merit or Distinction. No colleges, employers or universities stipulate more than 9 GCSEs as an entry requirement and our Key Stage 4 model ensures a solid foundation for further study.

By offering a personalised curriculum, students will be able to pursue those subjects that they are good at and also enjoy the most.

Some of our students will study a bespoke pathway which is relevant to their needs. If this is the case, this decision will be discussed with the student and their parent.

Part One of your Curriculum Pathway: The Core Pathway

All students are required in Year 10 and 11 to study the following subjects:

Part one of your curriculum pathway	Number of lessons per fortnight	Number of qualifications
GCSE English Language and Literature	10	2
GCSE Mathematics	10	1
GCSE Combined Science	10	2
PSHCE	2	n/a
Physical Education	4	n/a
Total	36 lessons	5

Part Two of your Curriculum Pathway: The EBacc Pathway

The majority of students will also continue to work towards one GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography:

Part two of your personal curriculum pathway	Number of lessons fortnight	Number of qualifications
At least 1 Modern Foreign Language: GCSE French or GCSE Spanish	6	1
Choose from: GCSE History GCSE Geography	6	1
Total	12 lessons	2

Part Three of your Personal Curriculum Pathway: The Open Pathway

There is a further choice of **two** subjects. For the pathway process, students will rank these subjects in preference order and they will be allocated two subjects to study. Each subject below is one GCSE to complete the 9 GCSE pathway. All subjects are offered as potential pathways; however pathways are dependent on numbers and may be subject to change if necessary. We will endeavour to allocate all students two subjects within their top three choices. In a small number of cases we may need to have further discussions to ensure an appropriate pathway.

Part three of your personal curriculum pathway	Number of lessons per fortnight
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GCSE Courses	
GCSE Art and Design	3
GCSE Business	3
GCSE Design and Technology- Product Design OR Textiles	3
GCSE Dance	3
GCSE Drama	3
GCSE Computer Science	3
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	3
GCSE Music	3
GCSE Psychology	3
GCSE Physical Education	3
GCSE Religious Studies	3
GCSE Science (Separate or otherwise known as Triple Science) (i.e. GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics)	3
GCSE Sociology	3
Students can also opt either: GCSE Geography GCSE History	3
Students can also opt to study another Modern Foreign Language: GCSE Spanish GCSE French	3
Level 2 Vocational Courses	
L1/2 Hospitality and Catering	3
Cambridge National Sports Studies	3
OCR Cambridge National Level 1/2 Child Development	3
Total	12 lessons