

INTRODUCTION

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum offers opportunity for our students to start determining their life path while adhering to the principle of breadth and balance.

Core Curriculum

All students will follow a core curriculum in English, Maths and Sciences and non-exam courses in Philosophy and Ethics, Law, Personal Finance and Physical Education.

Options

In the context of this broadly-based curriculum students only need to exercise choice in specific areas. That choice should reflect a blend of interest, aptitude, experience, enjoyment and future career interest.

The next few pages give an outline of the **Purple Pathway**, detailing the subjects that are available and explaining how students go about making their choices.

Following these pages there are detailed descriptions of all the courses on offer including those subjects that comprise the core curriculum. Please take time to read through these sections carefully.

At the end of the booklet you will find the purple options form which should be completed by those students for whom the **Purple Pathway** has been identified as being the most suitable.

WHO WILL HELP?

It is vital that students talk to subject staff about decisions they must make. They should ask Year 10 and 11 students too – they are closest to this process and can give “the real picture”.

Below is a list of the Subject Leaders responsible for each subject area. They will be happy to answer your questions.

English – Miss Harley

Maths – Mr White

Sciences – Dr Mileham

Animal Care - Mr Holloway

Art – Mr Williamson

COPE – Mrs Cosgrove

Business Studies – Mr Burgess

Computing – Mr Horley

Design & Technology Subjects – Mr. James

Drama – Mrs Newman

Geography – Mr Hollies

History – Mrs Glaze

Modern Foreign Languages – Mr Traore

Music – Mr Leadbeater

P.E. – Mr Richards

Philosophy and Ethics – Miss Williams

Vocational courses

Craft – Mr James

Digital Media – Mr Smith or Mr Scouse

DECISIONS TO MAKE

Students will need to make important decisions about their courses in Years 10 and 11. To help decide, they should talk with parents and with staff in school.

They should read carefully the descriptions of the courses in this booklet and ask their tutor or teachers if there is something they do not understand.

Decisions should be made for the right reasons. Subjects should be chosen on the basis that students have previously performed well and have been interested in these. They should not choose subjects just because their friends are choosing them or because they think that there might be less work involved. When choosing subjects, consideration should be taken of potential future career paths.

Students on the purple pathway are expected to choose one of the subjects from the list of vocational qualifications on offer. These subjects are given twice the amount of time of a normal GCSE subject and therefore occupy two of the four option blocks. In addition they will study two further subjects, one of which must come from the following list: Computer Science, French, Geography, German, History.

We will do our best to accommodate all students with their chosen courses. **However, we will only run a course if there are sufficient students who have chosen it. Similarly, there may be timetabling restrictions which make some students' course combinations impossible to run. Because of this, all students are asked to make a reserve choice when completing the options forms.**

Each subject choice must be countersigned by a member of the teaching staff for that subject area to ensure that students are making an informed choice.

When students and parents have made their decisions, they should turn to the purple form at the end of the booklet. **This form should be completed, signed by parents and handed in to the student's tutor by Thursday 8th February. Failure to do this could lead to courses being full and students being unable to follow their chosen options.**

PURPLE PATHWAY

All students will study the CORE curriculum and will choose 1 further vocational course and 2 subjects from the Additional Courses list. **One of these 2 choices must come from this list of subjects: French, German, Geography, History, Triple Science, Computer Science**

The CORE Curriculum

- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Sciences (2 GCSEs)
- PE/Games (non GCSE)
- Philosophy & Ethics/Law/Personal Finance (non-GCSE)

Vocational Courses

Students should choose **1** subject from this list

- Craft*
- Digital Media

Additional Courses

Students should choose **2** subjects from this list.

- Animal Care – BTEC
- Art
- COPE
- Business Studies
- **Computer Science**
- Design and Technology*
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **German**
- **History**
- Music
- Physical Education GCSE

*Students may not choose both Craft and Design & Technology (Timber, plastics and metals) as the content of these courses is similar.

At least one choice must come from the subjects listed in bold

PURPLE PATHWAY - Please indicate your course choices on this form.

Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

If you choose this pathway you will study the following Core subjects: **English, Maths, Sciences, Philosophy & Ethics/Law/Personal Finance (non-exam), Games/PE (non-exam).**

Now please indicate the vocational course that you wish to follow

	Main Choice	Reserve Choice	
	✓	✓	Signature
• Craft			
• Digital Media			

Now please indicate **two** further choices by ticking the relevant boxes below and by obtaining the signature of a teacher from that subject area next to each of these choices. **One of these 2 choices must come from this list of subjects: French, German, Geography, History, Computer Science**

	Main Choices	Reserve Choice	
	✓	✓	Signature
• Animal care – BTEC First Award			
• Art			
• COPE – non-GCSE			
• Business Studies			
• Computer Science			
• Design and Technology**			
• Drama			
• Food Preparation and Nutrition			
• French			
• Geography			
• German			
• History			
• Music			
• Physical Education GCSE			
** Indicate which DT area you will specialise in			
Fabric and Fibre			
Paper and Card			
Timber, Plastics and Metals			

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer/Guardian) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Tutor)

Please return this completed form to your tutor by **THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2018**