

## 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 common core curriculum in English, Maths and Sciences non-exam courses in Physical Education, Philosophy & Ethics, Law and personal Finance. Most students will be entered for English Literature and students demonstrating the appropriate skills in Maths lessons will be entered for Additional Maths.

### 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 **Blue Pathway**, detailing the subjects that are available and explaining how students go about making their choices.

Later in the booklet there are detailed descriptions of all the courses on offer (across all the pathways) 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 options form which should be completed by those students for whom the **Blue 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

**Design & Technology Subjects** – Mr. James

**CiDA and Computing** – Mr Horley

**Modern Foreign Languages** – Mr Traore

**History** – Mrs Glaze

**Geography** – Mr Hollies

**Music** – Mr Leadbeater

**Art** – Mr Williamson

**Drama** – Mrs Newman

**P.E.** – Mr Richards

**Religious Studies** – Miss Williams

**Business Studies** – Mr Burgess

## 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, two considerations should be - potential future career paths and entry requirements for universities. It is likely that universities will be looking at whether students have studied the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) suite of subjects; these are English, maths, science, a humanities subject (Geography or History) and a modern foreign language. **We strongly urge students who are thinking of applying to university to ensure that they qualify for the EBacc.**

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 blue form at the end of this section. **This form should be completed, signed by parents and handed in to the student's tutor by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Failure to do this could lead to courses being full and students being unable to follow their chosen options.**

## BLUE PATHWAY

All students will study the CORE curriculum and will choose 4 further courses from the Additional Courses list. **One of these 4 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)
- Philosophy/Ethics/Law/Personal Finance (non-exam)
- PE/Games (non GCSE)

### Additional Courses

Students should choose **4** subjects from this list.

- Animal Care – BTEC\*
- Art
- Business Studies
- Certificate in Digital Applications
- **Computer Science**
- Design and Technology
- Digital Media\*
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **German**
- **History**
- Music
- Physical Education GCSE
- Religious Studies
- **Triple Science**

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

\*these are non-GCSE courses but have 'level 2 equivalence'

**BLUE 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 Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Philosophy and Ethics/Law/Personal Finance(non-exam)
- PE (non-exam)
- Double Science or Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). If you wish to choose Triple Science then this must be one of your four choices below

Now please indicate **four** 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 4 choices must come from this list of subjects: French, German, Geography, History, Triple Science, Computer Science**

	Main Choices	Reserve Choice	
	✓	✓	Signature
• Animal care – BTEC			
• Art			
• Business Studies			
• Certificate in Digital Applications			
• <b>Computer Science</b>			
• Design and Technology**			
• Digital Media (counts as 2 options)			
• Drama			
• Food Preparation and Nutrition			
• <b>French</b>			
• <b>Geography</b>			
• <b>German</b>			
• <b>History</b>			
• Music			
• Physical Education GCSE			
• Religious Studies			
• <b>Triple Science</b>			
** 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 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**