

25th January 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child is approaching the end of Key Stage 3. The purpose of this letter is to outline the KS4 curriculum for September 2024 and explain how we will prepare your son or daughter for this transition.

KS4 Curriculum

Throughout the first three years of their secondary education our students have received a broad and balanced curriculum following the National Curriculum guidelines. It is now time to prepare for new courses in Years 10 and 11 that will lead to GCSE and equivalent qualifications.

All students will follow a core curriculum comprised of:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (either 3 separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics OR a 2 GCSE combined science course in which all three sciences are studied but in less depth. **The route will be determined by the science department**).
- Games (non-examined)
- Personal Development (non-examined, including: health, relationships/sexual education, careers, personal finance and religious studies).

KS4 Pathways

Following guidance from the Department for Education (see attachment) the governors have decided that the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) should form a central part of our KS4 curriculum. This will ensure that students can access a full range of future opportunities at university, with apprenticeships or in employment.

Like most schools nationally, we will place students on broad pathways according to their current performance to ensure they are challenged but also able to cope with the demands of GCSE/vocational courses. Therefore, most students starting Year 10 in September 2024 will be placed on one of the following pathways:

1. EBacc pathway (green pathway)

Students on track to achieve a grade 4 or higher in all the EBacc subjects will be placed on this pathway

Students will study:

English Language and Literature, mathematics, separate sciences, a modern foreign language (French or German), history or geography and one other subject.

2. Partial EBacc pathway (orange pathway)

Students will study:

English Language and Literature, mathematics, combined science (foundation tier to grade 5), history or geography and three other subjects.

Information about which KS4 pathway your son/daughter has been allocated will be sent out on **Wednesday 28th February**. Further information about other subjects available to them, including arts and practical subjects, will be available in the options booklet on the school website, as outlined in the important dates below. We understand

you may have questions about specific subjects which we will aim to answer; so that your questions can be addressed at the options information evening, we ask that you submit them through this Google Form link:

<https://forms.gle/RUFpWDrSYWzjJRRx7>

If you do have questions please submit them by **Friday 2nd February** (following the Year 9 parents' evenings) so that we can incorporate answers into the information evening planned for the 8th February.

Important dates

Thursday 8 th February:	Parents only information evening: information about the options process, careers guidance and FAQ
W/C 19th February:	Subject specific information given to students through lessons and form periods
Thursday 22nd February:	Parents' Evening 1 (population X)
Tuesday 27th February:	Parents' Evening 2 (population Y)
Wednesday 28 th February:	Year 9 careers event
Wednesday 28 th February:	Website information goes live – options booklet and the link to the electronic option form. Pathway letters sent home.

Wednesday 13th March (9am): Deadline for completion of electronic option form.

Finally, we understand that this is an important time for students and we will ensure they have plenty of opportunities after February half term to ask questions via live lessons and form periods.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Morrissey
Head of Year 9

Mrs A Allport
Assistant Head (KS4 transition)



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