

Year 8 Pathways

Preparing for your future: a guide to
constructing your option subject pathway
2024-2027



Planning for Year 9+

- **So far** – broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum set by the College.
- **Now** – first opportunity to personalise your curriculum pathway.
- Important stage to give careful thought to.



Types of qualification

- **GCSE's:**
 - Examined using 9-1 grading system from taught material.
 - External exams at end of Year 11.
 - Some coursework and portfolio elements in certain subjects.
- **Vocational:**
 - Portfolio assignments marked by teachers across the 3 years.
 - External exams in Year 10 and 11.



Core Curriculum

- **All students study:**
 - GCSE English Language
 - GCSE English Literature
 - GCSE Mathematics
 - GCSE Science
 - Either Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
 - or Separate Science (3 GCSEs)



Enhanced Core Curriculum

- **All students study one Humanities subject:**
 - GCSE Geography
 - GCSE History
 - *Possible to study both (see later on)*
- **All students choose one Modern Foreign Language subject:**
 - GCSE French
 - GCSE German
 - GCSE Spanish
 - *Possible to study more than one (see later on)*



Enhanced Core Curriculum

- **All students participate in:**
 - Creativity (in Year 9 only)
 - World Studies (in Year 9 only)
 - Learning for Life
 - Core PE
 - Personal Tutorial programme



Additional Curriculum

- **All students study two from the following:**

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Design & Technology
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- GCSE History
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Spanish
- BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Practice
- OCR Creative iMedia Level 1/2 Award
- WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering



Your choices

1. Choose your Humanities subject
2. Choose your Modern Foreign Language subject
3. Choose 4 subjects from the Additional Curriculum
 - You will be allocated 2
 - Choose in preference order
 - You should be willing to study all 4



Who can help me decide?

- Personal Tutor
- Subject Tutors
- Mr C Whiteley – head of year
- Mr D Bloomfield – Assistant Principal
- Parents/Carers and relatives
- Older siblings



What factors are important?

- What subjects do I enjoy? Would motivate me?
- Do I like 'hands on' subjects?
- How do I like to be assessed?
- What do I want to study at sixth form? University? Apprenticeship?
- What future career ideas do I have?



What factors are not important?

- What are my friends are doing?
- Which teachers do I like?
- Which subjects are 'easy'?



What steps do I take now?

- Research all subjects in your curriculum booklet.
- Choose subjects which meet the entry requirements for future study.
- Choose subjects which give plenty of choice if you don't have a firm career or future study in mind.
- Talk to your parent/carers and get any advice or guidance needed.



Key dates in the process

1. Submit choices using online Pathway Preference Form (Friday 11 March to Friday 12 April)
2. Confirmation and acceptance of pathway (June)