

Welcome to our Key Stage 4 Courses Evening

Thursday 18th January 2018

New GCSEs- graded 1 to 9

1 = GCSE grade F/G

2 = GCSE grade E

3 = GCSE grade D

4 = GCSE grade C

5= GCSE grade C+ or B-

6= GCSE grade B

7= GCSE grade A

8= GCSE grade A*

9= Exceptional standard above GCSE A*

J Scale	GCSE Grade	Comment
3-5	1	The lowest grade- F/G
6-8	2	
9-11	3	
12-14	4	Equivalent to a low C grade
15-17	5	New national expectation, just over 50 % nationally will achieve this grade across England
18-20	6	
21-23	7	Equivalent to an A grade
24-26	8	
27-29	9	Above an A* , about 2% nationally will achieve this grade across England
30+		Beyond GCSE, at A-Level standard

Qualification types

A mixture of traditional and vocational qualifications

GCSE

9-1 Grades

BTEC Certificate

Distinction*-Pass (9-4)

Cambridge National Award in Creative iMedia

Distinction*-Pass (9-4)

The Year 9 Curriculum

Subject	Hours	Qualification
English	4	English and English Literature GCSE
Maths	4	Maths GCSE
Science	4	All students study Combined Science in Year 9
Language	3	Either French, German or Tourism
Humanity	3	Either Geography or History
PE	2	
PSHE	1	Taught in two tutor times
RE/Citizenship	1	
Chosen subjects	2 x 2	GCSEs or BTECs

Year 10 and 11 Curriculum

Subject	Hours	Qualification
English	4	English and English Literature GCSE
Maths	4	Maths GCSE
Science	5 or 6	Either GCSE combined science Or Biology, Chemistry and Physics
PE	2	
PSHE	1	Taught in two tutor times
Language	2/3	
Humanity	2/3	
Chosen subjects	2 x 3/2	GCSEs or BTECs

GCSE English

Students take a GCSE in English Language and a GCSE in English Literature.

Examinations in English Language which will test reading and writing skills

There will be separate speaking and listening assessments

Examinations in English Literature will test understanding of poetry, prose and drama texts

Science Options

Combined Science: (two GCSEs)

- Studied over 5 lessons per week in years 10/11
- Gives two (9-1) grades at the end of year 11
- 6 x 1hr 10 min exams in year 11

OR

Separate Sciences: (three GCSEs)

- Each subject has 2 lessons per week
- 3 GCSEs studied over years 10 and 11 giving 3 (9-1) grades
Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- 6 x 1hr 45 min exams in year 11

Both routes offer entry onto A-level science subjects.

Entry onto A Level subjects depend upon both grades and student effort/commitment.

Separate Sciences option

Commit to attending an after school lesson every Tuesday in Years 10 and 11 and extra homework each week.

Exams: 6 x 1 hour 45 minute exams (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics) at the end of Year 11. This may make it more difficult for those who find writing for an extended time challenging.

All students are welcome to apply for the Separate Sciences however:

As this course is generally oversubscribed not all students will be offered a place. Places are decided by a combination of:

- **Effort in lessons and homework**
- **Care and concentration shown in lessons**
- **Attitude and commitment to extra study**
- **Performance in extended exams in year 9**

Any questions?

Your science teacher will be able to discuss with you the most suitable route to choose.

In addition the following staff can also help:

Mr Jennings, Faculty Leader

Miss Clayton, Assistant Faculty Leader

GCSE Maths

- **Examinations in Maths will test Number, Algebra, Data Handling, Shape Space and Measures**
- **The exam is undertaken at the end of Year 11**
- **Three papers of equal weighting, one of which is non-calculator**
- **Two tiers of papers (entry confirmed in March Year 11)**
 - **Foundation 5-1**
 - **Higher 9-4**

KS4 Course Form

Pathways

- There will be two pathways, **A** and **B**
- **Pathway A** – Students will follow the EBACC and be expected to aim for a minimum of grade 5 (equivalent to a C+/B-) in these subjects
- **Pathway B** – Students will be offered the chance to do the EBACC but may find it more difficult to achieve a grade 5. There will be alternative choices if they wish not to study a language

The KS4 Courses form 2018 – 2021

(Pages 28/29 of the options booklet)

Part A Compulsory Subjects

All students will study the following courses:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science Combined (or separate sciences; Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- French, German or Tourism
- Geography or History
- and non-examination courses in RE/Citizenship (Year 9), PSHE and PE.

Part B Chosen Subjects

Pathway A

In Box A you will choose French or German. If you wish to do **two** languages please choose French here.

In Box B you will choose Geography or History

Pathway B

In Box A you may choose French or German but we advise Travel and Tourism.

In Box B you will choose Geography or History

In **Box C** you make 3 choices in priority order (one is a reserve choice)

GCSE Art and design	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition*
BTEC Business studies	GCSE German (as a second language)
GCSE Computing	GCSE Music
Creative iMedia	PE (Course confirmed at end of Yr 9)
Design and Technology* (Course confirmed at end of Yr 9)	BTEC Travel and Tourism
GCSE Drama	

Your order of preference is very important.

* Students can only study one technology option.

Box D

Students wishing to be considered for Separate Sciences must tick the box to confirm this.

Students can choose to study **BTEC** Dance instead of core PE.

Please tick all that apply:	Tick
I would like to be considered for Separate Sciences in Year 10 and 11 (which includes an extra-curricular lesson after school on a Tuesday in Years 10 and 11)	
I would like to study GCSE Dance instead of the <i>core</i> PE course (from Year 9)	

Subject Allocation

- All student choices are considered at the same time.
- Block C subjects are placed in two timetable blocks which are formed based on the majority of students getting their choices.
- Pathway A block A will be at the same time as Pathway B block B and vice versa

Subject Blocks

- There will be four Subject choice blocks
- The subjects in one block are all taught at the same time on the timetable

- **Example**

Block 3 and 4 are just an example of what could happen

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Pathway A Languages	Pathway A Humanities	German	Computing
		Creative Imedia	Travel and Tourism
		Art	Music
Pathway B Humanities	Pathway B Language Travel and Tourism	Food	Food
		DT	DT
		Drama	Business Studies
		PE	PE

Timetable

A Year 9 timetable may look like this

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	English	English	Maths	Block 4	Science
2	Maths	Maths	Block 1	Block 4	Maths
	Break				
3	Block 1	PE	Block 3	Science	English
4	Science	Block 2	Block 3	English	Block 1
	Lunch				
5	Block 2	Science	Block 2	PE	RE/Citizenship

Calendar of events

KS4 Course choice interviews will commence on Monday 22nd January.

KS4 Course choice interview period	January 22nd – February 5th
Y8 Parents Evening	February 8th
Deadline for submitting Course forms	February 10th
Y8 Progress Check	March 12th
Initial Allocations sent home	Easter
Y8 Exam weeks	April 30th
Y8 Report	June 25th

Choosing the right Courses



Where are you at right now?



Next steps

Information Gathering – sources of information:

Faculty Leaders

Teachers

Prefects

Other students

Parents

BUT remember all sources of information are biased.
Information and experience serve as guidelines.

KS4 Course Choice Interviews

A letter with an appointment will be sent home to invite you to attend the interview.

Holywell – Mr Evans

Beacon – Mr Hammond (A)/Mr Williams(B)

Jubilee – Mrs Lindley

Midsummer – Mr Collard

Selected Students – Mrs Barker

Dispelling the Myths

1. Courses are first come first served.
2. No reserve choices = I get what I want.
3. I can change without my parents knowing.
4. If I don't take... now, I won't be able to study
Later.
5. Taking ... means I do less work.
6. If I do ... I am guaranteed to do really well.
7. If I take ... I am bound to get that teacher.
8. If my friends and I choose ... we will all be together.

Why might I not get my course choices?

There is a change in the staffing structure of the school

There are insufficient numbers to run a course

There are too many students choosing one particular course

There is strong evidence to suggest this is not an appropriate choice

In Summary

Seek Opinions.

Listen to advice.

Ask the right questions.

Read the course booklet.

Select the courses that work for you.

Be ready to justify your choices at the interview!