

## Year 10 and 11 Curriculum

The subject's students study in Year 10 and 11 can be split into two groups – 'Core Subjects' and 'Option Subjects'. The 'Core Subjects' are ones all students study, the 'Option Subjects' are the ones where there is choice. There are two types of options – 'EBacc Option and 'Open Option'.

### Core Subjects

These are the subjects all students will take; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Science. They all lead to a full GCSE qualification. All students study Physical Education and Religious Education (Short Course GCSE). Students can opt to study Physical Education and Religious Education in more depth – leading to a GCSE qualification.

### EBacc Option

Ebacc stands for English Baccalaureate, this is the name given by the government to a suite of subjects which includes English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities. To ensure engagement with these subjects, students will have to pick either a Modern Foreign Language (French or German), History or Geography. They can pick two or all three by using one or two of their 'Open Options' (see below)

### Open Option

Students can pursue a range of subjects in the areas of Technology, the Humanities, and the Arts. There are also courses available which are new to the students, for example in Psychology. Students will choose three subjects. We will endeavour to give as many students as possible their preferred three choices; however, constraints like class sizes and staffing may mean this isn't possible.

### Short Course GCSE RE

All students have to study RE in Year 10 and 11, therefore it seems logical to gain a qualification in the process. It has around half the content of a full GCSE. All students have two hours of Religious Education per fortnight; this is not enough time to deliver a full GCSE. If you opt for RE Full Course, there is an additional five hours of study per fortnight.

### Science Curriculum

All students will have nine hours of science per fortnight. This leads to a GCSE in Combined Science and the curriculum covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The qualification is worth two GCSE's (due to the amount in it) and students get a double grade, for example 76, this is 'seven six' not 'seventy-six'.

Students can study science in greater depth by following the 'three sciences' route. In addition to the nine hours, they would use one of their three options to study for an additional five hours per fortnight. This would lead to three GCSEs qualifications - hence the 'three sciences' route. The qualifications are GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. The demands of the 'three sciences' route means students will need to have reached a certain level of attainment to follow it.

### Further Maths and Statistics

As the name suggests this option is about studying maths in greater depth. As with 'three sciences', students will need a certain level of attainment in maths to take this option. The class teacher/Head of Maths can advise on this.

### Similar Subjects

The content of the subjects below have some similarities, as such only one can be chosen:

- One of the 'D & T' subjects
- Business or Enterprise and Marketing
- Creative Media Production or Media Studies
- Drama or Performing Arts (Performance Option)
- Physical Education or Sports Studies (Sport Option)

## **PE/Sports Studies**

With Physical Education and Sports Studies, you will opt for 'Sport'. The PE staff will decide which course is best suited for each student.

### **When a course won't run**

Due to financial constraints, if the number choosing a subject is too small, the course will not run. When you choose again you won't be limited to those subjects where there is space. You will be contacted and have a choice of all the subjects we offer.

### **If a course is oversubscribed**

This happens if we don't have enough specialist staff or facilities. Preference will be given to those who return the form on time. Then we will approach parents and students to let you know it is oversubscribed. This can lead to some choosing a different option as they were thinking of changing anyway. Failing this, names will be drawn at random. The exception is the three sciences and the additional mathematic qualifications; the demands of this course mean we will select based on attainment.

## **Timetable of Events**

### **21<sup>st</sup> January – Student assembly**

Options process explained to the students

### **26<sup>th</sup> January – Options information shared with parents and pupils**

KS4 Curriculum Booklet and annotated PowerPoint placed on the website

### **29<sup>th</sup> January – Parents Evening**

An opportunity to hear about your son's/daughter's progress in the various subjects they take. Students will also attend

### **2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February – Subject information sessions**

Each options subject will hold a 30 minutes online session across the fortnight. It will include a short presentation and opportunity for questions. Parents/pupils can join as many as they want.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> March – Taster Day**

Students won't follow their normal timetable. Instead, they will select subjects from the list of options subjects to have a taster lesson in.

### **4<sup>th</sup> March**

Options Form will go live

### **13<sup>th</sup> March**

Deadline for the completion of the Options Form.

### **April onwards**

You will be contacted if there is a problem with the choices.

### **May**

If you have not been contacted at this point about a problem with the choices then you can assume you have got your preferred choices.

At any point during this time, you can contact Mr Fenwick if you have a general question about the options process or the head of department if it is about a specific subject. Contact the school and they will put your call or email through to the appropriate member of staff.