

Curriculum Pathways

September 2017 – Elements for success



Options Evening

Thursday 26 January 2017



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January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

It is customary at this time of year to provide Year 9 students with information and advice that will help them in the important process of selecting Key Stage 4 courses.

Year 9 students are now at a critical stage in their school lives and the choices made over the next few weeks will prove to be some of the most important educational decisions they have taken so far. Therefore it is essential that students and their parents take full advantage of the advice available and consider each choice carefully.

Students will pursue a range of courses during Years 10 and 11, many of which will be compulsory or "core", while others will be available by selection and negotiation.

During this half term, students will have considerable opportunities to discuss possible choices with subject staff and the pastoral team.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum is a diverse and exciting opportunity. The flexibility in available courses means we can offer a curriculum to meet individual needs. Your son or daughter will be guided towards the best route for them so they can reach their potential and prepare them to access a full range of opportunities at Post-16 level and beyond. Following a presentation designed to give further information and guidance about the curriculum choices there will be an opportunity for parents to talk with subject staff.

At the back of this pack there is a Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices Form. This has to be returned to your son/daughter's tutor by Friday 10 February 2017.

Any issues relating to the Key Stage 4 Curriculum can be dealt with by:

Mr Downes, Year 9 Progress Leader
Mrs Davies, Assistant Headteacher
Miss Brennan (SENCO) for SEN queries.

Or your child's tutor.

Yours sincerely

Dr Simon Riding
Headteacher



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Making Choices

This document helps Year 9 students and their parents make choices about the subjects to be studied in Years 10 and 11. These decisions must be very carefully considered because they can have a significant bearing on students' life beyond Matravers School.

The Curriculum

The majority of students follow a compulsory Core Curriculum that consists of:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- 3 Ebacc subjects including Science
- Core PE

The remainder of their curriculum is made up of three additional subjects – for which there is a good degree of choice.

Can students choose any option subject?

At Matravers School we believe that it is important that students follow a broad and balanced curriculum and as a result we have a wide and varied range of GCSE and Vocational qualifications on offer.

The GCSEs currently on offer include:

Art and Design: Fine Art

Art and Design: Graphic Communication

Art and Design: 3D Design

Art and Design: Photography

Business Studies

Computer Science

Dance

Drama

Food Preparation and Nutrition

French

Geography

Geology

History

ICT

Media Studies

Physical Education

Religious Studies

Textiles

Triple Science

The Vocational qualifications on offer include:

Business Studies BTEC

Health and Social Care BTEC

Food and Catering Technical Award

Music BTEC

Physical Education BTEC

Travel and Tourism BTEC

Are there any subject combinations that students can't take?

GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art with GCSE Art and Design: Graphic Communication

GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art with GCSE Art and Design: 3D Design

GCSE Art and Design: Graphic Communication with GCSE Art and Design: 3D Design

The timetable for making decisions

Monday 9 January	Options process launched to pupils in a Year 9 Assembly.
Monday 16 January	Key Stage 4 Curriculum Roadshows Start
Thursday 26 January	<p>6:15 – 6.45pm Meeting in the Drama Studio for parents of students in 9.1 and 9.2</p> <p>6.45 – 7:15pm Meeting in the Drama Studio for parents of students in 9.3 and 9.4</p> <p>7.15 – 7.45pm Meeting in the Drama Studio for parents of students in 9.5, 9 SEN and 9 link</p>
Thursday 2 February	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00pm – this will be an opportunity to discuss option choices with subject teachers, senior staff and tutors.
Friday 10 February	Deadline for the return of completed Option Forms.

Advice about how to make choices

- Students must think for themselves (not what friends are doing)
- Focus on the subject rather than the teacher personalities
- Thought about the long term needs to be given (goals beyond Matravers School: 6th form/College, University, work etc)
- Students should ask questions about the courses - the structure and expectations and advice should be listened to.

Allocating Option Choices

Most students are allocated all subjects chosen. However, if too many students want to do a particular subject or not enough to make a viable group or the particular combination of subjects cannot work on the timetable then reserve options will be used. In addition, if the end of KS3 assessments and year 9 exam marks indicate that alternative options would be more appropriate advice will be given. If at any stage it looks like students will not be able to do the chosen subjects' discussions will take place to establish alternative options. Subject choices will be finalised and confirmed with all students by the beginning of April.

Art and Design: Fine Art GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr D Oakley

Art and Design: 3D Design GCSE

Staff Lead – Mrs C Byrne

Art and Design: Graphic Communication GCSE

Staff Lead – Mrs C Byrne

Business Studies GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr B Clarke

Computer Science GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr P Bond

Dance GCSE

Staff Lead – Miss G Richards

Drama GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr G Anderson

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE

Staff Lead – Miss K Savage

French GCSE

Staff Lead – Mrs H Stapleton

Geography GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr J Taylor

Geology GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr T Phillips

History GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr J Taylor

ICT GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr P Bond

Media Studies GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr G Anderson

PE GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr H Reeves

Photography GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr D Oakley

Religious Studies GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr T Sinclair

Textiles GCSE

Staff Lead – Mrs Z Auburn

Triple Science GCSE

Staff Lead – Mr N Feltham

Business Studies BTEC

Staff Lead – Mr B Clarke

Health and Social Care BTEC

Staff Lead – Miss K Savage

Music BTEC

Staff Lead – Mr T Griffiths

PE BTEC

Staff Lead – Mr H Reeves

Travel and Tourism BTEC

Staff Lead – Mr B Clarke

Food and Catering – Technical Award

Staff Lead – Miss K Savage

Core Subject – English GCSE (AQA)

Staff Lead Mr J McMahon

At Key Stage 4 the English Faculty delivers two GCSE qualifications through eight lessons a fortnight. English and English Literature are two entirely different qualifications although the syllabuses allow for some crossover work. Classes are set on ability and are all taught by subject specialists.

The curriculum plan is unit-based but a range of skills are taught alongside the unit content to improve the literacy of all students. Skills include information retrieval, summary, analysis of the effects of language and structural devices, comparison, writing to describe and writing to express a point of view. Speaking and Listening activities underpin much of the work covered.

Last year A Level English Literature was the most popular choice for students and the results were very impressive too. At GCSE we prepare the most able for further study through challenging text and topic choices in the top sets. Group sizes are smaller at the key Level 4 borderline and in the lower sets. This facilitates more one to one coaching and support.

FAQs about GCSE English

[How many controlled assessments are there?](#)

There are now NO controlled assessments and NO coursework in GCSE English language/English literature.

[What will students study?](#)

All students will study a Shakespeare play, a pre-19th century novel, a modern text (prose or drama), at least 15 poems that will be examined and a series of other poems as practise for the unseen section.

[What kind of homework is set?](#)

Homework will often be a written task following specific classroom teaching. Students are encouraged to spend three hours a week completing tasks at home. Other tasks will include research, reading and independent work.

[Will there be any support mechanisms beyond the classroom?](#)

Some one-to-one mentoring is available as well as tailored revision sessions nearer to the exams.

[Who to contact with further questions.](#)

Please feel free to contact the class teacher via reception or talk to Mr McMahon, Head of English.

Careers

A good grade in English demonstrating a competence in literacy is desirable to all employers. The skills learnt in English underpin the written work of all other subjects as well as strengthening students' ability to read for meaning and communicate clearly and listen effectively.

A grade 4 in English will become a statutory requirement for virtually any course at university.

Core Subject – Mathematics GCSE (AQA)

Staff Lead **Miss M Drewitt**

To benefit all of our students:

Mathematics is an essential subject that teaches students the essential skills of numeracy, develops logic and promotes reasoning. All students will benefit from high quality and engaging teaching and learning from our specialist teachers.

Our GCSE results have risen consistently for the past four years and our results continue to be above the national average.

Our students in Years 10 receive seven hours of Maths lessons each fortnight.

We assess students regularly in KS4 students through short, formative, problem solving assessment every couple of weeks.

We subscribe to mymaths.co.uk. and Kerboodle. Both website allows parents and students to work at home together if they would like extra support with any particular topic.

In Year 11 there are regular period 6 revision sessions and additional support sessions also run in the upgrade centre during the school day.

We have a dedicated Maths teaching assistant, who is experienced and trained to work with students across the age range in Maths

How is the course examined?

GCSE Mathematics is a two year course that is examined by three written exams at the end of Year 11.

Are there any controlled assessments?

No, it is purely a written exam.

What is the course content?

The GCSE Mathematics course builds on the curriculum that has already been studied at Key Stage 3. It furthers knowledge, understanding and application of the four key areas of the subject: Number, Algebra, Shape and Space, and Data Handling.

Is there more than one tier of entry?

Yes, there are two tiers of entry. The Higher tier caters for predicted grades 9 - 4 with an allowable grade 3 and the Foundation tier caters for predicted grades 5 - 1.

What kind of homework will support the course?

A mixture of written and online tasks will be set regularly to practise the content covered in class. Homework is a vital support to class work helping build confidence, develop understanding and aid memory of skills and techniques.

Is any specialist equipment required?

All students are expected to have their own scientific calculator. This can be purchased from the Maths department along with a geometry set which includes the other Maths equipment which is required (protractor, ruler & compass).

Will there be any support available outside of lessons?

Tailored revision sessions will be put on as the exams approach alongside sessions organised by class teachers.

What opportunities will a good grade in Mathematics give at post-16?

Nearly all post-16 areas of study require a good grade at GCSE Mathematics. Specifically AS Mathematics and Further Maths is offered in the Sixth Form to students achieving Level 7, 8 or 9.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

Your son/daughter's Mathematics Teacher or Miss Drewitt, Acting Assistant Headteacher.

Career Uses

Many employment opportunities require a degree of mathematical competence and the minimum GCSE requirement will be included in the job description.

Core Subject – Science GCSE

Staff Lead Mr Nick Feltham

There are 2 routes through Science this year that will ensure that everyone's interests are catered for. Students will be guided to take either GCSE Combined Science which is the equivalent of 2 GCSE's or GCSE Separate (triple) Science which is the equivalent to 3 GCSEs.

All students are required to study GCSE Combined Science as a minimum, but have the opportunity to study GCSE Separate (Triple) Science if they chose this as an option.

Route 1 GCSE Combined Science: Equivalent to 2 GCSEs

Our students in year 10 receive 8 hours of Science lessons each fortnight if they study GCSE Combined Science, with this increasing to 11 hours in year 11.

What is the course content?

The GCSE Combined Science specification includes aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics as outlined below:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure and the periodic table • Structure, bonding and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes in chemistry • The rate and extent of chemical change • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forces • Energy • Waves • Electricity • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure

It develops a scientific knowledge and understanding and introduces 'Working Scientifically' investigative skills through 16 required practicals. Students will also be required to demonstrate mathematical skills in GCSE Combine Science.

GCSE Combined Science provides students with a solid foundation to move on to study A-levels in Science.

How is the course examined?

GCSE Science is a two year course which is examined at the end of the whole course in Year 11. There is a total of 7 hours of examinations. These examinations form 100% of the GCSE grade with at least 15% of the examinations assessing the required practicals and associated skills, and at least 10% of the examination assessing mathematical skills.

The examinations contain a range of exam question types, including multiple choice questions, closed short answer questions and open longer response questions.

What kind of homework is set?

Homework is set each week and is based around Doodle and past paper examination questions.

Route 2 GCSE Separate Science: Equivalent to 3 GCSEs

Students who opt to study Separate (triple) Science should be achieving a **minimum of a 3+ throughout year 9 combined with a Science teacher recommendation** and demonstrate high levels of commitment to their learning.

Our students in year 10 and 11 receive an extra 6 hours of Science lessons each fortnight if they study GCSE Separate (triple) Science.

What is the course content?

GCSE Separate (triple) Science includes 3 GCSEs; a GCSE in Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

The specifications contain the same content as GCSE Combined Science (outlined on the previous page), but in greater detail and a greater range of examples and applications.

It develops a scientific knowledge and understanding and introduces 'Working Scientifically' investigative skills through 24 required practicals (8 for each GCSE). Students will also be required to demonstrate mathematical skills in GCSE Separate (triple) Science.

GCSE Separate (triple) Science provides students with a solid foundation to move on to study A-levels in Science and is the desired route when going on to study A-level Sciences.

How is the course examined?

GCSE Separate (triple) Science is a linear course which is examined at the end of each GCSE. Students normally sit 1 GCSE at the end of year 10, with the other 2 GCSEs being examined at the end of year 11.

There is a total of 3.5 hours of examinations for each GCSE; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This combined is 10.5 hours; Usually 3.5 hours in year 10 and 7.5 hours in year 11. These examinations form 100% of the GCSE grades with at least 15% of the examinations assessing the required practicals and associated skills, and at least 10% of the examination assessing mathematical skills.

The examinations contain a range of exam question types, including multiple choice questions, closed short answer questions and open longer response questions.

What kind of homework is set?

Homework is set twice each week and is based around Doodle and past paper examination questions.

Core Physical Education – non examinable 2 Year Course

Staff Lead Mr H Reeves

Physical Education is concerned with encouraging a positive attitude to sport. The aim is to help students develop a healthy lifestyle that will continue into their adulthood. We are looking for students to take more responsibility in the organisation and development of their leisure time and to develop their full physical potential. Three hours of lesson time per fortnight is allocated to Core Physical Education.

Course Description

A range of activities is provided, designed to satisfy the needs, abilities and interests of the individual. The programme includes both individual sports and team games. In addition to the activities taught in previous years the curriculum is broadened. New activities include aerobics, ultimate Frisbee, stoolball, trampolining and badminton. We recognise that students at this stage are developing their own particular interests. We have therefore developed a balanced option programme in Year 11. Extra-curricular activities support the above programme and give the students further opportunities to develop their interests.

Students experience many benefits, both mentally and physically, as a direct result of their participation in some form of physical education. Quite simply: Physical Education can help make you a healthier and happier person.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices Form – Yellow Pathway

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science and Core PE are the core subjects and are compulsory.

From the EBACC subjects select a total of ONE subject and ONE reserve subject and THREE subjects and ONE Reserve subject from the list of Open subjects:

Compulsory	EBACC subjects 1 subject needed		OPEN subjects 3 subjects needed			
		Tick choice		Tick choice		Tick choice
English Language	History		Art and Design: Fine Art		ICT	
English Literature	Geography		3D Design		Media Studies	
Mathematics	French		Graphic Communication		PE	
PE	Computer Science		Photography		Religious Studies	
Science	Triple Science		Business Studies		Textiles	
			Dance		BS BTEC	
			Drama		Music BTEC	
			Food Preparation and Nutrition		Health and Social Care BTEC	
			Geology		PE BTEC	
			Geography		Travel and Tourism BTEC	
			History			
			French			
			Computer Science			
RESERVES:						

Check that you have made a total of **ONE** Tick against the EBACC subjects and **THREE** ticks against the OPEN subjects.

Key Dates

Options Choice Sheets returned	10 February 2017
Students informed about final Option subjects	17 March 2017
Final Date to make Option Subject changes	7 April 2017

Student signature Parent/Carer signature

Checked by Form Tutor: Date:

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices Form – Blue Pathway

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science and Core PE are the core subjects and are compulsory.

From the EBACC subjects select a total of **ONE** subject and **ONE** reserve subject and **THREE** subjects and **ONE** Reserve subject from the list of Open subjects:

Compulsory	EBACC subjects 1 subject needed		OPEN subjects 3 subjects needed			
		Tick choice		Tick choice		Tick choice
English Language	History		Art and Design: Fine Art		ICT	
English Literature	Geography		3D Design		Media Studies	
Mathematics	French		Graphic Communication		PE	
PE			Photography		Religious Studies	
Combined Science			Business Studies		Textiles	
			Dance		BS BTEC	
			Drama		Music BTEC	
			Food Preparation and Nutrition		Health and Social Care BTEC	
			Geology		PE BTEC	
					Travel and Tourism BTEC	
					Food and Catering	
RESERVES:						

Check that you have made a total of **ONE** Tick against the EBACC subjects and **THREE** ticks against the OPEN subjects.

Key Dates

Options Choice Sheets returned	10 February 2017
Students informed about final Option subjects	17 March 2017
Final Date to make Option Subject changes	7 April 2017

Student signature Parent/Carer signature

Checked by Form Tutor: Date:

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices Form – *Green Pathway Only*

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, Personalised Learning and Core PE are the core subjects and are compulsory.

From the Open subjects select a total of **THREE** subjects and **one** Reserve subject:

Compulsory	OPEN subjects 3 subjects needed			
		Tick choice		Tick choice
English Language	Art and Design: Fine Art		Textiles	
English Literature	3D Design		BS BTEC	
Mathematics	Graphic Communication		Music BTEC	
PE	Photography		HSC BTEC	
Combined Science	Dance		PE BTEC	
Personalised Learning	Drama		Travel and Tourism BTEC	
	Food and Catering			
	Media Studies			
RESERVE:				

Check that you have made a total of **THREE** ticks against the OPEN subjects and **ONE** Reserve.

Key Dates

Options Choice Sheets returned	10 February 2017
Students informed about final Option subjects	17 March 2017
Final Date to make Option Subject changes	7 April 2017

Student signature Parent/Carer signature

Checked by Form Tutor: Date: