

Key Stage 4 Pathway Curriculum Diagram



Key Stage 4: Curriculum

The key stage 4 curriculum is made up of two components, 'Core' and 'Choices'. The core is the compulsory element of the curriculum. The choices element allows students to pick subjects that they are passionate about from within a carefully designated pathway.

The core consists of English, maths, double science, physical education, and enrichment. All students study 'Personal finance' and 'Managing money' as part of their weekly enrichment lessons. For those who show a financial competency throughout the course and gain the required amount of credit in Year 10, there will also be an option to complete a 'Certificated award' in Year 11.

The Pathway Programme

Students are placed on one of three pathways called 'Red', 'Blue' and 'Green'. We have used a combination of Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 performance data and Cognitive Ability Test scores, to assign the most appropriate pathway.

The Red pathway is being followed by approximately fifty percent of our Year 10 students and fifty percent of our Year 11 students. It is designed to stretch our most able students to meet the 'gold standard' – a good pass in English, maths, two sciences, history or geography and a language. It is hoped that by studying the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) a higher proportion of students will progress to a university education.

The Blue Pathway is designed to give students a broad range of knowledge, but students only have to choose a language or humanities. These students might not cope with studying the full Ebacc, so we give them an opportunity to choose another subject that they are passionate about.

The Green Pathway is followed by a carefully selected group of our least able students or EAL students that have joined very recently and for whom written or spoken English is new. They only take three option subjects and are given five extra lessons to consolidate the learning in other subjects, in a small group setting. In order to give them breadth and depth in their curriculum, they are still required to pick a humanities or language as one of their three subjects. There is also the opportunity to complete an ASDAN award which equips students with the personal and social skills as well as transferable educational skills that can aid the students throughout the school curriculum and later life.

Students and parents are fully involved in the Pathway process. Parents and students attend a Pathway interview with a member of staff. Academic performance data and discussion about students aspirations and interests are used to help guide students choices within the students assigned pathway. Parents and Year 9 students also attend a Pathway evening. This evening starts with a presentation on how to make good choices and ends by giving them the opportunity to speak to members of teaching staff and students currently studying the subject. Post-16 providers are also on hand to brief students on how their choices may impact upon their post-16 options.

Within the three pathways we provide a range of traditional GCSEs and vocational options so that we can tailor each students curriculum to their learning styles and strengths.

Personal Development and Well-Being

Our Year 10 and 11 students receive two hours of Enrichment time within their curriculum. For those students not studying for the Certificated award in personal finance, an enrichment programme is provided that includes Careers advice and guidance. The sessions are programmed in for the academic year and shall include Applying for sixth form, college or apprenticeships, how to complete application forms and interview skills, revision techniques and transition to Key Stage 5. We also use drop down days, where we suspend the curriculum to deliver enrichment activities.