



# Beacon Hill

Community School

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## Learner Pathways 2017

### Information for Parents & Students

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Beacon Hill Community School



@beaconhillcs





Dear Student

Thinking about your future preferences can be both an exciting and daunting time. Some students will have firm ideas of their career path and subject choices whereas others will be less clear and may find this difficult.

With the possibility of trying new subjects, and continuing others to a higher level than previously studied, Key Stage 4 is an important time for all students.

**Due to pressures from the DfE on how school performance is measured, it is very likely most students will be guided to certain pathways by school. In particular most students will be expected to take at least one EBACC option.**

It is important to read through the details in this booklet, to discuss the pathways with family and staff, and to get as much information as possible. While we want students to make preferences about their own curriculum, school will make the final decision on the pathways/subjects students should take.

Students begin Key Stage 4 Pathways after May half-term of Year 9.

Mr Gee  
Deputy Head teacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Gee', with a small dash at the end.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The subjects you will study are carefully put together. They are based on the National Curriculum guidelines, which all County schools follow. They provide you with a broad and balanced "learning diet". This is so that if you work hard you will have the chance to follow a wide range of career paths after taking your GCSE exams.

## **USING THIS BOOKLET**

In the following pages there is a lot of information giving the details of each KS4 course. Do read these thoroughly with your parents.

Each subject has been described using a standard set of headings and, with one or two exceptions, these are:-

**Name of the course**

**Qualification**

**Examination board**

**What is this course about?**

**How is it assessed?**

**What interests do I need?**

**What can I do with this qualification?**

## **WHICH SUBJECTS SHALL I STUDY?**

While it may seem that you are still a long way from leaving school, decisions taken now may have a significant effect on your future. Not everyone knows at this stage the career they will eventually choose. Many of you will move into full or part-time Further Education or Higher Education, while others will go into employment with linked training.

## **HOW TO MAKE PREFERENCES**

### **GETTING ADVICE**

Always be prepared to ask for advice in making decisions.

Within the school, you can talk to:

- Your present subject teachers
- Your form tutors
- Mrs Gigli our Learning Mentor
- Learning Support staff
- Mr Wallam, our Careers Advisors (from Inspira)

Outside school you can also talk to:

Parents

Other adults

Present or past students of the subjects

### **MAKING YOUR DECISION**

Ask yourself some questions, such as

- a) What pathways could I take?
- b) Do I really know what each subject is about?
- c) Do I enjoy that sort of subject?
- d) Is it one of my strengths or weaknesses?
- e) Are there any vital subjects for the careers I have in mind?

## **MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE**

Be very careful not to make a choice for the WRONG reasons!

Never make a choice because:

- a) "It's new!" Do you know enough about it?
- b) "I like/dislike the teacher." You may not get the same teacher in Year 10!
- c) "It's easy/difficult." All GCSE courses have to meet exam standards so none are "easy", though you may find some types of work easier for you than other types.
- d) "My friends are choosing it." It may be right for them, but is it right for you?

## **AND FINALLY, REMEMBER**

- It is unlikely that you will have just one job "for life".
- You may have several very different jobs in the future, so you will need a broad education.
- What we know as "transferable skills" are now becoming very important.
- You should therefore see this round of "Opportunities" as just one step in the continuing development of your education.
- Once a course has been selected it is very difficult to change.

# **ENGLISH LANGUAGE &**

# **ENGLISH LITERATURE**

## **CORE SUBJECTS**

### **Qualification**

2 GCSEs: one for English Language, one for English Literature.

### **Examination Board**

WJEC/Eduqas

### **What is this course about?**

This course will help candidates develop their skills in reading and interpreting works of fiction and non-fiction. In addition, it will enhance writing skills in response to a range of creative texts such as poetry, plays and novels, and factual texts, such as advertisements, articles and information leaflets.

### **How is it assessed?**

#### **English Language:**

- **Component 1:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing. (Written examination of 1 hour 45 minutes at the end of the course) This will make up 40% of the total qualification.
- **Component 2:** 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing. (Written examination of 2 hours at the end of the course) This will make up 60% of the total qualification.
- **Component 3:** Spoken Language (assessed by the teacher during the course)

#### **English Literature:**

- **Component 1:** Shakespeare and Poetry (Written examination of 2 hours at the end of the course.) This will make up 40% of the total qualification.
- **Component 2:** Post -1914 Prose/Drama, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Prose and Unseen Poetry (Written examination of 2 hours 30 minutes at the end of the course). This will make up 60% of the total qualification.

### **What qualities do I need?**

All students must study English at some level, but in order to succeed at the highest level you must be both hard-working and determined. You will need to be able to express yourself and your ideas clearly both in writing and in speech. You will be encouraged to read widely outside the classroom.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

Most employers require a GCSE in English, with the majority preferring a Grade 4 or above. All universities offer courses and degrees in English Language or English Literature. Related courses and careers to consider include journalism, teaching, and law.

For more information about this course see Mrs Fitzsimmons or Mrs Heaton.

# **MATHEMATICS**

## **CORE SUBJECT**

### **Qualification**

Single GCSE

### **Examination Board**

Edexcel

### **What is this course about?**

This course develops mathematical understanding, logic and problem solving. The new syllabus covers a wide range of numeracy, algebra, geometric and statistical skills and the higher exam robustly tests algebraic reasoning and logic. The final level of entry will depend on each individual student's progress during Year 10 and 11. Students will be entered at either higher or foundation level. The foundation paper is graded from 1 – 5 whilst the higher paper is graded from 4 – 9. An upper level 4/lower level 5 grade is equivalent to the C grade.

### **How is it assessed?**

- 1 Final exam (3 papers)
- 1 x non-calculator and 2 x calculator)

### **What interests do I need?**

As this is a core subject all students will study Mathematics but to do well you need to be hardworking and determined. As a building block subject consistency of effort throughout the full two years is critical to ensure maximum performance.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

Mathematics is one of the key subjects in all types of employment and careers, many of which require a level 4/5 or higher.

For more information about this course see Miss Laithwaite or Mr Heaton.

# **SCIENCE**

## **CORE SUBJECT**

### **Qualification**

GCSE Combined Science  
(Double Award)  
GCSE Separate Sciences  
(Triple Award)

### **Examination Board**

Assessment & Qualifications  
Alliance (AQA)

### **GCSE Combined Science**

#### **What is this course about?**

Students study the three sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics over this two year course. This 'Core route' leads to students achieving two GCSE awards in Science.

#### **How is it assessed?**

- 100% written examinations (two exams per science). *There will be no coursework.* All examination papers are taken at the end of year 11.

#### **What interests do I need?**

Science is a core subject which all students have to undertake in KS4.

#### **What can I do with this qualification?**

With these qualifications it will be possible to study Science beyond GCSE for vocational qualifications or enter a career involving Science. For students achieving high grades in Combined Science there may be the option to study a science at A-level in a sixth form or at college.

### **Triple Science – option (vertical)**

#### **What is this course about?**

This will lead to students achieving 3 GCSE awards, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

#### **How is the Triple Award assessed?**

The above mentioned 'core route' covers two-thirds of the overall content of the triple award. The 'Triple Award' students also sit two exams per science, but they are longer and cover more content.

#### **What can I do with this qualification?**

It is envisaged that those students who opt for this route are intending to carry on studying one or more Science at A-level at Sixth Form or College.

For more information about this course see Mrs Wamsley or Mr Rajput.

# **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

## **(Product Design)**

### **Qualification**

Single GCSE

### **Examination Board**

Assessment & Qualifications Alliance (AQA)

### **What is this course about?**

The course gives pupils an awareness of design, and the technologies used to produce various products. Pupils are given a variety of skills which build upon the experiences from KS3. These skills are broad – and include analysis, research, design, development and CAD (computer aided design). When coupled with the practical skills taught, including CAM (computer aided manufacture), these allow pupils to design and make products aimed at different market sectors.

### **How is it assessed?**

- Y10 is mostly used as a skills extending section where smaller projects are completed which give the students a flavour of what is expected in the GCSE coursework. Towards the end of Y10 the students will be given a variety of projects to choose from, and this will be the major project that is marked for the GCSE. Within those projects, there is the opportunity for highly individual project work to take place, which makes full use of the excellent facilities we have in school. The course is 60% coursework - completed and marked in school - and this is split into a Design Portfolio and Practical Piece. About two thirds of the coursework mark is for the Portfolio and a third for the Practical piece so students will need to ensure that they are willing to produce a comprehensive design portfolio.
- Y11 there is a 2 hour exam which consists of a design task, as well as questions which test knowledge of materials, processes and how products are made in quantity, together with the environmental impact of such products. This exam is the remaining 40% of the GCSE.

### **What interests do I need?**

You need to have enjoyed, and worked hard in your DT lessons! It is quite a big commitment to produce a good quality portfolio and practical piece so you need to be willing to dedicate time to this.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

There are a number of courses at College and University which can offer further study, including teaching. Although Britain has lost much of its manufacturing industry we are still world leaders in product Design and development. A wide variety of apprenticeships and jobs can also make use of the skills you learn, and having a good folio and practical piece to take to interviews often impresses!

For more information about this course see Mr Esslemont.

# **FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION**

## **CORE (CHOICE)**

### **Qualification**

½ GCSE

### **Examination Board**

AQA

Our fresh and exciting GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course equips students with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. This new exam is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. What is this course about?

### **How is it assessed?**

- **Task 1 – Food Investigation** Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are compulsory. This is 30% of the final mark.
- **Task 2 – Food Preparation Assessment** 70% of the final mark. Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved
  - **Task 1: Written or electronic report** (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.
  - **Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio** including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

### **What interests Practical Investigation and written report do I need?**

You must be interested in food and willing to try new experiences. You will not always cook your favourite foods but you will be exposed to a wide range of dishes. You must also possess knowledge of basic skills, practical and written to cope with the demands of the course.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

It could lead you to further study within the subject or into other pathways e.g. NVQ's in Food Preparation & Cooking, Health Care Intermediate GNVQ in Hospitality & Catering.

For more information about this course see Mrs Foster.

# **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

## **(Technical Award - Materials Technology)**

### **Qualification**

Level 1 or 2 Technical Award  
(Depends on marks gained)

(L2 is GCSE equivalent at good grade)

### **Examination Board**

Assessment & Qualifications Alliance (AQA)

### **What is this course about?**

The course gives pupils an awareness of a variety of materials – including woods metals and polymers – and their working properties.

### **How is it assessed?**

. Learners will get a practical, hands-on learning experience and learn through doing and applying the skills which they've learned to real-life situations. Based upon the feedback from industry these qualifications include not only the skills relevant to the physical material area but also transferable skills such as communication and teamwork. Unit 1 will give learners the opportunity to master 12 core skills which are set out in the specification, and demonstrate their competency at each of these skills through a series of mini projects. They will be expected to make a range of products, prototypes and samples, applying technical and practical expertise to ensure that the product is fit for purpose. Learners will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and modern technologies

Unit 2 allows learners to put into practice the skills they've developed in Unit 1 through an extended making project, which will be based on a brief released by AQA.

Unit 3 is an externally assessed written exam of an hour and a half and it will contain multiple choice and short answer questions with one extended response at the end. Learners will be assessed on their knowledge of the materials that they've studied, the properties of those materials; they'll also learn about commercial practice and industrial practice, how things are done in the real world in a commercial and industrial setting.

### **What interests do I need?**

You need to have enjoyed, and worked hard in your DT lessons!

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

There are a number trades, apprenticeships and courses at College or University which can offer further study, including teaching. Having a good folio and practical piece to take to interviews often impresses!

For more information about this course see Mr Esslemont  
or visit

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/technical-award/materials-technology-3740>

# **ART, CRAFT & DESIGN**

## **OPTION**

### **Qualification**

Single GCSE

### **Examination Board**

Assessment & Qualifications Alliance (AQA)

### **What is this course about?**

Art is a very practical subject where all are encouraged to work independently developing personal imaginative responses to given themes using a variety of processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources. There is access to a wide variety of media and techniques and all are given the chance to use as many of these as possible during the course.

### **How is it assessed?**

- You have to produce a portfolio of work based on the 5 skill areas and that is worth 60% of your final mark. The 5 areas are; Fine art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, 3 D Design and Photography.
- There is also a controlled exam which is worth the remaining 40% of the final mark.

### **What interests do I need?**

Focused study and completion of coursework, the ability to think creatively and experiment with different materials and media.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

You could go on to do an A-level in Art or Design and there are a whole range of art related college courses. The demonstration of creative ability also lends itself to numerous career choices from media to joinery.

For more information about this course see Mrs Clitheroe.

# **GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION**

## **OPTION**

### **Qualification**

Single GCSE

### **Examination Board**

Assessment & Qualifications Alliance (AQA)

### **What is this course about?**

Graphic communication is defined here as the process of designing primarily visual material to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief. This will include practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of Graphic design, such as: computer aided design and manufacture (CAD/CAM), illustration, advertising, packaging, digital imaging, film, video or animation.

### **How is it assessed?**

- A portfolio of work including sketchbooks and this element is worth 60% of the final mark.
- The final controlled test allows an unlimited time for preparation work plus 10 hours for the exam and is worth the remaining 40% of the final mark. In the portfolio and controlled test students are required to work in one or more area(s) of graphic communication, such as: communication graphics, design for print, advertising and branding, illustration, package design, typography, interactive design (including web, app and game), multi-media, motion graphics, signage, and exhibition graphics. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

### **What interests do I need?**

This will require an interest in drawing, sketching and modelling, as well as being interested in how things work and how products are manufactured. Must be willing to work on own initiative after school and at home.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

This qualification could lead to various careers, e.g. Graphic Designer, Product Designer, Interior Designer and Architect.

For more information about this course see Mrs Clitheroe.

# **FRENCH**

## **OPTION**

### **Qualification**

Single GCSE

### **Examination Board**

WJEC/Eduqas

### **What is this course about?**

Students will build upon their knowledge of French to read, write, listen and speak in more depth about themselves and the world around them. They will become independent speakers of this useful and vibrant language.

### **How is it assessed?**

There are 4 assessment areas taken at the end of Year 11.

- The speaking assessment will consist of a role play, a discussion based on a picture and a conversation.
- The writing assessment will include a translation from English into French.
- The reading assessment will include a translation from French into English.
- The listening assessment will have non-verbal answers as well as written ones.

### **What interests do I need?**

You should have an interest in finding out about other languages and cultures, not just French, as linguistic skills are easily transferable. You should be good at communicating and be capable of independent learning. It is useful to be creative and good at solving problems as well as being able to apply the knowledge you have of your own language to French.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

Most schools and colleges offer opportunities to continue with French to A level, and it can be studied at university either by itself or with another subject. Some universities will refuse entry to students who don't have a foreign language at GCSE level.

Industries that need people who speak a second language include: business services, central government, contact centres, engineering, financial services, marketing, media, technology, travel and tourism, voluntary and charitable sector. Knowledge of languages is also an asset for some jobs within the armed forces.

For more information about this course see Mrs Webley.

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## **OPTION**

### **Qualification**

BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport

### **Examination Board**

Edexcel

### **What is this course about?**

BTEC Sport builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills learnt in Key Stage 3 PE. It will give you the opportunity to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. You will develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities; examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance; find ways to improve your own performances; identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through physical activity and appreciate the benefits of promoting 'sport for all'.

(Non BTEC Physical Education will also be taken by all students as a core subject).

### **How is it assessed?**

- 1 formal onscreen examination (worth 25% of marks)
- 3 internally assessed units (worth 75% of marks)

### **What interests do I need?**

You should have an interest in PE and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy. You should also be actively involved in both PE lessons and afterschool clubs/teams.

### **What can I do with this qualification?**

This course is ideal for those looking for a career in sports. It is also very useful for pupils wishing to work in area where good team work is required.

For more information about this course see Mr Young or Miss Hedley.

# Geography

## Ask yourself the following questions...

- 🌐 How can we prevent flooding?
- 🌐 Will climate change affect us?
- 🌐 Can immigration be controlled?
- 🌐 Why do earthquakes happen?
- 🌐 Why are India and China becoming the new world super powers?
- 🌐 Why does the UK have an ageing population?
- 🌐 Why are tropical rainforests being destroyed?
- 🌐 Can we study our local area?



If you are captured by these questions and have a desire to learn about the world we live in and the people within it, then **GCSE Geography** is for you! This specification is brand new and it includes exciting content, exploring both the geography of the **UK and the wider world**, as well as **fieldwork opportunities**. Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun.

## Course Content - GCSE Geography: OCR A (9-1) Geographical Themes

**Component 01:** Living in the UK today (landscapes, people and environmental challenges)

**Examination:** 1 hour 15 minutes, 60 marks (30%)

**Component 02:** The world around us (ecosystems, people and environmental threats)

**Examination:** 1 hour 15 minutes, 60 marks (30%)

**Component 03:** Geographical skills (graphs, maps, statistics, your own fieldwork). You are required to undertake two pieces of fieldwork, one human and one physical.

**Examination:** 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks (40%)

## Where can geography take me?

According to the **Royal Geographical Society**, geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment. The army, police, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop.

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers include:

- 🌐 Urban designer
- 🌐 Environment Agency – Flood Management Officer
- 🌐 Countryside Planner
- 🌐 Recycling Officer
- 🌐 National Trust - Park Ranger
- 🌐 Landscape Architect
- 🌐 Travel Agent and Tourism
- 🌐 Weather forecasting
- 🌐 Charity work and development

## History (Solway)

Choose AQA GCSE History at Solway and you will study some of the most turbulent and troubled times in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from the origins of the First World War through to the struggle for civil rights in the USA. Under the new GCSE arrangements, you will also study an aspect of British history in detail. At Solway, this will involve how medicine and health developed in Britain from 1000 AD to the present day as well as a detailed look at the Norman Conquest of England in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. As part of this unit of study, you will also investigate an aspect of the historic environment of Norman England which may involve a site visit.

At the end of Year 11, you will be assessed as follows:

**Paper 1** (Understanding the Modern World): Opportunity and Equality, 1920-1973, and Conflict and Tension, 1894-1918.

**Paper 2** (Shaping the Nation): Health and the People, 1000 to the present day, and Norman England, 1066-1100.



# **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **CORE SUBJECT – non exam subject**

### **What is this course about?**

Pupils are given the opportunity to discuss a range of issues, from local to global in scale. The course includes debates on ethical issues, religion and citizenship themes. Careers advice and guidance as well as personal, social and health education are covered extensively. Students plan for a Work Experience in Year 10 and are prepared for interviews. Through “work readiness” pupils learn about the world of work.

### **What interests do I need?**

A willingness to participate in class discussion. It is expected students have an open mind and welcome argument from others. Students should engage fully with Inspira staff (Careers Advisors) and our Learning Mentor in preparation for opportunities post 16. A mature approach to sensitive issues is a prerequisite for this course. Many of the lessons involve input from outside speakers. Lessons tend to involve active engagement in groups rather than written tasks.

## Y10 LEARNER PATHWAYS 2017-19



PATHWAY	Option Block 1	Option Block 2	Option Block 3	Option Block 4	Core
P8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Language</li> <li>• English Literature</li> <li>• Maths</li> <li>• Science (2GCSEs)</li> <li>• PE (Core)</li> <li>• Personal Development</li> <li>• ICT is taught across the curriculum</li> </ul>
Other Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology Award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTEC PE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology GCSE</li> <li>• Food GCSE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Graphics</li> </ul>	

# OPTION PREFERENCES

**OPTION 1**



**OPTION 2**



**OPTION 3**



**OPTION 4**



Name of student

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Signed

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Date

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Discussed with parent  
signature

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Form tutor signature

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PLEASE HAND INTO YOUR FORM TUTOR BY FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY