



Mayflower
High School

Year 9 Options Evening 2024

Thursday 7 March 2024



Our Curriculum



Our curriculum is designed with the central aim of providing a quality education for all our students. We aim to create a stimulating educational experience, developing a passion for learning alongside the knowledge, skills and cultural capital students need to succeed in life.

The subjects studied in Years 7, 8 and 9 are compulsory and have given our students a good foundation, but now there are some important decisions to take about some of the subjects that they would prefer to study in Years 10 and 11.

In Key Stage 4, our students will become more responsible for their own education and their teachers will expect them to apply themselves to their work. As our students will have chosen some of their subjects, we will assume that they are enthusiastic and eager to do well.

Therefore, each decision must be taken carefully.

Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum



Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to inspire, engage and motivate all our students.

We keep the curriculum broad, robust and rich at Key Stage 4 to enable students to maximise their potential, regardless of background.

We are proud of our rich and robust curriculum, which provides an enviable range of learning opportunities.

The design of the curriculum at Mayflower High School is about providing choice and opportunity for progression so that the student benefits in the long term.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum offers a broader range of subjects to our students than is available at Key Stage 3.

This gives them choice and breadth and sets them up for progression to Post-16.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)



We are ambitious for all our young people, and so central to our Key Stage 4 curriculum is an academic core of Mathematics, English, Science, humanities and modern foreign languages. This is complemented by a wide range of other subjects including practical and artistic subjects, which are key to supporting creativity and character.

The Government introduced the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as an additional measure since 2011. To achieve the EBacc measure, students should gain a good GCSE pass in English, Mathematics, a language, History or Geography and two Sciences.

The Government's announcement of this measure of success may have an impact on future progression at both post-16 and post-18 level.

These are the subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most options open.

Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum



The Key Stage 4 curriculum, followed by students in Years 10 and 11, include a combination of core, compulsory subjects, alongside an element of guided choice in terms of which EBacc subjects to select and also an opportunity for free choice.

The compulsory subjects in the Key Stage 4 Curriculum are as follows:

| Subject |
|--|
| GCSE English All students will study English Language and English Literature, leading to 2 GCSEs. |
| GCSE Mathematics |
| GCSE Science This will be available as a Combined Award, equivalent to 2 GCSEs that covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics. |
| Core Physical Education A non-examined element of each student's curriculum. |
| Lifeskills A non-examined element of each student's curriculum. |

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The Key Stage 4 curriculum, followed by students in Years 10 and 11, include a combination of core, compulsory subjects, alongside an element of guided choice in terms of which EBacc subjects to select and also an opportunity for free choice.

The guided choice of EBacc subjects, from which students must choose **one, are as follows:**

| Subject |
|-----------------------|
| GCSE Computer Science |
| GCSE French |
| GCSE Geography |
| GCSE History |
| GCSE Spanish |

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Students may choose **three** additional subjects to study from the following courses:

| | |
|--|--|
| Art & Design GCSE | History GCSE |
| Business GCSE | Music GCSE |
| Cambridge National Technical Certificate in Enterprise & Marketing | Physical Education GCSE |
| Classical Civilisation GCSE | Psychology GCSE |
| Computer Science GCSE | Religious Studies GCSE |
| Design & Technology GSCE | NCFE Technical Award in Music Technology |
| Drama GCSE | Separate Sciences GCSE* |
| Film Studies GCSE | <i>*(if currently in a Set 1 or Set 2 for Science)</i> |
| Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE | Spanish GCSE |
| French GCSE | Statistics GCSE* |
| Geography GCSE | <i>*(if currently in a Set 1 or Set 2 for Mathematics)</i> |

What to do



DO

- Devote a lot of time to making choices.
- Consider which subjects you enjoy.
- Consider your reports and results in Years 7-9 which will show whether you are reasonably good at the subject.
- Find out what activities are included in the examination course and what skills will be needed.
- Consider your personal skills and qualities.
- Know and accept the workload associated with it.
- Ensure your choice of subjects is balanced and does not rule out your career options.
- Talk to your parent and teachers about your preferences before making your final decisions.

Remember that some subjects are difficult or even impossible to take up at a later stage in the sixth form and yet may be essential for a specific career. It is wise to have a balance of subjects to keep career options open.

Remember that a Grade 5 or better is normally required to enable you to study a particular subject at A Level/Level 3.

What not to do

DO NOT

- Rush to make these important choices.
 - Choose subjects just to be in the same groups as your friends. It may not happen anyway.
 - Choose subjects because you think they are an easy option.
 - Choose subjects because of your current like or dislike of your Year 9 teacher.
 - Choose subjects just because they are new.
 - Choose subjects without researching what they involve.
 - Make decisions on your own.
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Timeline

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|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>Thursday 7 March 2024</p> | <p>Year 9 Options Evening (6pm – 8pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations outlining the Year 9 Options process in the Main Hall at 6:30pm and 7:30pm• Year 9 Options booklet issued by email and published to the school website under the tab for 'Curriculum'.• Individual subject details also published to this area of the website.• Subject presentations for option subjects 6pm – 8pm. |
| <p>Thursday 21 March 2024</p> | <p>Year 9 Progress Evening (4.30pm – 8.00pm)</p> |
| <p>Monday 25 March 2024</p> | <p>The opening for the Option Choice Form to be handed in to your child's form tutor</p> |
| <p>Thursday 28 March 2023</p> | <p>The absolute deadline for the Option Choice Form to be handed in</p> |

