



Mayflower High School

Success and Opportunity For All

**KEY STAGE 4
CURRICULUM PATHWAYS
BOOKLET 2021**

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This Key Stage 4 Pathways booklet contains information about the courses which will be available for students during their next two years at Mayflower High School. It is hoped that it will help each student to make the most appropriate choices for their future.

The curriculum in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) has been the subject of government focus. The government has signalled its ambition for students to have access to a rich curriculum with a commitment to a strong academic core.

All students will follow a pathway which best meets their individual ability and skills to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve his or her potential. The pathway that a student will follow is based upon a wide range of variables including Key Stage 2 Levels and Cognitive Ability Test scores.

The pathway that each student will follow is explained in the letter that was issued to your child on 6 March. There are three main pathways - EBacc, Progress and Foundation (see pages 4-6).

It is very important that students' choices give them a balanced curriculum to ensure they develop a wide range of skills and knowledge. They will need a range of subjects with a strong academic core that leave the way open to as many career and further educational routes as possible as their ideas change and develop.

It is important to establish at the outset, however, that whilst every effort will be made to satisfy each individual's requirements, there is a limit to the resources available. Option courses offered may have to be withdrawn, if the numbers choosing them are too small.

There may also be circumstances where a particular option course becomes oversubscribed. In this instance, the selection process will be based upon the Year 9 reports. We would, if required, then operate a random selection process, to be as fair as possible to all students concerned. At this point, the student's reserve option choice will be selected.

Once the completed form has been handed in, it will not be possible to make any alterations to the options chosen.

There may be a need in exceptional circumstances to discuss a student's option choices with their parents after selection, mainly due to timetable issues. In this instance, we would attempt to identify a replacement option choice and their course will not be finalised without parental agreement.

PATHWAY OVERVIEW - EBacc

EBacc Pathway

The Government have 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.

The EBacc Pathway has been developed to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which will enable students to work towards the English Baccalaureate and to also gain a range of other qualifications.

The compulsory subjects on the EBacc Pathway are as follows:

Subject	Level
English All students will study English Language and English Literature. This is equivalent to 2 GCSEs.	GCSE
Mathematics Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Science This will be available as a Combined Award. If you would like to study Separate Sciences you must select this as one of your option choices. This is available to students currently in Set 1 for science. Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Religious Studies Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Language Students will study either French or Spanish.	GCSE
Humanity Students will study either History or Geography.	GCSE

Option Choices

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

Art & Design GCSE	French GCSE
BTEC Digital Information Technology	Geography GCSE
BTEC Music	History GCSE
Business GCSE	Music GCSE
Computer Science GCSE	Physical Education GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	Separate Sciences GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	Spanish GCSE

The students will also follow **Lifeskills** and **Physical Education** as part of the statutory curriculum in line with the school's obligations.

PATHWAY OVERVIEW - PROGRESS

Progress Pathway

The Progress Pathway has been developed to allow students to make good progress in a range of subjects, within a broad and balanced curriculum. The pathway has been designed with a core of academic subjects, alongside other highly valued subjects. These will help students to progress to post-16 courses.

Students following this pathway will also have the opportunity to work towards the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure, if they select a modern language and a humanity (History or Geography) from within the option choices.

The compulsory subjects on the Progress Pathway are as follows:

Subject	Level
English All students will study English Language and English Literature. This is equivalent to 2 GCSEs.	GCSE
Mathematics Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Science This will be available as a Combined Award. Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Religious Studies Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Progress Option Students will need to choose one from the following courses: Computer Science, French, Geography, History or Spanish	

Option Choices

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

Art & Design GCSE	French GCSE
BTEC Digital Information Technology	Geography GCSE
BTEC Music	History GCSE
Business GCSE	Music GCSE
Computer Science GCSE	Physical Education GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	Spanish GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	

The students will also follow **Lifeskills** and **Physical Education** as part of the statutory curriculum in line with the school's obligations.

PATHWAY OVERVIEW - FOUNDATION

Foundation Pathway

The Foundation Pathway has been developed to provide a balanced curriculum which will enable all students to work towards achieving their expected progress at Key Stage 4 in a range of GCSE qualifications and alternative courses. The pathway has been designed to provide extra learning and teaching in English and Mathematics.

The compulsory subjects on the Foundation Pathway are as follows:

Subject	Level
English All students will study English Language and English Literature. This is equivalent of 2 GCSEs.	GCSE
Mathematics Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Science This will be available as a Combined Award. Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Religious Studies Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Workskills Workskills is a portfolio-based course will allow students to develop the skills that employers are looking for and to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding to prepare them for employment or vocational training.	

Option Choices

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

Art & Design GCSE	French GCSE
BTEC Digital Information Technology	Geography GCSE
BTEC Music	History GCSE
Business GCSE	Music GCSE
Computer Science GCSE	Physical Education GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	Spanish GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	Study Skills*

Selected students may choose Study Skills. These students will take one less option choice and use the time to work on curriculum content. For further information, please speak to Mr R Griffiths, Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion.

The students will also follow **Lifeskills** and **Physical Education** as part of the statutory curriculum in line with the school's obligations.

PASTORAL PROCESS

Students, with their parents, will need to make important decisions regarding the option choices for Key Stage 4. The school provides an extensive support and guidance programme to ensure that the courses chosen will be of maximum benefit to each student. The school will use its professional judgement and knowledge of the individual students when advising upon option choices.

Phase 1

- A video presentation of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways will be uploaded to the school's website on 12 April 2021 to outline the choices and curriculum on offer to parents.

Phase 2

- If extra support and guidance is required to select the choice best suited to an individual's needs, queries can be directed to Mr Rowlands, Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum Development and Information; Mr R Griffiths, Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion; Mrs Gray, Assistant Headteacher, Student Welfare and Standards (KS3) and Ms Baines, Year Manager for Year 9.
- Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 15 April, when parents and students can consult subject teachers about their academic progress and attainment.

Phase 3

- Completed forms can be handed in **from Monday 19 April 2021** to the form tutor.
- The forms are then checked by the form tutor and Mr J Rowlands, Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum Development.
- A review of the student's choices will be completed to confirm appropriate selection of courses.
- The absolute final deadline for the completed forms is **Friday 30 April 2021**.

COMPLETING THE OPTION FORM

You have been given an option form on which you will need to record your selections.

This form should be completed and then signed by the parent. The form will not be accepted without one reserve option choice.

This form **must be completed in black pen** to ensure that there are no changes made on the form after the decision has been agreed. If you require a replacement form, these will be available from Student Reception.

The school does **not** operate a first come, first served policy with the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways choices. There is nothing to gain by handing your form in first.

Exceptions

Students cannot:

1. Select to study both GCSE Music and BTEC Music. You can **ONLY** select one of these.
2. Select to study both GCSE Computer Science and BTEC Digital Information Technology. You can **ONLY** select one of these.

KEY DATES

Monday 12 April 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Video presentation outlining the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways posted on the school's website.2. Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways Booklet issued by email and published to the school website under the tab for 'Teaching & Learning' and then 'KS4 Pathways Information'.3. Individual subject details also published to this area of the website.
Thursday 15 April 2021	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 16:30 - 19:30.
Friday 30 April 2021	The absolute deadline for the Option Choice Form to be handed to the form tutor.

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