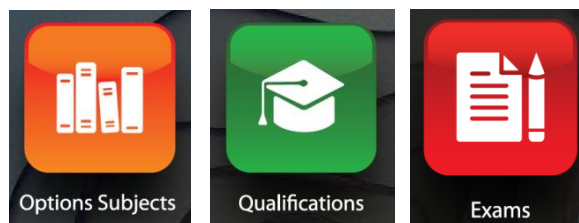




*Believe, Succeed, Together*

# Key Stage 4

## Curriculum Pathways Evening



Dear Parent,

Pupils in Years 9-11 study a number of subjects which they have chosen according to individual preference. Your child is currently preparing to make a decision about the subjects which he or she will take in Year 9. The Key Stage 4 curriculum allows for the study of subjects in greater depth in preparation for public examinations.

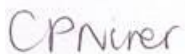
This booklet is designed to help both pupils and parents to make those important decisions which will lay the foundations for study programmes over the next few years. I hope that you will have a chance to read through the booklet with your child and discuss the choices available. Your child should also seek help from his or her subject teachers, who will be closely involved in guiding pupils and will be able to answer any questions that may arise.

You and your child are invited to the Curriculum Pathways Evening on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**. During the evening there will be a presentation from Mr. D. Piercy, Vice Principal, and an opportunity to meet staff personally to discuss the subject choices available. Considerable guidance will be offered by subject teachers so that decisions about preferences are carefully made.

The Academy aims, as far as possible, to offer pupils their chosen subjects, however, should any difficulties arise, the Academy reserves the right to make the final allocations. Full details of your child's definitive option choices will be circulated in June.

I hope that this booklet and the evening are both informative and useful.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. C. Niner  
Vice Principal

## 1.1 Key Stage 4 Curriculum Structure

The Academy operates a three year Key Stage 4 (KS4) programme from Year 9-11. The programme is divided into two pathways – **core** (seven compulsory subjects) and **personalised** (three optional subjects).

The Department for Education (DfE) recommends that pupils study between eight-ten high quality GCSEs. The Academy’s KS4 programme provides pupils with the opportunity to gain up to ten GCSEs.

Curriculum Pathway	Subject	Course
Core	English Language	GCSE
	English Literature	GCSE
	Mathematics	GCSE
	Combined Science	GCSE
	Citizenship	GCSE
	French	GCSE
	Life Skills <sup>1</sup>	Non-GCSE
	Personal Development <sup>2</sup>	Non-GCSE
	Recreational Physical Education	Non-GCSE
Personalised	Art	GCSE
	Business Studies	GCSE
	Citizenship	GCSE
	Drama	GCSE
	DT Graphic Products	GCSE
	Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE
	Geography	GCSE
	History	GCSE
	ICT	Technical Award
	Music	GCSE
	Physical Education (P.E)	GCSE
	Religious Education (R.E)	GCSE
	Sociology	GCSE
	Statistics	GCSE

<sup>1</sup>Life Skills includes: PSHEE, E-Safety Level 1, Preparation for Working Life and Finance Management.

<sup>2</sup>Personal Development includes: Arts Award, Sports Leader Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Student Leader Accreditation.

All GCSEs are ‘reformed’ i.e. more rigorous, include more challenging content, are increasingly comparable to the best qualifications across the world, and ensure young people are better prepared for FE, HE and employment.

## 1.2 English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is a key performance indicator which recognises pupils’ achievements in five academic subjects that bridge the core and personalised pathways. It is awarded to those pupils who achieve a grade 9-5 in the following:

- English Language **or** Literature.
- Mathematics.
- Combined Science.
- Modern Foreign Language (French)
- History **or** Geography.

EBacc was introduced by the DfE, “to promote achievement of a broad academic core at 16”. All pupils have the opportunity to attain the EBacc.

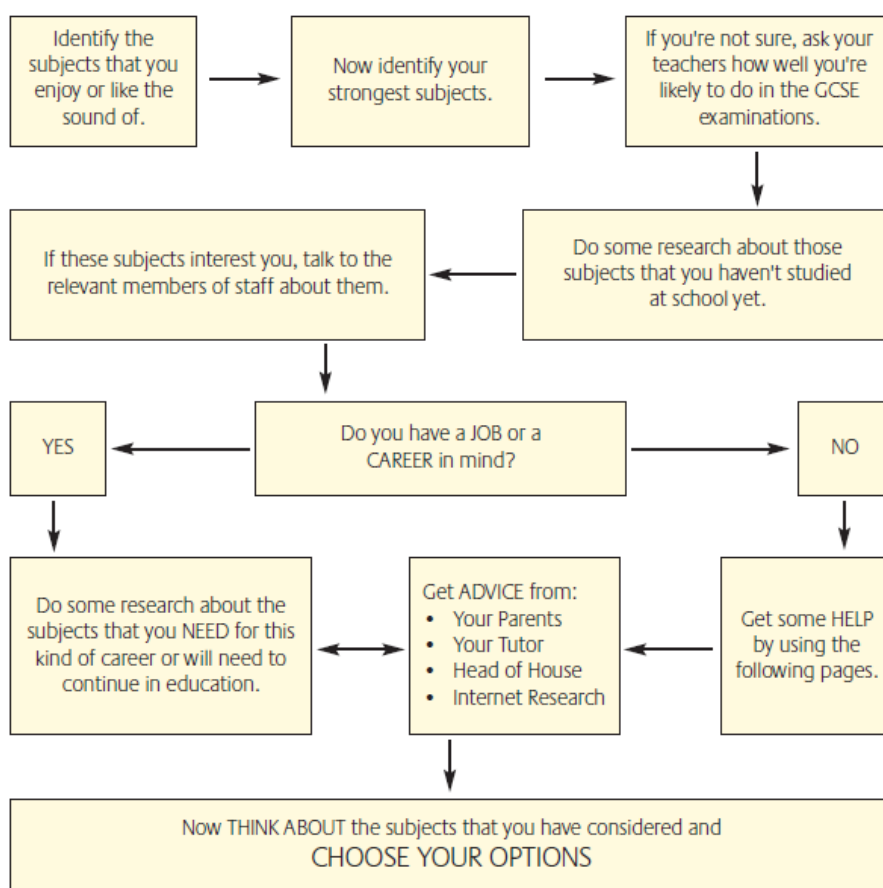
### 1.3 Personalised Pathway

The subjects are arranged into three blocks.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Humanities	Design and Technology	Arts
Geography	Graphic Products	Art
History	Food Preparation	Drama
	Business Studies	Music
	ICT	P.E
	Statistics	R.E
		Sociology
		Statistics

Pupils have to choose **three** subjects - **one** from each block.

Pupils should use information acquired during the Curriculum Pathways Evening, and the flow chart below, to help in the decision-making process.



Pupils should make a note of their preferred option choices (including reserves) on the form at the back of this booklet. They will then be required to submit their options, via the Academy intranet, during a scheduled Computer Science or Business lesson, and will receive written confirmation in June. The Academy will always aim, where possible, to allocate pupils their option choices, however, it reserves the right to make the final allocations.

## 1.4 Key Stage 4 Overview

Pathway	Subject	Number of Hours	Option Block	Examination Board	Specification Number
Core	English Language	2	-	AQA	8700
	English Literature	2	-	AQA	8702
	Mathematics	4	-	EDEXCEL	1MA1
	Combined Science	4	-	AQA	8464 (Trilogy)
	Citizenship	2	-	AQA	8100
	French	2	-	EDEXCEL	1FR0
	Life Skills	1	-	-	-
	Personal Development	1	-	-	-
Personalised	Recreational Physical Education	1	-	-	-
	Art	2	3	AQA	8202 (Fine Art)
	Business Studies	2	2	EDEXCEL	1BS0
	Drama	2	3	EDEXCEL	1DR0
	DT Graphic Products	2	2	EDEXCEL	2GR01
	Food Preparation and Nutrition	2	2	AQA	8585
	Geography	2	1	AQA	8035
	History	2	1	EDEXCEL	1HI0
	ICT	2	2	EDEXCEL	600/6627/1
	Music	2	3	EDEXCEL	1MU0
	Physical Education (P.E)	2	3	EDEXCEL	1PE0
	Religious Education (R.E)	2	3	EDEXCEL	1SP0
	Sociology	2	3	AQA	8192
Statistics	2	2 and 3	EDEXCEL	1ST0	

For each subject, the examination board (that certifies the examination) and the relevant specification number is provided above. Further information about each of the subject courses can be found at the appropriate exam board website.

EDEXCEL – [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

AQA – [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

OCR – [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

WJEC – [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)



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### Curriculum Pathways Form

<b>Block 1</b>	<b>Block 2</b>	<b>Block 3</b>
<b>Humanities</b>	<b>Design and Technology</b>	<b>Arts</b>
Geography	Graphic Products	Art
History	Food Preparation	Drama
	Business Studies	Music
	ICT	P.E
	Statistics	R.E
		Sociology
		Statistics
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice
Reserve	Reserve	Reserve
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reserve	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reserve