



Key Stage 4 Curriculum Summary 2010-13

Core Curriculum

During Years 9, 10 and 11 you will study courses leading to the following qualifications:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics [and possibly Additional Maths]
- GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
[or GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science for some students]
- GCSE Information Technology
- GCSE Citizenship [short course* in Years 10-11 only]

*A GCSE short course subject leads to a qualification equivalent to half a full GCSE. The difference is in the amount of content, rather than the degree of difficulty.

In addition, your timetable will include:

- Physical Education lessons
- Focus Days which cover careers education, work experience, relationships, health and wellbeing.
- And – in Year 9 only – Enrichment Courses in Art, Drama and Dance and your second language (Latin, Spanish or German)

GCSE Options

In addition to the Core Curriculum above, you will have the opportunity to choose four GCSE subjects. You will study two of your choices as Early GCSEs in Years 9 -10: you will take the exams at the end of Year 10. You will study your other two choices as Late GCSEs in Years 10-11, with the final exam being taken at the end of Year 11. You have an almost completely free choice, but you must abide by two rules:

- One of your four GCSEs must be a Language (from French, German, Latin or Spanish)
- You must study RS to at least the end of Year 9, either as an Early GCSE or as an Enrichment Choice.

Please choose your two 'Early' GCSE subjects from the following list:

• Classical Civilisation	• History
• French	• Music
• Food Technology	• Physical Education
• Geography	• Religious Studies
• Graphic Products	• Textiles

Then, next year, we will invite you to select your final two 'Late' GCSE courses from this list:

• Your Enrichment Choice (a)	• Business Studies
• Your Enrichment Choice (b)	• Dance
• Your Enrichment Choice (c)	• Drama
• Art	• German, Latin or Spanish

Your Enrichment Choices are studied in Year 9 as Pre-GCSE Enrichment Courses. You choose three from the list below:

• French	• History
• Food Technology	• Music
• Geography	• Religious Studies
• Graphic Products	• Textiles

You can choose your options almost completely freely. However, when making your choices you should:

- Aim for a balance of subjects across different areas. An ideal balance would include one humanity, one language, one creative & performing arts, and one technology subject.
- Consider the requirements of any career plans you might already have in mind. If you have no firm career plans as yet, you should aim for a broad spread of options.
- Choose subjects you believe you will enjoy studying for two to three years.
- Feel confident and capable of succeeding in the subjects that you choose.
- Talk to the teachers of the subjects you are thinking of choosing.

And please remember that you must:

- Study at least one language (French, German, Latin or Spanish) to GCSE level, unless you have already gained a qualification. Language choices must be from those studied in Key Stage 3.
- Study Religious Education to at least the end of Year 9 (that is the law).

While we will make every effort to accommodate your choices, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so where there are timetabling or staffing restrictions.

Finally ...

It may be in the interests of some students **with exceptional circumstances** to take only **one** Early Option GCSE. The six periods released by such a move could then be devoted to additional study in order to maximise achievement in the Core Curriculum. If a student wishes to be considered for this, she should consult the Head of Upper School and complete the relevant section of the application form.