

Year 8

Curriculum Information

Evening

Welcome

Miss Crichton
Assistant Headteacher

Aims

- To outline the changes to the GCSEs that your children will study from September 2018.
- To outline what the curriculum will look like in Year 9 for your child.
- To outline what the GCSE curriculum will look like in Year 10 and Year 11 for your child.

The main government changes:

- Reformed content to make GCSEs more challenging.

Why?

- *So pupils are better prepared for further academic or vocational study, or for work.*

The main government changes:

- From September 2016 students will begin learning GCSEs which will be graded from 1-9 (with 9 being the highest attainment grade).

Why?

- *To prepare our young people to be more competitive and improve their academic success against growing competition from abroad.*

Year 9

- Students will study a range of subjects
- There is a focus on developing GCSE skills and beginning to learn the GCSE content
- This is vital preparation for choosing options to study from the beginning of Year 10.

All students will study these subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Design Technology
- Computing & Digital Literacy
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- PE
- RE
- PSHCE

- The vast majority of students will study either
French or Spanish
 - This will be a guided choice.
 - students will make this choice with the help of their language teacher during next half term.

Some students will study these subjects:

- Geography
- History
- RE
- PSHCE

through a skills curriculum with a strong literacy, numeracy and learning skills focus (similar to Opening Minds in Year 7).

The decision about which students this will best support will be made during the next term.

All students study science in year 9

- The most able will begin to study Physics, Chemistry and Biology in preparation to take these three separate GCSEs in year 11.
- The majority of students will continue to study the 3 science disciplines to prepare them to take the double GCSE science qualification in year 11.
- The decision about which of these courses is most suitable for each child will be made with science teachers during the summer term of year 8.

Transferable skills...

- We have a number of subjects available at GCSE that are not taught in Years 7-9. Students will continue to develop skills to support them in these GCSEs throughout Year 9.
 - *For example Business and Health and Social Care.*

Year 10

Core Subjects in Year 10 and 11

These subjects are examined at GCSE:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Double Science (2 GCSE equivalents)
- A small group of very able scientists will study 3 separate sciences

The decision about which science qualification is most appropriate for each child will be made during the summer term of year 8.

The English Bacculaureate

- The Government has introduced a new certification.
- *It requires students to gain GCSEs in English, Maths, Science, a Language and a Humanity.*
- The student choices available in Year 10 will reflect this and we will be advising the majority of students to ensure that they study this group of subjects as part of their GCSE curriculum.

Year 10 and 11 Option subjects

- Students will choose 4 subjects to study at GCSE level alongside the core subjects.
- These will include a choice from subjects in:
 - Languages
 - Humanities
 - Creative Arts
 - Technologies