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# INTRODUCTION

The foundations of a broad, balanced curriculum are laid in Years 7, 8 and 9. This is continued in Years 10 and 11 where the curriculum is based on a core of subjects, which all students must follow, complemented by a small amount of choice.

As an 11-18 school our courses are designed wherever possible to complement those offered in our Sixth Form.

The compulsory subjects are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Careers and Personal Social Health, Citizenship and Religious Education
- Creative Media
- PE (no examination)

## Learning Pathways

In order to offer our students a more bespoke offer, we have divided the curriculum into two 'learning pathways' within which all students are able to access a range of suitable subject choices and achieve their potential at GCSE or equivalent.

### Learning Pathway 1

This is recommended for students who complete the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) qualification. Last year 29% of our year 11 students achieved the English Baccalaureate, which is above the national figure of 15% and the local authority figure of 15%. We expect to improve on this figure in the coming years.

The EBacc requires GCSE passes at grade 5 or above in English, mathematics, at least two sciences, a modern foreign language and a humanity subject (either geography or history).

*The EBacc may become a requirement for entry into university and is already considered by many of the more reputable universities when selecting students.*

**Students following a 'Learning Pathway 1' curriculum must choose a Modern Language (either French and/or German) and a Humanities subject (either Geography and/or History), and make one other choice from the options available.**

### Learning Pathway 2

This is recommended for students who may struggle to achieve the required grades in all of the Ebacc subjects. Students who are recommended for Learning Pathway 2 are encouraged to make a balanced choice from the available subjects.

**Your child has been recommended for Learning Pathway 2**

## Additional Information

- (i) When selecting courses it is important to bear in mind the amount of coursework involved. Certain combinations of subjects could result in considerable pressure on students when several projects/assignments have to be produced within a short space of time. Failure to complete coursework/oral work on time can lead to withdrawal of examination entry.
- (ii) If demand for a particular course is insufficient, the **course will not run**. Students will be asked to select an alternative.
- (iii) If demand exceeds the number of places available on a course but is insufficient for an additional group, then students may be asked to select an alternative. In this instance, where it is necessary to identify which students must make an alternative choice, all of those students will be given the opportunity to volunteer to do so, but if necessary, a decision will be made taking into account the child's attitude towards that subject at Key Stage 3.

ALL courses require students to possess the essential school equipment as identified by each subject area. **Students will be required to contribute towards the cost of materials for practical subjects.**