

# Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

## Year 8: Curriculum Pathways Evening 2019



*"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full."*

# Purpose of the evening

- **Key Stage 4 Curriculum**
- **Curriculum Pathways Process**
- **Making Informed Choices**



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# Key Stage 4 Pathways

- During Key Stage 4 (Year 9, 10 and 11), all pupils will follow a curriculum that is suited to their needs and interest where an element of choice is given.
- They will finish Year 11 equipped with a range of appropriate qualifications, skills, knowledge and attributes to enable them to pursue their chosen path into further education and employment.
- The curriculum is divided into two parts, core curriculum and pathways.

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# Key Stage 4 - Core

The Core Curriculum (compulsory for all pupils)

- GCSE English Language & GCSE Literature (taken at the end of year 10)
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSE's)
- Games (no qualification)
- Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (no qualification)
- An IT related qualification



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# Key Stage 4 Curriculum

A mix of **core**, **compulsory** and **option** subjects

Subject	No. of GCSEs or equivalent	Learning time % (approx.)
English (Lang. & Lit.)	2	48%
Mathematics	1	
Science	2	
Religious Education	1	10%
ICT Qualification	1	4%
Physical Education	N/A	4%
PSHCE	N/A	2%
Other subjects – 32%		

# Pathways

- The English Baccalaureate -though not a qualification in itself - it is a measure of success in core subjects; specifically English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the sciences and a Language.
- These are subjects most likely to be required for entry to degree courses. Pupils wishing to apply for Sixth Form, University and College (level 3) will be encouraged to follow an English Baccalaureate Curriculum.
- Some students require additional help with Literacy and / or Numeracy in order to achieve the required grades to enter onto a college course, apprenticeship, traineeship or employment. These pupils will have a different pathway to follow.

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# Vocational courses

- BTEC and VCERT are a suite of **vocational** qualifications which help students acquire knowledge, skills and understanding through practical, **work-related** activities in a real-life context so they can **apply** what they have learned. (Applied learning). Both VCERT and BTEC are level 2 academic qualifications.
- They have the same value as GCSE equivalent courses.
- **Assessment** varies between courses, please make sure you ask the staff this evening about how their course is assessed.

Music Technology	Creative Design Media	Health and Fitness
Food & Cookery	Health and Social	Performing Arts

# Things you should know

- Spanish can only be chosen if you are currently in sets 1 or 2 for French.
- Computer science can only be chosen if you are currently in set 1 Mathematics or are currently performing very well in your computing lessons.
- To take GCSE PE you must be actively doing a health and fitness outside of school, if not and you enjoy PE then VCERT Health & Fitness would be a better option.
- You cannot choose subjects where content is similar. For example you cannot choose, Drama and Performance skills, Creative Digital Media and Computer Science, PE and Health and fitness, Art and Art (3D Design).

# Making Informed Choices

- What do you enjoy?
- What are your strengths?
- What are the career implications?
- Has a good balance of subjects been maintained?
- Is there a good match between the courses and your preferred learning style?



# How we can help?

Tonight we will provide you with information, advice and guidance to help your child make the right choice.

Speak to option subject leaders in the hall about the courses. Make sure you know the difference between Vocational qualifications and a GCSE in their subject.

Make an appointment to see our careers advisor: Mrs Wood.



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# The new grading structure

- The Department for Education has now fully introduced new reformed GCSE's.
- By the summer of 2019 all GCSE's will be graded 9 – 1 instead of A\* - G.
- Pupils will not lose out as a result of the changes.
- A grade 5 has been decided as a good pass from the Department of Education. A grade 4 is defined as a standard pass.
- Pupils who do not achieve a grade 4 or above in English and Mathematics will continue to study these qualifications beyond 16. It is our aim for all pupils to achieve a grade 5 or above before they leave school.

# The new grading structure

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
⑤ <b>STRONG PASS</b>	C
④ <b>STANDARD PASS</b>	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

# The KS 4 reporting structure

Each student will be given a target for every subject once their GCSE courses start in September 2019.

GCSE: 1 - 9

Vocational courses: Pass to Distinction\*.

Progress will be reported to parents 3 times throughout each academic year, in the form of written documents and a parents evening.

You are of course welcome to contact the school at any time to discuss the progress of your child with a representative of the achievement team.



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# Activities and Timeline

- ✓ Information, advice & guidance to the students.
- ✓ Each student will be given the opportunity to meet with our Careers Advisor, Mrs Wood.
- ✓ Pathways form given to students this evening.
- ✓ **Parents' Evening - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March (please book appointments via ARBOR).**

Subject Teachers, & Miss Jones will be available to discuss Curriculum Pathways.

- ✓ Pathways form deadline **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March to form tutors**

# Any questions

We endeavour to ensure that we are able to cater for all chosen pathways, this why we ask for a reserve to also be indicated on your forms.

If a reserve is not indicated, we will allocate a student to a subject.



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