

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Birchwood we operate a 3 year KS4 model to enable students to develop deeper knowledge and understanding of their chosen GCSE subjects. This is also designed to ensure that students are challenged in Year 9 to build firm foundations for their further GCSE study in Years 10 and 11.

Students therefore make option choices in Year 8. A comprehensive package of advice and guidance is in place to ensure students make choices that are suitable for their future progression.

As from September 2017 we will operate three pathways for students at GCSE.

Pathway 1 will ensure that students with sufficient aptitude are directed towards an EBacc suite of GCSEs. This will ensure that we have significant numbers of students following this route. Within this framework there remains an element of open choice.

Pathway 2 students also have the opportunity to study for an EBacc suite of GCSEs should they choose to do so. However, there will be a more open choice for these students according to aptitude and ability.

Pathway 3 will be retained for students who require a more tailored suite of subjects at GCSE and / or BTEC level.

Students will be placed on relevant pathways according to prior attainment, current rates of progression and projected future attainment.

All students will study core GCSE subjects in English, Maths and Science although the exact nature of content and level of qualification will vary.

All students will receive an additional core entitlement to *Social Studies*. This encompasses elements of RS, Citizenship and other humanities based subjects. This will be a non - examined unit although there will be an extended project qualification available as part of the curriculum.

All students will also retain an entitlement to core PE.

## Pathway 1

This pathway is designed for students who are capable in languages and have the appropriate levels to pursue the English Baccalaureate subjects in full. Students would study for up to 9 or 10 GCSE level subjects.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE (non-examined)	Triple or Double Science	Social Studies (non-examined)	French German Spanish	Geography History	Art & Design Dance Design & Technology (Incorporates Graphics, Textiles, Resistant Materials) Drama Film Studies Food Preparation & Nutrition French Geography German History Media Studies Music PE Psychology Religious Studies Spanish Statistics  Business BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC ICT BTEC Music Technology BTEC	(A maximum of two technology subjects only can be selected)  (You can only select either Film Studies or Media Studies not both)

## Pathway 2

Students on this pathway must choose either a language or a humanities subject. They are also free to follow the English Baccalaureate subjects in full should they wish to do so. Students would study for 9 or 10 GCSE level subjects.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE (non-examined)	Triple or Double Science	Social Studies (non-examined)	French Geography German History Spanish	Art & Design Dance Design & Technology (Graphics, Textiles, Resistant Materials) Drama Film Studies Food Preparation & Nutrition French Geography History Media Studies Music PE Psychology Religious Studies Statistics  Business BTEC Construction BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC ICT BTEC Music Technology BTEC	(A maximum of two technology subjects only can be selected)	(You can only select either Film Studies or Media Studies not both)

### Pathway 3

This pathway is reserved for students who may require some additional support at GCSE and are not yet at the level to follow the English Baccalaureate subjects in full. Students would study for up to 9 subjects at GCSE or BTEC level.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE (non-examined)	Double Science	Social Studies (non-examined)	Art & Design Dance Design & Technology (Graphics, Textiles, Resistant Materials) Drama Film Studies Food Preparation & Nutrition Geography History Media Studies Music PE Religious Studies  Business BTEC Construction BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC ICT BTEC Music Technology BTEC  (A maximum of two technology subjects only can be selected)  (You can only select either Film Studies or Media Studies not both)			

### Year 9 Teaching Time

English	Maths	Science	PE	Social Studies	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
4 hours	3 hours	4 hours	3 hours	1 hour	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

### Year 10 Teaching Time

English	Maths	Science	PE	Social Studies	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
4 hours	4 hours	4.5 hours	2 hours	0.5 hour	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

### Year 11 Teaching Time

English	Maths	Science	PE	Social Studies	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
4 hours	4 hours	4.5 hours	2 hours	0.5 hour	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5