



Birchwood High School Curriculum Policy 2019 - 2020

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Committee: Personnel
Approved by Governors: October 2018
Committee Review Date: October 2019
Legally Required Report
Review Frequency - Annual

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The Year 7 intake is split on intake to recognise the differing ability in English, which has such a bearing on Achievement and Attainment throughout their school career. Some students with very low prior attainment in writing are placed into Pathway 2 and do not follow the MFL curriculum. The majority of pupils, those above Level 3 are placed in Pathway 1; the differences are outlined below.

Year 7 2019 – 2020

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pathway 1																								
E	E	E	M	M	M	S	S	S	PE	PE	PE	T	T	T	T	EPA	EPA	EPA	MFL	MFL	MFL	HI	GG	RS
Pathway 2																								
E	E	E	M	M	M	S	S	S	PE	PE	PE	T	T	T	T	EPA	EPA	EPA	Path	Path	Path	HI	GG	RS

Cross-curricular PSHE provision to take place in form times. Personal Development also supported by planned learning experiences.

Pathway 1 follows a core entitlement of 3 hours of English, Maths and Science. They also have 3 hours of Expressive & Performing Arts, Modern Foreign Languages and Physical Education. Humanities have 3 hours with 1 hour of History, Geography and RS. Technology has four areas in Year 7 and 2 in Year 8 to ensure balance across the Key Stage. ICT is delivered as part of this Technology teaching block. The programmes of study that they follow within this plan all reference the new National Curriculum and have schemes of work that look to aid coherence and understanding for the students.

Pathway 2 have the same entitlement, the only difference is that they do not have Modern Foreign Languages. Pathway students are instead offered a personalised package of support, including additional literacy, numeracy and social skills as required. This is reserved for very small numbers of students with a high level of need.

Year 8 2018 - 2019

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pathway 1																								
E	E	E	M	M	M	S	S	S	PE	PE	PE	T	T	EPA	EPA	EPA	MFL	MFL	MFL	HI	HI	GG	GG	RS
Pathway 2																								
E	E	E	M	M	M	S	S	S	PE	PE	PE	T	T	EPA	EPA	EPA	path	path	path	HI	HI	GG	GG	RS

Cross-curricular ICT and PSHE provision. Personal Development also supported by planned learning experiences.

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.

There are 3 pathways for students to follow

Pathways 1 will ensure that students with sufficient aptitude are directed towards an E Bacc 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 E Bacc 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 *PSHCE / CITIZENSHIP*. This encompasses elements of RS, Citizenship and PSHCE. This will be a non - examined unit.

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 8 or 9 GCSE level subjects depending on Science group.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE (None Examined)	Triple or Double Science	PSHCE / Citizenship	History Geography	French Spanish German	Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance French Spanish German Statistics PE History Religious Studies Geography Media OR Film Studies Design Technology Food ICT BTEC OR Computer Science Business Studies BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC (Maximum two tech to be taken)	

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 8 or 9 GCSE level subjects.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE (None Examined)	Triple or Double Science	PSHCE / CITIZENSHIP	History Geography French Spanish German			Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance French Statistics PE History Religious Studies Geography Media OR Film Studies Design Technology Food ICT BTEC OR Computer Science Business Studies BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC (Maximum two tech to be taken)

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. These students will also study for up to 8 GCSE / BTEC subjects.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English English Literature	Maths	PE (None Examined)	Double Science	PSHCE / Citizenship				Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance PE History Geography Religious Studies Media OR Film Studies Design Technology Business Studies BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC Construction BTEC ICT BTEC

Year 9 Teaching Time

English	Maths	Science	PE	PSHCE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
4 hours	3 hours	4 hours	3 hours	2 hours	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

Year 10 Teaching Time

English	Maths	Science	PE	PSHCE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
4 hours	4 hours	4.5 hours	2 hours	1 hour	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

Year 11 Teaching Time

English	Maths	Science	PE	PSHCE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
4 hours	4 hours	4.5 hours	2 hours	1 hour	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

Key Stage 5

The Key Stage 5 curriculum again follows the principle of pathways accessible to different groups of students and ensures that we retain the comprehensive ethos that drives the provision at other key stages. The range of subjects offered is broad and balanced.

The vast majority of students will study for 3 subject choices over the course of two years. For A Level these will be linear in structure, with examinations taken at the end of the two years. BTECs have a different combination of examined and continuous assessment.

With this in mind our admissions pathways are designed to ensure students are following appropriate courses based upon their previous levels of achievement.

Furthermore, in line with changes at GCSE we have updated our admissions criteria to a total point score system, which is outlined below

Total Point Score

Grade	Grade (BTEC Level 2) ICT, Business, Health & Social Construction
9	
8	DISTINCTION
7	
6	MERIT
5	
4	PASS
3	
2	
1	

Pathways

Pathway 1

For admission onto Pathway 1 to study **4 A levels** students should have a **minimum total point score of 48 and the specific subject requirement.**

Pathway 2

For admission onto Pathway 2 to study **3 A levels or 2 A levels & BTEC single** students should have a **minimum total point score of 42 and the specific subject requirement.**

Pathway 3

For admission onto Pathway 3 to study **1 Double BTEC and 1 BTEC single OR A level)** students should have a **minimum total point score of 36 and the specific subject requirements**

Subject	LEVEL
Art and Design	A Level
Biology	A Level
Business Studies	A Level
Chemistry	A Level
Design and Technology: Product Design	A Level
Drama and Theatre Studies	A Level
English Language	A Level
English Literature	A Level
Film Studies	A Level
French	A Level
Geography	A Level
German	A Level

Politics	A Level
History	A Level
Mathematics	A Level
Mathematics Core	AS Level
Mathematics Further	A Level
Music	A Level
Physical Education	A Level
Physics	A Level
Psychology	A Level
RS: Philosophy and Ethics	A Level
Sociology	A level
Spanish	A Level

Sport and Exercise	BTEC Diploma
Business	BTEC Diploma
Health and Social Care	BTEC Diploma
Financial Studies	IFS Certificate
ICT	BTEC Certificate
Performing Arts	BTEC Certificate