

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways explained

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

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 *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.

Good luck.

Mr S Connor  
Assistant Principal

## 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 9 or 10 GCSE level subjects depending on Science group.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE  (Non Examined)	Triple or Double Science	PSHCE / Citizenship  (Non Examined)	History Geography	French German Spanish	Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance French German Spanish Statistics PE History Religious Studies Geography Film Studies <b>OR</b> Media Design & Technology Food ICT BTEC <b>OR</b> Computer Science Business 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 Bacculaureate 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	PSHCE / Citizenship  (Non Examined)	History Geography French			Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance French Statistics PE History Religious Studies Geography Film Studies <b>OR</b> Media Design & Technology Food ICT BTEC <b>OR</b> Computer Science Business 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 9 GCSE / BTEC subjects.

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE  (Non Examined)	Double Science	PSHCE / Citizenship  (Non Examined)				Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance PE History Geography Religious Studies Media <b>OR</b> Film Studies Design & Technology Food Business Studies BTEC Health & Social Care BTEC Construction BTEC ICT BTEC