



## Birchwood High School Curriculum Policy 2020 - 2021

### Key Stage 3 Curriculum

#### Year 7 2020 – 2021

English	Maths	Science	PE	PSHCE	EPA	Humanities	MFL	Technology
3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	1 hr	3 hrs Drama Art Music	3 hrs History Geography RS	2.5 hrs French Spanish German	4 hours DT Food ICT

#### Year 8 2020 – 2021

English	Maths	Science	PE	PSHCE	EPA	Humanities	MFL	Technology
3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs	1 hr	3 hrs Drama Art Music	5 hrs History (2hrs) Geography (2hrs) RS	2.5 hrs French Spanish German	2 hours DT Food ICT

Students will follow a core entitlement of 3 hours of English, Maths and Science in both Year 7 and 8, designed to build upon the extensive work in each of these areas from their primary school. They also have 3 hours of Expressive & Performing Arts (Art, Music, and Drama) and Physical Education in both Years 7 and 8. Humanities have 3 hours with 1 hour each of History, Geography and RS in Year 7. This reflects that students will have covered significant areas of these subjects at KS2

Technology has 4 hours in Year 7 to reflect that, in many cases, students will not have had access to the facilities and basic skills required for these subjects and, therefore, require a more thorough grounding in these areas in Year 7.

In Year 8 History and Geography are allocated 2 hours per week to prepare students for the demands of potential EBacc subjects.

**Students will be taught in mixed ability groups in all subjects, apart from Maths, MFL and PE.**

## 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. This model has been consistently supported by staff, parents and governors since its implementation. It is reviewed annually, taking into account student outcomes and wider educational developments as well as the views of our key stakeholders.

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 curriculum plans in place for students to follow

Curriculum plan 1 gives students the opportunity to study the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) combination of GCSEs. This must include a modern foreign language (French, Spanish, and German) and a humanities subject (History, Geography). It is current government policy that a significant number of students from each annual cohort should follow this route and we will advise accordingly

Curriculum plan 2 also gives students the opportunity to study the EBacc combination of GCSEs but has greater flexibility. Students on this plan must include a modern foreign language (French, Spanish, German) **OR** a humanities (History, Geography) in their options. Students following this plan also have the opportunity to follow curriculum plan 1, allowing for breadth of student choice

Curriculum plan 3 will be retained for students who may require a more open combination of subjects at GCSE and / or BTEC level. As above, there is no bar on students following the same curriculum as students on plan 1 or 2 should they wish to do so.

Students will be advised on curriculum plans according to prior attainment, current rates of progression and projected future attainment in key subjects. There is, however, flexibility in these plans, with students and parents able to request changes and amendments.

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 also retain an entitlement to core PE.

All students will receive an additional core entitlement to *PSHCE*. This encompasses elements of RS, Citizenship and PSHCE. This will be a non - examined unit.

## Curriculum plan 1

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language  English Literature	Maths	PE	Triple or Additional Science	PSHCE	History Geography	French Spanish German	Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance French Spanish German Statistics PE History Religious Studies Geography Media <b>OR</b> Film Studies Design Technology Food ICT BTEC <b>OR</b> Computer Science Business Studies BTEC  (Maximum two tech to be taken)	

## Curriculum Plan 2

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English Language English Literature	Maths	PE	Triple or Double Science	PSHCE	History Geography French Spanish German			Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance French Statistics PE History Religious Studies Geography Media <b>OR</b> Film Studies Design Technology Food ICT BTEC <b>OR</b> Computer Science Business Studies BTEC (Maximum two tech to be taken)

## Curriculum Plan 3

Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Block	Block	Block	Block
English English Literature	Maths	PE	Double Science	PSHCE				Music Music Technology BTEC Art Drama Dance PE History Geography Religious Studies Media <span style="color: red;">OR</span> Film Studies Design Technology Business Studies 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	1 hour	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 curriculum plans 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 and covers both vocational and academic courses. Students are able to combine these subjects in a wide ranging way, allowing for personalised pathways at Post 16 that suit individual students.

At KS5 we will offer only level 3 courses for study. For this reason there will be an admission benchmark of TPS 36. This has been worked on with other schools in the BSET partnership to ensure it is clear and consistent across Bishops Stortford. This will continue to be reviewed and monitors annually to ensure the benchmarks set for entry are robust and appropriate. There exists some flexibility annually in this to ensure students number in 6<sup>th</sup> form are maintained across subjects and that fluctuations in exam performance or marking are taken into account.

For entry onto A level courses, students must also meet subject specific requirements (as outlined in the 6<sup>th</sup> form options booklet) for access to each course. Again, these are reviewed annually and retain a degree of flexibility if required.

The majority of students in 6<sup>th</sup> form will study for 3 subjects. All students in Year 12 will be required to supplement their 3 subjects with an additional supporting qualification to enrich their core study programme.

A smaller number of students will take 4 A levels, dependent upon GCSE performance and future University progression. These students are also able to access additional supporting qualifications.

### Total Point Score

TPS (Total Points Score) is calculated by adding together a student's total best 8 GCSE grades as shown in the table below.

GCSE Grade	BTEC Grade (Level 2)
9	
8	DISTINCTION
7	
6	MERIT
5	
4	PASS
3	
2	
1	

## Curriculum Plans KS5 2020 / 2021

### Curriculum Plan 1

For admission onto Curriculum plan 1 to study **4 A levels** students should have a TPS of **48 or above and the specific subject requirement.**

**We will consider students for 4 A levels below this threshold dependent on subject requirements and combinations.**

### Curriculum Plan 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.**

**We will consider students for A levels below this threshold dependent on subject requirements and combinations.**

**All students will be required to supplement their 3 core subjects with an additional supporting qualification.**

### Curriculum Plan 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**

**All students will be required to supplement their 3 core subjects with an additional supporting qualification.**

## Curriculum Offer KS5 2020 / 2021

Subject	LEVEL
Art and Design	A Level
Biology	A Level
Business Studies	A Level
Chemistry	A Level
Product Design	A Level
Drama and Theatre Studies	A Level
Economics	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 Further	A Level
Media Studies	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
Financial Studies	IFS Certificate
ICT	BTEC Certificate
Performing Arts	BTEC Certificate

**In addition we will offer a range of supporting qualifications to be studied in Year 12.**

**This suite of options will be finalised over the course of this year to be offered on entry in September 2020.**

**This will include some AS level qualifications, BTEC Certificates and EPQ.**