



**Mayflower High School**

Success and Opportunity For All

**KEY STAGE 4  
CURRICULUM PATHWAYS  
BOOKLET 2020**

Mayflower High School  
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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This Key Stage 4 Pathways booklet contains information about the courses which will be available for students during their next two years at Mayflower High School. It is hoped that it will help each student to make the most appropriate choices for their future.

The curriculum in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) has been the subject of government focus. The government has signalled its ambition for students to have access to a rich curriculum with a commitment to a strong academic core.

All students will follow a pathway which best meets their individual ability and skills to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve his or her potential. The pathway that a student will follow is based upon a wide range of variables including Key Stage 2 Levels, Cognitive Ability Test scores and current Year 9 Achievement.

The pathway that each student will follow is explained in the letter that was issued to your child on 6 March. There are three main pathways - EBacc, Progress and Foundation (see pages 4-6).

It is very important that students' choices give them a balanced curriculum to ensure they develop a wide range of skills and knowledge. They will need a range of subjects with a strong academic core that leave the way open to as many career and further educational routes as possible as their ideas change and develop.

There is also an opportunity for identified students to follow a Vocational Pathway (see page 7). This will enable students to select a vocational course which they will study for two days a week at a local college.

It is important to establish at the outset, however, that whilst every effort will be made to satisfy each individual's requirements, there is a limit to the resources available. Option courses offered may have to be withdrawn, if the numbers choosing them are too small.

There may also be circumstances where a particular option course becomes oversubscribed. In this instance, the selection process will be based upon the student Year 9 reports. We would, if required, then operate a random selection process, to be as fair as possible to all students concerned. At this point, the student's reserve option choice will be selected.

Once the completed form has been handed in, it will not be possible to make any alterations to the options chosen.

There may be a need in exceptional circumstances to discuss a student's option choices with their parents after selection, mainly due to timetable issues. In this instance, we would attempt to identify a replacement option choice and their course will not be finalised without parental agreement.

## CHANGES TO GCSEs

GCSEs have changed. The Department for Education and the examination regulator, Ofqual, have introduced a number of changes to the structure of GCSEs, their content and how they are to be examined.

GCSE courses will, in the main, be designed for 2 years of study; they will no longer be divided into different modules, and students will take all their examinations in one period at the end of their course. Assessment will be mainly by examination, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills. In general, this will result in students having to take more examinations, some of which will be longer than is currently the case. The content of the new courses is new and quite challenging.

The main change, however, has been the introduction of a new grading scale. GCSEs will be assessed using a new grading scale of 9-1, with 9 being the top grade. The way the new 9-1 scale equates to the A\*-G scale, as follows:

### Grading the New GCSEs in 2017

Ofqual

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
			<div><div><div>4 = C</div><div>and above</div><div>and above</div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.</li><li>■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.</li><li>■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.</li></ul></div>							

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## PATHWAY OVERVIEW - EBacc

### EBacc Pathway

The Government have introduced the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as an additional measure since 2011.

To achieve the EBacc measure, students should gain a good GCSE pass in English, Mathematics, a language, History or Geography and two Sciences. The Government's announcement of this measure of success may have an impact on future progression at both post-16 and post-18 level. These are the subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most options open.

The EBacc Pathway has been developed to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which will enable students to work towards the English Baccalaureate and to also gain a range of other qualifications.

The compulsory subjects on the EBacc Pathway are as follows:

Subject	Level
<b>English</b> All students will study English Language and English Literature. This is equivalent to 2 GCSEs.	GCSE
<b>Mathematics</b> Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Science</b> This will be available as a Combined Award. If you would like to study Separate Sciences you must select this as one of your option choices. This is available to students currently in Set 1 for science. Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Religious Studies</b> Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Language</b> Students will study either French or Spanish.	GCSE
<b>Humanity</b> Students will study either History or Geography.	GCSE

### Option Choices

Students may choose **two** additional subjects to study from the following courses:

Art & Design GCSE	History GCSE
Business GCSE	BTEC Music
Computer Science GCSE	Music GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	Physical Education GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	Separate Sciences GCSE
French GCSE	Spanish GCSE
Geography GCSE	

The students will also follow **Lifeskills** and **Physical Education** as part of the statutory curriculum in line with the school's obligations.

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## PATHWAY OVERVIEW - PROGRESS

### Progress Pathway

The Progress Pathway has been developed to allow students to make good progress in a range of subjects, within a broad and balanced curriculum. The pathway has been designed with a core of academic subjects, alongside other highly valued subjects. These will help students to progress to post-16 courses.

Students following this pathway will also have the opportunity to work towards the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure, if they select a modern language and a humanity (History or Geography) from within the option choices.

The compulsory subjects on the Progress Pathway are as follows:

Subject	Level
<b>English</b> All students will study English Language and English Literature. This is equivalent to 2 GCSEs.	GCSE
<b>Mathematics</b> Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Science</b> This will be available as a Combined Award. Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Religious Studies</b> Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Progress Option</b> Students will need to choose one from the following courses: Computer Science, French, Geography, History or Spanish	

### Option Choices

Students may choose **three** additional subjects to study from the following courses:

Art & Design GCSE	History GCSE
Business GCSE	BTEC Music
Computer Science GCSE	Music GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	Physical Education GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	Spanish GCSE
French GCSE	
Geography GCSE	

The students will also follow **Lifeskills** and **Physical Education** as part of the statutory curriculum in line with the school's obligations.

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## PATHWAY OVERVIEW - FOUNDATION

### Foundation Pathway

The Foundation Pathway has been developed to provide a balanced curriculum which will enable all students to work towards achieving their expected progress at Key Stage 4 in a range of GCSE qualifications and alternative courses. The pathway has been designed to provide extra learning and teaching in English and Mathematics.

The compulsory subjects on the Foundation Pathway are as follows:

Subject	Level
<b>English</b> All students will study English Language and English Literature. This is equivalent of 2 GCSEs.	GCSE
<b>Mathematics</b> Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Science</b> This will be available as a Combined Award. Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Religious Studies</b> Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
<b>Workskills</b> Workskills is a BTEC qualification that the students will study at Level 1 or 2. This portfolio-based course will allow students to develop the skills that employers are looking for and to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding to prepare them for employment or vocational training.	

### Option Choices

Students may choose **three** additional subjects to study from the following courses:

Art & Design GCSE	History GCSE
Business GCSE	BTEC Music
Computer Science GCSE	Music GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	Physical Education GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	Spanish GCSE
French GCSE	
Geography GCSE	

Selected students may choose Study Skills. These students will take one less option choice and use the time to work on curriculum content. For further information, please speak to Mr R Griffiths, Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion.

The students will also follow **Lifeskills** and **Physical Education** as part of the statutory curriculum in line with the school's obligations.

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## **PATHWAY OVERVIEW - VOCATIONAL**

There are also a limited number of places available for selected students who meet the criteria to follow a Vocational Pathway. This will enable students to follow a largely practical course for one day a week at a local college or training provider.

Students will be given the opportunity to pursue a particular vocational interest and gain a qualification (Level 1) alongside their GCSEs in Mathematics, English, Science, Religious Studies and one GCSE option subject.

Courses currently on offer include:

- Construction & Trades
- Hospitality & Catering
- Hair & Beauty
- Health & Child Care
- Sport/Public services
- Electrical & Engineering
- Business & Administration
- Art & Media
- IT & Games design

The selection of courses may change, depending on availability and demand.

Students interested in this pathway should speak to Mr M Bunyan, Vocational Co-ordinator or Mr R Griffiths, Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion, who will both be available at the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways Evening.

Students will be able to participate in taster sessions in several of the disciplines on offer. There will also be an application, aptitude test and interview at the local college or training provider.



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## PASTORAL PROCESS

Students, with their parents, will need to make important decisions regarding the option choices for Key Stage 4. The school provides an extensive support and guidance programme to ensure that the courses chosen will be of maximum benefit to each student. The school will use its professional judgement and knowledge of the individual students when advising upon option choices.

### Phase 1

- The guidance process begins in February, when subject teachers will talk to students about the nature of the courses on offer in Years 10 and 11.
- Tutorial sessions and assemblies will be used to guide students through the procedures for selecting options.
- Presentation at the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways Evening on 12 March 2020 will outline the choices and curriculum on offer to parents.
- Information on Vocational Courses is also available at this evening.

### Phase 2

- The Careers Advisor, Mrs K Tinnams, will be available for any student to book an interview in school.
- Year Manager, Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion and the Vocational Co-ordinator will be available to meet with students and parents, if extra support and guidance is required to select the choice best suited to an individual's needs.
- Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 26 March, when parents and students can consult subject teachers about their academic progress and attainment.

### Phase 3

- Completed forms can be handed in **from Monday 16 March 2020** to the form tutor.
- The forms are then checked by the form tutor and Mr J Rowlands, Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum Development.
- A review of the student's choices will be completed to confirm appropriate selection of courses.
- The absolute final deadline for the completed forms is **Monday 30 March 2020**.

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## COMPLETING THE OPTION FORM

You have been given two similar option forms on which you will need to record your selections.

The first white copy is for you to retain. Once you have discussed and agreed the option choices, fill in the form and keep it in a safe place for future reference.

The second coloured copy is for the school.

- If your child is following the EBacc Pathway, this form is yellow.
- If they are following the Progress Pathway, the form is blue.
- If they are following the Foundation Pathway, the form is green.

This form should be completed and then signed by the parent. The form will not be accepted without one reserve option choice.

This form **must be completed in black pen** to ensure that there are no changes made on the form after the decision has been agreed. If you require a replacement form, these will be available from Student Reception.

The school does **not** operate a first come, first served policy with the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways choices. There is nothing to gain by handing your form in first. It is advisable that you wait until after the Year 9 Parents' Evening on 26 March 2020 to hand in the form.

Exceptions:-

Students cannot:

1. Select to study both GCSE Music and BTEC Music. You can **ONLY** select one of these.

## KEY DATES

Friday 6 March 2020	Year 9 Curriculum Pathways Special Assembly. Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways Booklet issued by email and published to the school website under the tab for 'Teaching & Learning' and then 'KS4 Pathways Information'. Individual subject details also published to this area of the website.
Thursday 12 March 2020	Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways Evening for Parents and Students.
Thursday 26 March 2020	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 16:30 – 19:30
Monday 30 March 2020	The absolute deadline for the Option Choice Form to be handed to the form tutor.

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