Presentation to Parents and Students
Pathways
Spring 2020
Preparing for the next steps......
Using the booklet to help you... What information does it contain?
PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

GCSE

The majority of subjects offered in the Key Stage 4 curriculum are available to GCSE level. You will read more of the individual subject requirements in the second half of this booklet.

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) aims to help all pupils show what they know, understand and can do. There is much emphasis on practical work and oral work. Examinations will test whether you understand what you have been taught and whether you can apply it to the everyday world, as well as whether you can remember facts and present them properly.

The Government have recently re-structured GCSE courses. All GCSE’s will have an exam at the end of the course.

Excellent attendance and consistent, well-organised work throughout Key Stage 4 are an essential part of successful GCSE work. A very important target for the majority of pupils is the achievement of a minimum of 5 GCSE grades at C/G, including English Language and Maths.

The grading scale that was introduced recently uses numbers 1-9 to identify levels of performance with 9 being the top grade.

In the Final examination in some subjects, there will be a choice of papers or questions to suit your ability. Your teacher will advise you which of these papers you will be entered for in due course.

Cost of materials, trips and visits in some subjects

In visual arts subjects you will have to buy a sketchbook to record your work. A number of subjects will broaden the GCSE content by including theatre visits and workbooks.

You may sometimes be asked to make a contribution to such trips if you can.

BTECs

The Government have recently changed the equivalences of the BTEC qualifications. The BTECs that are offered at Nunwood are now worth one GCSE. You can take up to 2 approved BTECs.

SEPARATE SCIENCE

(TRIPLE AWARD) SCIENCE

HEAD OF SCIENCE FACULTY - MS TRATT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course consists of three subjects, Science, Biology and Chemistry. Each subject is taught by a specialist teacher and is designed to develop an understanding of the natural world and the scientific methods used to study it.

DANCE

TEACHER IN CHARGE - MS QUAY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a two year ASL, or GCSE course, that is offered to students who wish to have a practical dance course in which they can use and develop their dance skills and appreciation. Students will also have to take part in performances and choreography to increase their skills and knowledge.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

TEACHER IN CHARGE - MR SKILLY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a one year GCSE course that aims to introduce students to the basic concepts of computer science, including programming, algorithms and data structures. Students will learn how to write programs using a variety of programming languages and will be encouraged to think critically about the design and implementation of software.

PROGRESS 8 AND ATTAINMENT 8

What are Progress 8 and Attainment 8?

Schools are now judged on:

1. Progress 8. A score based on the progress students have made in their best 8 subjects and this will be the main performance indicator for a school. Progress is measured from Key Stage 2 levels to the GCSE exam result. The importance of English and Maths is maintained, as the score for these subjects is doubled.

2. Attainment 8. A score based upon the final GCSE grades in the best 8 subjects.

3. The English Baccalaureate (which is English, Maths, Science, History, and Humanities).

To get into our Sixth Form students will need to gain the higher grades especially in English and Maths.

The Government have made it compulsory for Sixth Form students to continue to study Maths and/or English GCSE if they do not achieve at least a Grade 4 in Year 11.
All students will study English Language, Literature and Maths.

All students will study double science and so will need ONE more subject that will fill bucket 2.

All students will be expected to take at least ONE creative subject.

More Able Pathway: 9 Subjects that includes EBacc
Middle Pathway: 9 Subjects
Lower Pathway: 8 Subjects - additional literacy and numeracy intervention.
What do all students have to study?

- Mathematics
  - Head of Maths Faculty - Mr Uwaechi
- RS
- 'The Core'
- English Literature
  - Head of English Faculty - Ms E Farthing
- Information Technology
- English Language
  - Head of English Faculty - Ms E Farthing
- Science
  - Head of Science Faculty - Ms Tratt
- PE
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<td>RS/Philosophy GCSE</td>
<td>Photography GCSE</td>
<td>Art GCSE</td>
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<td>*Targeted ESOL/Intervention</td>
<td>Music Tech RSL</td>
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We encourage all pupils to take at least one Creative Performing or Visual Arts Option. You can take two if you wish but you need to speak to your teachers about ‘prohibited’ combinations.

Discount codes:
JA2 Art/Graphics/Textiles
Photography KJ1
Music LF1 V Certs LC11

All this means is that we would not necessarily recommend that you opt for both (Art and Textiles) or (Textiles and Graphics). But you can opt for a mix of the other specialist subjects.
• There are some GCSE’s that you will only be recommended to study if you have reached a particular level. This is because we know that you need to have shown a certain amount of ability in some subjects, for example English and Maths, to be able to access the content of these GCSE courses. If you are not sure ask your subject teachers or Tutor.

• We recommend that you could consider taking separate sciences if you are a more able scientist.

• We would recommend that you could consider taking computer science if you are a more able mathematician.

• Talk to Mr Townsend about the music qualifications and which one you would be best suited to.

• We recommend that to take Humanities subjects, you have shown an aptitude for that subject and feel confident when being asked to complete extended pieces of writing.

• We would recommend that you continue with the language that you have been studying since Year 7.

• We will recommend that you take at least one specialist subject, you may choose to take two if you wish but it is the expectation that all pupils take either a Performing or Visuals Art Option.

• If you are a Bursary student we would expect you to take your subject of expertise in Key Stage 4 as one of your Choices.
What is the English Baccalaureate?

Quite simply, it is a 'name' given to a group of subjects. It is NOT an additional qualification as such.

It is a measure introduced by the Government that recognises those children who have strong passes in; English, Maths, Science, History or Geography AND French or Spanish. Schools are now being set targets for the numbers of children who the government think should acquire these subjects.
If you choose an academic route you will need at least 6 GCSEs Grade 5 or above including English and Maths.
What can we do to help you decide?
Please join us...

at our Careers and Aspirations Conference where we will be hosting
visitors from a wide range of top UK universities, international and local
employers, Vocational Colleges, Conservatoires and Art Colleges.

Throughout the day students will be able to
access a range of targeted sessions including:

Workshops:
- Guest Speakers
- Russell Group Alumni Project
- Receive Admissions Tips and
  Application Support
- Panel Discussions
- Meet our Enterprise Advisor
- One to One Workshops Guidance
- Meet Local Business Mentors
- Get personalised Options Advice
- Get Subject Specialist Advice from
  our academic faculty staff.
- Find out more about the apprenticeship route

Do you want to
know more about
our successful
Sixth Form Offer?
Uncertain about
your next steps?

One to one interviews, Assemblies, Fast Tomato
1. Log onto the website

Performing and Visual Arts College
Creating Success Together

2. Go to Teaching and Learning Tab and click on Pathways

You can access your Options Form online via the link below.

Yr 9 Pathways Choices Application Form Spring 2020

3. Pathways

Welcome to Pathways 2019 - 2020

Students will be given their own hard copy of the booklet that is provided as a pdf below. Parents will be invited to a meeting prior to the start of Parents Evening on Thursday 6th Feb, where we will explain the whole process, how to make your choices, what you can and can’t choose from and when the deadline is.
Year 9 Pathways Application Form Spring 2020

Please refer to the Pathways booklet that you have been given carefully before you complete this form. You should have also spent time thinking about what the Heads of Faculty have spoken to you about in assemblies and also what you have discussed with your tutor and individual subject teachers.

The deadline for completing this form is Friday 21st February. Your FINAL submission of this form will be the one that we will refer to when deciding on which options you will be given.

You will be asked to give a first and a second choice in each block. We will do what we can to ensure that you will have as many of your first choices but this might not always be possible. We can not promise that all subjects offered will automatically run.
Thursday 30th January
• Careers/University Event
• Thursday 6th February
• Talk by Ms Nicholas and Mr Waro 4—4.30pm in the theatre.
• Parents’ Evening 4.30—7.00pm.
• Friday 21st February - Deadline for completing Pathway forms.

• There will be the opportunity for you to use ICT facilities here at the school between 4-5pm if you need to.
Frequently asked questions...

YEAR 9 PATHWAYS 2020

ASPIRATIONAL REVIEW
STEM skills are vital to the world we live in today, but technology alone, as Steve Jobs famously insisted, is not enough. We desperately need the expertise of those who are educated in the human, cultural, and social as well as the computational.

No student should be prevented from majoring in an area they love based on a false idea of what they need to succeed. Broad learning skills are the key to long-term, satisfying, productive careers. What helps you thrive in a changing world isn't rocket science. It may just well be social science, and, yes, even the humanities and the arts contribute to making you not just workforce ready but world ready.

By Valerie Strauss
New York Times