



9th December 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

GCSE Guided Pathway Information

I am writing to update you on our Year 9 GCSE Guided Pathways programme for this academic year, and the arrangements and support that will be available to guide students as they complete the process. Following parental feedback and student voice, we have reflected upon the suite of subjects available to ensure we offer a broad and balanced curriculum of compulsory and optional GCSE subjects.

Current Year 9 students will follow a core curriculum in Years 10 and 11 in the following six subjects:

- GCSE English Language and GCSE Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Triple Science or Double Science
- Skills for Life (PSHE)
- Core Physical Education

In addition to the core curriculum, we use our knowledge of each individual and relevant performance data, to place our students onto specific GCSE 'pathways'. This ensures that they follow an appropriately rigorous and academic curriculum in Key Stage 4. Students will select a total of four non-core subjects to follow for the two years of study.

Students are directed to follow EITHER at least one subject which must be either a humanities, language or computer science subject plus three other subjects OR an English Baccalaureate pathway where they follow a humanities, a language plus two other subjects. At Marshland we have no ceilings on aspiration, and any student can follow the English Baccalaureate should they also wish to.

Next Steps

My next update in February will explain the subjects on offer and the curriculum pathway that we believe offers your child the best chance of academic success.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss our guided pathway programme. I am very happy to answer any questions or receive any feedback.

Should you have any subject specific questions relating to a particular GCSE, we encourage you, and/or your child to approach the appropriate teacher, or member of staff highlighted in the Pathways booklet. Parents can also email or request a call back from the subject department.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to facilitate a Pathways evening this year, so videos and further information will be available to you online, which can then be discussed at Parents Evening. Choices will be finalised in the Summer term.

Thank you for your patience and support as we complete this process. It is often an uncertain time for students, and any support we can offer helps them to focus and settle on an effective set of choices for their future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Nicholls', written in a cursive style.

D. Nicholls
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum and Staffing