



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum Options 2017-2018



Headteacher: Mr McCann  
Head of KS4: Mrs Scott

Dear Year 9 Students and Parents,

At Greenbank School we recognise the importance of the decisions that students need to make in their transition from Year 9 into Key Stage 4. In this important phase of students' education, it is crucial that we give you clear and informed guidance as to the choices available and how these are matched to individual needs, interests and abilities.

Opportunities such as Annual Review meetings, Parents' Evenings and guidance for students is designed to ensure that parents and students are fully informed of the issues involved in choosing courses for Years 10 and 11.

Qualifications gained at the end of Key Stage 4 are an essential springboard for students' development and play a large part in shaping future educational opportunities.

We also see this as a time to reinforce the partnership that exists between the school, parents and students. We value this partnership as we feel that it is instrumental in ensuring that students commit themselves, wholeheartedly, to the work that will enable them to successfully meet the challenges of new courses in Years 10, 11, Sixth Form and beyond.

Whilst we place great importance on the academic pathways students follow and the progress they make we do not lose sight of the fact that students also need to develop social, communication, emotional, thinking and independent living skills to equip them for life as a young adult. Our curriculum and residential provision provides outstanding support in these areas.

With your continued support secures positive outcomes for your child.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr M. McCann**  
**Head teacher**

## Introduction

Year 9 students will complete their Key Stage 3 courses in July and will move onto Key Stage 4 courses in September of Year 10. To help students prepare for this change, your child will be making their choices for their Key Stage 4 courses over the coming weeks. Obviously, this is a very important decision which will impact on your child's future. We also recognise that it can be a difficult decision to make which is why we place emphasis on advice, support and guidance so that the process can be as straight-forward as possible.

We know that the choices that your child will make are important for their future study which is why we will ensure that both you and your child receive the best advice possible in order to prepare them for this crucial decision. As well as this book, your child will:

- Be able to talk to their tutor and Key Stage Manager.
- Be able to see the course content of each course on the school website.
- Take part in a group work as part of their careers lessons.
- Have talks from an external Careers advisor.
- Be able to talk to a range of prospective post school providers.

## The Core Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to ensure that students have a broad and balanced education to allow them to have a wide choice of pathways. The Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of subjects which students are required to study (this is called **Core Curriculum**) and subjects that they can select to study (this is called **Options**). The table below shows that the Core Curriculum occupies 80% (16 out of 20 lessons) of your child's timetable in Year 10 and 11.

The Core Curriculum	
Subject	Lessons per week
English	4.5
Mathematics	4.5
Science	2
Computing	1
Physical Education (not examined)	2
PSHE/Citizenship	1
RE (not examined)	1

## The Options

In addition to studying the Core Curriculum, your child will also be able to select **2** Option subjects. Your child will be guided to which options will be most appropriate for them to enable them to achieve the best possible grades. This is based on their Key Stage 3 progress. The Options occupy 20% (4 out of 20 lessons) of your child's timetable in Year 10 and 11.

Students will have the opportunity of selecting **1** option from **Block A** and **1** from **Block B**

Block A	Block B
Food Technology	Geography
Design Technology	History
Art and Design	

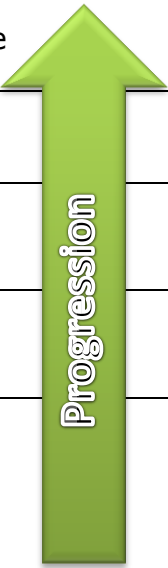
## Qualifications Explained

There are a wide variety of qualifications available to students and it is important that you and your child understand the difference between the qualifications so that they are able to make informed decisions about which style of learning is best for them.

Qualification	Description
<b>Pre- Entry</b> (ASDAN Personal Progress, Short Course Science, AQA Unit Award Scheme- Geography, History).	<p>ASDAN offers a range of nationally approved qualifications based around the development of personal, social and employability skills. Every course is designed to develop learners' personal, transferable and employability skills through an engaging and challenging curriculum of activities, leading to a certificate of achievement. They range in duration from 10 hours to 150 hours.</p> <p>ASDAN qualifications are approved by the regulatory authorities for England (Ofqual).</p> <p>The AQA Unit Award Scheme (UAS) is offered within Geography and History to offer learners (for who an Entry Level course is not appropriate at this moment in time) the opportunity to have their progress and achievements formally recognised with a certificate issued by AQA each time a short unit is successfully completed. Flexibility is key with UAS, with a motto to support the philosophy - <i>'Achievement for All'</i>. AQA units encourage and support learners to show them what they can do, rather than what they can't.</p> <p>100% of the course is internally assessed and sent away for moderation in order to check the quality of the work produced meets Nationally set criteria.</p>
<b>Entry</b> (Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, Art & Design, Food Technology, ASDAN-PSHCE/Citizenship).	<p>Entry Level Certificates are suitable for most students attending Greenbank School. They are aimed at students who may not be able to access GCSE's at this time, but have the potential to make significant progress with their learning and come away with a qualification at the end of their study. 100% of the course is internally assessed and sent away for moderation in order to check the quality of the work produced meets Nationally set criteria. Entry Levels can be used as a stepping stone to further qualifications E.g. Functional Skills in Sixth Form, which aim to teach students how to apply the knowledge they have gained in practical, real life situations that would be useful in College and future employment.</p> <p>Students who have achieved between 1C and 2A of schools assessment tool may be considered for these courses.</p> <p><i>* Entry Level Maths and English can be co-taught with the new GCSE (9-1) qualifications.</i></p> <p>ASDAN courses offer a range of nationally approved qualifications based around the development of personal, social and employability skills. ASDAN qualifications are approved by the regulatory authorities for England (Ofqual).</p> <p>ASDAN courses are a quality pathway for students who would find accessing an Entry Level course beyond their current academic attainment.</p>
<b>GCSE</b> (Maths & English)* <i>*New from September 2017</i>	<p>This stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSE generally have an end of course examination. Awards are now graded 9 (Highest) to 1 (lowest). Students accessing these courses at Greenbank need to be able to cope a much higher pace of learning at this stage in their education and the academic demands without significant and detrimental impact to their wellbeing.</p> <p>Students who have achieved at least Level of 4 of schools assessment tool may be considered for these courses.</p>

Schools are required to develop their own assessment and monitoring systems in order to report on and track the progress students make. School uses a system called B Squared (B<sup>2</sup>). The table below records the B2 level a student may have attained and the course pathway that would be most appropriate.

Key to levels: B Squared Data will show the percentage of the level achieved (e.g. 20% of 1B):	Level of accreditation that the student would be expected to be accessing:
Step 4 and above	GCSE Level 2 Level 1
Step 3	Entry Level 3
Step 2A 2B 3C	Entry Level 2
Step 1A 1B 1C	Entry Level 1
Step P8 P7 P6 P5 P4	Pre-entry Level



## **Information for Students**

### **Introduction**

Selecting which subjects you study in Year 10 and Year 11 is a very important decision as it may affect:

- Your progress over the next 2 years,
- Your future pathway into Greenbank Sixth Form and beyond that College,
- Your employment prospects in the future

This decision must be yours, but there are people in school who can help such as your tutor, Mrs Scott (Head of Key Stage 4), Helen Pullan (careers advisor). Remember that you will have to study the subjects you choose for 2 years so do not make your choices without finding out as much as you can about the courses you are interested in.

### **How to Choose a Course**

You will still have to study and take tests and / or complete coursework in English, Mathematics, Science and Computing but you can select **2** courses that you would like to study in Year 10 and Year 11. You also have to study Core PE and PSHE but do not take examinations in these subjects.

#### **Do choose courses because**

- You enjoy the subject,
- You are good at the subject,
- It will help you with your future,

#### **Do not choose courses because**

- Your friends have chosen it

### **Some Questions You May Have**

#### **Who can help me make my decisions?**

You will be able to find information in this book, but also:

- You can talk to your tutor
- Mrs Scott may have already met with you, but you can always ask to see her again
- Your teachers can give you advice
- You could come along to Parents Evening on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 4:00pm- 7:00pm.

#### **What happens once I have handed in my Options Form?**

You must hand your form into school by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. In some cases, you may have to change your option choices because they are not appropriate for your ability level. You should know your option choices by June.

#### **Will I get all my first choice subjects?**

Most students are able to study the subjects they want, but it may not be possible if:

- Your choices do not match your attainment level
- There are too many students who want to do that subject
- There are not enough students who want to do that subject so the subject is withdrawn

#### **Can I change later?**

If you have chosen your courses carefully by listening to the advice and guidance given, you should not need to change your courses. Once the new term begins, you are unable to change courses so give your option choices the time and consideration that they deserve in order to make sure you are doing the best subjects for you.



## **Mathematics**

**Subject Leader:** Miss Owen

**Qualification:** Pre-Entry, Entry Level or GCSE

**Grades:** An award or certificate, depending on the number of credits awarded.  
For Entry Level- Entry 1, 2 or 3 (3 being the highest grade)  
For GCSE – 9-1 (9 being the highest grade).



**Pre-Entry Level:** ASDAN – Personal Progress Entry 1.

The ASDAN Entry 1 Award in Personal Progress is designed to help learners working at Entry 1 and below, develop the confidence and skills for everyday life. It is primarily intended for young people and adults who are not yet ready for independent living or employment. The primary purpose of this qualification is to support students to operate independently and effectively in life, learning and work.

**Entry Level:** OCR Certificate in Mathematics (R449)

This course encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. Assessment is by 2 written papers and 1 practical paper, marked internally and sent for external moderation to meet National assessment standards.

**GCSE:** OCR Mathematics (J560)

This course allows students to develop mathematical independence and to promote fluency reasoning and problem-solving skills. It is a springboard for future progress and achievement!  
Assessment is by 3 written papers equally weighted including calculator and non-calculator papers. All papers are sent to external examiners.



## Science

Subject Leader: Mr McManus

Qualification: Pre-Entry, Entry Level

Grades: Pre-Entry Level- Between 1 and 6 credits.  
Entry Level- Entry 1, 2 or 3 (3 being the highest grade)

**Pre-Entry Level:** ASDAN Science Short Course

The Science Short Course, developed in association with the [Centre for Science Education](#), accredits up to 60 hours of science studies and activities. It can support learners working towards Science Entry Level, while maintaining their curiosity about the subject. Learners develop their personal and employability skills – as well as their science knowledge and understanding. Topics available for study include: Human Machine, Forces and Motion, Chemical Change, Biological Challenges, Space Physics and Performance in Sport. Coursework is internally marked and moderated within school.

**Entry Level:** OCR Science (R483)

OCR's Entry Level Certificate in Science provides an entry into the understanding of the physical, chemical and biological world. The qualification will encourage learners to; understand the use of conceptual models and theories to make sense of the observed diversity of natural phenomena; understand the assumption that every effect has one or more cause; understand that change is driven by differences between different objects and systems when they interact; understand that many such interactions occur over a distance and over time without direct contact; understand that science progresses through a cycle of hypothesis, practical experimentation, observation, theory development and review; understand that quantitative analysis is a central element both of many theories and of scientific methods of inquiry.

Entry Level Certificate in Science is made up of 100% internally assessed tests and tasks split into 3 elements (End of Item tests, 'Can do task and Practical Tasks).

## Computing

Subject Leader: Mr Coward

Qualification: Pre-Entry, Entry Level, Level 1.

Grades: Entry Level- Entry 1, 2 or 3 (3 being the highest grade).  
Level 1- Level 1 is the next grade above Entry Level 3.

The accreditation for Computing at Key Stage 4 is through the Digital Employability qualification offered by OCR. The course will focus on developing Computing skills for the success in life & the workplace. In addition to this accreditation, students will receive tuition in a rounded suite of Computing skills, which will include Game design, Office skills, Coding and algorithm use. Also some fun stuff in the mix. Assessment is for the Entry 3 & Level 1 course includes a combination of an on-screen, on-demand knowledge tests and OCR set tasks which are moderated. Assessment for Entry 1 & 2 courses is by a moderated booklet of tasks & activities.



## **PSHCEE/Citizenship**

Subject Leader: Miss Thelwell/ Miss Rosenburgh

Qualification: Pre-Entry, Entry Level.

Grades: ASDAN Citizenship Short Course- Certificate (Pre-Entry)  
ASDAN Personal Progress (Entry 1)



Citizenship is a mandatory subject which is delivered at Greenbank School to enable students to become caring and responsible young adults. Pupils will develop an awareness of the social, moral, spiritual and cultural values within diverse British and Global communities. It is delivered through a combination of weekly tutor based sessions and providing opportunities for pupils to participate in whole-school initiatives such as School Council, special events and competitions.

## **Physical Education**

Subject Leader: Mr Hamilton

Qualification: None



Pupils will participate in at least 2 hours of P.E. each week experiencing a Wide range of sporting activities including racket sports, hockey, football, volleyball, trampolining, cricket, rounders, basketball, tennis, athletics and agility and fitness.

School invests heavily in its P.E. resources with the objective of providing opportunities for students to:

- Become more competent, confident and expert in their techniques and apply them across different sports and physical activities and learn to tackle complex and demanding physical activities.
- Develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports e.g. athletics and gymnastics.
- To work in a team, building on trust and developing skills... (either individually) or as a group.
- Overcome opponents in direct competition through team and individual games.
- Take part in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs through team and individual games.
- Use a range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition (through team and individual games).
- Analyse and evaluate their performances compared with previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities to achieve their personal best

Assessments of progress are made at the end of each half term of activities using B Squared.

## Religious Education

Subject Leader: Mr Duncalf

Qualification: None.



Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It challenges students to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses. All participants are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs and values and to acknowledge that others hold beliefs different from their own.

(Agreed CWAC Syllabus Sept. 2013).

Year 1	What's the difference? Pupils will look at aspects of the 6 main world religions, allowing them to compare, reflect and contrast.	World's best seller – the Bible Pupils will learn about the history and importance of the bible to believers.	Islam – beliefs/teachings Pupils will explore the key beliefs and teachings of Islam.
Year 2	Christianity - values Pupils will examine the core Christian values and discuss how believers use them in everyday life.	Persecution Pupils will learn about the causes of persecution and why it takes place. Pupils will also examine historical examples of persecution.	Big Questions Pupils will develop their ability to discuss and answer big questions about the World.

## Options

### Geography

Subject Leader: Mrs Scott

Pre-Entry: AQA Unit Award Scheme

Qualification: Pre-Entry: AQA Unit Award Scheme

Entry Level: OCR Entry Level Certificate, Geography R407



Grades: Pre-Entry Level: Unit Award.

Entry Level- Entry 1, 2 or 3 (3 being the highest grade)

**Pre Entry Level:** AQA Unit Award Scheme units will be delivered to match and enhance the topics of the Entry Level course, including 82638 Natural Hazards, 74351 Identifying Natural Features (Unit 1) and 85995 Introduction to Map Skills.

**Entry Level:** The Entry Level Certificate is made up of 100% internally assessed tasks and tests that can be taken at any point during the course.

Learners will be expected to complete three tasks:

- Dynamic world (Our World, Destructive World, Resourceful World) forms 30% of the total mark.
- Fieldwork notebook (Practical experience of fieldwork) forms 30% of the total mark.
- Personal Project (a project based on any part of the specification) forms 40% of the total mark.

These can be tailored to suit interests and needs of the learners.



## **Food Technology**

Subject Leader: Miss Rosenburgh

Qualification: Pre-Entry, Entry Level.

Grades: Pre-Entry Certificate recognising completion of between 10-60 learning hours.  
Entry Level 1,2 or 3 (3 being the higher level).



**Pre-Entry Level:** Foodwise Short Course which is accredited with a certificate on the completion of between 10 to 60 learning hours.

**Entry Level:** OCR Life & Living Skills Home Management

Food Technology focuses on the development of students' practical application of cooking skills and awareness of food safety issues. It encourages students to work independently in activities which will benefit their future skills for adulthood.

## **Design Technology**

Subject Leader: Mr Stevenson

Qualification: Edexcel Entry Level Design and Technology.

Grades: Entry Level 1,2 or 3 (3 being the higher level).



Students demonstrate fully their design and technology capability and combine skills with knowledge and understanding to design and make quality products. The objectives of the course are to give students opportunities to develop their practical skills and the confidence to design and make quality products, to analyse and evaluate products and processes, engage in focused practical tasks to develop and demonstrate techniques in making products, engage in strategies to develop ideas and plan and produce a product and to develop decision-making skills through individual and collaborative working.

Students will be asked to design and make 3 objects from the following topics.

Storage, Lighting Furniture, Leisure and Outdoors. Following internal moderation the highest scoring project will be forwarded for accreditation to the exam board.

## **Key Stage 4 Options Form 2017**

Thank you for taking the time to read the curriculum options booklet. A **full** copy of the document, where course details and levels of accreditation are provided can be found on the school website.

<http://www.greenbankschool.org/>

Using the table below you will see two **Blocks A** and **B**.

1. Choose **1** subject from **Block A** and **1** subject from **Block B**.
2. Select **1** first choice (**1<sup>st</sup>**) from each Block and **1** reserve (**R**).

<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>
Design Technology ( )	Geography ( )
Food Technology ( )	History ( )
Art & Design ( )	

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL BY MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017