



The Gad's Curriculum at Key Stage Four

The aim of the curriculum at Key Stage Four is to prepare students to take GCSEs (or in some cases, BTECs) in a range of core and optional subjects that will enable them to progress into the Key Stage Five course of their choice – whether that be a grammar school or non-selective sixth form, college or apprenticeship – and to equip them with key employability skills and a good foundation for success in higher education.

The curriculum consists firstly of core compulsory subjects – English (students are prepared for both English Literature and English Language GCSEs), Mathematics and Dual Award Science – which are examined at GCSE level, as well as being part of the CCF which provides all students with the opportunity to gain a BTEC in Teamwork and Personal Development as well as the ILM Level 2 award in Effective Team Member Skills. Students also take courses in SMSC and Critical Thinking which are not examined, as well as taking part in weekly Games afternoons. Select students will also have the option to take Statistics GCSE. All students also have the opportunity to work towards gaining Duke of Edinburgh awards during Key Stage Four, which are highly regarded, as well as gaining First Aid qualifications.

In addition, there is a selection of Option subjects, each of which is taken to GCSE (or in the case of Music, BTEC). Students get to choose three of these Option subjects. In choosing a combination of Options, certain advice might be borne in mind. It is, educationally speaking, desirable to study a humanity, as well as – where there is an aptitude – a more practical or artistic subject. However it is possible that a student may have a particular leaning. The Option block system thus permits the choice of subjects towards particular inclinations, for example choosing a combination of more traditionally academic subjects or a selection of more artistic subjects. For the all-rounder, choosing three options can be an agonising matter, and discussions with subject teachers will be important. Each year a number of students find it difficult to give up subjects they have enjoyed in Key Stage Three, however the narrowing of the curriculum at Key Stage Four is essential in preparing students for success. We believe our curriculum provides students with the opportunity to study a range of core subjects and skills, as well as the ability to choose a more academic Options path, or a more creative one, or indeed a combination of both.

Below you will find Gad's block system for optional Key Stage Four subjects. Following the Key Stage Four information evening, students are asked to submit ranked Option choices for review from blocks 1-3 and to indicate the additional qualifications from the fourth block below that they would be interested in. The blocks are fixed and one Option only from each of blocks 1-3 can be selected. There is no limit on the optional extra-curricular qualifications.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Optional extra-curricular qualifications
History	Geography	Computing	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
PE	Drama	Spanish	Duke of Edinburgh Silver
Food and Nutrition	DT	Art	ILM Level 2
		Music	Emergency First Aid at Work
			LAMDA
			Statistics