



**THE NOTTINGHAM
EMMANUEL SCHOOL**
A Church of England Academy

Introduction to the Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Guidance on Courses for 2017 - 2019



Dear Students and Parents,

This booklet is designed to guide you in your transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and beyond, and to help you to understand the content of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. This is an exciting period in your school career where you have the opportunity to make decisions and choices about some of the courses you will follow over the next two years, which will ultimately shape your future pathway through education and in to the world of work. You will no doubt be aware that all students have to remain in some form of education, training, or employment with training until you are 18 years old. It is therefore more essential than ever that this first stage of your decision making about your education is taken very seriously and with all the support that we can provide.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to give you a broad preparation for any career you may wish to follow. All students study a core curriculum of English language and English literature, mathematics, sciences, religious studies and physical education. Just through the core curriculum you are therefore able to obtain qualifications and accreditations across a wide range of subjects.

Some of you may have already decided what career path you are interested in pursuing in the future and therefore it is essential that you are aware of the qualifications required. It is equally important that you are fully aware of your current levels of attainment and what these tell you about your predicted grades for the future so that you can make informed decisions with respect to your subject choices. Remember that even the most certain of students can, and often do, change their minds with regard to their future choice of career. The fact that you will follow a broad range of subjects for the next two years will allow you to keep doors open.

You may have recently heard about the increased emphasis on all children achieving 8 GCSEs from a nationally recognised 'basket' of subjects. This basket is made up of English (language and literature) and maths; then 3 more subjects from the '**English Baccalaureate**' suite of qualifications (sciences, computer science, history, geography, languages); and then any further 3 subjects from a long list of 'counting' subjects. At Emmanuel, we ensure that all students compulsorily study English, maths, the sciences and at least one of computer science, history, or geography and so regardless of any further optional subjects taken, students will by design be studying 8 recognised subjects.

It should be noted that whilst universities have not made a foreign language qualification an entry requirement, students achieving a foreign language qualification may be in a stronger position when applying to certain universities.

To allow for greater consolidation of learning and improved results for all students, we began the teaching of some Key Stage 4 courses (history, geography and computer science) in year 9, with all students opting to study one of these subjects at the end of year 8. As students move in to year 10, they are of course expected to continue with this course of study and so **will not need to 'opt' again for this subject at this stage.**

In addition to the core curriculum (and whichever one of history, geography, or computer science was started in year 9) students may now choose 2 further subjects.

Some subjects, such as PE (sport) and music (technology), offer a vocational route through to a BTEC or VCert qualification, equal to one GCSE and recognised as one in the basket of 8. These vocational courses are assessed through a portfolio of work (marked by the teacher) and then an externally examined piece of work or examination worth at least 25%. After discussion with subject staff, an individual student may be guided towards a BTEC or VCert qualification.

For a minority of students, their programme of study may be further personalised and specialist staff from the Learning Support Learning Community will be able to offer advice on these opportunities.

It is important to note that where in the past students may have taken modular examinations throughout their Key Stage 4 courses, the government has changed the way of assessing students, so that all exams must now be taken at the end of the course.

Making informed decisions is a critical life skill, and is never more important than now. I would strongly encourage you to gather as much information as possible to help guide you in this process. We are confident that the staff at Emmanuel will go the extra mile to support you on your journey. Do find time to talk to your tutor, subject teacher, academic mentor, key worker and senior staff. Your Achievement and Pastoral Manager, Mr Blakeley, is there to lead you at every stage of your journey. Together, we will work very hard to ensure that you make the right choices based on your interests and your levels of attainment to date. Please do not be influenced by your friends and their choices.

Please take time to study the contents of the booklets carefully. Discuss your options, with regard to your academic abilities, with your family and the school. When final choices are published, you can be assured that you will have every opportunity to do well and to maximise your potential in this next phase of your secondary education, preparing you well for moving in to the sixth form in two years' time.

Wishing you a very happy and successful journey ahead.

Mr A Smith
Vice Principal

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Introduction

The aims of our Key Stage 4 Curriculum are to:

- Meet the needs and aspirations of all students
- Raise the levels of achievement of all students
- Improve motivation and encourage responsibility
- Promote life-long learning for all students

We recognise that you are all at different stages on your pathway towards life-long learning and, given the right guidance and support, all students can achieve their highest goals and aspirations. You will follow a pathway from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and then on to our sixth form provision and university or employment with further learning opportunities. It is important that our Key Stage 4 curriculum meets your needs and allows you to progress to the next stage along your pathway.

For most students, the pathway will consist of the core curriculum, then either history, geography, or computer science, plus another 2 subjects which you will choose.

Our curriculum is student-focused and based on student choice. It takes into account the need to educate students for (potentially) more than one future career. There are certain things you must think about when making your decisions, particularly the reasons for your choices:

- **Ability**

It is most important that you have a realistic view of your strengths and weaknesses. Consider carefully the subjects where you seem to be most successful; where your skills are apparent and your performance is consistent. Look at your Year 9 assessment grades; do they match your impression of your ability across each subject?

- **Personal Preferences**

Some subjects are likely to be more attractive to you. You may enjoy their content or the skills that you have developed in them. Do not be influenced by whether a subject is taught by a particular teacher, as this is not an appropriate approach to making choices that affect your entire future. Similarly, do not choose a subject just because your friends have – it is important that you make up your own mind.

- **Career**

At this point in your life, you may not have any idea of what career you would like to follow when you leave school. Even if you are sure, you might change your mind later. It is really important that your choices now do not restrict your options later in your education. If you have a firm idea of what you would like to do now, check the entry requirements carefully. Keep your options open and maximise your potential career choices. Please speak with our Careers and Employability Champion, Mr Ruane, on the Options Evening.

Advice and Support

Mr Blakeley, your Year 9 Achievement and Pastoral Manager, will lead a large team of staff in the provision of advice, support and guidance available to you. Your individual subject teachers are excellent people to ask for advice because they can explain exactly what each course will involve, and the potential routes through to qualification, and will also be able to give you a clear idea about the grade you should be aiming for in that subject. Please make sure that you have spoken to the subject teachers of all of your final option choices.

All students will be interviewed by a team of staff in the two-week period straight after the Options Evening as part of our guidance package to discuss with you your option choices and to check that they are well balanced and suited for any anticipated career.

Careers and Employability

We are somewhat unique as a school in that we have a dedicated Careers and Employability Champion. Mr Ruane can provide expert guidance and advice with regard to pathways and career planning. He will be available on the evening, along with ambassadors from local businesses and industries, to help with your decision making.

Sixth Form Education

The majority of our students progress from Year 11 into Year 12 here at Emmanuel and the vast majority of these then go on to university. Mr Irons is the Year 12 Achievement and Pastoral Manager and will be at the Options Evening. If you and your parents wish to talk about the stage after your GCSEs, or to make sure that your option choices fit your plans for sixth form and the future, please pay Mr Irons a visit on the evening, or at a convenient time during the school day.

COURSES AND PROGRESSION ROUTES

All Year 9 students are working towards the new reformed GCSEs. The Department for Education has made a number of changes to the characteristics of these new GCSEs. One key feature change is a new grading scale that uses the numbers 9 to 1 (9 being the highest) to replace the A* to G scale for identifying levels of performance.

The new grading scale will be used for all subjects in 2019 onwards.

NB. A new grade 9 sits above an old (or 'legacy') grade A*. The lower end of a new grade 4 aligns with the lower end of the old grade C. A grade 5 is seen nationally as a 'good' pass.

New grading structure										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
A*		A	B		C	D	E	F	G	U

Current grading structure

There are still however different pathways to accreditation at Key Stage 4 and different courses may be accredited with different qualifications, and not just GCSEs. A brief summary of the types of qualifications is given below. You will be guided by your teachers through a pathway appropriate to your skills and interests.

GCSE courses mainly involve studying the theory of a subject combined with some investigative work. Some also involve practical work. Mathematics now has much more emphasis on solving problems that require multi-step solutions and students will be expected to learn key mathematical formulae by heart. English Language now involves students reading a wider range of texts

and there is a greater emphasis on accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar in their written work. English Literature now focuses more on areas of classic literature.

BTECs and VCerts are strands of vocational qualifications built to accommodate the needs of employers and also to allow progression through to apprenticeships and university. They provide a more practical, real world approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background. The work is assessed throughout the course, but also has at least a 25% terminal exam.

THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

The Curriculum is made up of core subjects and optional subjects.

For some subjects there are both GCSE and BTEC/VCert options offered. It is important however that students opt for the subject and, having made their choice, they will then be guided to the qualification that best suits their learning style. Students studying for BTECs and VCerts can be assured that they will still be able to pursue their studies beyond Year 11, not least because it is a government requirement that all BTECs and VCerts allow for progression in to courses at sixth form. The most appropriate route to qualification will be decided through consultation between the subject teacher, student and parents.

Students should take advice from the team of staff highlighted earlier in the booklet. Mr J. Irons, Year 12 Achievement and Pastoral Manager, will also be very happy to discuss the pathways available to students through their Key Stage 4 studies and on to sixth form and beyond.

THE CORE SUBJECTS

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

THE OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Construction
- Drama
- Food Technology
- French
- Geography
- History
- IT
- Media Studies
- Music
- Music Technology
- Physical Education / Sport
- Product Design (Design and Technology)
- Spanish
- Textiles (Design and Technology)
- Triple Science (separate sciences by invitation only)

FIRST LANGUAGE GCSEs

Students who speak English as an additional language will be assessed for their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in their first language. If they meet the required standards, they will also be entered for GCSE in their first language.

EXAMS NOTICE

We ask that parents and students take time to read some very important documents from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) prior to embarking on courses, namely:

**Information for Candidates - Privacy Notice
Information for Candidates - Social Media and
Information for Candidates - Controlled Assessments.**

All can be found on our school website in the Examinations section.

MAKING CHOICES AND COMPLETING YOUR OPTIONS FORM

We have again this year further enhanced and personalised our 14-18 curriculum in the hope that the courses we offer will meet the needs of all of our students. It is very important that you now choose the right combination of qualifications for you to achieve as many higher grades or equivalents as possible. This should mean that the courses you choose suit your style of learning.

Once you have made your choice of subjects to study at Key Stage 4, you will then be guided onto courses that best suit your individual learning styles. Students may therefore study a combination of GCSEs, BTECs and VCert courses. If, for example, you are a student who learns best in a variety of ways and coursework assessment suits your style of learning, then you may opt to study a course that offers a vocational route to accreditation. Please however study the information carefully and seek guidance and any clarification with staff at the Options Evening.

Inevitably, trying to accommodate every student's first choice is a very difficult task. That is why we ask students to clearly state their **first four** options choices, in order of preference. **Two options will be allocated from these.** It is important that you make these choices very carefully as it is possible that some students may be allocated their third or fourth choices.

It is our policy that all students commencing a course are entered for the terminal examination. **There is not an opportunity to 'drop' a subject during Year 10 or 11. Equally, it is very unlikely that students will be able to change from one option to another once the academic year has commenced.**

How do I fill in the form?

The Options Form clearly identifies which subjects must be studied (those at the top of the form) and which are optional. Although choice is substantially free, after taking advice from teachers and parents, there are a few limits:

- (i) If you have studied history, or geography, or computer science during year 9, you do not need to put this down as an option – you will automatically study it in years 10 and 11
- (ii) If you wish to now study computer science, having not studied it on timetable during year 9, you must have attended the after-school computer science sessions throughout year 9 and have permission from Mr Bugg to apply to join the course now
- (iii) Textiles and Product Design carry the same specification and so cannot be studied together.

Once you have decided on your choices, record a 1 against your first choice subject, a 2 against your second and so on up to a fourth choice. All students must record 4 different subjects in order of preference. You will then be allocated 2 of your choices. Please note that if there are insufficient numbers of students opting for a subject, then it may not be possible to timetable that subject.

Check that:

- Your full name and tutor group are clearly printed on the form
- You have asked a parent to check your choices with you and to sign your form in agreement
- You have indicated a first, a second, a third and a fourth choice
- You have returned the form to your tutor by **Friday 24 March.**

PROMPTS FOR STUDENTS

- READ** the booklets several times.
- ASK** tutors, subject teachers, academic mentors, key workers, careers and employability champion, senior staff, achievement and pastoral manager for support in making your choices.
- THINK** about **all** the subjects open to you.
- THINK** carefully about your possible educational and career future.
- TALK** about your ideas and choices with parents.
- TALK** about subjects you are choosing with teachers of that subject and Year 10 students who are studying that subject.
- PENCIL** in your choices and then look at them again a few days later.
- CHECK** you are definite about your choices before copying them neatly onto the final form for handing in.
- DON'T** choose a subject simply because your friends are choosing it. Their needs may be totally different from yours and you probably will not be in the same group anyway.
- DON'T** choose a subject because you like the teacher. You may have a different teacher next year.
- DON'T** choose a subject simply because it is new or because it sounds glamorous. Check it out carefully.
- DON'T** be late with the return of your options form.

THE CORE SUBJECTS

The Core Curriculum is:

Core Subject	Coursework (%)	Exam (%)	Exam Board	Notes
English Language	0	100	AQA	Examined in the May and June of Year 11
English Literature	0	100	AQA	Examined in the May and June of Year 11
Mathematics	0	100	Edexcel	Examined in the June of year 11
Combined Science	0	100	AQA	Examined in the May and June of Year 11
Physical Education	Practical only, no exam			
Religious Studies	0	100	WJEC	Examined in the May and June of Year 11

Title of course:
GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Introduction

Studying English Language and Literature GCSEs allows students to continue to enjoy the different aspects that this subject offers: speaking and listening, reading and writing.

Key features of the course:

By the end of the course, students can expect to be eloquent speakers, independent readers and confident writers. They will have extended their spiritual, moral, ethical, social and cultural understanding and developed knowledge and skills about becoming informed citizens.

What could this lead on to?

The skills developed through English are essential for careers in all walks of life.

English Language AS/A2

English Literature Combined AS/A2

Media Studies AS/A2

Course details:

Awarding Body: AQA

Contact: Ms K Carrick or Mr K Aistrup

Email: kca@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk or kai@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk

	Title	Style of Assessment	Examined
Course Specification	ENGLISH LANGUAGE		
	Paper 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Exam (50%) June 2019
	Paper 2	Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Exam (50%) June 2019
		Speaking and Listening	Controlled Assessment <i>Controlled Assessment grading awarded separately to main qualification</i> Year 10/11
	ENGLISH LITERATURE		
	Paper 1	Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel	Examination (50%) June 2019
	Paper 2	Modern Texts and Poetry	Examination (50%) June 2019

Title of course:
GCSE MATHEMATICS

Introduction

This course will provide candidates with an understanding of mathematics and is an opportunity to acquire a valuable qualification often requested by further education colleges and employers. They will learn and demonstrate the ability to think abstractly, to analyse situations and solve problems in a variety of contexts. The course has been designed to meet the needs of the National Curriculum, prepare students for further mathematical study in sixth form and beyond, and to provide skills that will be useful in later life.

Key features of the course:

Maths GCSE changed in 2015, the content to be covered is both broader and deeper with students expected to provide clear, mathematical arguments. There is a greater emphasis on problem solving and a significant increase in the amount, and demand of content covered. The course is linear, focusing on 3 key objectives; Applying standard techniques, Reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically and Solving non-routine problems in a mathematical and non-mathematical context. These objectives cover the 6 main areas in mathematics; Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry, Probability and Statistics. All students will take the Linear course, which leads to a terminal exam at the end of Year 11.

What could this lead on to?

A-Level Mathematics

A-Level Further Mathematics

The skills acquired in Maths are essential to all careers.

Course details:

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Contact: Mr S Burns

Email: sbu@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk

		Title	Style of Assessment	Examined
Course Specification	Paper 1	Non-Calculator	Exam (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)	June 2019
	Paper 2	Calculator	Exam (worth 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)	June 2019
	Paper 3	Calculator	Exam (worth 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)	June 2019

Title of course:**GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY****Introduction**

This course covers the entire Key Stage 4 programme of study, leading to combined science qualification worth 2 GCSEs.

Key features of the course:

Students will concentrate on finding out how Science works today and will learn how scientists made important historical discoveries. Topics to be covered include: Cell Biology, Bioenergetics, Inheritance, Ecology, Atomic structure, Quantitative chemistry Organic chemistry, Forces, Energy, Waves, Electricity and Magnetism.

What could this lead on to?

A-Levels in Science

Science A-Levels offer students access to a a wide range of interesting and dynamic careers where students can be at the cutting edge of scientific discovery and development.

This could lead on to a variety of careers:

Engineering, medicine, biomechanics, physiotherapy, research scientist, speech therapy, pharmacy, forensics, nursing, ecologist, nutritionist, paramedic, police officer.

Course details:

Awarding Body: AQA

Contact: Dr. I Montgomery

Email imo@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk

Course Specification		Title	Style of Assessment	Examined
	Paper 1	Biology	Exam (worth 16.7%)	June 2019
	Paper 2	Biology	Exam (worth 16.7%)	June 2019
	Paper 1	Chemistry	Exam (worth 16.7%)	June 2019

Paper 2	Chemistry	Exam (worth 16.7%)	June 2019
Paper 1	Physics	Exam (worth 16.7%)	June 2019
Paper 2	Physics	Exam (worth 16.7%)	June 2019

Title of course:
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Introduction

At The Nottingham Emmanuel School we place great emphasis on the qualities that can be developed and the advantages that can be gained through Physical Education. The programme for PE continues from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, but with the addition of some new sports/activities.

Throughout the core programme of study, students will be participating in a range a wide range of sports. These include invasion sports, net and wall games, striking and fielding sports, gymnastics, health related fitness activities, and athletic events.

Key features of the course:

- To offer a wide range of physical activities
- To develop competence, skill and body awareness in different situations
- To evaluate differing aspects of performances
- To develop an understanding of the importance of exercise and movement in maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- To develop confidence and skills at organising and leading sports practices/events

Course details:

Contact: Mr G Clarke

Email: gcl@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk.

Title of course:
GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Introduction

This course is specifically designed to encourage students to develop their interest in the study of Christianity and Islam and relate these beliefs to the wider world through Philosophy and Ethics. Underpinning all knowledge is the desire for students to grow not only an understanding and appreciation of religious thought, but to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to their own values, opinion and attitudes in the light of their study.

Key features of the course:

We follow the WJEC specification A programme, studying Philosophy and Ethics, Christianity and Islam. Component one is studied in year 9 and we teach four themes throughout the year. This aspect of the course is worth 50% of the students overall course and combines teachings from both Christianity and Islam. The study of Christianity and Islam takes place through years 10 and 11 and is worth 25% of the course each. Both focus upon the respective beliefs, teachings and practices within the religions. All examinations are taken at the end of year 11.

What could this lead on to?

This course ties in perfectly with A Level Philosophy and Ethics including Christian Thought. However, if students do not go on to study this at A level; a good grade in this subject indicates the student's level of awareness across religious, social and moral issues and their ability to express themselves effectively. This is important for any training or career which involves working with people.

Course details:

Awarding Body: WJEC
Contact: Mr M Skinner
Email: msk@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk

Course Specification		Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World	Style of Assessment	Examined
		Candidates will study the following four themes. All questions are compulsory. Theme 1: Issues of Relationships Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the identified themes.	Exam (worth 50%)	May 2019
		Component 2: Study of Christianity	Style of Assessment	Examined
		Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity. This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focussing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the subject content.	Exam (worth 25%)	May 2019
		Component 3: Study of a World Faith – Islam		
	Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of one world faith. This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the subject content.	Exam (worth 25%)	May 2019	

NOTES

THE NOTTINGHAM EMMANUEL SCHOOL KS4 OPTIONS FORM 2017

Name:

Tutor Group:

Subjects being studied:

English Language and English Literature
Mathematics
Science
Physical Education
Religious Studies

Either: Geography History or Computer Science

(Please circle the one studied in year 9 and DO NOT put it as one of your preferences below)

Additional subjects to choose from:

Subject	Options in order of preference 1-4
Art and Design	
Business Studies	
Computer Science	
Construction	
Drama	
Food Technology	
French	
Geography	
History	
ICT	
Media Studies	
Music	
Music Technology	
Physical Education / Sport	
Product Design	
Spanish	
Textiles	
Triple Science (applications will be reviewed by science for suitability)	

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent Signature:

Date:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO YOUR TUTOR BY 24th March

