



Sale High School

**KS4 Curriculum  
Pathways Booklet  
January 2018**



**A Guide for  
Year 9 Students**

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- Music
- Physical Education

# Introduction

## **A Guide to the Pathways process for students, parents and carers.**

At Sale High school we see education as being about empowerment. Our curriculum is designed to help our students achieve their undoubted potential by achieving success in a wide range of high quality qualifications which will open up a whole world of possibilities for them.

Looking ahead to year 10 is very exciting because you are able to make choices to support you in the journey to your future learning and future career.

This school works closely with local FE colleges and sixth forms to make sure that the skills, knowledge and qualifications gained in the next stage of your education at SHS fully prepare you for the route you wish to take in the future.

We want to support you in this process as much as possible. The purpose of this booklet is to help you and your parents or carers understand the range of courses at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11).

In Years 10 and 11, you will study a combination of subjects. Some are compulsory but you also have some choice.

## **Students and Parents/Carers please note:**

1. Wherever possible we try to accommodate all students requests. However, due to restrictions in specialist teaching rooms and staffing, this is not always possible. Also, if the number of students opting for subject is not sufficient to make it viable we regret that it will not run.
2. When deciding upon appropriate courses, students will be guided to making the most suitable choice of courses for them by teachers who know them well.

# The KS4 Curriculum

We strive to offer you a wide variety of subjects to ensure that your interests and ambitions are met and to make sure that you leave the school having made the best progress possible.

However, as we are very aware that as students across the country are competing for places, we must ensure that you are equipped with the qualifications that are valued by colleges, universities, employers and the government. This is what has driven the design of our curriculum.

We are responding to several government initiatives which are designed to make sure that all young people study a good range of subjects and show that they can perform well in a number of different subject areas. The government want all students to demonstrate that they can perform well in a broad range of high-value, challenging subjects.

To ensure you are able to compete with students across the country you are required to leave school with at least **8 GCSEs** including:

- **English\*** (Language/Literature)
- **Maths\***
- **Science** (Combined or Triple)
- **RE**
- **At least two more GCSE's**

\*Students who do not achieve the required standard in English and Maths will **have** to study for and take these GCSE's again once they have left school

# Making the Right Choices

## The Core Curriculum

There are some subjects which are compulsory and some about which there is a greater degree of choice. The following subjects are compulsory and must be studied by all students:

English and English Literature  
Science  
Religion and Ethics

Physical Education (Non Exam)  
Maths  
PSHE and Citizenship (Non exam)

In addition to the core curriculum above students have the opportunity to choose a total of three further subjects.

## The Additional Core Subjects

Students must choose at least one (but up to three) of the subjects from the Additional Core Subject List:

- Computer Science
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Triple Science

## The Open Choice Subjects

Students then have the opportunity to choose up to two (the number depends on how many subjects they have chosen from the Additional Core Subject List) of subjects from the Open Choice Subject List:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Creative iMedia
- Drama
- Design and Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Health and Social Care
- Music
- Physical Education

## Top Tips:

- ✓ Read this booklet carefully and discuss the contents with your parents or carers.
- ✓ Ask for advice from your subject teachers and your form tutor.
- ✓ Ask for advice from Grainne McGuigan, our Careers Advisor.

## Ask yourself...

- ✓ What subjects do I like?
- ✓ What subjects am I good at?
- ✓ What subjects would suit my learning style?
- ✓ What do I want to do when I leave school?
- ✓ What qualifications might I need?
- ✓ Have I discussed my future plans with my parents?
- ✓ Have I found out about the courses I'm choosing?

# Desirable prior attainment/experience for GCSE course entry

Geography	Grade 4 in English and a good understanding of numeracy, interpreting data, graphs and maps
History	English grade 4 or better
Spanish	English grade 4 or better
Triple Science	Grade 4 or better in English and Maths
Computer Science	Grade 4 or better in Maths
Creative iMedia	At least a grade 3 in Design Technology/Computer Science and confident enough to learn new computer programs.
Art, Craft and Design	
Business Studies	
Design and Technology	
Drama	
Food Preparation and Nutrition	
Health and Social Care	
Music	Must have had a conversation with subject staff regarding practical ability
Physical Education	Grade 4 in Science. Playing sport at a club outside of school in (at the very least) one sport.

All GCSE exam papers assume that students have a **reading age of at least 12** or higher. If a student has a lower reading age they need to be proactive in addressing this by **regularly reading at home**.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What should you think about when making your choices?

We advise you to think of the following:

- Am I interested in the subject and will I enjoy it?
- Will the type of assessment suit me?
- Will I be able to succeed in it?
- Does it help me in my future choices?

It is very important that you are able to achieve in your chosen course. We want you to leave school as qualified as you can be, because this will give you greater choice and more opportunities not just at Key Stage 5 but in also in employment and for many years to come.

You must choose subjects you think you will enjoy. Too often students have chosen a subject for the wrong reasons and they end up struggling through to the end without really enjoying the course. We have a wide range of courses on offer and would hope that all students will be able to find something you will enjoy.

Next, consider the assessment requirements of your choices – are you better at class and coursework or examinations? Which suit your strengths?

We will try to help you make the best choices for your future and it is important to listen carefully to that advice.

## 2. What should you NOT think about?

Please do NOT choose courses just because your friends are choosing them. These choices must be based on what is best for you.

Don't be easily swayed by what former students have done – courses and teachers change very quickly!

Do not think that choosing a course means that you have to follow that pathway to employment. A qualification in Creative Media does not mean that you have to follow a career in Media. A good grade in any of qualifications that we offer says that you have worked well in school and at home, shown skill and judgement and that you are capable of organising your work to meet deadlines to reach a certain standard.

# Frequently Asked Questions

You should not think about gender stereotypes in certain subjects or career paths. For example, in the past some people have been more likely to direct boys towards Engineering. This can lead to boys pursuing a career that is not right for them and girls feeling discouraged from following a career that they would enjoy.

Of course, if you have a particular career in mind then choosing a connected course will help.

You also don't really have to choose courses that complement each other, or seem to go together well. Some people may think that Media goes well with Art – which they may well do, but it isn't necessarily a reason for taking them.

### **3. Should I choose the EBacc subjects?**

The Ebacc is held up by the government as a quality standard. Some top universities and top employers may prefer students who have studied this combination of qualifications as they are seen as a strong combination of challenging academic subjects. If you would enjoy studying this combination of subjects and if they represent a good opportunity for you to secure good grades then you should consider the EBacc combination of subjects.

### **4. What happens when there are small numbers choosing a subject?**

Mr Reeve and Miss O'Grady will consider the implications of very small classes for the school. Too many small classes are not viable in terms of resources or available rooms. If we decide not to run a course, then we will aim to offer your next available preference. You will be given plenty of time to think about this and talk to your parents/carers and subject teachers.

### **5. What happens when too many choose a subject?**

This rarely happens, but if it does then we will consult closely with subject leaders to ensure that the right decisions are made. Prior attainment, effort and behaviour in the subject concerned will be considered and you will be involved in discussions about next available preferences.

The two Planning Sheets at the end of this booklet are for you to complete as part of the process of selecting your subjects. The formal Pathways form will be distributed separately. You must select one subject from the 'Additional Core' list and then three further subjects.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 6. Can I choose Triple Science?

All students will study Science over the next two years and this will result in an award of at least 2 GCSEs. However, some students may wish to study each of the three separate sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics - in greater depth and sit a GCSE in each, resulting in the award of 3 GCSEs. If you do this it will take up one of your options.

If you are interested in taking the Separate Sciences then you must think very carefully.

If you have a love of Science, a good track record of success in assessments and a possible wish to study Science at college then it may well be a good choice for you. Entry to this course is limited and you will be asked to discuss your choice with the Science Department, whose job it is to make sure that you have made an appropriate choice. Priority will be given to students whose prior attainment indicates that this is the most suitable choice for them. Students will need to be working to at least a grade 4 in both English and maths in order to access the Triple Science course.

# Greater Manchester's Top Ten Employment Sectors

1. Financial and Professional services (21%)
  2. Health (14%)
  3. Retail (10%)
  4. Education (9%)
5. Manufacturing, Technology, Engineering and Science (8%)
  6. Hospitality and Tourism (7%)
  7. Transport (5%)
  8. Construction (5%)
  9. Public Administration (5%)
  10. Creative/New Media (2%)