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### Gold Standard Core Curriculum (Factsheets)

- |    |      |  |
|----|------|--|
| 9  | GCSE | English                                  |
| 10 | GCSE | Mathematics                              |
| 11 | GCSE | Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) |
| 12 | GCSE | Religious Education (Year 9 & Year 10)   |

### Non-Gold Standard Core Curriculum (Factsheets)

- |    |                    |   |
|----|--------------------|---|
| 13 | PSHCEE             | Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship &<br>Enterprise Education |
| 14 | Physical Education |   |

### Gold Standard English Baccalaureate Option Choices (Factsheets)

- |    |      |                  |
|----|------|------------------|
| 15 | GCSE | Computer Science |
| 16 | GCSE | French           |
| 17 | GCSE | Geography        |
| 18 | GCSE | History          |



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### Gold Standard High Value Option Choices (Factsheets)

19	BTEC	Engineering
20	BTEC	Sport
21	WJEC Pathways	Constructing the Built Environment
22	CiDA	Digital Applications
23	GCSE	Art
24	GCSE	Business Studies
25	GCSE	Drama
26	GCSE	Electronic Products
27	Tech Award	Food & Catering
28	Tech Award	Health & Social Care
29	GCSE	Music
30	GCSE	Photography
31	Tech Award	Materials Technology
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## KS4 Options 2017 - 2019

### Introduction

At the start of Year 10 (2017), you will begin to study a variety of different courses (BTECs, WJEC Pathways, CiDA and GCSEs), finishing at the end of Year 11 (2019). Until now you had to study the same subjects every year.

*"Next year will be very different".*

You will continue with some Gold Standard core subjects and some non-Gold Standard core subjects, drop others and perhaps start totally new subjects. Your choices will be very important, but you will need to talk with your parents, teachers and careers advisors to reach the best possible choices.

*"The world today is changing all the time".*

Traditional jobs and professions have to adapt to new technologies and skills, while brand new industries are created in the 'blink of an eye'. Employment prospects are always changing, leading to a daunting but exciting period in life. It is important to be sufficiently flexible to learn new skills and re-train when necessary throughout your working life.

*"For you, these choices are a milestone..."*

They represent your **first real** choice over your future, both in education and beyond. These choices will affect you as a person, so a good balance of subjects which will 'open doors for you' in the future is vital. Of course it is nice to be good at the subjects you have chosen, picking subjects that will open up opportunities, that you enjoy and that will be useful to you in the future is equally important.

*"Very few Year 9 pupils know what career they want to enter".*

*"The most important thing for you is to get a broad and well-balanced education".*

**You should** choose subjects...

...you will **NEED** for future studies or careers...

..you are good at

...you like.

**You should not** choose subjects because...

..your friend is doing it (you may be in different groups)...

...you like the teacher (they may not be teaching you next year).

To help you make your choices, each subject has written a brief factsheet of the course you will study. The compulsory Gold Standard core subjects and non-Gold Standard core subjects have also been described, as this may help you to choose your optional subjects. Detailed on the following two pages is an explanation of current educational developments which will impact on your choices and the qualifications on offer.



## **Educational Developments**

### **Gold Standard**

The Snaith School has always valued the importance of and striven to deliver a balanced education. The successful progression of our pupils to Post-16 study, university or other employment and training confirms that this is highly regarded beyond The Snaith School. The Government's White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' (2010) aimed to ensure that British schools have '*[a] curriculum and qualifications which allows us to learn from and outpace, the world's best*' and added further weight to this viewpoint.

In order to achieve the governments' aim, the Department for Education has, over the past few years, embarked upon a period of consultation and reform of GCSE qualifications. The aim of this reform has been to strengthen and broaden qualifications in order to ensure that our education system meets the needs of pupils in an ever growing 'world market'. The key strand of this reform has been the change to the Gold Standard required of our pupils. This Gold Standard is the measure which Post-16 education providers and many training providers and employers use to allow access to courses and employment. Up until July 2015 pupils were required to achieve 5 A\*-C GCSE or equivalent grades including English and mathematics, in order to achieve the Gold Standard. The Department for Education reformed this requirement, with effect from July 2016, to require pupils to achieve at least 8 GCSEs divided into groups as detailed below:

- GCSE English and mathematics
- 3 GCSE English Baccalaureate qualifications
- 3 GCSE or equivalent High Value qualifications

As a result of this reform pupils who have and will embark upon their GCSE and equivalent qualifications from September 2014, your son / daughter included, will be required to meet the reformed Gold Standard requirements. In response to this reform your son / daughter will be required to choose subjects which fit into these Gold Standard groups. Your son / daughter will be in one of the first groups of pupils to work towards achieving this new Gold Standard and we believe that following this route will provide them with the best possible opportunity to show case their ability and open the doors to a successful and opportunity filled future.

### **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)**

As part of the reforms outlined above, the Department for Education additionally introduced a suite of qualifications referred to as the 'English Baccalaureate' (EBacc). This is not a new qualification, but a measure which is used to indicate whether pupils have achieved good passes at GCSE in; English, Mathematics, Science (x 2 GCSE qualifications), a Humanities subject (Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language. The introduction of the EBacc has already proven to be popular with both Post-16 (Further and Higher) education providers and employers as a suite of qualifications which in many cases, in addition to the Gold Standard qualification, are used to provide access to courses, employment and training.

In light of the current growing strength of the EBacc as a recognised suite of qualifications which could impact upon your son / daughter as they progress from full



time education or training (see RPA below) to higher education or into employment, The Snaith School is promoting the EBacc as a 'future proofed' suite of qualifications.

Whilst a number of secondary schools have required their pupils to follow the EBacc suite, the Governing Body of The Snaith School have decided to maintain our existing, and highly successful 'open' options process which allows and enables our pupils to choose a suite of qualifications which best suit their interests and needs. As a result our options process provides all pupils with the ability to follow the EBacc suite, should they wish to do so.

## **Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

The Government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training. As a result your son / daughter will be required to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday.

RPA means that your son / daughter will be required to choose one of the following options once they complete their time at The Snaith School:

- full-time education, such as a school, college or home education
- an apprenticeship
- part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week).

Clearly the impact of the Gold Standard, the English Baccalaureate and the raising of the participation age will affect the option choices your son / daughter makes. If you would like any further information about the Gold Standard, EBacc or RPA please do not hesitate to contact Mr Issatt at The Snaith School.

## **Reformed GCSEs**

From first teaching in Sep 2015 (Examination in Summer 2017) reformed GCSEs are being introduced over three years. Reformed GCSEs will be more demanding than those currently available, are linear, with your son / daughter taking all of their subject qualification examinations at the end of the course, and either have a reduced non-examination assessment or no non-examination assessment at all (100% examination). In order to allow and enable Post-16 and training providers and employers to identify these reformed GCSEs, they will be graded 9 - 1, instead of A\* - G. As a result your son / daughter will receive 9 - 1 grades instead.

This 9 - 1 assessment scale replaces the current A\* - G scale and it is currently believed that broadly the same proportion of students who achieve a grade C or above will achieve a grade 4 or above. However, it is being stressed by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations regulation (Ofqual) that thinking of a grade 4 as the new grade C is 'too simplistic' and the Department for Education has defined a 'good pass' as a grade 5.

As a result of this change to the assessment scale your son / daughter will be set target grades and provided with current attainment and projected grade data in line with the 9 - 1 scale in their reformed GCSE subjects.



## **Gold Standard Core Curriculum**

All pupils follow a Gold Standard core curriculum during Years 10 and 11 alongside their Gold Standard English Baccalaureate and Gold Standard High Value option choices and their non-Gold Standard Core Curriculum. The following subjects are compulsory:

- ✓ English      GCSE English (English Language and English Literature)
- ✓ Maths        GCSE Mathematics
- ✓ Science      GCSE Science (Combined Biology, Chemistry and Physics worth 2GCSEs) (Triple Science is an option choice)
- ✓ RE            GCSE Religious Education (Years 9 and 10)

## **Non-Gold Standard Core Curriculum**

All pupils follow a non-Gold Standard core curriculum during Years 10 and 11 alongside their Gold Standard core curriculum, Gold Standard English Baccalaureate and Gold Standard High Value option choices. The following subjects are compulsory:

- ✓ PSHCEE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Enterprise Education)
- ✓ Physical Education

## **Gold Standard English Baccalaureate Option Choices**

### **GCSEs**

GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education) are currently the foundation of the KS4 examination system. They occupy one timetable block, normally 5 hours over 2 weeks. To allow and enable pupils to achieve the Gold Standard pupils must choose at least one subject from Computer Science, French, Geography or History. Pupils can additionally choose up to two further Gold Standard English Baccalaureate option choices. Should they wish to work towards achieving the English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications in addition to the Gold Standard, they must choose French in addition to either Geography or History.



## **Gold Standard High Value Option Choices**

### **BTECs**

BTECs (Business and Technology Education Council) are vocational qualifications. They occupy one timetable block, normally 5 hours over 2 weeks, and provide pupils with 1 GCSE equivalent qualification (grades 9 - 1) from the Gold Standard High Value qualifications.

### **WJEC Pathways**

WJEC Pathways are vocational qualifications. They occupy one timetable block, normally 5 hours over 2 weeks, and provide pupils with 1 GCSE equivalent qualification (grades 9 - 1) from the Gold Standard High Value qualifications.

### **CiDA**

CiDA (Certificate in Digital Applications) is an Information Technology qualification. It occupies one timetable block, normally 5 hours over 2 weeks, and provides pupils with 1 GCSE equivalent qualification (grades 9 - 1) from the Gold Standard High Value qualifications.

### **GCSEs**

GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education) are currently the foundation of the KS4 examination system. They occupy one timetable block, normally 5 hours over 2 weeks and pupils can choose up to 3 GCSEs from the Gold Standard High Value option choices.

### **Technical Awards**

Technical awards are broad, high quality level 1 and level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. They occupy one timetable block, normally 5 hours over 2 weeks, and provide pupils with 1 GCSE equivalent qualification (grades 9 - 1) from the Gold Standard High Value qualifications.



## Timetable of Events

Year 9 OPTIONS ASSEMBLY (KS4 Options Booklets Distributed)	Wednesday 11th January 2017
Year 9 OPTIONS FAIR & CAREERS CONVENTION	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
OPTION CHOICE SHEET DISTRIBUTED	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Year 9 PARENTS EVENING	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
OPTION CHOICE SHEET RETURNED	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
INDIVIDUAL PUPIL MEETING (as required) <i>(This will be with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or other key staff)</i>	February 2017
CONFIRMATION OF OPTION CHOICES	July 2017

## How to make your decision

This booklet is designed to help you with your option choices. The options you choose in for Years 10 and 11 will affect how you spend your time at school for the next two years. The choices you make may influence what course or job you decide to do after Year 11.

## How to choose an option

- ✓ **Do** Look at the advice provided from The Snaith School.
- ✓ **Do** Look at all your options before you make a decision.
- ✓ **Do** Find out essential facts by asking the Subject Teachers, Subject Leaders and your Form Tutor.
- ✓ **Do** Choose subjects that will provide you with the greatest opportunities in a changing educational landscape.
- ✓ **Do** Choose subjects that you will need for the next stage of your career journey (*the ones you need to go into further or higher education or into an Apprenticeship or job with training*), if you already have a firm career idea.
- ✓ **Do** Choose subjects that will allow you to keep your options open, if you don't have a firm career idea.
- × **Don't** Fall into the trap of thinking that some subjects are only for boys and some only for girls, this simply isn't true.
- × **Don't** Worry about the potential additional cost of some subjects. The Snaith School will do all it can to support its students should this be a concern.
- × **Don't** Be afraid to ask for help and advice from your Subject Teachers, Form Tutor, Subject Leaders, Head of Year, Careers Co-ordinator or members of the Senior Leadership Team.

*We will do everything we can to give everyone their top choices.*