

Year 8 – The road ahead



- Outline briefly the emerging Key Stage 4 offer
- Outline the process to help Year 8 students make their option choices



THE CORE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

**All students study a core of
GCSE courses:**

- **English**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Sciences (double or triple)**
- **Religious Studies**
- **Either Geography or History**

In addition all students will follow non-examined courses in:

- **Physical Education**
- **Personal, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (*including preparation for working life*)**



GCSE grades at 4 or above in five disciplines:

- ***English***
- ***Mathematics***
- ***Sciences***
- ***History or Geography (can opt for both)***
- ***a Language (may opt for more than one language)***

The majority of students in the school will achieve the English Baccalaureate – giving a broad range of academic qualifications.

All students will take at least 8 GCSEs. Some will take 11 GCSEs



The remainder of the courses studied are chosen by the students.

These need to be chosen with care so that:

- **They reflect the aptitudes & interests of the student**
- **They support the career aspirations of the student**
- **They match the student's ability and therefore offer a high chance of success**



CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

To assist students and families when making options choices, students will be directed towards one of three curriculum pathways. Each of these pathways offers a different mix of courses.

There are three pathways: **green**, blue & **yellow**.

Within the yellow pathway students focus on achieving technical and vocational courses along with a range of academic subjects.

Within the green pathway all students will be expected to take English Baccalaureate subjects with additional option choices.

Within the blue pathway all students are recommended to take English Baccalaureate subjects with additional academic and vocational option choices.

THE PATHWAYS ARE NOT STREAMS – CLASSES WILL CONTAIN A MIX OF STUDENTS ON DIFFERENT PATHWAYS THROUGH KEY STAGE 4



Guidance re- pathways will be based upon:

- **Students current attainment in different subjects**
- **Prior attainment (in Key stage 2)**
- **Specific skills (e.g. in languages)**
- **Interests and ambitions of the child**
- **Literacy and Numeracy levels**
- **Staff professional knowledge and understanding**



Maiden Erleigh
School in Reading

GCSE offer (provisional)

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

French

Spanish

Science (triple or double
award)

Computer Science

Music

Geography

History

Religious Studies

Art

Theatre Studies/Drama

Physical Education

Art and Design

Business Studies



VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COURSES (provisional)

- ICT (award to be confirmed)
- Visual communication (technology)
- Health & Social Care
- GCSE Photography
- Certificate of personal effectiveness

Vocational and technical courses:

- **Meet the needs, learning styles and aspirations of students who opt for them**
- **Are predominantly coursework based (but all now have exam at the end.)**

January 2017:

- Curriculum finalised and the curriculum prospectus published.
- Students identified for Blue, Green, Yellow pathways. Further guidance on the options process will be issued

7th February – Maiden Erlegh Trust careers fair (at Maiden Erlegh School, Earley)

½ Term - Report

1st March - Options evening

7th & 9th March – Yr8 Parent progress meetings

13th + 14th March – Options ‘clinics’

17th March – **OPTIONS DEADLINE**