YOUR OPTIONS
YOUR CHOICE

The Curriculum for Students and Parents
Choosing your options is the first step to your future and as such is a very exciting time. You get to shape your learning for the next three years, but also start to shape your career – these subjects will determine what you do in Post 16, maybe what you do at university, and what job you will go into. That makes this very exciting but also very important.

You will be asked to think very carefully about the choices that you make and this booklet and the information from tasters and other students will also help. You can also ask teachers any questions that you think you need to make the right choices.

We will support you every step of the way to make the best choices for you, and help you as your school career develops to get you to where you want to be.
Dear Parents/Guardians

As your child comes to the end of their two-year Key Stage 3 programme, they move onto a 13-19 curriculum, which will see them through to the end of their school career and into the next stage of education and life. During these years, learners will access courses at a variety of levels that maximise and often exceed individual potential.

At Moseley Park, all learners follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, and Sport. This gives all learners a broad base of studies on which to build their personal curriculum. In addition to the core curriculum, learners will be guided through a wide range of qualifications in a wealth of subjects. Students are entered for examinations, and progress to the next level, at the point that is right for them.

We are committed to providing appropriate and relevant courses for all learners which build on individual interests, abilities, and aptitudes.

To these ends, learners will be counselled on the choices they wish to make, with a clear view of where this will take them in the future.

Enclosed is the information on the courses on offer and the Curriculum Guidance Form. After reviewing the information, please complete the form and return to your child's form tutor. Following receipt of this form, individual curriculum offers will be put together based on preferences and recommendations from subject areas. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Bhakta.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Holloway, Executive Headteacher

Making the Right Choice

Advice to help you with your decision

Before you even start thinking about filling in the form, you should have done a number of things:

- Reflected on the taster sessions you have had in new subjects
- Talked to older learners who have studied the courses
- Talked to subject teachers
- Talked to your form tutors
- Discussed everything with your parents or guardians.

There are also a number of questions you should ask yourself:

- Why am I choosing the subject? If it’s to be with friends or because you might get a certain teacher then that’s the wrong reason - you may be split from friends and teachers might change.
- What are my strongest subjects? These might give you an idea of the career that you might be heading for.
- What will I enjoy studying? Three years is a long time and you need to stay committed and motivated.
- What do I want to do after I finish school? This may determine the subjects you need to take.

Students are offered two kinds of qualifications at Level 2, both of which are of the same value as qualifications, and viewed the same by further education and employers:

- GCSE - GCSEs are graded 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. They are academic qualifications assessed almost exclusively through examinations at the end of the course. A good pass at GCSE is regarded as a grade from a 9 to a 5.
- Vocational - These are grades from a Distinction* to a Pass. They are vocational qualifications which focus on the skills in particular employment areas such as the food industry or in business. They are assessed through a mix of examinations at set points in the course and units completed in school.
The Core Curriculum

All learners follow a core curriculum of:

**English**
All students will study GCSE English Language and English Literature over the three years of Key Stage 4. GCSE English Language will result in two external exams at the end of the linear course. It will include the study of Reading and Creative Prose Writing and 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction. In addition there will be a Spoken Language assessment.

Across the two GCSE English Literature Components, students will study:
- A Shakespeare play
- Poetry Anthology
- Post 1914 prose or drama
- A 19th century novel and Unseen Poetry.

**Maths**
All students will study GCSE Maths in Key Stage 4, building on their knowledge from Key Stage 3. The GCSE focuses on the development of mathematical knowledge, skills and methods to allow students to:
- Solve problems
- Use reasoning to draw conclusions
- Interpret information in a range of forms.

Assessment is through examinations at the end of the course and there are two tiers of entry depending on a student’s abilities.

**Science**
Students will work towards either Combined Science over the three years, or may opt to take the three single Science subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The choice of Science course will determine the pathways in the optional subjects.

Both course options provide students with a wide range of subject content covering fundamental Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The separate science option stretches students’ learning further to allow for a smooth transition into A Levels.

Neither courses have a controlled assessment element, this allows for richer practical experiences within the classroom and students will be assessed on their knowledge of experiments within the exams.

The exams in both courses include a range of question types, including: multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

**Sport Studies**
Across the three years of Key Stage 4, students will develop a range of theoretical and practical skills. The course covers a range of units including sport leadership, sport science and sport psychology.
"Pupils relish the opportunities they are given to explore and explain their thinking. As a result, they make exceptionally strong progress across the curriculum." Ofsted

You may have heard mention of ‘Facilitating Subjects’. These are subjects at A Level identified by the Russell Group universities (the leading group of universities in Britain) which they believe will allow learners to access the widest range of university courses. These subjects are:

- Maths
- English Literature
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geography
- History
- Languages

Options choices now will affect what can be chosen at A Level.
SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Carefully read the subject information, it will give you a better understanding of the subject and what career path it could lead to.

Details of the content of the courses can be found on school's website - www.moseleypark.org

Art and Design

What subjects will we cover? This GCSE enables students to develop and produce personal responses that reflect a broad exploration of art, craft and design.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Students will be asked to engage in the creative process and take risks with their work, learning from mistakes to make improvements. Students should show an understanding of working practices and techniques and develop cultural knowledge and an understanding of the role of Art and Design in society. Students will be expected to learn to draw from direct observation and also research a range of artists/designers techniques, experimenting with a range of materials.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Students who are awarded grades 9 to 5, would be well prepared for study at A Level or BTEC Level 3 qualification.

What careers will this help me with? Advertiser, Animator, Art Critic, Art Director, Art Gallery Curator, Courtroom Artist, Graphic Designer, Architectural Designer, Art Therapist, Artists' Agent, Commercial Artist, Costume Designer, Crafts person, Interior Designer and Jewellery Designer.

Business

What subjects will we cover? Within the course we cover all aspects of business including finance, self employment, starting a business and people in business.

What skills will I develop in this subject? The course is designed to encourage students to consider the practical application of business concepts. Courses are set out to encourage candidates to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Learners use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between fact and opinion, build arguments and make informed judgements.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Learners may go onto study A Level Business, BTEC National or a range of NVQs including Business Admin.

What careers will this help me with? Retail Management, Administrator, Sales, Marketing and Banking.

Dance

What subjects do we cover? The course covers many aspects of dance appreciation, choreography and performance.

What skills will I develop in this subject? The course encourages learners to understand and appreciate the art and purpose of dance and movement, as well as develop kinesthetic skills useful in all sports and practical activities.

What would my next steps be in this subject? After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto an A Level or BTEC National Dance course.

What careers will this help me with? Dance Teacher, Gym Class Instructor, Dancer, Actor and Choreographer.
**Food Preparation and Nutrition**

*What subjects will we cover?* The course focuses on food preparation and the different nutrients involved in a variety of foods.

*What skills will I develop in this subject?* Studying this subject allows students to develop their knowledge and skills of different foods. The course provides opportunities to develop interdisciplinary skills such as communication and teamwork, a range of key skills and students’ capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

*What would my next steps be in this subject?* After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto a wide range of Level 3 vocational courses such as an NVQ in Food Production.

*What careers will this help me with?* Chef, Catering Assistant, Waiting Staff, Bar Staff, Pub/Bar Manager, Hotel/Restaurant Manager, Food Industry Technician, Receptionist and Food Safety Inspector.

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**Drama**

*What subjects will we cover?* Through the course, learners explore how a published text is brought to life for an audience. They will explore the key principles and concepts of devising a piece of drama from stimulus material and explore the roles of deviser, designer, director and performer.

*What skills will I develop in this subject?* Learners work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas. They reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others. They also consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

*What would my next steps be in this subject?* After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto an A Level Drama course or a Level 3 course in Drama/Performing Arts.

*What careers will this help me with?* Actor, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, Drama Therapist, Production Assistant and Radio Presenter.
Geography

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers many topics both physical, such as volcanoes and earthquakes, and human, such as settlement. There is also a fieldwork element.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Learning a language will help you with your listening, speaking, reading and communication skills, as well as developing an awareness of other cultures. It has also shown to increase memory and brain capacity.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the GCSE, learners can study A Level French, take language units within other vocational courses like Business or take a Business Language course.

**What careers will this help me with?** Disaster Management, Journalist, Flood Prevention Officer, Risk Assessor, Location Analyst, Regional Developer, Transport Manager, Tour Guide and Media Researcher.

French

**What subjects will we cover?** We will cover a range of subjects from identity and culture to local, national, international and global areas of interest. We will look at being out and about, customer service, education, work and food and drink.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Learning a language will help you with your listening, speaking, reading and communication skills, as well as developing an awareness of other cultures. It has also shown to increase memory and brain capacity.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the GCSE, learners can study A Level French, take language units within other vocational courses like Business or take a Business Language course.

**What careers will this help me with?** Translator, Teacher, work within the tourism industry, Journalist, Pilot, Customs and Excise, Diplomatic Service and International Business. As global business grows, languages become more and more vital.

Health and Social Care

**What subjects will we cover?** We will look at Health and Social Care in a work context, both for personal development and the early-years sector. We will also examine issues that affect human life, diversity and culture.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** The course enables students to develop transferrable skills that encourage flexible thinking as well as tackle important events that are moulding the world that you are growing up in. Geographical investigations develop enquiry, evaluative and analytical skills.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Learners may choose to study Health and Social Care at Level 3 or move onto courses in Child Care.

**What careers will this help me with?** Nursing, Care in the Community, Care in Residential Homes, Hospital Worker, Nursery Nurse, Teaching and any Health and Social Care related jobs for example, Receptionist in health organisations and Social Services.

History

**What subjects will we cover?** We will study medicine from Romans to modern time, Elizabethan England and the American West.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Through the study of History you will develop an understanding of the world around you and its rich past. This will allow you to contextualise all the things which take place today and understand why they happen. History is about analysis and interpretation - understanding what something is saying and why it is said like this. It teaches us to be critical in our thinking and make sound judgements based on evidence.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After a successful Level 2 course, learners would go onto A Level History.

**What careers will this help me with?** Lawyer, Journalist, Researcher, Archaeologist, Police Officer, Manager, Civil Servant, Diplomat, Politician, Writer, Librarian, Social Worker.
**ICT**

**What subjects will we cover?** This course is suitable for pupils who have an interest in the artistic and creative side of ICT. It is a good option for pupils who wish to continue to develop their general ICT skills in Key Stage 4.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will gain skills in developing web products and creative media. They will investigate aspects of successful design, look at navigation structures and interactivity across a number of software applications. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about graphics image manipulation.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students will be well prepared for study at A Level or the Cambridge Technical IT Level 3.

**What careers will this help me with?** Data Analyst, Graphic Designer, Web Designer, IT Technician.

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**Resistant Materials**

**What subjects will we cover?** Resistant Materials is essentially a three-dimensional design course that aims to develop your design capability and making skills. You will apply your knowledge and skills to develop and manufacture high quality products in wood, metal and plastics in response to a design brief.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** The course is based around ‘design and make’ projects that teach students about woodworking, CAD/CAM and engineering. You will learn about how products are made in industry, the properties of materials, the effects on the environment and health and safety.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** This course is excellent preparation for students hoping to work in design. The course allows students to progress either directly to an apprenticeship or to study an Advanced Level qualification in Design and Technology.


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**Music**

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers a full range of skills including performing and composing.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Throughout the course, learners will develop a range of performance and presentation skills both as a soloist and in ensemble, promoting independence and the ability to work as a group. There is also a strong element of evaluation both of your own and other people’s material.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto A Level Music and BTEC Level 3 Music.

**What careers will this help me with?** Instrumental Teaching, Professional Entertainer, Music Therapy and Sound Recording.

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**Travel and Tourism**

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers all aspects of the travel and tourism industry, including learning about the different organisations that make up the travel and tourism industry, why the industry is so important to the UK economy, sustainable tourism, UK and international destinations, as well as the different factors that influence the travel and tourism industry.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Throughout the course, a full range of learning skills including independence and research are developed. Topics are placed within a real world setting which allows students to contextualise the learning and apply it to their own lives.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students often choose to go onto a Level 3 Travel course, or use it within A Level Business or Geography, then to move onto study at university. Some students move directly into training in the travel and tourism industry.

**What careers will this help me with?** Travel Agent, Transport Manager, Cabin Crew, Holiday Brochure Designer, Holiday Representative, working on a cruise ship and Events Management.
We hope you found this booklet useful, if you need more help or information please speak to one of your subject teachers.

“Pupils are immensely proud of their work and talk with genuine passion about their learning.” Ofsted
USEFUL INFO

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