
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.

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MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

Dear Parents / Carers

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 individual potential.

At Moseley Park all learners follow a core curriculum of English, Maths and Science. 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.

A curriculum guidance form will be emailed to students on Friday 10th March. The online form closes Thursday 16th March. Following receipt of this form, individual curriculum offers will be created based on preferences and recommendations from subject areas. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Morgan.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Holloway, Executive Headteacher

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.

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 carers.

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.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

All learners follow a core curriculum of:

English

All students study GCSE English Language and English Literature across Key Stage 4.

English Language

The aim of the Language qualification is to allow students to:

- Read fluently from a range of texts and summarise, evaluate and compare these texts
- Write effectively using Standard English, use spelling, punctuation and grammar correctly and accurately, and develop and apply a wide vocabulary.

Assessment is through two examinations which include both reading and writing tasks. One is looking at creativity and the other at viewpoints and perspectives. There is also a separate Spoken Language mark awarded which is given from work across the course, but this does not contribute to the GCSE English Language overall grade.

English Literature

The English Literature qualification complements the Language qualification and builds on both the reading and writing skills. Students will study:

- A Shakespeare play such as Romeo and Juliet
- A 19th century novel such as a Christmas Carol
- Modern prose such as an Inspector Calls
- A range of poetry dealing with the themes of power and conflict.

Assessment is through two written examinations at the end of the course. The exams will be based on the texts studied in lessons but also contain an unseen element to test the skills developed across the course.



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

All students will study GCSE Science over the three years of Key Stage 4 as either:

- Combined Science (Trilogy) - the three subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are combined within the qualifications which lead to two Science GCSEs
- Triple Science - the students study the three separate subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics which result in three separate GCSE qualifications. If students choose this route, this will form both their core Science provision and some optional subject time within the curriculum.

Assessment in all Science qualifications is through examinations at the end of the course. Students will complete practical work in Science and their skills at this will be tested in the examinations. If a child wishes to progress to study one of the separate sciences at A Level, it is recommended that they study Triple Science at GCSE. However, this is not a prerequisite of progressing to A Level.



"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

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- Art and Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Food and Cookery
- French
- Geography
- Graphic Communication
- History
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Music
- Sports Studies
- Travel and Tourism

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, Craftsperson, Interior Designer, Jewellery Designer and many more.



Business

What subjects will we cover? Within the course we cover all aspects of business including finance, self employment, starting a business, developing a promotional campaign, 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? Accountant, Marketing Manager, Human Resources Manager, Economist, Project Manager, Director of Operations, Retail Management.



Computer Science

What subjects do we cover? The course is divided into 3 sections, the first of which focuses on the individual components of a computer system and how they function. The second section focuses on Algorithms, Computational Thinking and Programming. The third is a programming project where students will learn to program a solution to a problem as well as how to plan and document this.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Through the study of Computer Science you will learn how the machines around us function and how they have become to be so important in nearly every aspect of modern life. You will learn the fundamentals of robotics, programming and networking, alongside how computers are built and how we go from simple electronics to complex devices.

What would my next steps be in this subject? After successfully completing the course, learners may choose to study A Level Computer Science or any other ICT based qualifications at Level 3.

What careers will this help me with? Computer Programmer, Project Leader, Games Developer, Systems Administrator, Network Engineer, Hardware Architect, Systems Architect.



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.



Design and Technology

What subjects will we cover? Design and Technology 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 the wider influences in Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making products.

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.

What careers will this help me with? Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing, Product Design, Industrial Design, Architecture, Construction and Motor Vehicle Industry.



Food and Cookery

What subjects will we cover? The course focuses on Nutrition and Cookery. The content of the course is divided into seven key areas: Health and Safety, Legislation, Nutrition, Food Choices, Food Preparation and Skills, Recipe Development and Menu Planning.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Studying this subject allows students to develop their knowledge of food nutrition, food science, cookery skills and safety. The course provides opportunities to develop interdisciplinary skills such as communication and team work, 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 NVQ Diploma in Professional Cookery (Preparation and Cookery).

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



French

What subjects will we cover? We will study a range of topics under the following themes - Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest and Current and Future Study or Employment.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Learning a language will help you with your listening, speaking, reading, writing 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 are becoming more vital.



Geography

What subjects will we cover? In geography we study both physical and human topics. The physical topics include earthquakes, tropical storms, climate change, tropical rainforests, deserts, rivers and coasts. We complete a piece of fieldwork at Carding Mill Valley when we look at rivers. The human topics include urban life in Birmingham, Lagos, Nigeria, employment in the UK, and the management of important resources such as food and water.

What skills will I develop in this subject? We develop a wide range of skills important for the exam, but also for life and employment outside of the classroom. We focus upon decision making skills to allow our students to problem solve and make important management decisions. We also develop numeracy, literacy and ICT skills along with traditional map reading and fieldwork skills.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Our students go on to study A Level Geography and popular for students going onto study A Level Sciences.

What careers will this help me with? Disaster Management, Journalist, Flood Prevention Officer, Risk Assessor, Tour Guide, Town Planner, Teacher, Law, Police Officer, Social Worker.



"The bespoke curriculum is carefully designed so that pupils develop a deep knowledge and understanding of the subjects they study."
Ofsted



Graphic Communications

What subjects will we cover? Areas covered include: Illustration, Advertising, Packaging, Typography, Calligraphy, Computer-generated Typefaces, Printing, Painting and Drawing Applications.

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.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Students would be well prepared for study at A Level.

What careers will this help me with? Advertiser, Book Designer, Brand Identity Designer, Museum Archivist, Photojournalist, Videographer, Web Designer and many more.



History

What subjects will we cover? We will study medicine from the ancient world to modern time, Elizabethan England and Modern history, looking at the rise of the Nazi party and the Cold War.

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.



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? Through the course, learners will develop an analytical approach to the issues and problems they encounter and seek solutions for all involved. They will be challenged to use and enhance all the skills needed in the wider world of work in a real world context.

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.



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 BTEC National Level 3.

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



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.



Sports Studies

What subjects will we cover? Students will cover a wide range of sports related topics including, coaching, leadership and the key components of sporting performance, contemporary issues, such as technology, drug use, major sporting events and National Governing Bodies (NGB's) and outdoor adventure activities.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Students completing this course will develop skills to enable them to demonstrate and evaluate personal and peer performance, use technical terminology correctly, plan and deliver a range of activities, select and apply knowledge to sporting scenarios and understand the physical and psychological factors that effect performance.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Sports Studies provides pathways into A Level PE, Level 3 Vocational courses such as Cambridge Technical and BTEC Sport and apprenticeships in exercise, physical activity and the sports and health sector.

What careers will this help me with? Sports Coaching, Sports Development Officer, PE Teacher, Sports Therapy, Analyst, Journalism, Officiating, Sports Marketing and many more.



Travel and Tourism

What subjects will we cover? This course offers an introduction to the world of Travel and Tourism. You will develop knowledge and understanding along with technical and practical skills. We will explore key areas of the sector, including UK and international destinations, sustainability and, the impacts upon the economy.

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 on to study at university. There is also the possibility for students to move directly into paid and unpaid apprenticeships within the Travel and Tourism or Hospitality sectors.

What careers will this help me with? Transport Manager, Travel Agent, Event Co-ordinator, International Logistics Manager, Cabin Crew, Holiday Representative, Destination Brochure Designer, Location Scout and many more.



"Pupils are immensely proud of their work and talk with genuine passion about their learning." Ofsted

We hope you found this booklet useful, if you need more help or information please speak to one of your subject teachers.

USEFUL INFO



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