



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening



**There are 2 main aspects to the evening: -**

- **Presentation (30 minutes max)**
- **visiting subject areas you're considering taking (until 7pm)**

Parents/Students in **Crescent & Holburne** are asked to attend the presentation first (**from 5:30 -6pm**) & then visit departments of interest.

Parents/Students in **Milsom & Pulteney** are asked to visit departments of interest first (**from 5:30 – 6:30**) & then come to the presentation (**6:30 – 7pm**)

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Welcome to...  
Key Stage 4  
Curriculum Evening

Wednesday 15 January 2020  
5:30–6pm & 6:30–7pm

John Chantry, Deputy Headteacher  
Sophie Hunt, Head of Milsom House

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# The Key Stage 4 curriculum



- Students generally do about **6 subjects fewer** than in Years 7, 8 and 9
- Core...Optional 60:40 5 x GCSEs, 4 x GCSEs. **Students choose the 40%!**
- **Core** subjects: **English (8 lessons** per fortnight, 2 GCSEs, Language & Literature); **Maths (7 lessons**, 1 GCSE); **Science (10 lessons**, 2 GCSEs, **unless students take Triple Science as one of their options)**

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# The Key Stage 4 curriculum



- Non-examination subjects in the **Core** are **PE, PSHCE** (Personal, Social, Health, Careers Ed.) & **Independent Study** (**5** lessons total)
- **Core subjects take up 30/50 lessons per fortnight**
- **Optional** subjects – **4** choices x **5 lessons** per subject = **20** lessons
- Standard time allocation for GCSEs is 5 hours, but English & Maths are given a greater allocation due to their **central importance** both as key qualifications in themselves and also because of their role in helping students do well in their other subjects

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# Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



| NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9   | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | U |
| <p>■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.</p> <p>■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.</p> <p>■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.</p> |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A*  |   | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | U |

September 2014

Ofqual/14/5517

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## Changes to GCSEs



- English and Maths **changed first!** All GCSE subjects are now using the new grading system & have a new style specification
- Assessments to be **by exam as much as possible** and **at the end** of the course
- **Tiered papers** (eg higher & foundation) in Maths, Science & Modern Foreign Language (MFL) but **not other subjects** (English used to be tiered too)
- **More Maths** content in other subjects, especially Sciences
- Different content in most subjects with **more emphasis on the UK**

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# GCSEs on offer...



## GCSE subjects on offer in September, 2020 in addition to English & Maths: -

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Art: Fine Art       | Geography                 |
| <b>Art Graphics</b> | <b>Geology</b>            |
| Art Photography     | History                   |
| <b>Art Textiles</b> | Music                     |
| Computer Science    | Philosophy & Ethics       |
| Drama               | Physical Education        |
| DT: Product Design  | <b>Sociology</b>          |
| Food & Nutrition    | Spanish                   |
| French              | Triple (separate) Science |

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## Alternative Key Stage 4 qualifications



### Alternative Key Stage 4 qualifications: -

- ✓ **All take the same time** as GCSEs (eg 5 hours per fortnight)
- ✓ **Like GCSEs, all are level 2 qualifications**, & should be regarded as **equivalent** to GCSE **but they have a different grading structure to GCSE** eg **Pass (equiv. to GCSE grades 1-3), Merit (equiv. to GCSE grades 4-6) & Distinction (equiv. to GCSE grades 7-9)**
- ✓ **All qualifications are approved by OFQUAL. All** have an element of **exam (25%)** but the majority of the assessment **(75%) is coursework**

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## Alternative Key Stage 4 qualifications



### Alternative Key Stage 4 qualifications: -

- ❑ **Sport BTec**. There is **practical** element to the course but it is **not assessed & not so much emphasis on exams**. Leads on very well to taking Sport BTec in the Sixth Form **at advanced level**
- ❑ **Child Development and Care** – a great qualification for those with an interest in working with young children in future
- ❑ **Creative i-Media** – great for those who like computers but prefer using software **not programming**
- ❑ **Construction – new** - teaches practical skills for those interested in going into a trade (**carpentry, plumbing, electrician etc**)

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# Consider...



- **Breadth and balance** of the four choices to be made. Alongside the core subjects, we ask all students to choose **at least one of the two languages on offer or History or Geography**

Nb: This is the **only** restriction we put on choice (many schools give only two or even one 'free' choice)

- **Enjoyment** of the subject
- What you're **good at!**
- What you **need** to fit in with your careers ideas
- **Employability skills ... Year 10 Work Experience**
- **Also good to be thinking about post 16...job with Training...apprenticeship...higher education**



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This time last year...  
2 Year 10 students' perspective...

**Isaac Barrett**

**Niamph Heffernan**

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## Key dates 1...



- **Thurs 9th/Fri 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020** - KS4 Curriculum Booklet issued to students via PSHE lessons
- **From 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020** – students are given input by staff during lesson time about what is involved in taking subjects currently studied for GCSE
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020** – KS4 Curriculum Evening ...**now!**
- **Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>/Fri 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020** – discussions with Year 11 students in PSHE lessons
- **From w/c 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020** – discussions with Tutors; Year 9 reports issued

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## Key dates 2...



- **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020** - Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening (with Melanie Whalley, Careers Advisor present)
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> & Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – in the third PSHE Options session, a range of local employers are coming in to discuss with students the **employability skills** they need to develop during Key Stage 4
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020** - choice forms are due in

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# Your next steps...



- **Think through which choices are the ones that most appeal to you**
- **Talk to subject teachers, tutor and careers advisor (either on parents' evening or by making an appointment via Student Services)**
- **Talk to students already studying KS4 in your Tutor Group**
- **Talk to parents / carers and other family members**

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# FAQ 1



- 1. Do we also get to choose which teachers we will get for our key stage 4 subjects?**
- 2. If I do Triple Science, will I get an extra option choice?**
- 3. Why might I not get one of my choices? Why do I have to put a reserve choice down?**
- 4. I like sport, but I'm not sure whether to do PE or BTEC Sport; which one should I choose? I like computers but I'm not sure whether to pick Computer Science or i-Media**

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## FAQ 2



- 5. Are GCSEs getting harder?**
- 6. Are GCSEs worth more than the other qualifications?**
- 7. Will I have more chance of getting the options I want if I get my form in early?**
- 8. Can I change my mind after I've handed my form in?**

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# When visiting...



In addition to visiting subjects, you can also visit Ms Todd and Mrs Whalley for specific questions about additional needs and careers.



Ms Todd



Mrs Whalley

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