

Year 10 Curriculum & Options Afternoon 2026-2028

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Pathways and External Data



Purpose of the Afternoon

- Outline the Key Stage 4 Curriculum and its Pathways
- Outline the process for selecting optional subjects
- Guidance of how to make informed choices for Key Stage 4
- An opportunity to find out more about Key Stage 4 optional subjects by talking to key staff



Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Objectives of Laurelhill's Curriculum



- Provide students with a range of choice in terms of courses and content
- To cater for the abilities, needs, strengths and ambitions of all our students
- Facilitate the achievement of a minimum of 5 GCSE or GCSE equivalent grades at A*-C level for all students
- Prepare students for life after Year 12

Key Stage 4 Curriculum



Three main strands to the curriculum for all students:

Core Subjects	Statutory Subjects (not <i>always</i> assessed)	Optional Subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maths• English• Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careers• LLW (a qualification may be obtained)• Physical Education• Religious Education (a qualification may be obtained)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal choice based on personal strengths and chosen career pathway• 2-4 subjects, depending on pathway

➤ GCSE courses and GCSE *equivalent* courses →

➤ Range of Assessment: Controlled Assessment, Portfolio-assessed and Examinations

A course that, when successfully completed, equates to at least a C grade at GCSE.

Key Stage 4 Pathways



Students have been allocated to 1 of 5 different Pathways.

Provides a curriculum with subjects tailored to the abilities and strengths of all our students, to allow them to succeed.

Tailored in terms of:

- ▶ Number of courses/qualifications
- ▶ Content
- ▶ Assessment style
- ▶ Pace, challenge and support
- ▶ Structure of timetable

Academic
Vocational
Applied Vocational
Applied Academic
Applied Skills

Your options form indicates your pathway

Allocation to Pathways

Students have been allocated to their pathway based on:

- **Baseline data**
 - CAT4 Mean Score
 - PTE/PTM/PTS Standardised Age Score
- **Winter tracking outcomes**
 - English, Maths and Science
 - All other subjects
- Input from Heads of English, Maths, Science and Intervention
- Senior Leadership Team, SENCo-Ordinator and Heads of Year input

**A wholistic
picture of
each young
person**

Academic	Applied Academic	Applied Vocational	Vocational	Applied Skills
<p>Includes academic and general GCSEs.</p> <p>Suited to students whose preferred learning style suits assessment through mainly examination with some elements of coursework.</p> <p>Facilitates progression into Sixth Form and University.</p>	<p>Includes both academic and applied vocational qualifications – GCSE and GCSE-equivalents.</p> <p>Suited to students whose preferred learning style suits assessment through examination and coursework.</p> <p>Facilitates progression into Sixth Form and University as well as Further Education and Employment.</p>	<p>Includes mainly applied vocational qualifications with a small number of general GCSEs.</p> <p>Suited to students who perform better through the applied curriculum and project-based work.</p> <p>Facilitates progression on to Further Education and Employment.</p>	<p>Includes applied vocational qualifications with English and Maths GCSEs.</p> <p>An alternative pathway suited to students who perform better through project-based work and additional time to focus on core subjects.</p> <p>Students will study off-site at SERC 1 day per week.</p> <p>Facilitates progression on to Further Education and Employment.</p>	<p>Includes applied vocational qualifications with English and Maths GCSEs, an enrichment programme (year 11) to prepare for the world of work and weekly work experience (year 12)</p> <p>A bespoke pathway suited to students who perform better through project-based or practical work with an aim to enter employment after year 12.</p> <p>Facilitates progression on to Apprenticeships and Employment.</p>

Academic	Applied Academic	Applied Vocational	Vocational	Applied Skills
Includes academic and general GCSEs .	Includes both academic and applied vocational qualifications – GCSE and GCSE-equivalents.	Includes mainly applied vocational qualifications with a small number of general GCSEs .	Includes applied vocational qualifications with English and Maths GCSEs .	Includes applied vocational qualifications with English and Maths GCSEs , an enrichment programme (year 11) to prepare for the world of work and weekly work experience (year 12)
<u>Qualifications (9)</u>	<u>Qualifications (8)</u>	<u>Qualifications (7)</u>	<u>Qualifications (7)</u>	<u>Qualifications (7)</u>
GCSE English	GCSE English	GCSE English	GCSE English	GCSE English
GCSE English Literature or GCSE Drama	GCSE Maths	GCSE Maths	GCSE Maths	GCSE Maths
GCSE Maths	GCSE SA Science	OCN Level 2 Science	OCN Level 2 Science	OCN Level 2 Science
GCSE Statistics	OCN Level 2 Religious Studies or OCN Personal Success and Wellbeing	OCN Level 2 Personal Success and Wellbeing	Level 2 King's Trust (Double Award)	Level 2 King's Trust (Double Award)
GCSE Double Award Science	GCSE or GCSE-equivalent Optional subjects x4	GCSE-equivalent or (some) GCSE Optional subjects x3	Optional subjects x2 delivered at SERC	Optional subjects x2 delivered at SERC
GCSE Optional subjects x3				



Key Stage 4 Options

The Process

How to Choose Subjects

Options Afternoon

- Talk to **specialist teachers** about the subjects on your list.
- Ask questions.
- Tonight, look at the booklet again when everything is fresh in your mind.
- Complete the **skills, qualities and careers tables** on the form. It is important to select subjects which will help you in the future.
- Think about the subjects that you must study.

How to Choose Subjects

After Options Afternoon

- Engage with the work and discussions in **LLW Employability lessons** - further guidance.
- **Visit any teachers** who you might have further questions for.
- Use **Parent Consultations** on Wednesday to ask specific questions.
- See me if you have **questions about anything else**.
- Carefully read instructions and **complete your form** and return to tutor **before 20th February**.



Year 10 Optional Subjects
Academic Pathway

This form must be returned to your form tutor by Friday 20th February. It must be signed by your parent/carer for it to be accepted.

Before you choose your subjects, think about:

- What you are enjoying/doing well in at present.
- What you are currently considering as a career or future study.
- The advice you have been given during your LLW lessons.
- The information that you gather during the Curriculum and Options Event.

Personal Skills, Qualities and Future Aspirations:

Firstly, indicate in order of preference, with 1 being the highest and 4 being the lowest, what it is you would like to do after year 12:

A Levels in Sixth Form		Further Education College, e.g. SERC		Apprenticeship		Employment	
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Now, think about the skills and qualities that you have (in or out of school) that you believe will help you succeed in both education and in employment. Then think about the career that you would like to pursue in your future. List 3 possibilities for each.

Personal Skills and Qualities	Possible Careers
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Core Subjects

As well as the three optional subjects you will choose on the reverse, you will also be studying:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature or GCSE Drama
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Statistics
- GCSE Double Award Science

You will also study non-exam:

- Careers
- LLW
- PE
- RE

Choosing Optional Subjects:

- ✓ You should choose 3 subjects from the below list in rank order, with 1 being your most desired subject, followed by 2 and then 3.
- ✓ Indicate these by putting '1', '2' and '3' in the appropriate boxes.
- ✓ As well as this, you need to select 2 reserve subjects. Indicate these by putting 'R1' and 'R2' in the appropriate boxes.
- ✓ These reserves could be used in the case of a timetable clash, oversubscription of a course, a course not running or unsuitability for a course.

During the process of selecting these options, you should:

- Refer to the Curriculum Booklet given to you during the Options Afternoon.
- Discuss the subjects with your parent/carer at home.
- Speak to subject teachers about their courses.
- Ask your LLW teacher if you have any questions.

French

GCSE Subjects	Choice
Agriculture and Land Use	
Art and Design	
Business and Communication Systems	
Business Studies	
Digital Technology	
Drama	
Geography	
Health and Social Care	
Home Economics: Food and Nutrition	
History	
Music	
Physical Education (State the sport(s) you play to a high level)	
Religious Studies	
Spanish	
Technology and Design	

Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Completing your Form

Page 16-17 of Booklet

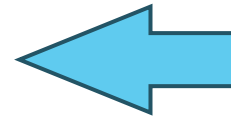
GCSE Subjects	Choice
Agriculture and Land Use	
Art and Design	1
Business and Communication Systems	R2
Business Studies	4
Digital Technology	
Double Award Science	
Drama	
Geography	
Health and Social Care	
Home Economics: Food and Nutrition	
History	2
Music	
Physical Education	
Religious Education	
Spanish	
Technology and Design	
GCSE-Equivalent Subjects	
Applied Science (BTEC)	
<u>Child Care</u> (Occupational Studies)	3
Construction (Occupational Studies)	
Health and Social Care (Occupational Studies)	R1
Hospitality and Catering (Occupational Studies)	
Interior & Graphic Design (Occupational Studies)	
IT Applications (Level 2 Certificate)	
Sport and Leisure (Occupational Studies)	

French

Read the instructions on your form carefully before completing.

Forms need to be signed and dated by parent/carer.

This student is in **Applied Academic Pathway** and therefore must choose four optional subjects and two reserve subjects.



Their favourite subject is Art, followed by History, Child Care and Business Studies. These subjects are all strengths of this student, and they are considering a care in art therapy or child-centred therapy.

They have indicated that they would also be happy to study Health and Social Care (OS), possibly as an alternative to Child Care and BACS, possibly as an alternative to Business Studies.

After Form is Submitted

- If there are any issues with subjects regarding the below, you will either be placed in your “Reserve” subject or I will speak to you and/or your parent/carer.
- Timetable clashes
- Oversubscribed courses
- Courses not running as a result of being undersubscribed
- Unsuitability of an originally chosen course

Further information on page 17 of booklet

- Subjects will be confirmed in writing during Summer term.



Key Stage 4 Options

Making Choices

Video link - https://youtu.be/d_ssJV_XfjQ

Website link - www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers



Choosing Subjects

Don't choose subjects based on:

- What your friend is choosing.
- Liking/not liking the teacher.
- Because a sibling studied the subject in the past.
- Finding it easy in years 8-10.
- Thinking it is a “bit of a laugh”.



Choosing Subjects

Do choose subjects because:

- You are **good at the subject** (as your tracking grades show).
- You **enjoy** the subject.
- The subject matches your **skills and qualities**.
- You are considering a **career** in a related area.
- You have considered **current labour market trends** - STEM based subjects, for example.
- You like the method(s) of **assessment** used.
- You are **most likely to achieve 5+A*-C grades**.



Supporting Your Child

- Role of Careers advice at this stage is essential.
- Students should listen to the advice of the school:
 - Specialist teachers
 - LLW lessons
 - Options booklet
- Attendance is essential for success.
- Take time to talk at home about career paths, job opportunities and the strengths of your children as well as looking at the Options booklet together.



The background features abstract geometric shapes. On the left, a solid yellow triangle points towards the center. On the right, a series of overlapping translucent blue triangles of various shades create a dynamic, layered effect.

Thank you for your time



Year 10 Curriculum and Options Afternoon - 2025/26

English Language English Literature	Mathematics Statistics	Agriculture & Land Use Applied Science Science – Double Award Science – Single Award OCN Science	Digital Technology OCN IT Applications	Construction – Carpentry & Joinery Technology and Design
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Preparation for Adult Life Personal Success & Wellbeing King's Trust	French	Religious Studies - GCSE Full Course OCN Level 2 Certificate	Physical Education Sport & Leisure
History	Geography	Health and Social Care GCSE and OS	Child care Home Economics –Food & Nutrition Hospitality & Catering

Art and Design Art - Interior & Graphic Design	Drama	Music	Business & Communication Systems Business Studies
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Exit

Intervention Team

Curriculum
Queries

Entrance