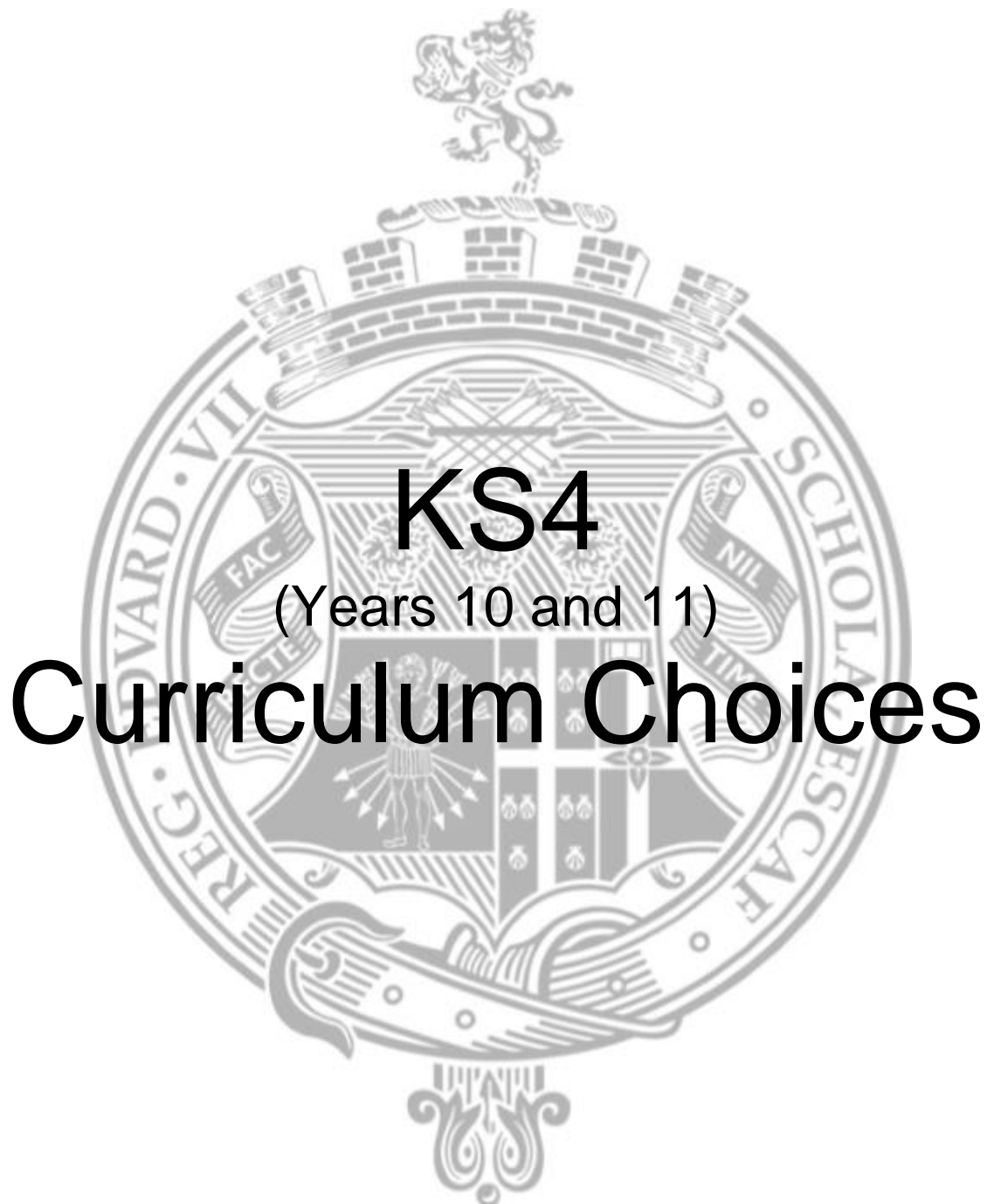


KING EDWARD VII SCHOOL



KS4

(Years 10 and 11)

Curriculum Choices

P A C K

2024-26



The Curriculum at King Edward VII School

We have a broad, balanced curriculum, suitable for the 21st century for all students. As well as the core subjects we offer a wide range of subjects in Languages, Humanities, Design & Technology and the Arts. We include as many of these elements as possible in each individual student's programme.

We value our students ability to make the right choices for their own future and progression beyond school. Students will have three choices from a wide and varied list of around twenty subjects, one or two of these will be a Language and/or a Humanity.

We encourage all students to study at least one language up to the age of 16. Spanish, French, German, Urdu and Arabic are all available at GCSE. All students are advised to choose a humanities subject from History or Geography. We believe these areas of study are essential to provide an overall balanced education up to 16.

One option will be determined by performance in Languages at Key Stage 3. Those performing sufficiently well will be required to take a language. It is anticipated that these students will also take a humanities subject.

Work Experience is usually undertaken by all Year 10 students. This involves a placement with an employer lasting 10 school days.

In addition, we are keen to encourage all our students to be involved in extra-curricular activities including sport, outdoor education, music, drama, charity fund-raising and foreign exchanges.

What happens first?

You will have received the latest Y9 Review in January 2024 – the next arrives in March.

Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 11 January Online from 4.00pm

At the Parents' Evening you and your parents will be able to discuss your progress in each subject and to obtain some general advice about your future potential. In the weeks after the Parents' Evening, some of your lesson time will be about subjects and choices for Year 10.

Monday 15 January to Friday 26 January.

Some time in classes will be dedicated to subject options. You will be invited to be added to a Google classroom for different option subjects of your choice. This will give you the opportunity to take part in a live classroom with the subject staff in which you and your parents can get more information and ask specific questions. If you have any general enquiries, please contact Mr Gardiner or Mrs Proost at Lower School.

Monday 29 January to Thursday 1 February

Online subject information sessions take place on google classroom.

Organisation of Year 10

There will be 25 periods in the week, and 5 periods each day, as in Lower School. You will probably be in the same form groups as in Year 9, but some groups will have a new form tutor. We try to introduce you to your Year 10 form tutor during Induction Day in June. In some subjects you will be divided up into sets according to your ability, in others you will not. You will be mixed with people from other forms in all lessons.

When you move to Upper School, there are fewer compulsory subjects and more choices. This is to ensure that everyone continues to study the core subjects, which are likely to be needed later in life, but allow you to choose those subjects in which you have a particular interest or which you may need for a future career.

Everyone will do the subjects described below (core subjects):

- **English** is taught for 4 periods a week. Everyone takes a GCSE in English and a GCSE in English Literature.
- **Mathematics** is taught for 4 periods a week. You will take a GCSE in Mathematics.
- **Science** is taught for 5 periods a week. Students will take GCSE examinations in all three separate Sciences and will take at least one of these GCSE's at the end of Year 10.
- **Religious Education** is taught for 1 period a week in Year 11 and shares 1 period a week with PSHE in Year 10. This leads to a full RE GCSE which commenced in Year 9.
- **Physical Education** takes up 2 periods a week in Year 10 and 1 period in Year 11, but there is no examination. You may choose to study GCSE PE or Cambridge National Sport Science in addition to these lessons.
- **Personal, Social and Health Education** is taught for 1 period a week in Year 11 and shares 1 period a week with RE in Year 10. It includes Sex Education and most aspects of Citizenship. There is no formal examination.
- **Careers** and work-based Learning including 2 weeks of work experience in Year 10

The remaining 9 periods a week are taken up with your option subjects.

You have to decide which of the other subjects are best for you! Your teachers and pastoral staff will help to explain all the different choices available to you and try to build up a programme which will help to keep your interest and enable you to make progress.

English Baccalaureate

The government has introduced a measure which recognises achievement across a range of academic subjects. It is called the **English Baccalaureate** and to achieve it students need to gain at least a Grade 4 in the following GCSE subjects:

- English Language or English Literature
- Mathematics
- 2 Sciences
- a Modern Foreign Language
- History or Geography

It is not yet clear how the **English Baccalaureate** will be used by colleges or Higher Education in the future but it could become a measure of a successful broad academic education.

King Edward VII School has always promoted a broad academic education which covers the elements of the **English Baccalaureate**. This **KS4 Information Pack** specifies that all students will follow courses in English Language, Mathematics, Sciences, with a Modern Foreign Language or a Humanities subject (History or Geography). We feel it is important that most students take the core subjects (Mathematics, English, Science) and choose a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject alongside a creative or vocational subject.

Your 3 Choices: Key Information

- Those performing sufficiently well in Key Stage 3 Languages will be required to take a language.
- You cannot choose Spanish, French or German unless you are already studying the subject.
- You cannot choose Arabic or Urdu unless you already have experience of Speaking and Writing in those languages.
- You can take some subjects such as Art, Economics, Geography, History, Design & Technology or Drama and Theatre at A Level in the Sixth Form without taking them at GCSE.
- The majority of students will take separate examinations in Physics, Biology and Chemistry so this is not part of the options process.
- For those students who are expecting to move into higher education at a later date it could be very advantageous for them to pursue a Language and a Humanity with a creative subject as their final choice to allow them to fulfil the criteria for the English Baccalaureate.
- It may not be possible for everyone to get all their first choices. We will make every effort to give you your choices, but if there is a problem we will discuss it with you again.

GCSE grading

Your child will be taking new GCSEs in most subjects. These have a different grading scheme.

Key Points:

- GCSE grading is from 1-9, with 9 being the highest grade
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a Grade 4 and above as achieved a grade C and above in the previous system
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a Grade 7 and above as achieved an A and above in the previous system
- For each exam, the top 20 per cent of those who get Grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of the previous Grade G
- Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current grade B. This will mean it will be of greater demand than the present grade C.
- Science, Modern Foreign Language and Mathematic GCSEs are tiered, with Grades 4 and 5 available through both tiers
- All other GCSEs will not be tiered
- This table shows the conversion of Old GCSE grades to New Grades

Old GCSE Grade	G/F	E/F	D	C	B/C	B	A	A*	
New Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Might I have to change any of my choices?

Your choices are considered by senior staff after you submitted them. If we feel that a change might be better for you, we will discuss this with you and if possible, your parents. Sometimes, we have to make changes, but if this happens you will be told immediately. For example, if only a few students choose a subject we will not be able to run the course. Every year a small number of individuals are disappointed and their choices have to be changed, but we do all we can to keep such changes to a minimum. In practice, the vast majority of students are able to study the subjects they have chosen.

Remember what you choose will affect your future, so:

- Choose the subjects you will enjoy most of the time.
- Discuss your choices with your parents and ask them to read this pack.
- Make sure you choose any subject needed for a future career.
- It is not a good idea to choose subjects just because you like your present teacher. It is likely that you will be taught by someone different next year.
- Choosing a subject just because your friends are doing so may not help your future career choice – you may not be in the same class anyway as there may be several groups.

So what's so different about Upper School?

Upper School has more than 600 students who are 16 and over, which means the atmosphere is more like that of a college.

The older Post-16 students have private study and come and go in a way that Pre-16 students cannot. When you transfer to Upper School you will start a 2 year examination course in many subjects that will lead you into either Post-16 education at school (like the 600+ sixth formers) to college, or into training or employment.

Virtually all KES students go into full time education or training Post-16. It is now compulsory for all students to continue education until the age of 18. The course choices you make now in Year 9 will affect what you can and can't do in the future and into adult life. At Upper School you will be part of a student group that is focused and positive about learning and the future.

The Key Stage 4 team will work with you and for you, to plan and support your experience at Key Stage 4. The aim is to ensure that you are ready to take the next step at 16 with confidence and with the best qualifications you can achieve.

Your opportunities...our expectations

Standards and expectations at our School are very high. We will expect you to set your sights high, to do as well as you can and to get the best you can from school life. While we know you are working for yourself, we also expect you to share and to co-operate with others and to care about the School.

Many extra-curricular activities and opportunities await you. We expect you to participate in these. The extra-curricular activities that run at Upper School often take place after school hours but there are opportunities in Music, Drama, Sport and Languages that take place at lunchtimes and before school. There will also be the opportunity to boost your coursework and examination grades in and out of school hours in sessions organised by departments.

Work Experience

Whilst most of our work takes place in classrooms, workshops and laboratories, we also learn through experience. Some of the most rewarding educational experiences occur outside the classroom. Work Experience is an excellent example of this type of learning and for this reason everyone goes on a two week work placement in June of Y10. You will be guided, supported and prepared for this during the course of the year.

Careers Education

The main focus of Careers Education in Year 10 is planning and preparation for the work experience placement. In Year 11 we cover a wide range of topics and activities to assist you in making appropriate post-16 choices including the Sixth Form, Sheffield College and Apprenticeships. You will use ICT frequently to access Careers software programmes. Careers interviews are also made available for you to get more personalised advice. In the past, about 50% of students have decided to stay on into our Sixth Form and almost all continue in full-time education or training up to the age of 18.

The Foundation Learning Programme

Some students will be invited to join the Foundation Learning Program. Foundation Learning develops skills needed to succeed at Key Stage 4 in a supported environment through both practical and classroom based activities. The skills and activities are accredited and designed to support progression onto Post-16 courses and training opportunities, and develop important life skills.

Work on achieving your full potential

Gain skills for everyday life

Work on your employability skills

Develop numeracy and literacy



Frequently asked questions

What is Key Stage 4 (KS4)?

Key Stage 4 is the final part of the National Curriculum that covers years 10 and 11. Most final exams are taken in May/June of Year 11. However, important topics are covered throughout Year 10 and Year 11, so it is important that students work consistently throughout the two years.

What is GCSE?

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is the public examination available in most subjects. Grades 1-3 are Level 1 qualifications, Grades 4-9 are Level 2 qualifications.

What are Tiers of Entry for exams?

In Science, Modern Foreign Languages and Mathematics, there are “tiers” of entry. A Foundation Tier course/paper gives students the opportunity to achieve grades 1 to 5, a Higher Tier course/paper gives students the chance to achieve grades from 4 to 9. Your tier of entry will be decided by your teacher based on your attainment/progress from the start of Year 10. Final decisions about tiers of entry are made in January of Year 11 after trial examinations.

What is Non-Examined Assessment? (NEA)

Coursework or controlled assessment is work which you do at a set time in the two years of your course. It will usually be a combination of work done at home (research and development) and at school.

What is a BTEC/Cambridge National?

BTEC and Cambridge Nationals are vocational qualifications that are equivalent at Level 2 to one 4-9 grade GCSE. Courses will include building a portfolio of written work, learning practical skills to industry standard and passing an examination. Those we offer as option choices at King Edward's take place in school.

What should I do now?

You need to read all the information on the various subjects and consider which are the best choices for you considering what you enjoy now and any ideas you have about your future courses or career. The course information on these pages is correct at the time of publication (January 2024). If it is necessary to make any changes to the content or arrangement of a course, you will be notified as soon as possible.

You will need to tell us of your final choices by February 9 2024.

You will be told how we would like you to communicate your choices to school during the in school options process.

Year 10 Curriculum Summary

Subject	GCSE Course	Exam Board & syllabus where appropriate	% of marks for coursework/ controlled assessment	Deadline for coursework/ controlled assessment	Number of Tiers of Entry
3D – Design (Product Design)	Yes	AQA	60%	December Y11	1
Arabic	Yes	EDEXCEL	-	-	2
Art & Design (Fine Art)	Yes	AQA	60%	December Y11	1
Art & Design (Graphics)	Yes	AQA	60%	December Y11	1
Art & Design (Photography)	Yes	AQA	60%	December Y11	1
Art & Design (Textiles)	Yes	AQA	60%	December Y11	1
Business	Yes	EDEXCEL			1
Computer Science	Yes	OCR			1
Drama	Yes	AQA	60%	Practical Coursework: June Y10. Written Coursework: September Y11. Practical Exam March Y11.	1
Engineering (WJEC VA)	No	WJEC/EDUCAS	60%	Unit 1 April Y10 Unit 2 February Y11	1
English Language	Yes	AQA	-	-	1
English Literature	Yes	AQA	-	-	1
Food and Cookery Skills	No	V Cert	75%	March Y11	1
Foundation Learning	No	EDEXCEL	100%	May Y11	2
French	Yes	AQA			2
Geography	Yes	AQA			1
German	Yes	AQA			2
Health & Social Care (BTEC)	No	Pearson Edexcel	2 x 30% coursework	February Y11	1
History	Yes	AQA	-	-	1
iMedia (Cambridge Nationals)	No	OCR	66%	May Y11	1
Mathematics	Yes	EDEXCEL	-	-	2
Music	Yes	EDUCAS	60%	March Y11	1
PE and Games	No	-	-	-	
Sport (Cambridge National Sports Science Level 2)	No	OCR	75%	June Y11	1
Physical Education	Yes	AQA	40%	May Y11	1
PSHE	No	-	-	-	
RE	Yes	AQA (Spec A)	-	-	1
Science	Yes	AQA			2
Spanish	Yes	AQA			2
Urdu	Yes	AQA			2

Your decisions...three choices

After reading through the EBACC and Additional subject booklets, tick the relevant boxes below for each subject. **Remember to include a language if you have been told you MUST take one.**

Choose a language AND a humanity for EBACC

Otherwise Choose at least one from this section

	Definitely	Possibly	Definitely Not
EBACC Subjects			
GCSE French			
GCSE German			
GCSE Spanish			
GCSE Urdu			
GCSE Arabic			
GCSE Geography			
GCSE History			

Choose one if EBACC

Otherwise choose enough to give you three subjects

Additional Subjects			
GCSE 3D Design (Product Design)			
GCSE Art			
GCSE Art (Photography)			
GCSE Business			
GCSE Computer Science			
GCSE Drama			
WJEC VA in Engineering			
V Cert Food and Cookery Skills			
GCSE Graphic Products			
BTEC Health & Social Care			
Cambridge National iMedia			
GCSE Music			
GCSE Physical Education			
Cambridge National Sport Science			
GCSE Textiles with Art and design			

You must choose three different subjects



King Edward VII School

Headteacher

Ms L Gooden

Deputy Headteacher

Mr H Parker

Assistant Headteacher (KS3)

Mr R Gardiner

Assistant Headteacher (KS4)

Mrs L Warde

Assistant Headteacher (KS5)

Mr S Cooke

Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion)

Ms C Jackson

Assistant Headteacher (Timetable)

Mr S Hovers

Assistant Headteacher
(Teaching and Learning)

Mr M Harland

Assistant Headteacher (CPD)

Mrs N Glossop

Business Manager

Mrs D Ellerby

Key Stage 3 Leader

Mrs K Proost

Key Stage 4 Leader

Mr J Kennedy

Pastoral Manager for Year 10
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Learning Support Co-ordinator

Mrs A Murray

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