

February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The time has come for you and your child to make choices which will form the basis of their ongoing academic journey. This document is designed to give you information about the Key Stage 4 Curriculum and the option process which you and your son or daughter will take part in during this term. The process starts with parents' evening tonight where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and find information about the subjects on offer moving forwards. Please refer to the options timeline below in table 1.

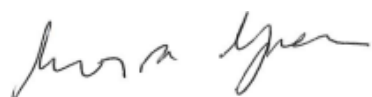
Our curriculum is broad, ambitious and joyful for each student so it can celebrate their interests and strengths and ensure they have the knowledge, skills and qualifications to fulfil their career ambitions and be able to make a positive contribution to their communities. This is best achieved by taking into account the wishes of both students and parents and with sound professional guidance from staff who know the student's ability.

We will make every effort to ensure that all students can follow the subjects of their choice. Sometimes it is not possible to accommodate everyone's first choices so everyone makes a reserve choice.

The Process (Table 1)

Timeline	Event	Notes
10.02.2025	Parents & Option Evening	Please make sure that you attend the options talk and ask teachers questions about their subject
13.02.2025	Student subject poll	This leaders an indication of likely choices and student numbers
05.03.2025	Option blocks are finalised and will be issued to students and parents	Please talk to your child about their choices
14.03.2025	Deadline for option choices to be made	You will be asked to confirm that you are aware of and support the choices your child is making
19.05.2025	Letters will be sent home confirming option choices	

The process takes several weeks. We will stay in touch. Please contact us if you have any questions.



Moira Green
Executive Principal

The Curriculum at KS4

During KS3 students have studied a wide range of subjects, including having tasters in subjects available to them at KS4. They need to think about the next stage of their education, the subject choices they make and how this will impact their academic journey beyond Dukes.

COMPULSORY CURRICULUM

Subject	Examination Board	Link for more information
English Literature and English Language	AQA	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	Edexcel	GCSE Mathematics
Science	AQA	GCSE Combined Science
PSHE & Religious Education	Non Examination Subject	
PE	Non Examination Subject	

OPTIONS SUBJECTS

Students will then choose a further **3 subjects**, from the list below, which they will study for 3 hours each per week. We encourage students to follow a balanced curriculum which will include at least one EBACC subject, highlighted in Green. In all subjects students will sit their exams at the end of year 11. When making their subject choices, students should take the following into consideration:

Subjects they enjoy

Subjects they are good at

Possible career pathways

Subject	Exam Board	Link for More Information
Art	AQA	GCSE Art and Design (Art, craft and design)
Computer Science	OCR	Computer Science
Design Technology	Edexcel	Design and Technology
Drama	AQA	GCSE Drama
French	AQA	GCSE French
Geography	AQA	GCSE Geography
Health and Social Care	Edexcel	BTEC Health and Social Care
History	AQA	GCSE History
Hospitality	WJEC	Hospitality and Catering
Media	WJEC	GCSE in Media Studies
Music	Edexcel	BTEC Music
Photography	WJEC	GCSE Photography
RE	Edexcel	GCSE Religious Studies
Sociology	AQA	GCSE Sociology
Spanish	AQA	GCSE Spanish
Sports Studies	OCR	Sport Studies
Textiles	AQA	GCSE Textiles
Business Studies	Edexcel	GCSE Business Studies
Food Technology	AQA	GCSE Food Technology

HOME LANGUAGES

At Duke's Aldridge Academy, over 75% of our students are multi-lingual. Students who can read, write, speak and understand community languages are encouraged to take a GCSE qualification. This will count as one of their green subjects. We are fortunate to have qualified teachers from the Turkish Ministry for Education to deliver our Turkish GCSE with classes taking place after school.