

Key Stage 4 Options



2021



What we will cover

- An overview of Key Stage 4 at Oathall
- The different pathways that students may follow
- A breakdown of the subjects that can be studied
- How to make the option choices using INSIGHT
- Guidance on how to make good choices

Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

All students

- study GCSE English language and literature, mathematics and science
- take Core Physical Education (PE) and Personal Development (PD) which includes Core Religious Education and Citizenship
- study other GCSE or equivalent vocational subjects that they have some choice over (the option subjects)

Most students

- will include a humanities subject (History or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish) in their option subjects



Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

Some students

- will not be required to study a Modern Foreign Language but will still take four option subjects
- will follow an alternative curriculum in place of a Humanities subject and a Modern Foreign Language



Personal
Development
Core Physical
Education

PATHWAY A

English
Maths
Science
Language
Humanities
2 further option
subjects

PATHWAY B

English
Maths
Science
Humanities
3 further option
subjects

PATHWAY C

English
Maths
Science
Alternative
Curriculum
2 further option
subjects

What courses do we offer?

The core - taken by all students

These are all GCSE qualifications - Graded 9 to 1

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics / Further maths (Taken by more able students in addition to maths GCSE)
- Combined Science - 2 GCSE grades **or** Triple Science - 3 GCSE grades

SUBJECT
CHOICES



A – Languages	B – Humanities	C – Other courses, GCSEs unless otherwise indicated in brackets.	
<p>French</p> <p>German</p> <p>Spanish</p>	<p>Geography</p> <p>History</p>	<p>3-D Design</p> <p>Animal Care (BTEC)</p> <p>Art</p> <p>Business Studies</p> <p>Computer Science</p> <p>Child Development (Cambridge National)</p> <p>Drama or Performing Arts-Drama (BTEC)</p> <p>Engineering</p> <p>French</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>German</p>	<p>Health and Social Care (BTEC)</p> <p>History</p> <p>Hospitality and Catering (Level 1 / 2 Award)</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Performing Arts-Dance (BTEC)</p> <p>Photography</p> <p>Physical Education or Sports Studies (Cambridge National)</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>Religious Studies</p> <p>Spanish</p>

GCSE or non-GCSE?

- Both cover the full range of outcomes
- Perfectly acceptable to combine both
- Both support progression onto a wide range of post-16 courses

GCSEs

- Graded 1 to 9
- Most are assessed by examinations only, apart from Art, Drama, Engineering, Music, Photography and PE

Non-GCSEs

- Different grading systems but cover the equivalent range of outcomes
- More practical approach to learning with links to the workplace
- Assessment based largely on evidence produced by the student - **deadlines!**
- One examination

How the grading systems work

Level	Non-GCSE grades	GCSE grades
Level 2	Distinction*	9
		8
	Distinction	7
	Merit	6
		5
	Pass	4
Level 1	Distinction	3
	Merit	2
	Pass	1

Pathway A - Students follow this pathway unless parents are informed otherwise

A – Languages	B – Humanities	C – Other courses, GCSEs unless otherwise indicated in brackets.	
French German Spanish (You will see the other subjects listed here on INSIGHT - ignore them!)	Geography History	3-D Design Animal Care (BTEC) Art Business Studies Computer Science Child Development (Cambridge National) Drama or Performing Arts-Drama (BTEC) Engineering French Geography German	Health and Social Care (BTEC) History Hospitality and Catering (Level 1 / 2 Award) Music Performing Arts-Dance (BTEC) Photography Physical Education or Sports Studies (Cambridge National) Psychology Religious Studies Spanish

Pathway B - Students follow this pathway only if parents have been informed

B – Humanities	C – Other courses, GCSEs unless otherwise indicated in brackets.	
Geography History	3-D Design Animal Care (BTEC) Art Business Studies Computer Science Child Development (Cambridge National) Drama or Performing Arts-Drama (BTEC) Engineering French Geography German	Health and Social Care (BTEC) History Hospitality and Catering (Level 1 / 2 Award) Music Performing Arts-Dance (BTEC) Photography Physical Education or Sports Studies (Cambridge National) Psychology Religious Studies Spanish

Pathway C - Students follow this pathway only if parents have been informed

A	B	C – Other courses, GCSEs unless otherwise indicated in brackets.	
<p>Alternative Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Step up to English ● Step up to Maths ● Range of other qualifications 		<p>3-D Design Animal Care (BTEC) Art Business Studies Computer Science Child Development (Cambridge National) Drama or Performing Arts-Drama (BTEC) Engineering French Geography German</p>	<p>Health and Social Care (BTEC) History Hospitality and Catering (Level 1 / 2 Award) Music Performing Arts-Dance (BTEC) Photography Physical Education or Sports Studies (Cambridge National) Psychology Religious Studies Spanish</p>

Using INSIGHT to complete the options choices

The screenshot shows the INSIGHT parent portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following menu items: General, Attendance, Behaviour, Assessments, and Reports. Below the navigation bar, there are two main sections: 'Unread notices' (with a blue envelope icon and a '0' counter) and 'Homework' (with an orange book icon and a '0' counter). Below these are three green summary cards: 'Achievements', 'Attendance', and 'Behaviours'. The 'Achievements' card shows 'Less than 0 - Unacceptable', 'Between 0 and 1 - Concern', and 'More than 1 - Acceptable'. The 'Attendance' card shows 'Less than 85 - Unacceptable attendance', 'Between 85 and 90 - Concerning attendance', and 'More than 90 - Acceptable attendance'. The 'Behaviours' card shows 'This Year Less than 4 - Unacceptable', 'Between 4 and 6 - Concerning', and 'More than 6 - Unacceptable'. Below the summary cards are three main content areas: 'Today' (a list of lessons), 'Recent behaviours' (a list of recent classwork credits), and 'Cumulative attendance' (a line graph showing % Attendance over time).

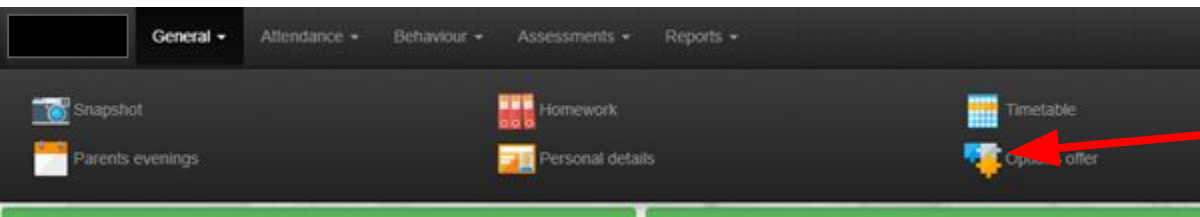
Lesson	Teacher	Room
9VCM	Mrs C. A. MacTaggart	In MU91
Geography	Mr D. Moore	In H12
Drama/Thea	Mrs C. MacTaggart	In MU91
English La	Mr S. Keating	In E5
Mathematic	Miss M. Calleja	In M3
9VCM	Mrs C. A. MacTaggart	In MU91
Modern Languages	Miss A. Stockley	In L85

Date	Description	Points	Subject
10/01/2018	Good classwork Credit	1	Drama/Thea
10/01/2018	Good classwork Credit	1	Geography
10/01/2018	Wednesday PM Good classwork Credit	1	9VCM

Cumulative attendance

The graph shows % Attendance on the y-axis (ranging from 80 to 100) and Week beginning on the x-axis (ranging from Sep 11 to Feb 03). The attendance is consistently high, starting at 100% and ending at approximately 98%.

- Log into INSIGHT on a **parent's** account
- Select the **General** menu



- Select **Options Offer**

Options 2019

Choices summary

List

Main

Option choices will appear here as they are made.

Option A

Option B

Option C

Option D

Pathway A (students required to take a language) - Select one language from the list.

Pathway B (students not required to take a language, a letter will have been sent home) - Select one subject from the list.

Available options

Current choices

Course

Main Option

Animal Care
Animal Care (Gen)



Art and De
Art and De (Gen)



Art and Design (BTEC)
Art and Design (BTEC) (Gen)



- Option A will be selected.
- Students on **Pathway A must select the language they have been studying in Year 9.**
- Students on **Pathway B can select any subject**

Options 2019

Choices summary

List

Main

Option choices will appear here as they are made.

Option A Option B Option C Option D

Pathway A (students required to take a language) - Select one language from the list.

Pathway B (students not required to take a language, a letter will have been sent home) - Select one subject from the list.

Available options

Course

Animal Care
Animal Care (Gen)



Art and De
Art and De (Gen)



Art and Design (BTEC)
Art and Design (BTEC) (Gen)



Current choices

Main Option

Add option

How do you want to add this option?

Main option

Other

- Select *Ok* from the pop-up that appears

Options 2019

Choices summary

List

Main

Opt A

DoubleStep Up to English &

Opt A

Option C

Option D

Alternative Curriculum has been pre-selected. Move to Option C.

Available options

Course

DoubleStep Up to English & Maths
Step Up to English & Maths (EL)

Current choices

Main Option

DoubleStep Up to English & Maths



- Students on Pathway C will have the Alternative Curriculum pre-selected.
- Go straight to Option C

Choices summary

List

Option A

French

Option A

Option B

Option C

Option D

Please select either Geography or History

Available options

Course

Geography
Geography (Gen)History
History (Gen)

Current choices

Main Option

Pathways A and B

- Select Option B
- Select chosen subject and confirm as main choice as before.

- Repeat this process for *Options C and D* to select the other options subjects.
- In *Option D* a second choice must be made which will be saved as a *Reserve*.
- Students who have been studying two languages in Year 9 may, if they wish, select the second language in *C or D*.
- Students may select the second Humanities subject in *Options C or D* if they wish to take Geography and History.

Key dates

1. Friday 29 January - Options opens on Insight
2. Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 February - Parents' Consultation appointments
3. Thursday 11 February - Options deadline

Checklist



Make sure you have:

- taken the time to find out everything you need to about the courses on offer before making your choices,
- make appointments to speak with teachers on 3 / 4 February
- included a reserve choice in Option D,
- not selected the same subject more than once,
- completed the options process in INSIGHT by **Thursday 11 February**,

Students following pathway A must have a language selected in option A.

Allocation of option choices

- Once you have selected your options, we will try to meet your preferred choices (make sure your 'reserve' choice is as well thought out as your other choices).
- Are these choices guaranteed? Not necessarily...
- Possible reasons might be:
 - Numbers too low for course to run
 - Your suitability for the course
 - Your combination cannot be timetabled



When will my choices be confirmed?

- **No news is good news!**
- If your combination is unsuccessful or the course is not running we will communicate this with you.
- Letters will be issued during the summer term to confirm which option subjects your child will be studying in Year 10

What happens if I change my mind?

Do not panic!

Come and speak to me as
there may be a solution



Consider the future...

- ★ What might you like to do at college or as a career?
- ★ The broader your range of subjects, the greater breadth of choice you may have in the future



Look at the website under the 'learning tab' for careers information

CAREERS

At Oathall we provide students with a comprehensive careers program. This provides students with information on the options available to them after they leave Oathall.

Career planning is an ongoing process. We support students by giving them the most up-to-date advice about work. We also support them in their choices and applications to Sixth form college and further education. We encourage students to conduct their own career research and provide students with careers advice. Students are also supported by tutors, subject teachers, Heads of House and pastoral staff over their career choices.

Mrs Ferros is our professional careers adviser based in the college. Students can email her or see her in person. She can be emailed at kferros@oathall.org or contacted by phone on 01444 414001.

[Career of the Fortnight](#)

[Careers Newsletter](#)

[Useful Careers related websites](#)

[Information about Apprenticeships](#)

[Kudos – free online careers program](#)

Know your strengths

★ What are you good at?



What interests you the most?

- ★ Which subjects do you look forward to the most?
- ★ Which subjects are you most motivated to learn in?



Avoid selecting subjects because:

- ★ your friends are
- ★ you like/dislike a teacher
- ★ you think it will be easy



Final points...

- INSIGHT will open for options on Friday 29 January
- You must submit your choices by Thursday 11 February
- Parents' consultations online:
 - 12 to 3pm Wednesday 3 February
 - 4pm to 7pm Thursday 4 February
- Option choices will be confirmed by letter in the Summer Term
- **In the meantime... 'no news is good news'!**