



### **Key Stage 4 Curriculum (Years 9, 10 and 11)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>En</b>	<b>Ma</b>	<b>Sc</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>Ci, Pi</b>	<b>Opt A</b>	<b>Opt B</b>	<b>Opt C</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>9</b>	4	4	4	2	2	3	3	3	25
<b>10</b>	4	4	4	2	2	3	3	3	25
<b>11</b>	4	4	4	2	2	3	3	3	25

Our KS4 curriculum will meet the needs of all students at The Buckingham School and will serve to provide them with a broad education which challenges and engages, is linked to individual students' abilities and identified progression plans and prepares all students for life, further learning, employment and training.

We will do this by

- Providing all students with extensive information, advice and guidance on all options
- Supporting students with career choices through career education, guidance and research opportunities
- Enabling students to consider and define their own career pathways and future plans in order to enable them to make effective choices
- Providing parents and guardians with accessible information and with opportunities for face-to-face information and guidance so that they are able to effectively support students in the options process.
- Providing students and parents with signposts to further information and impartial guidance.

We will guide students towards

- Subjects they are good at
- Subjects they enjoy
- Subjects that will stretch and challenge
- A balanced range of subjects
- Subjects that are linked to individual progression plans Post 16 and beyond.

## Core Studies

The core studies curriculum offer is set for all students. The Buckingham School Core offer includes

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PSHCE
- Philosophy & Ethics
- PE

In Core Studies - Philosophy & Ethics, students will have the opportunity to work towards a GCSE Qualification.

In PE, through Core Studies, a number of students will be working towards a Btec Qualification and all students will work towards a Sports Leadership qualification.

## Options

Options include a range of GCSEs and vocational qualifications. Vocational qualifications are, in the main, Btec Level 2 Qualifications that are equivalent to GCSE and are graded in the same way. Btec qualifications tend to be more vocationally linked, assessed through portfolio of evidence more than through formal examination and often include practical, hands-on skills development alongside theory and classroom learning. Students at The Buckingham School are permitted to opt for up to but no more than 2 vocational (non-GCSE) subjects.

## The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) is not a qualification in itself. It is a new certificate that will be awarded to students who get GCSE A\*-C grades in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Double or Triple Science
- A Modern Foreign Language – French or Spanish
- Geography or History

Our advice to students is to consider this when choosing their options. If it is an appropriate combination of courses then students need to ensure they choose one Modern Foreign Language (MFL) and either History or Geography as part of their options. If students do not feel they want to study these subjects they can choose any of the other subjects listed in those options blocks.

## Optional GCSE subjects

The following GCSE subjects are available through options blocks. Please note that you are able to select and study one subject from each option block and combinations of subjects must be achievable within the block system.

Art GCSE

Business Studies GCSE

Dance GCSE

Drama GCSE  
Food Technology GCSE  
French GCSE  
Geography GCSE  
Graphic Products GCSE  
History GCSE  
ICT GCSE  
Media GCSE  
Music GCSE  
PE GCSE  
Psychology GCSE  
Sociology GCSE  
Spanish GCSE

**Optional Vocational subjects**

Btec Construction  
Btec Hair and Beauty  
Btec Health & Social Care  
Enterprise and Employability Programme  
Sport Academy

A small number of our students, who require a programme that includes provision outside the school environment for some of their timetable, attend Blueprint Pupil Referral Unit for a dedicated programme of level one courses in vocationally based subjects which endeavour to prepare them for working life. This occurs one day each week and the rest of their timetable has to be tailored to meet each student's needs.