

BLUE PATHWAY

Please note:

The information contained in this Option Booklet is accurate at the time of writing. Circumstances may dictate the need for changes in the options available to pupils and the time allocated to a subject.

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

OPTIONS CHOICES 2010

Do please take the time to carefully read through the courses that are on offer to you for your Year 10 and Year 11 curriculum. It is important that you have all the information you require so that you fully understand what the courses involve. Do ask for additional information, and we will do our best to respond to your queries.

In Year 10, all pupils will study English, Mathematics, Science, ICT and Physical Education. Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship are taught in an extended tutor group lesson each week.

In addition, all pupils are required to study one Design Technology (DT).

To ensure a balanced curriculum, we recommend that pupils consider studying an Arts subject (Art or Expressive Arts) and History or Geography.

Pupils follow the compulsory core with the remaining time devoted to limited option choices.

The purpose of the option choices is to select a broad, balanced, meaningful curriculum, appropriate to each pupil's ability. It will be important to discuss this between pupil, teacher and home.

The Blue Pathway gives choice of GCSE and BTEC subjects. BTECs allow pupils to gain a 2 GCSE equivalent qualification and are good preparation for vocational courses at college.

This booklet contains information regarding courses and the level of examination entry. The school does reserve the right not to offer courses if the take up numbers are low. Alternatives will be discussed with you if this is the case.

Please read the booklet carefully. If you have any queries or concerns, then please let us know.

Good luck with your choices and aspirations.

Yours sincerely

*T Griffiths
Headteacher*

What Pupils must do?

Core Subjects - All pupils will study:

English and Media GCSEs, Mathematics, Science, Personal, Social & Health Education/Citizenship, Physical Education and ICT.

A choice of one technology subject from:

Design Technology: Electronic Products
Design Technology: Food Technology
Design Technology: Graphic Products
Design Technology: Resistant Materials
Design Technology: Textile Technology

OPTIONS

Then pupils need to choose two subjects from the choices given on the options form.

Note: All pupils must complete an Option form stating their choices, including a reserve choice in each option block.

Please complete the Option form and return to school no later than Friday, 12 March 2010.

Advice about choosing subjects

As a result of our Personal Social & Health Education/Citizenship programme in school, which is designed to assist with option choices, we hope that pupils have gained some insight into their own strengths and personal qualities and, at the same time, become aware of those subjects in which they are most likely to succeed and in which they are particularly interested. We also hope that before making their final choices, they will consider very carefully the following:

- It is difficult to predict what the future holds, but young people will need a wide range of skills, experiences and qualifications to cope with life in a rapidly changing world.
- Employers and Further and Higher Education Institutions nearly always want evidence of a good general education, with qualifications in a broad range of subjects.
- It is also important to be aware that the choice of subjects does have implications for future jobs and careers.

In the light of these considerations, our advice is as follows:

- 1 Because it is essential to leave open every opportunity for future employment and personal growth, pupils should make balanced choices.
- 2 Those pupils who are interested in particular jobs or careers should check to see whether there are any *key* subjects which ought to be chosen. However, pupils should remember that they could change their minds before leaving school, and therefore they should still try to opt for a range of subjects which will leave other routes open to them at 16.

GCSE Grades

GCSE courses lead to grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, U. The school also offers BTEC courses, which are equivalent to 2 GCSE grades and OCR National ICT courses which can lead to a 4 GCSE equivalent qualification.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

All pupils in Years 10 and 11 will continue the course of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education, which began in Year 7.

The course has been designed to help pupils towards a realistic, but positive view of themselves and to give them information, knowledge and experience of a number of skills that will be of benefit to them in adult life.

Particular emphasis will be placed on:

- Careers Education
- Health Education
- Study Skills and Examination preparation
- Post 16 opportunities and preparations for leaving
- Social Awareness
- Self Awareness and Recording Achievement.

Citizenship was introduced into the National Curriculum in September 2002. At KS4, Years 10 and 11 will follow an integrated programme of PSHCE/Citizenship to address the three main areas of study:

- 1 Rights and Responsibilities
- 2 Government and Democracy
- 3 Communities and Identities.

In addition specific links with Citizenship will be identified in individual subjects throughout the school curriculum. Where possible specialist speakers will be invited into school.

It is hoped that Year 11 pupils will leave as educated and valued citizens.

For further details please contact Mr Minford/Mr Fitzsimons.

Careers Education

In line with Government requirements, we are developing our work-related learning curriculum for all. This is a number of planned activities which use the context of work to develop knowledge, skills and understanding which will be useful in work. This will include learning through the experience of work, learning about work and learning the skills of work.

The Year 9 Careers Programme has been designed to help pupils make discerning choices when faced with their curriculum options in Year 10 and thereafter. The scheme of work in is divided into 3 themes:

- Self Awareness & Development
- Careers Exploration
- Career Management

And will be delivered during PSHCE lessons and active tutorial preparation will include Careers Library visits to increase knowledge and competency in the use of resources. Also available will be opportunities to explore information and ideas using the careers computer programs as well as recommended internet web sites.

In Year 10, Careers Education will focus on the Work Experience programme. Lessons and Active Tutorial time will help to increase awareness and understanding of the world of work and the requirements of commerce and industry. Work Experience will be offered to all Year 10 pupils. Briefing for the placement will be on-going throughout the year. Each pupil will record their experience in an extensive Work Experience diary and debriefing will take place immediately after the placement.

The Careers Programme in Year 11 is geared towards preparing for life after Kettlethorpe High School. This decision-making process is assisted by providing a variety of visiting speakers to talk to pupils about the further education courses and vocational opportunities available. There will also be 'Open Days' or visits to local colleges and other areas of interest. Action planning and Records of Achievement will also be a very important aspect. Careers advice and guidance is available from the Careers Adviser and from teaching staff within school. A Careers Adviser is available at Consultation Evenings and provides individual interviews to all Year 11 pupils. The bi-annual Careers Convention is also a valuable source of information and assistance to all pupils.

In addition to our established Careers Education and Guidance programme, the recent introduction of 'Aim Higher' (a government initiative) is providing additional opportunities for our pupils to gain knowledge and experience of Higher Education. A variety of activities are evolving to allow pupils to gain an early insight into university and the career options and choices on offer.

The Careers Library & Resources

The Careers Library provides a valuable resource in supporting the Careers Education programme for all pupils. A range of materials is available in the form of literature, videos and computer programmes. Pupils will receive further Careers Library sessions arranged in Years 10 and 11 during lesson times. We encourage the use of the Careers Library during lunchtimes where our Careers Library Assistant is on hand to help use all our up to date resources. Also our Careers software packages - Kudos and CID (Careers Information Database) can be used in any computer cluster in school by means of the network.

The Internet also provides very useful Websites to access information from government, colleges and other organisations.

What if we need more information?

If after reading the booklet and studying the options available you have any questions or queries, e.g. concerning the career implications of subjects chosen etc, then the following offers of help are open to you:

- 1 **Pupils:** You know that your Subject Teachers, Group Tutors and Senior staff are very willing to answer questions and talk over any problems.
- 2 **Contacting School:** If you wish, please contact school by either phoning Mr M Hunter - Assistant Headteacher (email mhunter@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk), 01924 303510, or fill in the Query Form below and return it to Mr M Hunter.
- 3 **Appointments:** can be arranged with Mr N Hooley, Mr R Gray, Mr M Hunter (Assistant Headteacher), Mr T Griffiths or your son/daughter's tutor.

The Year 9 Options Evening is Thursday 28 January at 7p.m.

Parents will receive a report on Friday, 5 March 2010.

The Year 9 Consultation Evening is Wednesday 24 March from 4.30 - 8.30 pm

Appointments can be made by the pupils, during the week prior to the consultation evening, for their parents to see subject teachers.

Option Choice forms must be returned by **12 March 2010**.



KETTLETHORPE HIGH SCHOOL
OPTIONS QUERY FORM

Pupil's name:

Tutor Group:

My question/query is:

Signed:

(Parent/ Guardian)

Please return to Mr Hunter, Assistant Headteacher