

KEY STAGE 4

CURRICULUM GUIDE

**COURSE
INFORMATION
FOR
SEPTEMBER 2025**

All different. All equal. All achieving.

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM INTRODUCTION

This guide is to support students and parents in choosing Key Stage 4 choices of study.

Some subjects are compulsory, some must be available to study and others are designed to be selected.

Students will study all the compulsory subjects and will be able to choose from groups of options. We will endeavour to run courses in all options but this will only happen where a viable group can be set up. Courses will run for two years.

On the following pages you will find a curriculum map and a brief description of what each subject area contains. These descriptions will also explain examination opportunities available in each subject. As the examination methods have changed students will follow subjects based on exam syllabus but tailored to meet vocational needs as well.

At the end of the booklet is an options sheet where your child will need to record their own options in terms of first and second choice. Please fill in this form with your child and return by 23 May 2025.

YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

Core Subjects (number of lessons)

- ♦ English— 4
- ♦ Maths— 4
- ♦ Science— 4
- ♦ PE— 2
- ♦ PSHE/RE — 1
- ♦ Assembly—1

Option Subjects (number of lessons)

Option Block A

- ♦ Food Tech or The King's Trust or Photography(4)

Option Block B

- ♦ Digital Media or Forest School or History or French(2)

Option Block C

- ♦ Geography or Sports Leaders or Life Skills (2)

Option Block D

- ♦ Music or PE or Art (4)

Option Block E

- ♦ Duke of Edinburgh or Horticulture or Tech/Craft(2)

30 lessons in total

ENGLISH

AQA GCSE – Language and Literature OCR Entry Level Certificate

At Key Stage 4 students' study both English Language and English Literature. Over the 2 years they will complete the qualifications that are most appropriate to them. They will have the opportunity to take English Literature GCSE, English Language GCSE and the OCR Entry Level, with some students taking Entry Level in Year 10 and then progressing on to English Language GCSE in Year 11. Others may take both Language and Literature GCSE or just the OCR Entry Level depending on which qualifications are best suited to them.

Both the GCSE qualifications are terminal and they have two examinations each. These GCSE's are separated into the following components:

English Language GCSE

Paper 1

- Reading - A literature fiction Text
- Writing - Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2

- Reading - One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
- Writing - to present a viewpoint

Spoken Language

Presenting and responding to questions

English Literature GCSE

Paper 1

Shakespeare and a 19th century novel

Paper 2

Modern texts and poetry

OCR – Entry Level Certificate

The Entry Level Certificate in English is made up of 100% internally assessed tasks and tests. There are three areas of assessment: Reading, Writing and Spoken language. This is directly linked to English Language GCSE and allows for a natural progression to a higher level of study.

The course of study is unit based, and pupils are required to complete all three of the units provided. These focus on the skills of reading, writing and spoken language with an assessment on each of the following areas:

Reading

- Understanding a non-fiction text
- Understanding a literary text (fiction)

Writing

- Informative writing (non-fiction)
- Imaginative writing (fiction)

Spoken Language

- Discussion or role play

**AQA GCSE Mathematics (specification 8300)**

This is a two-year course covering a wide range of mathematics designed to stretch and extend students. There are six main topic areas: number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measures, probability and statistics. This course focuses on extending mathematical skills, learning new skills such as trigonometry, and preparing students for further courses in mathematics. At the end of year 11, students will sit three 1.5-hour exams covering all topic areas. This course is suitable for students who have strong mathematical skills in all areas as determined by their KS3 assessments.

AQA Entry Level Maths - This course focuses on maths related to life skills and the practical applications of maths in real life. If a pupil is unable to access Functional Skills or GCSE then entry level maths gives them a pathway into studying maths and one of the higher levels in post 16 provision if needed. This course is assessed via 8 short assessments spread over the two years. There is no coursework element to this course.

SCIENCE

In key stage 4, students have 4 science lessons each week. Students will study a selection of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics and will have the opportunity to gain the following accreditations:

GCSE combined Science: Trilogy (AQA)

Students who are working at a suitable level will study extra Biology, Chemistry and Physics content to allow them to sit science GCSE exams at the end of the course. Students must complete 21 required Practical investigations in class over the two year study period and will sit a series of exams at the end of year 11.

The Science GCSE counts as a double GCSE.

Entry Level Certificate in Science (AQA)

All key stage 4 students have the opportunity to gain an Entry Level Certificate in Science. Students will study 6 units of work over a two year program. They will sit a short exam paper at the end of each unit of study and complete 6 associated practical investigations over the two years. Students best work will be submitted at the end of year 11 for accreditation.

P.E.

Core Physical Education

Core Physical Education all students will have 2 lessons of PE a week. Students will learn the importance and value of leading an active lifestyle through exercise and sport. Students will participate in a variety of activities including Team invasion games, Athletics, badminton, Outdoor activities and Fitness. They will develop their skills and techniques in these activities to improve their performance and competence.

KS3 will be looking to learn and develop new skills. This is where they will need to be able to apply their skills into game situation. KS4 will extend their knowledge and focus more towards their games for understanding. In addition to this students in KS4 will be encouraged to officiate and have more insight to the importance of fitness and its impact.

KS4 will achieve AQA certificates for a variety of sports.

Extra sports: boxing, tennis, new age curling

PSHE

PSHE and Citizenship education is a planned programme of learning for our students to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. Lessons ensure coverage of the statutory requirements for PSHE/Citizenship/RSE and is taught through a comprehensive Scheme of Work.

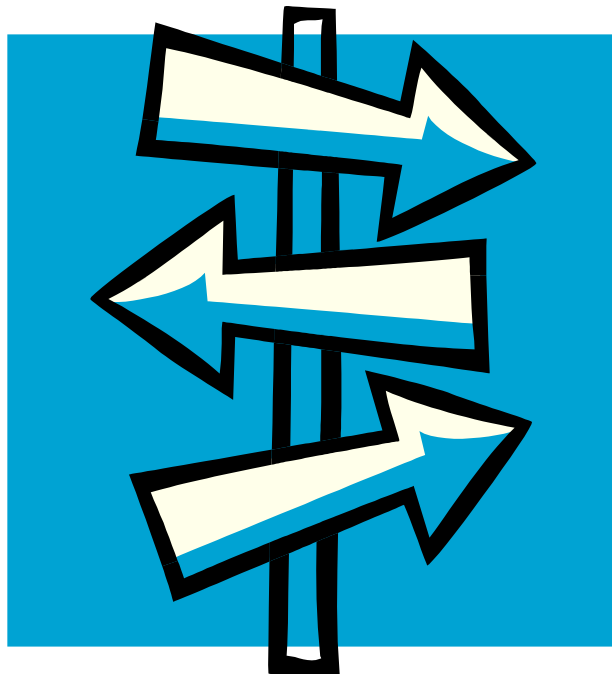
The overarching aim is to provide students with:

- accurate and relevant knowledge
- opportunities to turn that knowledge into personal understanding
- opportunities to explore, clarify and if necessary challenge, their own and others' values, attitudes, beliefs, rights and responsibilities
- the skills, language and strategies they need in order to live healthy, safe, fulfilling, responsible and balanced lives
- the ability to become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

RE

- KS4 students will engage in a themed approach for term looking at aspects of religion to include a trip to a place of worship.
- Opportunities to discuss different beliefs
- Opportunities to explore own beliefs and build tolerance of others
- The skills, knowledge and language needed to live in harmony with others

Option choices



Option Block A

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

BTEC EDEXCEL Level 1/2 Home Cooking Skills

This course provides the students with the opportunity to extend the food work undertaken in the lower school.

This includes practical work to further develop their confidence and competence. In addition discussion will take place about food sourcing, nutrition, hygiene and food labelling. The students will record the dishes and be encouraged to reflect upon the practical session to consider improvements.

Level 1 is examined by a practical test and associated paperwork, where the students plan, prepare and cook a dish demonstrating they are able to work independently showing hygiene, safety, sound practical skills.

BTEC level 2 is achievable in Year 11 subject to students ability with the subject.

THE KING'S TRUST

The Kings Trust focuses on Personal Development and Employability Skills and is an excellent choice for students who want to develop their interpersonal skills whilst learning about the world of work.

There is also the possibility of following this course to an Entry Level Qualification.

The course will be broken down into working modules under the headings:

Skills for School

Personal and Social Development

Life Skills

Active Citizenship

Enterprise Projects

Preparation for Work

Personal Resilience

PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE—AQA Unit Awards

This two year course will give you the opportunity to follow the GCSE syllabus which may lead to a GCSE exam in digital photography. If you are creative person with **lots of ideas** you will enjoy photography.

If the GCSE syllabus is unsuitable, you will still be able to follow the syllabus and achieve a AQA unit award.

What have I got to do?

Throughout year 10 and 11 you will build a coursework portfolio and learn to:

- Analyse and write about artists work to inspire your own ideas,
- Develop your drawing and written skills to explain your ideas, meanings and intentions,
- Use specialist vocabulary to review your own and artists work,
- Investigate a range of genres such as landscape, portraits and macro,
- Use photographic techniques such as slow shutter speeds to show movement,
- Manipulate and edit images using Adobe Photoshop,
- Create an image considering depth of field, rule of thirds and the formal elements.

The portfolio is 60% of the final grade. The remaining 40% is achieved through a 10 hour controlled assessment set by the exam board.

Option Block B

DIGITAL MEDIA

This option looks at all the skills needed in the modern world to work in the digital workplace. Students will be developing skills such as publishing, photo editing, software and finally video editing.

Each student will be placed in a team and over two years they will have the task of promoting a new blockbuster movie through their presentations.

The movie will be chosen from a range of genres. Each team will be responsible for making promotional material for their movie including, a short trailer, remaking scenes from the movie, a soundtrack cd, comic book, cartoons, Minecraft editing and finally some designs for online games.

This option will include a trip away filming ON LOCATION. This part of the course is optional.

At the end of the project in Year 11 the students will display all their work at a Premiere Oscars event.

This course is about skill development and the work will qualify students to pass some AQA Awards along the two year course.

Finally, some acting will be required for making the films and whilst amazing drama skills are not essential students must be able to participate in the scenes.

FOREST SCHOOL

This option will see the students spending a majority of their time outdoors in the forest school so they must be a keen outdoors person. The lesson is split into two single lessons with the first lesson usually assigned to planning tasks or assembling the tools ready for the tasks. Students in Year 10 will have the option to select a range of AQA Unit Awards all based around Forest School themes including outdoor cooking, shelter building, bush craft skills and survival skills. Year 11 will then see the students putting these tasks to use as they work on projects such as conservation, making a forest school bench and a sensory forest school. Finally, they will run a Forest School event for the school. All units are AQA Awards.

HISTORY

Entry Level Qualification—OCR or AQA Unit Awards

In Year 10 and 11 the students study many Historical topics. While we continue to work towards improving our reading and writing skills in Key Stage 4. We also learn to improve our understanding of History. In particular, we learn to interpret sources and analysis of major people and events to be able to draw conclusions.

This course is made up of 3 assessments. We also include an initial topic which teaches the key skills of a historian (e.g. chronology, reading, sources etc).

Two of the assessments are exams that are completed at the end of a thematic and depth study. Third assessment is a written report based on a visit to a historical site.

The topics are outlined below:

Historical site study (Portsmouth Historical Dockyard)

Thematic Study—Medieval Britain 1000-1500—Power Monarchy and Democracy

Depth study—Britain, Peace and War 1900-1918

We may allow time to gain some AQA Unit Awards in History in addition.

For students who are unable to access the Entry Level they will follow the AQA Unit path instead. These will align with the Entry Level topics.

FRENCH

AQA Unit Awards

This is a two-year course in French as a modern foreign language.

Students will experience, understand and respond to language related to a wide area of experiences, e.g.

- Home and Local Area
- Health and Sport
- Leisure and Entertainment
- Travel and the Wider World
- Education and Work

Students' achievements are recognised with the AQA Award Scheme (UAS). This gives access to a great number of units and can be tailored to students' preferences. Students can be presented with a certificate for each unit that they have completed. It is likely that students will achieve between 6 and 10 unit awards over the 2-year course.

In the unlikely event that a pupil is unable to attain any unit awards an overall grade will be awarded by the school at the end of year 11, based on classroom assessment over the 2-year course.

Option Block C

GEOGRAPHY

Entry Level - OCR

The Entry Level qualification in Geography, aims to encourage our students to think like geographers through an enquiry approach to a range of topics. The aim is to help develop their knowledge of locations, places and environments which in turn will embrace their personal life skills for their future progression. Students will be able to gain an understanding of the connections between people and places and how environments change over time. They will also develop a range of skills whilst taking part in practical based field work enquiry.

The topics covered will include:

- Our World

- Destructive World

- Resourceful World

Students will also be required to fill in a Fieldwork Notebook based on their own personal experiences on a designated topic e.g. Our World: How is the UK changing?

Further to this students will also be required to complete a project based on an area of specification such as Resourceful World: Why should tropical rainforests matter to us? Students must be prepared to take on a very practical based and hands on subject, no matter what the weather!

SPORTS LEADERS AWARD

Sports Leaders Award - AQA Award

This is an excellent opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills in a sports setting.

Over two years the students will follow the Go Lead Award which is a great introduction to leadership, giving young people aged 14 and over knowledge of how to organize and lead small games and activities that can be used as a part of uniformed organization, community club or sports club sessions.

The course allows the Young Leader to help learners develop leadership skills such as organisation, communication and teamwork, as well as helping to build confidence and self-esteem as they take on responsibility of leading their peers and younger children.

During the course the students will complete several projects including Referee skills, leading a circuit training session, becoming a personal trainer, presenting sports awards, risk assessment and organising festivals for Football, Golf and Orienteering.

This course is ideal for those who are looking to develop skills to work in the fitness or leisure industry.

During the course the students will also be able to achieve a range of AQA awards.

LIFE SKILLS

A supportive option for Y10 and Y11 students.

This course enables students to develop and build on basic skills necessary to experience independence and success in everyday life.

This course is most suitable for vulnerable students who struggle to build and maintain social relationships and who are under confident in exploring the world outside of home and school. This course is designed to give students the skills with which to transition into successful early adulthood.

Each student will receive a tailor made approach to developing these skills. Examples of possible modules are listed here. (There are over 1000 in all to choose from. Each student will have a personalised approach).

Year 10

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Communication in a group All about me: we are all different	Health Lifestyle	First Aid Awareness	Taking Responsibility for personal health and wellbeing	Household Cleaning	Introduction to laundry Care Washing by machine

Year 11

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Managing Money Money Management Budgeting & Prioritising Debt Awareness	Up to me Independent Travel Skills	Coping with change and transition	Looking after my mental health	Resilience	Kindness and self esteem

Each module will be certified with an AQA unit award. There is no limit to the number of unit awards a students can acquire over a 2 year period.

In Year 11, in the Spring Term, each lesson starts a mindfulness session, this gives each student the ability to access strategies and coping mechanisms that will assist them both in exams and everyday life.

Option Block D

MUSIC

GCSE — OCR AQA Units

The music courses are assessed on performance, composition and appraisal (listening) work and follow in progression from lessons in years 7-9.

The GCSE course is made up of five main 'Areas of Study' (AoS).

AoS 1 – My Music – This is the study of a chosen instrument or voice.

AoS 2 – The Concerto Through Time – This is where we study how the concerto developed from around 1600 to 1910.

AoS 3 – Rhythms of the World – We study music from India and the Punjab region, Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East, Africa and Central and South America.

AoS 4 – Film Music – We study music composed for films and classical music used within films. We will also explore music composed for video games.

AoS 5 – Conventions of Pop – This covers music from the 1950s to the present day focussing on:

Rock 'n' Roll in the '50s and '60s.

Rock Anthems in the '70s and '80s.

Pop Ballads in the '70s '80s and '90s.

Solo Artists from the '90s onwards.

Course Work – The course work is split up into two modules worth 30% each.

Integrated portfolio (Completed in year 10 and recorded at the start of year 11)

Performance 1 – a solo performance on own instrument

Composition 1 – you get to make up your own piece of music in a style of your choice.

Practical Component (Completed and recorded in year 11)

Performance 2 – this is an ensemble performance where you play as part of a group.

Composition 2 – This is based on a brief set by the exam board in year 11. You are given a choice of different briefs.

The Exam – 40% of the total marks

At the end of year 11, there is a Listening and Appraising exam where you will be played a selection of music from the AoS' we have studied and asked questions about them.

AQA Unit Awards

Within the AQA Unit awards, students will complete tasks to achieve certificates. Within year 10, students will aim to complete Entry Level certificates and Year 11, we will focus on achieving Level 1 Certificates. Students will be given the opportunity to explore music technology as part of the awards. All students will have the opportunity to gain Unit Awards.

Selected students who show good potential to gain a GCSE will be given the opportunity to complete the GCSE course



PE

GCSE PE WJEC

Students on the short course will cover a range of theory and practical lessons over two years. The Theory lessons will cover the following Areas. Health, training and exercise, Exercise physiology and finally the analysis of movement.

Practical lessons will cover a mixture of team sports and individual sports.

Team sports: Basketball, Handball and Rounder's

Individual Sports: Badminton, Table Tennis and Athletics

The final grade is awarded after the students complete a 1 hour written examination which is worth 50 marks and 50% of the final grade.

Students will also be assessed in two sports one which must be a team sport and the second an individual sport. This assessment makes up 50% of the final grade. All practical assessments are assessed in school and then externally moderated by the WJEC.



ART

GCSE—AQA

All students who take Art as an option will follow the GCSE syllabus and will be entered for this exam. Over the two years, each pupil will produce a minimum of two pieces of coursework and a final exam. The coursework topics will be set by the teacher but there will be room for each pupil to follow and develop the theme in a more personal direction if they wish. Each topic will be based around an artistic style and concept in which students will learn a variety of techniques and the use of different mediums. All tasks will be set to cover for all ability levels.

For the GCSE Exam there is a strong emphasis on individual ideas and students are encouraged to use a range of styles and media to explore these ideas.

Students should be aware that they will need to be self-motivated with the ability to work independently under instruction.

If students chose Art but are not quite able to take a GCSE, they will be able to attain some AQA unit awards instead.

Option Block E

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Bronze Award—Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Program is a real adventure from start to finish. Students can do the programme at three levels, which when completed lead to Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Students will start on the Bronze Award here at Samuel Cody School. Students achieve the awards by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections. These are titled Volunteering, Physical Activity, Skills and an Expedition.

Students will find themselves helping others in the community, increasing their personal fitness, developing new skills and eventually taking part in an expedition.

Places on this option are limited due to regulations on Duke of Edinburgh group sizes. This option also requires students to commit time to after school clubs so please bear this in mind when selecting this option. Also note transport for clubs will not always be available.

Finally, a love of the outdoors and walking is a must if you are to pass the award.

HORTICULTURE

Level 1 qualification—Laser Award

This is a practical, modular based course open to any pupil who is keen to develop a wide range of skills in horticulture.

Students must be prepared to work outside in all types of weather and will be expected to have the appropriate clothing e.g. good pair of boots or old trainers, wet weather gear, jeans/old clothes. This is a basic health and safety requirement.

As well as the practical work, students will also be expected to keep a written portfolio of work to meet the exam requirements. All students will be able to access the written work at their appropriate level.

Topics covered will include:

- Planting a container
- Floristry skills
- Using and maintaining garden tools
- Pruning skills
- Cultivating herbs
- Garden maintenance

TECHNOLOGY/CRAFT

AQA Unit Awards/Level 1—AQA

Technology/Craft is a technology based subject that builds upon the skills and techniques learned during DT lessons in key stage 3.

Students are encouraged to develop these skills in a more independent way, researching existing products and developing their designs from this research.

They will be taught how to further advance their CAD/CAM skills to produce drawings for their own designs which they will manufacture from a range of different materials such as Acrylic Wood, and Metal.

They will be expected to work as independently as possible whilst still receiving the teaching and support to make this possible.

As part of completing AQA Unit awards they will be required to draw/sketch and complete some written work, explaining their designs and evaluation their products on completion.

Year 9 Option Blocks

Name:

In each option block box put your first and second choice of subject. We will try to give you your first choice wherever possible

Option Block A	Qualification	Exam Board	1 st /2 nd Choice <small>Please indicate</small>
Food Technology	BTEC level 1/2	EDEXCEL	
The King's Trust	Entry Level or Level 1	The King's Trust	
Photography	GCSE/AQA Unit Awards	AQA	
Option Block B			
Digital Media	AQA Unit Awards	AQA	
Forest School	AQA Unit Awards	AQA	
History	Entry Level Certificate	OCR/AQA	
French	AQA Unit Awards	AQA	
Option Block C			
Geography	Entry Level 1/2	OCR	
Sports Leaders Award	AQA Unit Awards	AQA	
Life Skills	AQA Unit Awards	AQA	
Option Block D			
Music	AQA Units or GCSE	AQA/OCR	
PE	GCSE /AQA Units Awards	WJEC	
Art	GCSE	AQA	
Option Block E			
Duke of Edinburgh	Bronze Award	D of E	
Horticulture	Level 1 Qualification	LASER	
Technology/Craft	AQA Unit Awards/Level 1	AQA	

Please return by 23 May 2025