



2023/24 Key Stage 4 Options Prospectus





Principal's message

Dear students and families,

We are really proud of the trail our Year 10 and 11 students have continued to blaze on our Key Stage 4 pathways, and we very much look forward to you, our new cohort of Year 9s joining them.

It is a big step to make important choices at your stage of education. I would urge you to consider carefully those options that inspire you. At Year 9, your future passions and chosen career pathway may change, and we will support you to choose a broad range of opportunities now which will ensure doors are not closed to you in the future. Our aim is the same as that of you and your families; for you to enjoy coming to school, be happy, work hard and achieve well. We will offer you every support along the pathway to your next destinations, and ensure you live well with your Autism.

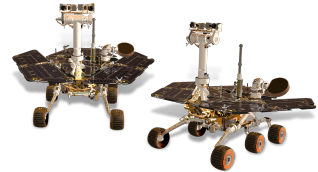
Dee Pickerill
Principal



Your options explained..

It is important that the subjects you continue to study in Key Stage 4 provide you with a balance. We want to encourage you to pursue your passions and interests, whilst also making sure we continue to support you to develop and refine those skills and that knowledge needed to thrive in your own adult lives. We believe that our offer strikes this balance well.

All students will undertake qualifications in Maths, English & Science. Each subject will be running two Pathways for these subjects. We have named our Pathways after the Mars Rovers ‘Curiosity’ & ‘Spirit’. Which pathway you access will be a matter of close consideration between your teachers, your family and of course you!



This decision will be made on a subject by subject basis, so for example we may feel that you will succeed in the Curiosity pathway in Maths, but need to access the Spirit Pathway in English.

Whilst the core subjects will be accessed by all students, the next option blocks allow you to make decisions about the subject you continue to study into Key Stage 4.

Core Subjects (all students do these subjects - please indicate which pathways)				Option Block	
Curiosity (X)		Spirit (X)		You choose which 1 (X)	
	Maths (GCSE)		Maths Functional Skills Level 1 or 2	Art GCSE	
	English Literature & Language (GSCE) (Double Award)		English (NCFE Functional English Level 1 or 2)	P.E NCFE	
	Science 9-1 (GCSE)		Science ELC Certificate	* You will find a copy of this table on the last page for you to fill out and return to your form tutor.	
Occupational Skills for the Workplace					
PSHE					
Statutory P.E					
ICT					

It is also important that we allow enough teacher-led time in your timetable to ensure you have enough lessons and learning time in order to put you in the best possible position to gain the highest possible result or accreditation from the course you are accessing. Your timetable would be as follows

Subject	Taught hours per week	Subject	Taught hours per week
Science	4	ICT	3
English	4	Occupational Skills for the Workplace	3
Maths	4	P.E	1
Optional Choice	3	PHSE	1

This timetable will ensure you have plenty of lesson time with your teachers to help guide you towards your qualification or result.

Now take some time to read through the subject guides that your teachers have put together for you. If you have any questions which you would like to ask any of us then please contact Snowfields reception, all teachers will be available on Wednesday 5th May, families can book 15 minute consultation sessions with any Teachers with whom they would like to discuss any courses or options further.

In the meantime if you have any questions before this time then please speak to your form tutor or me directly.

I hope you enjoy reading this prospectus, take your time and really think about the options in front of you.

James Doddington
Vice Principal

Courses at Snowfields

English Literature and Language GCSE	6
English Functional Skill	8
Mathematics	9
GCSE Science Synergy 1-9	11
AQA ELC Science	12
ICT	14
Relationships, Sex and Health Education	15
Occupational Studies for the Workplace	16
GCSE Fine Art	18
BTEC Sport First Award	19
Options slip (to be completed and returned)	21

GCSE English Literature & Language (WJEC eduqas)

Curiosity Pathway

This course will give students the opportunity to study English Literature and Language at GCSE level.

Students will gain two GCSEs at levels 9-1.

GCSE English Literature

Component 1:	Shakespeare Poetry 2hr exam 40% of qualification	Section A: Shakespeare: 20% Section B: Poetry from 1789 to present day: 20%
Component 2:	Post 1914 Prose/Drama C19th Prose Unseen Poetry 2hr 30min exam 60% of qualification	Section A: Post 1914 Prose/Drama:20% Section B: C19th Prose: 20% Section C: Unseen Poetry: 20%

Students will not be able to take a copy of the texts into the exam.

GCSE English Language

Component 1:	C20th Literature Reading Creative Writing Prose 1hr 45min exam 40% of qualification	Section A: Reading: 20% Section B: Prose Writing:20%
Component 2:	C19th and C21st Non Fiction Reading Transactional/Persuasive writing 2hr exam 60% of qualification	Section A: Reading: 30% Section B: Writing: 30%

Component 3:	Spoken Language Internally assessed Unweighted	One presentation/speech with feedback and questioning
--------------	--	---

As English is a non-vocational course, the skills developed are vital in developing a well-rounded CV. Employers will look for candidates to have a GCSE or equivalent.

If students wish to go onto further education it will show that they have transferable study and writing skills that can be beneficial to a wide range of humanity subjects such as History, Psychology, Arts/Drama.



English Functional Skills (NCFE) *Spirit Pathway*

If students would prefer to follow a Functional English route, NCFE Certificate in English and NCFE Functional English at Level 2 will provide them with a thorough understanding of the role of English in everyday life. Students will complete the following courses:

NCFE Certificate in English (Level 2)

This is a course work based qualification which asks students to provide evidence of their understanding of the English Language and Literature in a more real world context. Students will use letters, posters, leaflets and short stories to analyse rather than whole novels.



Alongside their Certificates, students will take NCFE Functional Skills English (Level 2), an exam based course that assesses the knowledge they will have learnt as part of their Certificate in English.

The purpose of the Functional Skills English Level 2 qualification is to prepare them for work, study and life. Achieving this qualification will demonstrate their ability to read, write, speak, listen and communicate in English. It is a requirement for entry into most jobs and is considered a GCSE equivalent.

The Level 2 English qualification will improve students' career options. Students will be able to apply for jobs in careers such as; nursing, teaching, policing, the fire service and many more. Students will also be able to apply for higher education courses, apprenticeships and training courses.

GCSE Maths

Curiosity Pathway

Students on the Curiosity pathway will take GCSE Mathematics at either Foundation tier, in which they can achieve grades 1-5 or Higher tier, where they can achieve grades 3-9. Content in the higher tier encompasses all of the Foundation tier objectives, with additional content. Year 10 students will have access to both tiers, dependent on their starting points and confidence/progression within a topic. Tiering decisions are begun at the start of year 11 and finalised by the end of module 2 of year 11.

GCSE Mathematics is assessed by three written 1 hour 30 minute examination papers. The first paper is non calculator, whilst the second two allow the use of a calculator. Each paper contains a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical difficulty increases as the paper progresses.



The subject content is as follows:

- 1 Number
- 2 Algebra
- 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- 4 Geometry and measures
- 5 Probability
- 6 Statistics

Qualifications in Mathematics support students' entry into further study and employment. Furthermore, as well as being 'a workout for the brain', continued study in Mathematics supports students with everyday decision making as they transition into adulthood.

Maths Functional Skills

Spirit Pathway

The Spirit pathway within Maths is a more bespoke pathway, linked to pupils' needs.

The curriculum is based on functional skills objectives used in everyday life. Qualifications that pupils will take will vary depending on their confidence and attainment in Maths. The majority of students will take two qualifications: one that is coursework based (NCFE certificate in Everyday Maths at levels 1 or 2; or AQA Entry Level Maths), and another that is exam based (NCFE Functional Skills at Entry 3, Level 1 or Level 2).

Topics pupils will focus on include:

- Understanding the size and position of large and small numbers;
- Rounding & Estimating;
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing skills with and without a calculator;
- Time and money (including financial skills);
- Percentages;
- Decimals and Fractions;
- Statistics;
- Ratio & Proportion;
- Understanding and using units of measurement
- Geometry in everyday life (including area and perimeter)
- Problem solving skills (developed throughout the course).



Qualifications in Mathematics support students' entry into further study and employment. Furthermore, as well as being 'a workout for the brain', continued study in Mathematics supports students with everyday decision making as they transition into adulthood.

GCSE Science Synergy 9-1

(Curiosity Pathway)

The course is divided into two main sections, Life and environmental science and Physical science which contain connections between areas of biology, physics and chemistry that sit together as part of good science.

Both sections include topics that draw together and apply key concepts. Examples in Life and environmental sciences include Radiation and risk and The Earth’s atmosphere. In these topics, earlier work on atomic structure, waves and electromagnetic radiation is used to explain the effects of different types of radiation on human tissues and on the climate. An example in Physical sciences is Resources of materials and energy, which introduces life cycle assessment as a way of evaluating the impacts of using materials and energy to manufacture useful products.



How will students be assessed?

Paper 1 & 2	Paper 3 & 4
<p>What’s assessed Life and environmental sciences Topics 4.1–4.4: Building blocks; Transport over larger distances; Interactions with the environment and Explaining change.</p>	<p>What’s assessed Physical sciences Topics 4.5–4.8: Building blocks for understanding; Interactions over small and large distances; Movement and interactions and Guiding Spaceship Earth towards a sustainable future.</p>
<p>How it’s assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • Foundation or Higher Tier • 100 marks • 25% of GCSE 	<p>How it’s assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • Foundation or Higher Tier • 100 marks • 25% of GCSE

What next?

After achieving my GCSE Science there are many different pathways you could take some are: Studying science at college or six form, getting a career in: medicine, cookery, space, conservation, fitness, nutrition, farming, engineer.

AQA ELC Science

(Spirit Pathway)

Entry Level Certificates (ELCs) are nationally recognised qualifications which give students the opportunity to achieve a certificated award. The ELC Science specification is taught alongside GCSE Combined Sciences to suit students who are studying both qualifications. The assessment is on demand so students can complete assignments when they are ready, helping to keep motivated.

Subject content

The specification comprises six components. Each component has two assessments: one externally set and one internally set. The six components meet the Programme of Study Key Stage 4 requirements.

Biology

Component 1-

The human body

Component 2

Environment, evolution and inheritance

Chemistry

Component 3 -

Elements, mixtures and compounds

Component 4 -

Chemistry in our world

Physics

Component 5

Energy, forces and the structure of matter

Component 6 -

Electricity, magnetism and waves

Assessments

There are two different types of assessment.

1. Externally-set assignments (ESAs) consist of a short written test.
2. Teacher-devised assignments (TDAs) consist of a short piece of practical work.

Single Award

Students studying Entry Level Science - Single Award submit evidence for three Teacher-devised assignments plus three externally-set assignments.



Externally-set assignments (ESA)	Teacher-devised assignments (TDA)
What's assessed Students submit evidence one each from Biology, Chemistry and Physics.	What's assessed Students submit evidence for three components, one each from biology, chemistry and physics. These are assessments of practical tasks set by the teacher.
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally-set assignment: 45 minutes • each test is worth 20 marks • weighting 57% 	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher-devised assignments • each piece of coursework is worth 15 marks • weighting 43%

Double Award

Students studying Entry Level Certificate Science – Double Award must submit evidence for six Teacher-devised assignments plus six Externally-set assignments.

Externally-set assignments (ESA)	Teacher-devised assignments (TDA)
What's assessed Students submit evidence from all six components	What's assessed Students submit evidence for all six components. These are assessments of practical tasks set by the teacher.
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally-set assignment: 45 minutes • each test is worth 20 marks • weighting 57% 	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher-devised assignments • each piece of coursework is worth 15 marks • weighting 43%

What next?

As an approved Entry Level qualification, the ELC Science specification provides excellent progression to GCSE studies particularly in GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy and GCSE Combined Science: Synergy. The ELC provides flexibility, but on a clear progression pathway. It equips students with skills and knowledge transferable to both educational and career settings, and provides a worthwhile course for students of various ages and from diverse backgrounds in terms of general education and lifelong learning.

ICT

All students will take ICT and will be working towards Edexcel Functional skills ICT exams over the course of years 10 and 11. They will work progressively from Entry Level 1 up to the Level 2 qualification in Functional skills ICT. This will help them gain a greater understanding of the exam structure and style and will develop their confidence working under exam conditions.

The students will also have the opportunity to develop and consolidate knowledge of a range of common applications that are at the heart of the current workplace.

The Functional skills Entry level 1 to Entry level 3 are examinations which are on demand. This means that they can be sat when the student is ready and each student gets three attempts per level. The Level 1 and 2 exams are also on demand but are set out slightly differently to the Entry level exams.



Proposed timeline for Functional Skills

Entry Level 1	November/December 2023
Entry Level 2	February/March 2024
Entry Level 3	May 2024
Level 1	December/January (2024)
Level 2	May/June 2025

Throughout KS4 students will have the opportunity to develop existing skills as they explore some of the content of the Computer Science curriculum, including topics such as Algorithms, Coding, Binary numbers and Data types .

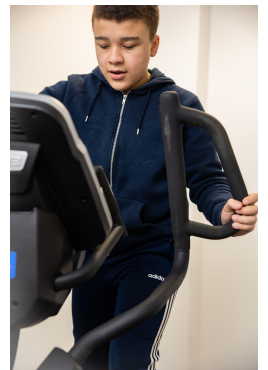
Relationships, Sex and Health Education (NCFE Level 2 Award)

All schools in England will have an obligation to teach Relationships and Sex and Health Education from September 2020.

Young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world that can present positive opportunities, but also challenges. Students need to know how to stay safe and healthy both on and off-line. The content of this curriculum helps foster their wellbeing to enable them to be happy, successful and productive members of the community.

What will the RSHE curriculum cover?

- Different types of families and family relationships.
- Respectful relationships including friendships and how to stay safe in all types of relationships.
- How to stay safe on-line and make sense of the digital world.
- Intimate sexual relationships and sexual health.
- Mental wellbeing and how to stay well emotionally.
- How the internet and online world can impact a person's emotional health, both positively and negatively.
- To know how to stay physically healthy including; balanced diet, physical activity, sleep, personal hygiene.
- The facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks.
- Ways young people can prevent ill-health.
- Basic first aid, including how to manage emergency situations.
- Key facts about puberty and the emotional and physical changes that take place during the teenage years.



How will students be assessed?

Students will create a portfolio of work toward a Level 2 award in RHSE from NCFE - this certificate can lead on to further RSHE study in KS5 and give a base for any students wishing to study childcare, Teaching Assistance or Education in the future.

NCFE Occupational Studies for the Workplace

Vocational Studies



Vocational Studies give students the opportunity to gain skills needed for successful future employment.

Students will be encouraged to develop a 'hands on' approach to their learning and gain practical skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of sectors. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained will help learners prepare for work through real or simulated work situations and will contribute to preparing them for working life beyond education.

What does the qualification cover?

The course is made up of several modules, which are collated into a portfolio of work which is internally assessed and then externally varied by the exam board.



The qualification will be delivered on a carousel of learning, with all modules being accessed twice over the course of two years.

Carousel 1: Business and Employability	Carousel 2: Food Tech	Carousel 3: Horticulture (Bearsted)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication skills for business ● Using Email ● Business organisation structures ● Word processing software ● Preparation for work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developing cooking skills ● Cooking with fish, meat and vegetables ● Developing good practice skills for the kitchen ● Working in a team ● Problem solving in the workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garden horticulture skills ● Understanding how to cultivate herbs ● Understanding how to grow fruit and vegetables

What will students gain?

Students will gain a Level 2 qualification which is equivalent to a Grade 4 at GCSE - many employers look for a Level 2 as a benchmark for gaining employment in that field. Students will have a broad understanding of employability skills and will have an understanding of three key vocational areas.

Students will be able to put this qualification on their CVs.

What next?

Students will be prepared to move on to further study in an occupational or vocational course of their choice, should they wish to gain additional qualifications in a specific area of study in the future.



Fine Art GCSE (AQA)

(Option Block)

The Fine Art GCSE is an exciting, highly personalisable course that can be adapted to suit a range of abilities and artistic interests.

The GCSE is split into three parts: the induction unit, the personal portfolio and the externally set project.

As part of the induction unit, all students complete a project based around natural forms. Here students learn valuable sketchbook skills and are supported to understand the assessment objectives that the course is marked with.



The personal portfolio can be based around one extended idea or project, or several smaller ideas or projects. Students will work with the teacher to choose an idea that they are interested in to focus on in their artwork. This can be based on very specific interests, meaning that everyone will be able to work on completely personalised projects. Work can take on any art form: drawing, painting, printing, photography, sculpture - the possibilities are almost endless!



In the externally set project, students will choose from a range of topics set by the exam board and will create and develop work based on this brief. At the end of this project, students will complete a final piece of work under exam conditions.

In all three units, students are assessed on their ability to develop an idea, research relevant artists or craftspeople, refine their work, and present a personal outcome.

A Fine Art GCSE can be the first step in a career in the arts. Students may wish to continue studying on connected courses that could specialise in specific areas like Photography, Graphic Design or Fine Art. Others may use the qualification to look for work in the arts sector. Students who complete the Art and Design GCSE may go on to work in social media, fashion, design, videogames and technology, or many more career pathways!

NCFE Sport Level 1 Certificate

(Option Block)

Qualification purpose

This qualification is designed to help support the learner's personal development through acquiring skills and knowledge in sport, exercise and fitness. The qualification also allows learners to gain personal transferable skills that can be applied to the workplace or further study.

The qualifications are designed to give learners the skills, knowledge and understanding of the sport and physical activity sector. These qualifications will act as a stepping stone to a range of occupations often through the route of further education.

This qualification will:

- focus on the study of the sport within the leisure sector • offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge
- provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.

Qualification objectives

The objectives of this qualification are to:

- gain an understanding of the sport, exercise and leisure vocational sector • study areas of particular interest
- encourage learners to adopt a fitter and healthier lifestyle.

How will it be delivered?

Students will complete practical and written assessments across the 5 of the units below. There are NO EXAMS!! We also support students in various assessment methods such as video or audio.

Unit 01 Taking part in sport

Unit 02 Sports coaching

Unit 03 Leading others

Unit 04 Personal exercise and fitness

Unit 05 Effect of exercise on human body systems

Unit 06 Strength and conditioning

Unit 07 Health and nutrition

Unit 08 Developing sports volunteering skills

Unit 09 Assist at a sports event

Unit 10 Understanding the sport and active leisure sector

Unit 11 Exploring employment in the outdoor industry



What Next?

Once you have made your choices please complete this table below and return to us as soon as you can. Can these please be returned to us no later than Friday 26th May.

Many thanks in advance for your continued support,

Core Subjects (all students do these subjects - please indicate which pathways)				Option Block	
Curiosity (X)		Spirit (X)		You choose which 1 (X)	
Maths (GCSE)		Maths (Functional Skills Level 1 or 2)		Art GCSE	
English Literature & Language (GCSE Double Award)		English (Functional Skills Level 1 or 2)		P.E NCFE	
Science 9-1 (GCSE Double Award)		Science ELC Certificate (Level 3)			
Occupational Studies for the Workplace					
PSHE					
P.E					
ICT					

Student Name: _____

Parent/Carer: Signature: _____