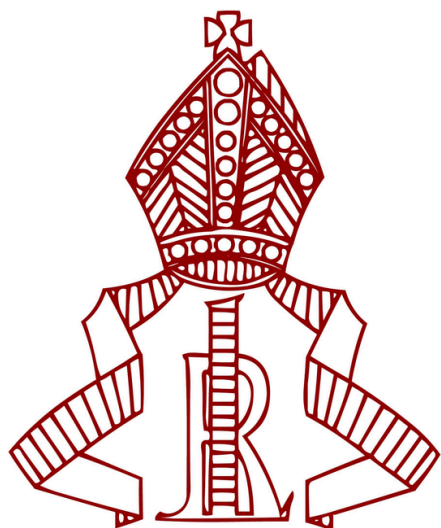


Bishop Luffa School

Key Stage 4 Course Information

Subject Guide
2026-2028



Introduction from the Head Teacher

Dear parents and carers,

It is finally time for your child to choose their options. Most students are excited at the prospect of this, as it is their first real opportunity to take control of their education. It also allows conversations in school and at home about the courses and careers that they may follow when they leave school.

Our approach at Bishop Luffa is to emphasise the opportunity that this gives students to really immerse themselves in subjects that they enjoy; however, it is also important that students do not narrow their focus so much that they limit their options when they leave school. The role of teachers, parents and carers is to help the children to find that balance.

There are a number of key dates during the process:

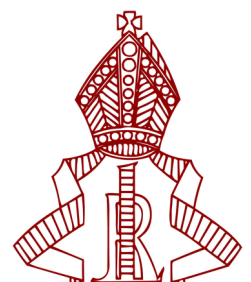
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|------------------------------------|---|
| 6th - 8th January | Faculties talk to students about subjects |
| Friday 9th January | Key Stage 4 courses information issued online to students - assembly to explain process |
| Monday 12 th January | Window for making preliminary online choices starts. Instructions emailed to you. |
| Wednesday 14 th January | Year 9 grades issued |
| Thursday 15 th January | Year 9 Options Information Evening and subject fair (Parents / carers only) at 5.30pm |
| Monday 19 th January | Preliminary online choices deadline |
| Thursday 29 th January | Parents' and Carers' Virtual Consultation Evening (with students) 4-7pm |
| Monday 2 nd February | Final online choices deadline |

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of House or Mr Stuart White, Deputy Head, who will be running the options process.

Thank you for your support,



Austin Hindman - Head Teacher



Years 10 and 11 are an exciting time when you study for your first public exams. At Bishop Luffa, most students take nine GCSEs.

We offer a wide range of courses to help you choose subjects that interest and challenge you. Reading about each course will help you understand what is involved and make the right choices.

Pathways for option choices

ASPIRATION

Having a goal to aim for and working towards that goal drives you forward.

Learning a foreign language helps you develop important skills that are hard to gain in other subjects. Because of this, most students are expected to study a language at Key Stage 4 (KS4). If you have shown you can succeed in a language, you should continue with the one you chose at the end of Year 7. You can then choose two more subjects from the full range available.

ENDEAVOUR

Having to strive for success is what makes us who we are.

On this pathway, you can choose from all KS4 courses. You should choose three subjects, one of which can be a language. When choosing, think about assessment styles. GCSEs are mainly exam-based, while Cambridge Nationals include more non-exam assessment.

INDEPENDENCE

Learning to balance your studies, wellbeing, and extracurricular activities.

This pathway lets you choose the same options as the Aspiration and Endeavour pathway, with the added option of the Curriculum Support and Key Skills course. This course helps you gain qualifications in English and Maths and supports your GCSE progress. You choose three subjects from the full range, and taking Curriculum support and Key Skills is optional.

Information for Year 9 students

To take Triple Science, you must have a current grade of 4M.

Some students may be invited to study a Free-Standing Maths Qualification (FSMQ) alongside GCSE Maths. This is outside the normal curriculum, does not use an option, and helps extend your maths skills. More details will be given by the Maths department.

You will receive guidance to help you make the right option choices.

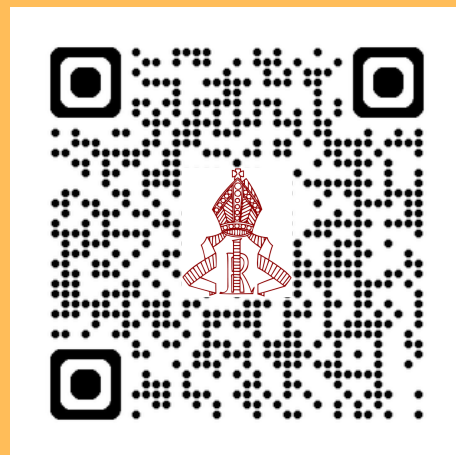
Next steps

- Talk with your parents/carers, tutor/ Head of House, and subject teachers
- Use [Unifrog](#) to explore subjects and complete your profile
- Choose subjects you enjoy, are good at, and that fit your goals
- Make your own choices, not based on friends

A wide range of courses is available and full information is on the [school website](#) - scan the QR code.

Consider how each course is assessed (final exams or ongoing coursework) and what suits you best.

These choices are important and hard to change later, so take time to think carefully.



Prohibited combinations

To ensure a broad KS4 curriculum, the following combinations are not allowed:

Pick either GCSE Computer Science **or** Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)

Pick either GCSE PE **or** Sport Studies (Cambridge National)

Pick either GCSE Media **or** Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)

Pick either GCSE D&T Product Design **or** GCSE D&T Textiles

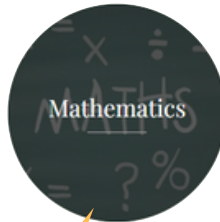
Key Stage 4 Course Information

English: two GCSEs; one in Language and one in Literature

Combined Science: two GCSEs

A total of nine GCSE's

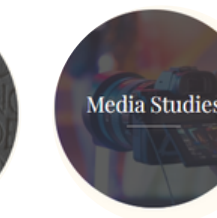
Core subjects



Non-examined subjects



Option subjects



Click the subject to read more information

