

# Bideford College



## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

2017 - 2019

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The purpose of this guide is to inform students and parents/carers of the Key Stage 4 curriculum offer at Bideford College. The curriculum aims to provide students with a breadth of study that enables them to pursue every pathway in the future (even if that pathway is yet to be determined). To meet this aim students in Year 10 and 11 will study the following core subjects across five Faculty areas:

### Key Stage 4 Core subjects

Subject	Hours studied per fortnight
Mathematics	7
English Literature and Language	8 (increased to 9 in Year 11)
Science (combined or fast track)	10 (or 15 if triple science chosen)
Humanities: History or Geography	5
Language: French or Spanish	5
Core PE	3 (reduced to 2 in Year 11)
PSHE (including careers)	2

In addition two additional subjects can be taken from the list below. These subjects are each studied for 5 hours per fortnight.

### Additional subjects

History	Food prep. and technology	Construction	Photography
Geography	Materials technology	PE	Health and Social care
Religious studies	Design and technology	Triple Science	ICT
Art and design	Engineering	Visual communication	Children's learning and development
Drama	Fashion and textiles	Music	Business studies

### Types of qualifications

It is possible for students to achieve a Level 2 qualification in all the subjects on offer at the College. Many of these subjects are traditional GCSE subjects but we also offer the new Technical Awards, Cambridge Nationals and BTEC all of which are of equal rigour and require the same standards to be demonstrated in the award of a grade.

All the GCSE subjects are graded on a 9 – 1 scale. This is still a relatively new system and the table on the next page makes comparison between the new and traditional GCSE system. The Technical Awards, Cambridge Nationals and BTEC qualifications are graded as distinction\*, distinction, merit and pass. These are also included in the table.

### English Baccalaureate

Students who achieve a Grade 5 pass in an English subject, Maths, Sciences, a Humanities and a Language will be considered to have achieved a suite of subjects known as the English Baccalaureate or 'Ebacc'. This suite of qualifications is recommended to keep the maximum number of pathways open for students in the future.

## Gradings

Old GCSE system	New GCSE system	Technical Awards/BTEC/Cambridge Nationals
G	1	Level 1 credit
F	2	Level 1 credit
E	3	Level 1 advanced credit
D	4	Pass
C	5	Pass
B	6	Merit
A	7	Distinction
A*	8	Distinction*
New A**	9	Distinction*

## Science

All students at Bideford College will study the combined Science qualification or Triple Science. If students have a passion for Science then students can select Triple Science as one of their additional subjects. This will mean that students will have 15 hours of study per fortnight on their timetable to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE programmes.

## English

All students will study GCSE English language and English Literature in their English lessons. They will be entered for both of these qualifications at the end of Year 11.

## Timeline of events

Year 9 is an exciting time. For the first time in a student's school career they will have some say in the subjects that will appear on their timetable for the next two years. It is therefore important that the decisions made are informed and researched. To help with this there will be a number of events at the College and it is essential that all parents/carers and students attend so that we can support our students.

- **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February:** Progress review when tutors will discuss the KS4 curriculum process.
- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February:** KS4 information evening. This will be the time to discuss with Heads of Faculty and subject staff the different courses available next year.
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Year 9 parents evening. This will be to discuss current progress and future outcomes with current teachers.
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March:** Key Stage 4 curriculum form needs to be handed in to tutor.

Please take time to read the information in the following pages. They outline all the courses that are on offer at the College next year. It includes important information such as the type of qualification awarded, the style of assessment that will take place to determine the final grade and the progression routes that are available to students who follow these subjects. All of these should be considered carefully when deciding which additional subjects to follow next year.

Please note that whilst the college will do its best to honour the subjects that students would like to study, sometimes this is not always possible as class sizes need to be viable in order for subjects to be timetabled, so we cannot guarantee that all the subjects listed here will run. However, in the event that a student is unable to take their combination of subjects they will be contacted to discuss the options available to them.

