



January 2021

Dear Bennett Parent,

As students make their way through their secondary education, so they become increasingly aware of their particular areas of interest and where they are also performing well in the subjects that they study. At the same time students become more mature and so capable of making informed decisions. In this context then, I write to inform you about the curriculum that your child will be studying in year nine from September. Students in year nine will have the opportunity to personalise their curriculum in a limited way, which I have set out below.

It is important to note that further decisions will need to be made for year 10, when the curriculum is further refined. In all likelihood, the year 10 curriculum for the current year 8s will be the same as for the current year 9s, as shown on the school website.

At GCSE, students will study English literature, English language, mathematics, three sciences, RE, either history or geography, a modern foreign language plus one more from a range of possible courses. Computing can be chosen as one of the three sciences but this needs to have been studied in year 9.

This will mean that, when that time comes, certain combinations will no longer be possible, for example, both art and textiles or food and product design. So, the decisions made now are an important part of the process of helping refine a student's curriculum to arrive, in time, at a final combination of GCSEs.

Guidance

This year the process is taking place during national lockdown, so we are providing an opportunity to join us for a virtual briefing which will set out the factors involved. The process will work as follows:

Wednesday 10th February, 5pm. Join for a live Zoom webinar information briefing (details via email). During that briefing it will also be possible to enter questions into the chat where an advisor can respond. The session will be recorded and made available on the website later.

Wednesday 10th February, 5.20pm If your question needs further exploration there will then be a new Zoom meeting you can join immediately following the briefing (details via email). If the question is personal or further time is needed then we encourage you to get in touch with your year manager, Mrs Sarjeant (2019@bennett.kent.sch.uk), so we can establish what support is required.

Parents and students should consider the tables below which set out the core curriculum for all students and then the Option blocks from which to choose two further subjects.

Core curriculum

English Language and Literature	6 periods
Mathematics	6 periods

Biology	3 periods
Chemistry	3 periods
Physics	3 periods
Religious Studies (GCSE)	5 periods
Geography	4 periods
History	4 periods
French/German	4 periods
Physical Education	4 periods

Below, you must identify only one subject in each block (row). If there is a combination that you wish to make that is not permitted by the blocks you will need to explain this carefully in the form to see if this is something we can accommodate.

Option Block A	Art & Design	Textiles	Beginner German	Beginner French	Latin	Computing	Product Design	Food
Option Block B	Drama	Music	Beginner German	Beginner French	Latin	Computing		

Please email Mrs Bowring (bowring@bennett.kent.sch.uk) for a link to complete the year 9 curriculum form. It will take the necessary details including two choices and an alternative choice. **To access the form your child will need to be logged into their Microsoft account, but we strongly recommend that this form is completed with parents present.**

The deadline for the submission of the form is Friday 19th February 2021

What if I change my mind?

We do always attempt to offer flexibility but parents and students need to be aware that this is not always possible and may take time to resolve. Being conscientious about the deadline and studying these documents carefully together reduces the likelihood of a decision wavering later on. If a change is proposed after the deadline, this will need to happen through your year manager.

Our experience is that a year 9 curriculum designed in this way reflect student needs and interests, whilst at the same time mandates subjects that are critical to their future chances and development.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Woollett Assistant Head
Curriculum and Communication.