

Sunnydown School

Year 9 Curriculum Evening – 2nd April 2025



Key Points



- Pathways – Core subjects (Maths, English and Science)
- Options – First half Summer Term
- GCSEs and BTEC

Rationale



- Level 1/2 vs Level 3 College Courses
- The impact on mental health with an over-focus on exams.

Curriculum developments in recent years



- AQA Unit Awards
- Pathways (1 & 2)
- East Surrey College
- Life Skills
- DIY
- Creative Media BTEC
- Media and Information Literacy
- GASP

- Increased literacy interventions
- Options/Friday Curriculum
- Pastoral/Learning Support
- Developments around the school - animals
- School Fitness Suite

Core Subjects and Pathways (Mon-Thurs)



- English
- Maths (higher/foundation)
- Science (higher/foundation)
 - Split into Pathways for the core subjects dependent on various factors including work ethic, academic ability and resilience.
 - Maths and Science Pathways will be combined.
 - Details of your son's Pathway will be shared in an information letter after Easter.

English



- Pathway 1 will have 3 English lessons and follow the English Language GCSE (or Entry Level). They will also follow the Asdan personal development programme.
- Pathway 2 will have 4 lessons per week and will study for the English Literature GCSE as well as the English Language GCSE.

Literature



- An Inspector Calls
- Macbeth
- A Christmas Carol
- Power and Conflict (Poetry)

Asdan



This is a life skills programme that draws on skills from a variety of areas which can be used in specific tasks that will benefit the boys now and when they leave Sunnydown.

Asdan Bronze Award in Personal Development



Maths



- 3 lessons per week for both Pathways.
- Higher and Foundation Papers

Science



- Pathway 1 will have 4 lessons per week and will follow a modified curriculum which will also allow them to access the Combined Science Trilogy Double Award - Foundation Level.
- Pathway 2 will have 4 lessons per week to prepare for the Combined Science Trilogy Double Award - either Foundation or Higher Level.

Summer Term



- Computing project (Summer 1 and 2)
- Maths, English and Science Bridging Unit (Summer Term 2)

Options



- Options have given the boys a choice, not only in terms of subject, but the level of challenge.
- GCSE, BTEC, AQA unit awards, learning experience.

Options



Block A	Block B	Block C
GCSE PE	GCSE DT	GCSE Art
or	or	or
DIY (AQA)	BTEC Creative Media	BTEC Home Cooking Skills

Friday Curriculum



- **East Surrey College**

- A rotation of 3 activities, Motor Vehicle Maintenance, Sports and Public Services and Construction.
- Portfolios of evidence that can be used towards Asdan award, AQA Awards or college interviews.
- Focus on preparation for Post 16.

- **Life Skills**

- Life Skills scheme (designed in house based upon the needs of the group)
- Planning activities
- Volunteering work
- Emotional intelligence
- Bespoke
- Careers
- Teamwork
- AQA Awards

GCSEs



- Start in Year 10
- **Practice** Exams in December Year 11
- Pairing with support
- Assessment of Access Arrangements
- Anxieties
- Calm reassuring process

College Entry

- Level 1
 - 2/3/4 GCSEs Grade 2 and above
 - Good Attendance
 - Good reference
- Level 2
 - 4/5 GCSEs Grade 3/4
 - Good Attendance
 - Good reference
- Level 3
 - 5/6 GCSEs Grade 4/5 and above with some specific requirements
 - Good Attendance
 - Good reference

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

