

KEY STAGE 4
OPTION CHOICES
2017 - 2019



‘UNDERSTAND
YOUR
OPTIONS...’

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FOREWORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Choosing subject options for Year 10 is a major decision and an exciting opportunity for students. It is vital that choices are only made after the most careful consideration of all the alternatives. Some subjects are, of course, compulsory and have to be taken. Where students have the opportunity to select other courses, it is obviously important to maintain a broad and balanced programme of study in order to keep as many opportunities open to them as possible for the future.

In this book you will find information about each course that is offered in Year 10 and Year 11. Please take the time to read all the information carefully and make the most of the opportunities to speak to teaching staff. At both the Year 9 Parents' Evening and the Information Evening there will be formal opportunities for parents to discuss subject preferences. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to discuss option preferences and to receive further information on subjects. This will take place during their normal lessons, assemblies and in Academic Mentoring. Parents can play an invaluable role in helping the students to choose appropriate courses. Students should think carefully about which subjects they enjoy, remembering that they will be studying them for two years. It is also important for students to consider where their strengths lie and how good they are at each subject. It makes sense to choose subjects in which the student will perform to their best.

So much in the future depends on the students achieving good GCSE results. The more successful each student is, the more choices will be available when considering a career. At The Marches School we offer a wide range of courses to suit many individual tastes and needs, all of which provide opportunities for students to be successful and help prepare them for the next stage of their life. The whole process is designed to inform students and parents as fully as possible about the preferences available to them. Please do not hesitate to contact Miss Cooke (Progress Leader).

Mrs A. Pearson
Headteacher

CURRICULUM

KEY STAGE COURSES 2017 - 2019

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is written for students now in Year 9 and their parents/carers, to provide information about the various courses offered in Key Stage 4.

During their first three years at The Marches School (Years 7, 8 and 9), students are in what the National Curriculum calls 'Key Stage 3' of their education. When they enter Year 10 in September 2017, they move into Key Stage 4, the final part of their compulsory school education. This stage covers the two years during which courses of study lead to public examinations, many of which, though not all, are at the end of Year 11.

The National Curriculum requires all students to study the following subjects throughout Key Stage 4 (although not necessarily to GCSE level):

English
Mathematics
Science

Physical Education
Religious Education

There is also a requirement to maintain a balanced curriculum through to the age of 16. Our school curriculum for Key Stage 4 is intended to combine this important principle of balance together with a degree of flexibility and choice. This booklet aims to explain how this applies to each student in Year 10. It is also intended to act as a handbook for future reference.

MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS

We ask parents/carers to read through this booklet carefully and to discuss it with your child. It contains information about the subjects for study over the coming two years. The Spring Term of Year 9 is the time when we provide the details about Key Stage 4 courses and ask parents/carers and students to make choices based upon the information.



KEY DATES

FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY

Year 9 Options Assembly.

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY

Year 9 Parents' Evening - 4.00 - 6.30pm

This will provide an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss current progress and future targets with teachers.

THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY

Students attend Options Fair (in school)

An opportunity to talk to staff who run each course and find out information about their subject. Students who are currently undertaking the course will also be available to answer questions.

THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY

Parents' Information Evening - 6.00pm in the Main School Hall

This event will provide the opportunity to meet key staff and discuss further the information provided in this booklet.

WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH

The form for the Option Choices is to be completed, in discussion with parents. Any student who is unable to access the internet at home should speak to their Tutor who will arrange a suitable time for the form to be completed at school.

Some students will have guidance interviews with Miss Cooke or the Pastoral team.

KEY PEOPLE

Each of these occasions is intended to form part of the process of decision-making this term. However, we can also provide a variety of less formal opportunities for students who should ask Academic Mentors and subject teachers about any aspect of Key Stage 4 courses.

Mr T. Stonall	Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)
Miss S. Cooke	Progress Director
Mrs V. Robinson	Assistant Progress Director
Mr S. Walker	Well-being Leader
Mrs M. Rowe	Well-being Leader
Mrs E. Johnstone	Director of English
Mr J. Tudor	Director of Mathematics
Mrs S. Wilmot	Director of Science
Mrs S. Geddes	Director of Information Communication and Applied Technology
Mr C. Garratt	Director of Humanities
Mrs C. Gilpin	Assistant Director of Performing Arts
Mr R. Brookes	Associate Assistant Headteacher and Director of Modern Foreign Languages
Mr N. Martin	Director of Physical Education
Mrs J. Holdsworth	SENCO
Mrs S. Robinson	Shropshire Youth Personal Adviser

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS...

YOUR FUTURE

You are at the beginning of another important step concerning your future. It is a good time to ask yourself questions such as:-

- a. What subjects do I **LIKE**?
- b. What subjects am I **GOOD AT**?
- c. Do I wish to continue my studies beyond school and then progress to Sixth Form, College or University?
- d. In what type of employment would I be happy?

The National Curriculum will ensure that you experience a balanced programme of study over the next two years. With this in mind, do not worry unduly if you cannot answer the above questions. It is quite normal for students of your age to be unsure at this stage.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All students will study the five core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Humanities (History or Geography). In addition, all students will continue with their course of Citizenship, which covers aspects of Religious Education, Work Related Learning and Careers Guidance, Issues, Drugs Awareness and Relationships Education.

All students then choose to study up to **three** additional option subjects. It is expected that all students following the E-Bacc route will take a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish). This choice will enable students to achieve the English Baccalaureate if they are successful. The English Baccalaureate is a measure of student achievement announced by the government in 2010. To be able to achieve this measure, students must achieve a good pass in English, Maths, two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject.

English	4 lessons
Mathematics	4 lessons
Science	5 lessons
Physical Education	2 lessons
History or Geography Year 10/11	2/3 lessons
Modern Foreign Language Year 10/11	2/3 lessons
Option A Year 10/11	3/2 lessons
Option B Year 10/11	3/2 lessons
Option C Year 10/11	3/3 lessons
Option D Year 10/11	2/2 lessons

All examination subjects studied can lead to a recognised qualification at Level One or Level Two of the National Qualification Framework. For most subjects this will be a GCSE.

These arrangements will mean that students in Key Stage 4, in most cases, will follow eight academic courses with the possibility of up to ten or more GCSE passes or equivalent.

Methods of assessment vary considerably between courses and the detail of each subject's system of assessment is referred to in this booklet. It is also possible to obtain further information at The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority's website: www.qca.org.uk

As in Key Stage 3, the Key Stage 4 curriculum is divided into 25 lessons per week. The allocation of these lessons according to subjects is displayed in the table to the left.

Extended Curriculum Route 2016

CORE SUBJECTS	EBACC OPTIONS	OPTIONS (Choose 3 subjects)	
English Language	Geography	Art	Music Photography
English Literature	or	Business Studies	PE (GCSE)
Maths	History	Computer Science	RE
Science		Drama	Resistant Materials
		Food	Spanish
PE		French	Textiles
Citizenship		German	BTEC Health and Social Care
		Geography	Marches Apprenticeship
		Graphics	
		History	
		ICT	
		Media	

E-Bacc Route 2016

CORE SUBJECTS	EBACC OPTIONS	OPTIONS (Choose 2 subjects)	
English Language	Geography	Art	ICT
English Literature	or	Business Studies	Media
Maths	History	Computer Science	Music
Science	French	Drama	Photography
PE	or	Food	PE (GCSE)
Citizenship	German	Geography	RE
	or	Graphics	Resistant Materials
	Spanish	History	Textiles

QUALIFICATIONS

GCSEs:

The **General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)** is an academic qualification awarded in a specific subject. GCSE qualification are awarded at grades 9-1. A table is included from Ofqual to help parents understand the new grading system. (GCSE grade reform has taken place from 2015.)

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above

CHOICES

Core subjects are as follows:

English

Mathematics

Science

Humanities (Geography or History)

Physical Education (A non-exam course)

Citizenship (A non-exam course)

MARCHES APPRENTICESHIP

This is an exciting programme of learning which combines real life work experience and a Business and Enterprise vocational qualification at GCSE level. In the school based section of the course, which comprises approximately half of the course, students complete the NCFE Business and Enterprise qualification. The course is split into four units, 3 of which are coursework based, 1 has an external exam. The work experience placements usually begin after February half term in Year 10 once the external exam is completed and provide an opportunity to put into practice the skills learnt in the course. In Year 11 most students work in school for the Autumn term and are in the workplace for the Spring term, ensuring that they are well placed to secure placements post 16. This course is ideal for someone who is considering an Apprenticeship route as their Post 16 option.

The Marches Apprenticeship

NCFE Level 2 Business and Enterprise

Max of 15 places

Places on this course are **strictly limited**. Decisions on which students follow the Marches Apprenticeship will take close account of their performance and progress so far, so that the course matches their learning needs.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

Compulsory Subject

What is involved?

You will learn to further develop your skills in the following areas:

- Reading a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding, from 1789 to the present day
- Reading critically, and using knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve your own writing
- Expressing your views, presenting arguments and writing creatively
- Using grammar correctly, punctuating and spelling accurately
- Listening to and understanding spoken language, and using spoken Standard English effectively

Qualifications available:

Every student will sit both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature, two qualifications awarded at grade 9-1.

Assessment:

GCSE English Language will feature two written examination papers worth 100% of the qualification. 50% of the qualification assesses reading skills and 50% of the qualification assesses writing skills. Students will also have to complete a speaking and listening task throughout the course.

GCSE English Literature will also feature two written examination papers worth 100% of the qualification.

Career ideas include:

A GCSE in English Language and English Literature is a basic requirement for entrance to many academic and vocational courses. The skills can be transferred to all areas of work but suit a wide variety of careers such as journalism, publishing and teaching.

MATHS

Compulsory Subject

What is involved?

You will learn to develop your skills in the following areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics and Probability

Qualifications:

There are two tiers of GCSE examination – Foundation and Higher.

The Foundation exam allows a student to gain the new GCSE grade of 5-1 .

The Higher exam allows a student to gain the new GCSE grade of 9-4.

Assessment:

GCSE Maths is examined by terminal exams only.

There are three papers: one non-calculator and two calculator.

Career ideas include:

A GCSE in maths is an expected requirement for most colleges and a large number of careers. It is essential for careers in finance, engineering, sciences, business/economics

SCIENCE

Compulsory Subject

What is involved?

Understanding and describing the world and exploring how science affects your everyday life.

You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics:

Qualifications:

Pathway 1

Combined Science - 2 GCSE grades in Science (1-9) following the AQA Trilogy course.

Pathway 2

Separate Science – 3 individual GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics following the AQA courses.

Your child will be placed on the pathway most appropriate for their needs based on their academic ability and attainment in English, Maths and Science. To follow 3 separate sciences is an academically demanding course requiring high levels of ability. Final decisions will be made during Year 10.

Assessment:

Both pathways will follow the same assessment structure. There will be six exam papers to be sat, all in the summer exam period of Year 11.

- 2 x Biology
- 2 x Chemistry
- 2 x Physics

There is no controlled assessment for Science.

Career ideas include:

Architect, beauty therapist, biochemist, building control surveyor, chemist, conservation officer, dietician, forensic scientist, healthcare assistant, marine biologist, meteorologist, pharmacist, research scientist, teacher, veterinary nurse, physicist.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Compulsory Subject

What is involved?

Physical Education is a core subject and all students within our school undertake 2 hours of Physical Education in both Year 10 and Year 11.

Students need kit for all P.E. Lessons and should aim to be fully involved and as active as possible.

Games and individual activities are undertaken through the two hours per week allocated to Physical Education and students are expected to improve their tactical knowledge and consolidate their skill base. The emphasis is on Physical Education leading to further physical activity outside of school and the undertaking of a healthy lifestyle by our students.

Within the hours allocated in Year 11, students are given time to work on their individual fitness and play in team and individual games. The time is spent on activities with the emphasis on participation and enjoyment. Some students may use core P.E. to enhance their GCSE practical grades.

ART

What is involved?

You will enjoy this course if you have an interest and natural aptitude for Art. An awareness of art and art history is essential; you should have a genuine interest in visual culture.

You will investigate and learn various skills and techniques that will enable you to work in a variety of materials with confidence and creativity. This will include using charcoal, ink, paint (acrylic, water colour and oil) and printmaking. You will also develop a range of techniques, such as creating composition, colour theory, perspective and working from life that will help you in your development as an artist.

Encouraging your own creativity can lead you to great ideas in your other subjects.

Many students go on to higher education in Art and Design including A-Level and Foundation courses at college.

Qualification:

GCSE grade 9-1.

Assessment:

Coursework 60%, Exam 40%

Career ideas include:

Students then aim to embark on careers in the world of advertising, graphic design, the fashion industry, set design, illustration, special effects and gallery curation. Some set themselves up as practising artists.

YES

NO

MAYBE

BUSINESS STUDIES

What is involved?

Students will be able to understand the business world they will enter after finishing school/college/university. Developing their ability to make informed decisions and put forward arguments to persuade others, students will benefit from the guidance they need to set up a successful business. They benefit from the development of transferable skills such as evaluation and problem solving.

Specifically, the course covers the following content:

- Marketing, including advertising, development of products, setting the best price.
- Recruitment, including how businesses get the right staff and keep them working well.
- Business structures, including the different ways to set up a business.
- Finance, including how businesses get the money to set up and operate and how they make a profit.
- Business operations, including how businesses produce the things we buy.
- Influences on businesses, including the environment and how many businesses are operating around the world.

Qualification:

The course is provided by OCR at GCSE level, awarding the grades 9-1.

Assessment:

Two exams are taken at the end of the course and each is 90 minutes long.

There is no controlled assessment element in this reformed GCSE.

Some questions will be multiple choice and some will be extended writing; testing your ability to explain why you made a particular decision.

Career ideas include:

This GCSE provides you with a fantastic grounding to pursue a range of options.

Whether you have aspirations to pursue an apprenticeship, BTEC Vocational or A Level study, this course will help you understand the world in which you will end up working.

The course flows seamlessly into both BTEC and A Level Business Studies, whilst providing the problem solving and evaluative skill needed to be successful on Apprenticeships.

Thinking further ahead, the course equips you with the skills needed to understand the workings of businesses, preparing you to work within or lead successful businesses.

YES

NO

MAYBE

BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

What is involved?

Why choose BTEC Health & Social Care? This course is designed to provide learners with an introduction to the knowledge and skills needed to work within the Health & Social Care profession. The course will include units focusing on Human Lifespan Development, Health and Social Care Values, Social Influences on Health and Well-being and the Impact of Nutrition on Health and Well-being.

Qualifications:

The course is aimed at Level 2 learners and has an outcome which is equivalent to GCSE grade A – C.

Assessment:

Human Lifespan Development is assessed via a 1 hour written paper, whilst the other three units of the course are assessed as part of an on-going programme, structured as short coursework units.

Career ideas include:

Nursing, social services, youth work, community work, childcare, the care of the elderly and many more.

YES

NO

MAYBE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What is involved?

The GCSE will foster young people's creativity and inventiveness. Learners will be expected to apply valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace. They will solve problems by using a deep understanding of computational thinking and how to apply it.

The aims of the GCSE in Computer Science are to enable learners to:

- Develop an understanding and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- Be able to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- Be able to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Gain an understanding of the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- Develop an understanding of the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- Be able apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science

Qualification:

The course is GCSE level, grades 9-1.

Assessment:

There are three components to the final qualification, two written examinations worth 30% each, combined worth 60% of the overall final grade and a controlled assessment worth 40% of the final grade.

Career ideas include:

A fantastic pre-course for level 3 subjects, both GCEs and BTECs in IT or Computing. Possible careers include Web Developers, Software Engineer, Network Administration, Business Analysis, Physics or any of the Engineering subjects.

YES

NO

MAYBE

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What is involved?

The Design Technology course is a opportunity to explore and create products using a range of different materials. The course looks to promote problem solving creative thinking as well as. challenging students to design and make their own unique products using a range of hand tools and computer controlled machines.

Assessment:

- 50% Exam – the exam is 2 hours (100 marks)
- 50% Coursework – 30 – 35 hours of design and manufacturing.
- The coursework is split up into an A3 design portfolio of work and a practical product that is designed and made from scratch.

Taking this option will allow students first hand experience of solving real design problems and allow then to creatively use a large range of hand tools and machines. The course will also give students the opportunity to develop computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing skills when designing and making their major project.

Careers Ideas include:

This Design Technology course can give you the opportunity to advance to higher education in the Marches Sixth Form, college apprenticeships and eventually a university degree.

Design technology is suited to careers where practical skills are important as well as careers in design, product manufacturing and engineering.

YES

NO

MAYBE

DRAMA

What is involved?

GCSE Drama is an exciting GCSE that allows students to fully develop their performance skills, through the exploration of different theatre styles and genres. Not only will students learn the skills to be an outstanding performer, but they will also develop their self-confidence. They will study 2 plays during the course and complete on Devised Performance in response to stimulus.

Students will complete a 900 word portfolio to support their practical performance as well as a written exam based on their set text and a response to live theatre.

Qualifications available:

GCSE grade 9-1.

Assessment:

- Component 1: Devised and Portfolio (40%)
- Component 2: Performing from a text (20%)
- Component 3: Written Exam (40%)

Career ideas include:

Actor, director, writer, lighting designer, stage designer, costume designer, choreographer, stage manager, teacher and drama therapist.

YES

NO

MAYBE

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

What is involved?

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills and will enable you to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. You will learn about British and international culinary traditions, food security and safety.

At the heart of the qualification is a focus on developing practical cookery skills and a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

Qualifications:

A GCSE 9-1.

Assessment:

Written exam: Food preparation and nutrition – 50% of GCSE

Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from the 5 core topics.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) – 50% of GCSE

Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.

Task 1: Food investigation

You will understand the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment

You will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Career ideas include:

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

YES

NO

MAYBE

GEOGRAPHY

Compulsory Subject

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What is involved?

Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the UK, newly emerging economies and lower income countries.

Topics of Study Include:

- Climate Change
- Poverty and Deprivation
- Global Shifts in Economic Power
- The Challenge of Sustainable Resource Use
- Ecosystems and the Threats they Face
- Tectonic Hazards

Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Qualification:

GCSE grade 9-1.

Assessment:

There will be three exams to sit (100%)

- Physical Geography (35%)
- Human Geography (35%)
- Skills (30%).

Career ideas include:

Conservationist, geologist, surveyor, town planner, transport planner, travel representative, meteorologist and environmentalist.

YES

NO

MAYBE

GRAPHICS

What is involved?

The UK is the world leader in the creative digital industries, such as the creation of visual effects for films and computer games.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Diploma in Digital Applications has been designed to engage and enthuse young people with an interest in creative computing, for example digital graphics.

For Unit 1, as part of your studies, you will learn how to develop a web product. This unit aims to give you the knowledge and skills you need to produce attention grabbing web products using web authoring software, multimedia assets and navigation features.

The second unit aims to give you the skills to use the tools and techniques provided by artwork and imaging software to design and create effective graphic products for specified purposes and audiences. You will investigate a range of graphic products to find out how images are used to convey a particular message. Once you have a good understanding of the possibilities offered by artwork and imaging, you will learn how to produce images that communicate effectively onscreen and in print and how to combine them with other components to produce graphic products.

Assessment:

- Unit 1 - you will demonstrate your ability to design, build and test a web product in a practical computer-based examination set by Pearson (25% of total GCSE).
- Unit 2 - You will demonstrate your ability to create effective images and graphic products through your work on a major project set by Pearson. This will include exhibiting your work and supporting evidence in an e-portfolio (75% of total GCSE).

Careers ideas include:

This qualification provides a broad and solid foundation for further study of various aspects of creative computing, such as graphic design, web design, computer games design and interactive media. It enhances young peoples' overall digital literacy and gives them a solid foundation for further study and employment.

YES

NO

MAYBE

HISTORY

Compulsory Subject

What is involved?

Students will study the main developments in 20th Century British History and International Relations.

Year 10

- Cold War, 1945 - 1990
- Henry VIII and His Ministers 1509 - 1540

Year 11

- Medicine and Britain, 1250 - Present
- German Depth Study, 1919 - 1945

Qualification:

GCSE 9-1.

Assessment:

There will be three exams to sit (100%)

- Medicine (30%)
- Germany (30%)
- Henry VIII and Cold War (40%).

Career ideas include:

Journalism, media, law, teaching, human resources, politics, archaeology, museum curator, researcher and tourist guide.

YES

NO

MAYBE

ICT

What is involved?

In Year 10 you will work towards a technical award in ICT.

The course is designed to help students understand practical usage of ICT in real life and enable them to go on to further study or employment. This qualification will equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to design and make, effective digital products for others to use.

Qualification:

The course will lead to a technical award graded distinction*, distinction, merit or pass.

Assessment:

A combination of external and internal assessments count towards the final award. A minimum of 60% of the assessment is based on a practical coursework element. The remainder is assessed through a written theory examination paper.

Career ideas include:

A qualification in ICT opens up an incredible world of opportunities for work, both in the technology industries and in supporting roles within other industries. IT careers need technical skills and knowledge, but also other characteristics such as an ability to communicate clearly to all levels of business personnel, planning and project management skills, excellent self-motivation, decision making and problem solving abilities.

YES

NO

MAYBE

MEDIA STUDIES

What is involved?

GCSE Media Studies is a wide ranging course that looks at the ideas and attitudes behind the media industry today. Students following their course will explore a range of theories and ideas about how we - as members of the audience - respond to what we watch. There is also a significant part of this course that looks at you constructing your own media text, using your ideas to produce a range of media products (e.g. film sequences, magazines, web pages).

For the 2017 course, awarded in 2019, the focus is on the areas of News, specifically TV News and News websites.

Qualifications available:

GCSE grade A*-G.

Assessment:

- One controlled assessment portfolio that includes two investigations (linked to the areas of narrative, genre and/or representations) and a practical production portfolio. The controlled assessment portfolio is worth 60% of the final mark.
- One exam worth 40% of the overall grade. The focus of this will be on News, specifically TV News and News websites.

Career ideas include:

Journalism, graphic design, marketing, advertising and production.

YES

NO

MAYBE

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

What is involved?

Students have the opportunity to continue studying the Modern Foreign Language they have studied during Years 7, 8 and 9, i.e. either French or Spanish. The qualification is a key component of the EBacc suite of subjects and will be very beneficial in terms of Sixth Form, college, university and future employment applications. Furthermore, the new MFL GCSE leads smoothly into Advanced Level study. The aim is to enable students to develop their ability to communicate in French or Spanish and the language is studied within a range of relevant personal, social, education and work-related contexts.

Assessment:

The course is linear, meaning that all four skills are assessed in final exams at the end of Year 11. Students will be entered at either foundation tier (grades 1-5 available) or higher tier (grades 4-9 available).

Listening: 25% of total GCSE marks (35 minutes at foundation tier or 45 minutes at higher tier)

Speaking: 25% of total GCSE marks (12 minutes preparation time, then 7-9 minutes exam at foundation tier or 10-12 minutes at higher tier).

Reading: 25% of total GCSE marks (1hr at foundation tier or 1hr 15 minutes at higher tier)

Writing: 25% of total GCSE marks (1hr 15 minutes at foundation tier or 1hr 30 minutes at higher tier)

Career ideas include:

Many employers look for people with language skills and often provide training in other languages once you have proven your proficiency in your first MFL. Most employers will not necessarily need complete fluency, but will be attracted to applicants with conversational ability, which helps to create a good impression and builds relationships with clients. The skills you will develop through studying a Modern Foreign Language are not confined to jobs with an international dimension. Excellent communication skills are highly valued in most high earning professional employment sectors, examples include; Marketing, Public Relations, Banking, Journalism, Business, etc. Finally, more and more Universities also ask for a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language as part of their enhanced requirements.

YES

NO

MAYBE

MUSIC

What is involved?

Music GCSE is an exciting course that gives you the opportunity to develop your performance, listening and composition skills. Whether you are a singer, instrumentalist or in a band, we will help you to develop and become an expressive performer and composer. By learning about the history of music, you can develop your own musical knowledge. This will really help you to compose in a variety of Western Classical styles. Students will complete a 2 hour written exam on the history of music, beginning in the medieval era up to the present day. This course requires students to play a musical instrument/sing (approximately grade 2 standard or above). Students will need to learn how to read music notation which will be done in lessons. Students will also compose two contrasting compositions based on Western Classical music.

Qualifications:

GCSE grade 9-1.

Assessment:

- Performing and Composition Coursework (60%)
- Listening Exam based on set Works at the end of Year 11 (40%)

Careers ideas include:

Singer, performer in a band, instrumentalist, film composer, teacher, conductor, sound designer on computer games, music journalist, concert organiser, music therapist, artist representation.

There is a huge, vibrant and thriving music industry out there just waiting for you to explore.

YES

NO

MAYBE

PHOTOGRAPHY

What is involved?

Should you take the photography route with your GCSE you will work on themed projects learning to use DSLR cameras to explore areas of lens-based and light-based photography. You will learn how to use a range of photographic styles, including portraiture and still-life, as well as learning to manipulate and edit images using Photoshop.

Encouraging your own creativity can lead you to great ideas in your other subjects too.

Many students go on to higher education in Art and Design including A-Level and Foundation courses at college.

Qualification:

GCSE grade 9-1.

Assessment:

Coursework 60%, Exam 40%

Career ideas include:

Students then aim to embark on careers in the world of advertising, graphic design, the fashion industry, set design, illustration, special effects and gallery curation. Some set themselves up as practising artists.

YES

NO

MAYBE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What is involved?

Practical activities

Minimum of one hour each week participating in a number of practical sporting activities as a performer and being graded by the P.E. staff for individual performances. Students must have kit for these practical lessons. It is an advantage if students have a good practical ability prior to opting for this course. The majority of marks are awarded for practical activities, therefore, students who are in low sets and who do not attend school P.E. clubs or play sport outside of school will struggle to achieve high grades.

Theory lessons

One hour each week learning about sport; from the view of the active participant. Students will learn through a theory lesson based around:

- Types of activities
- Physiological aspects of performing in sport
- Healthy lifestyles
- Social and cultural issues around sport
- International sport

Qualification:

Level 2 GCSE 9-1.

Assessment:

- 40% internally assessed practical
- 60% end of course final exams

Career ideas:

P.E. teaching, physiotherapy, coaching and the armed forces.

YES

NO

MAYBE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

What is involved?

Learning about moral and life issues and human relationships from a variety of different perspectives, both religious and non-religious. The topics covered are:

- Religion and life
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, human rights and social justice

Qualification:

GCSE grade 9-1.

Assessment:

Two exams, both at the end of Year 11.

Career ideas include:

Civil service, teacher, nursing, doctor, police, army, social services, media, journalism, law, youth work, community work and many more.

YES

NO

MAYBE

TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

What is involved?

This qualification is designed for 14–16 year olds who want to study fashion and textiles in a hands on, practical way that helps them develop the knowledge, skills and experience that could open the door to a career in the industry.

Unit 1: Skills demonstration

Learners will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their skills, these include; Colouring fabrics, Surface embellishment, Fabric manipulation and shaping for functional and decorative purposes, Decorative and functional edge finishes and many more.

Unit 2: Extended making project

Learners will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in Unit 1

Unit 3: Fundamentals of fashion and textiles

Learners will study the fundamentals of the fashion and textiles industry and the industrial and commercial processes that exist within it.

Qualification:

The course will lead to a technical award graded distinction*, distinction, merit or pass.

Assessment:

Unit 1 – internally assessed 30% of overall qualification

Unit 2 - internally assessed 30% of overall qualification

Unit 3 – Externally assessed 40% of overall qualification

Career ideas include:

Design (fashion, footwear, accessories, interior, textiles, costume, contour) illustration, trend forecasting, marketing, merchandising, buying, pattern cutting, construction and textiles.

YES

NO

MAYBE

MARCHES APPRENTICESHIP

What is involved?

This is an exciting programme of learning which combines real life work experience and a Business and Enterprise vocational qualification at GCSE level.

During your time at school which comprises approximately half of the course you will complete the NCFE Business and Enterprise qualification. The course is split into four units, 3 of which are coursework based, 1 has an external exam.

The work experience placements usually begin after February half term in Year 10 once the external exam is completed and provide an opportunity to put into practice the skills learnt in the course. In Year 11 most students work in school for the Autumn term and are in the workplace for the Spring term, ensuring that they are well placed to secure placements post 16.

This course is ideal for someone who is considering an Apprenticeship route as their Post 16 option.

Qualifications:

NCFE Level 2 Business and Enterprise

Assessment:

75% coursework and 25% external exam.

Success at work is continually assessed through visits from the school to the student in the workplace.

Career ideas:

Post 16 Apprenticeship Routes

YES

NO

MAYBE

WHAT
NEXT?

WHAT NEXT?

You have now read all the information about every subject on offer in Key Stage 4 at The Marches School. For each option subject you should have indicated whether it may be an appropriate choice for you. Use this page to summarise what you have learned.

ACTIVITY...

Transfer your ticks from the bottom of the options pages – so that you can see them all in one place.

Subject	Is this a subject I might choose to study?		
	Yes	Maybe	No
Optional Subjects			
Art			
Business Studies			
BTEC Health and Social Care			
Computer Science			
Design Technology			
Drama			
Food Preparation and Nutrition			
Geography			
Graphics			
History			
ICT			
Media Studies			
Modern Foreign Languages			
Music			
Photography			
Physical Education			
Religious Education			
Textiles Technology			
Marches Apprenticeship			

Congratulations – you have completed the options booklet and are now well on your way to choosing the right subjects for you.

So far you should have narrowed down the options to a list of possibilities, the next step is to make your final choices. This should be done on The Marches School's website by going to the Parents and Students tab and then the Year 9 Options Information page. Where possible this survey should be completed with parental guidance. If internet access is not available at home please see your Tutor who will arrange access.

The survey must be completed by **Wednesday 1st March 2017**. After this time it will be closed for completion.

Students are reminded that the school will endeavour to deliver individual students preferences, but this cannot always be guaranteed.

In the Extended route there are 3 option blocks requiring 6 preferences. In the Baccalaureate route there are 2 option blocks requiring 4 preferences.

Further support on how to complete the options survey will be given through the Year 9 Options Assembly on Friday 10th February and the Parent Information Evening on Thursday 16th February.

The samples at the end of this document give an example of the options survey in paper form.

If you are still in doubt about what is the best choice for you – please do not hesitate to ask for help from your Tutor or Miss Cooke, Progress Leader.

OPTION FORMS

SAMPLES ONLY

OPTION PREFERENCES: YEAR 9 – 2017

Extended Route Sheet

Please make sure you complete both sides of this form

Name:	Tutor Group:
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Core subjects (studied by all students)	English, Maths, Science, Geography or History, Core PE (non-exam) and Citizenship(non-exam)
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Humanities	choose from: Geography History	Humanities
		First Preference:
		Second Preference:

Free Options <i>Choose six from:</i>		
Art	Health + Social Care*	Religious Education
Business Studies	History	Resistant Materials
Drama	ICT	Spanish
Food Technology	Media	Textiles Technology
French	Music	Marches Apprenticeship
Geography	Photography	
Graphics Technology	GCSE Physical Education	

The courses marked with an asterisk (*) is a BTEC, further details in the booklet.

Put the names of the subjects you would like to be considered for into the boxes below:

Free Options – three will be studied	
First Preference:	Fourth Preference:
Second Preference:	Fifth Preference:
Third Preference:	Sixth Preference:

We have a limited number of places on courses as part of our collaborative work with local employers. This will also limit your option choices.

Only answer 'Yes' if you wish to do this course in preference to your Free Options.

Do you want to be involved?

Yes**

No

Signed:

(student) Signed:

(parent/carer)

When you have completed your form, both sides, get your Tutor to check your form and sign it in the box below:

Name	Tutor Group	Tutor's signature

Please return this completed form to your Tutor by Wednesday 1st March 2017.

OPTION PREFERENCES: YEAR 9 – 2017

Baccalaureate Route Sheet

Please make sure you complete both sides of this form

Name:	Tutor Group:
--------------	---------------------

Core subjects (studied by all students)	English, Maths, Science, Geography or History, a Modern Foreign Language, Core PE (non-exam) and Citizenship(non-exam)
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English Baccalaureate Choices:

Modern Foreign Language	choose from: French or Spanish
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Humanities	choose from: Geography History
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Modern Foreign Language
First Preference:
Second Preference:

Humanities
First Preference:
Second Preference:

Free Options <i>Choose four from:</i>		
Art	Graphics Technology	GCSE Physical Education
Business Studies	History	Religious Education
Computer Science	ICT	Resistant Materials
Drama	Media	Textiles Technology
Food Technology	Music	
Geography	Photography	

Put the names of the subjects you would like to be considered for into the boxes below:

Free Options – two will be studied	
First Preference:	Third Preference:
Second Preference:	Fourth Preference:

Signed:

(student) **Signed:**

(parent/carer)

When you have completed your form, both sides, get your Tutor to check your form and sign it in the box below:

Name	Tutor Group	Tutor's signature

Please return this completed form to your Tutor by Wednesday 1st March 2017.

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