

PATHWAYS

Year 9 onwards

PATHWAYS

When students select their option choices in Year 8 they will be provided with a suggested “Pathway”, these are designed to try and ensure that students get the best opportunity to maximise their academic success in their exams at 16 (we call these level 2 qualifications)

What is on offer through options.....

Students can take GCSE subjects and/or BTEC courses. There has been a lot of publicity around the BTECs that schools will offer.

A BTEC is a course that offers a more practical course to students, there is still an examined part to it but also a large coursework element. The number of BTECs being offered is being reduced but they will still be considered to be equivalent to 1 GCSE.

BTECs in the news

There has been a rapid increase in the number of BTECs available in recent years and the government body OFQUAL gave them equivalencies to GCSE subjects (in some cases BTECs were deemed worth 2 or 4 GCSEs).

The current Government wants to tighten up on the range of BTECs that exist and ensure that they have an examined part as well as a coursework part. They have also reduced the number that will be included in school attainment tables (i.e the ones they think are still worth the same as a GCSE) and said that all BTECs will be worth 1 GCSE.

However they do not want to get rid of them and for many students they will form part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

What is on offer

Students can take GCSE subjects as an option.

These subjects will have a “controlled assessment” part which students take in school and is assessed and also a final exam.

The percentage of the final marks that comes from the exam will vary from subject to subject and in some of the more practical subjects such as Dance and Drama the final exam is performed and recorded.



English Baccalaureate

This is a new qualification that the Government is giving to those students who get a C grade or above in;

English Language

and Maths

and Double Science (or two of the triple Sciences)

and a Humanities subject (Geography or History)

and a Foreign Language

You have to get all 5 subjects at C or above to get the Baccalaureate.

As this is new it is hard to tell its significance for your daughter but **some** universities may look for students to have this

Where do these courses lead?

The Pathways should ensure that students maximise their exam success and it is this that will give them the most choices post 16.

The expectation is that students will stay in some form of education until they are at least 18.

At Carshalton Girls, post 16, students can again select from a range of subjects that include both traditional A level subjects and vocational qualifications (they are referred to as level 3) and indeed many of our students do a combination of both.

Where do these course lead.....

After 6th form students go to university, on to other forms of training or in to work. Different choices will require different qualifications.

University; They will look for subjects appropriate to the course being applied for. Students wanting to study academic subjects will need to gain academic A Levels but courses such as nursing (with a more practical element) will look for more practical qualifications; such as BTEC level 3 Health and Social care.

For any course it is clearly an advantage to have the best grades possible.

Where do these course lead.....

Students can go in to training courses linked to their chosen career and often this will be alongside paid work. Many local colleges support these and the Government is currently looking to expand the Apprenticeship scheme further. This offers young people the chance to train, while at work, under supervision.

Where do these course lead.....

Some students will leave and get a job, currently this is not easy but extra qualifications will help.

Employers will look for students who are reliable, have good attendance and are motivated. Staying on at school will give students the opportunities to take on responsibilities and challenges that will help evidence these.

Finally.....

Students need to understand that they are making choices about subjects and possible career paths with limited knowledge about what will be available in the job market when they get to it.

“We can not anticipate what the economy will look like at the end of the year never mind in 5 years”, Ken Robinson.

The advice therefore remains the same for any student, take the subjects you enjoy and do well in and follow them as far as you can.