

Sunnydown School

Year 9 Curriculum Evening – 29th March 2023



Key Points



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

History/Rationale



- GCSE heavy curriculum previously offered was not appropriate for the majority of our boys.
- There are some boys that need, want and deserve a more challenging provision in Key Stage 4.
- College entry requirements - Our 'Intent'.
- Over-focus on exams causing mental health problems and self-harm among pupils, study finds [The Independent, 2015](#)

Curriculum developments in recent years



- AQA Unit Awards
- Pathways (1 & 2)
- East Surrey College
- Life Skills
- Music
- Creative Media (incl Friday)
- Media and Information Literacy

- Mindfulness & Growth Mindset
- Increased literacy interventions
- Entry Level Certificates and Functional Skills
- 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 attempt 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.



Maths



- 3 lessons per week for both Pathways.
- Functional Skills in Year 10 and 11.

Science



- Pathway 2 will have 4 lessons per week to prepare for the combined Science Double Award.
- Pathway 1 will also have 4 lessons per week and will follow a modified curriculum which will also allow them to access the Double Award.

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 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
- Local allotments
- Emotional intelligence
- Bespoke

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	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

