



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices 2020

## Introduction to Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices 2020

We are excited to present the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices information within this booklet, which we hope you will find a comprehensive source of information as you make important decisions about which subjects you will study in Key Stage 4.

It is important that every individual student considers their choices carefully and discusses the subjects they are interested in with their teachers and parents/carers. Making the right choices in Year 9 means that doors will open for them for their post-16 opportunities, leading on to successful careers in their futures. Every student now needs to stay in education or training until they are 18. As an academy we have already been working with the students on careers and how to make decisions now that affect their future plans.

There are many subjects on offer at North Kesteven Academy, the details of which you will find within this booklet. You will be able to discuss subjects and choices with teachers on the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices evening and with senior staff at a curriculum clinic if you wish.

Over the last few years the examination system has changed significantly and an overview is provided within this booklet to help you to understand the changes.

If you have any questions about the content of a course or the way in which it will be examined, please do not hesitate to ask any of our teachers.

Key contacts:

Miss K Warburton - Assistant Headteacher

Mrs P Calder SENDCo

Heads of Department (please see information within the subject section of the booklet)

## Key Dates:

- Tuesday 21st January** - Careers and Curriculum Choice day including access to online careers information
- Thursday 6th February** - Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices Evening: 6-8pm
- Wednesday 26th February** - Deadline for completed Curriculum Choices Form
- June 2020** - Notification of Curriculum Choices
- Monday 6th July** - Key Stage 4 Experience Day



# Our Curriculum Offer

## Core Curriculum

All students will study a Core Curriculum consisting of:

GCSE English Language  
GCSE English Literature  
GCSE Mathematics  
GCSE Sciences (2 or 3 GCSE qualifications as determined by Science teachers)  
Physical Education (non-examined)  
REP, Personal, social, health and careers education (non-examined)

## Choices

We have designed the curriculum to allow students to have as much flexibility and choice for Key Stage 4 as possible. The Curriculum Choices Form gives more details on how many choices to make and which courses to choose from. Please follow the guidance on this form. Should you wish to study a course that is not on the list given, please speak to Miss Warburton

## Twilight courses

We also offer twilight courses in Drama, Dance, Music and Further Maths. This is in addition to the subjects on the normal timetable and so requires dedication and a two year commitment. Should you wish to apply for a twilight course, please complete an application form available in the restaurant on the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices evening, download from our website or enquire at reception.



# Qualification Types and Grading Systems

In England there are a number of different types of qualifications on offer to suit the learning needs of everyone. A list of high quality qualifications is published each year by the Department for Education and we ensure that the qualifications we offer at North Kesteven Academy are on this list to enable our students to progress successfully onto appropriate post-16 provision.

## What is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?

A student will have achieved the The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) if they have achieved ***a grade 1 or above at GCSE in English, Mathematics, Sciences, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language.*** EBacc is not a qualification in its own right. Although it is not the right choice for everyone, many students now follow the EBacc curriculum as it offers a broad and balanced academic curriculum. We strongly recommend any student who is able to achieve the EBacc to study these courses as most higher education providers will expect students to have achieved the EBacc in order to study at this level.

## What do the levels means?

**Level 1** means a GCSE passed at a grade 1 to 4, or an equivalent qualification.

**Level 2** means a GCSE passed at a grade 9 or above. There are also BTEC, OCR Nationals, Awards and Certificates on offer at North Kesteven Academy at Level 2. This is the level that we would expect the vast majority of our students to be achieving at the end of Year 11.

**Level 3** qualifications are A Levels or an equivalent BTEC, CTEC etc. This is the level studied in our sixth form.

Level 4 to 8 qualifications are available at universities and other higher education providers.

## How has GCSE grading and assessing changed?

General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSEs) have recently undergone huge reform. All of the GCSE courses chosen by Year 9 this year will be graded on a scale of 9 to 1. The assessment of each course is different but all of them will have a significant emphasis on examinations at the end of the two year course in Year 11. In some subjects, students will also have to do one or more pieces of controlled assessment. All reformed GCSE courses have marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

More information on assessment is available in the information on individual subjects.

# Qualification Types and Grading Systems continued...

Ofqual have published the following as a guide to help you to understand how the current grading system equates to the old grading system:

**GRADING NEW GCSEs FROM 2017**

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

## What grades are awarded if the qualification isn't a GCSE?

BTECs and OCR National qualifications are all “vocational” qualifications. This means that they relate more directly to the world of work. They all have a portfolio of units and assignments to successfully complete and all have at least one examination. The grades on offer from a Level 2 qualification are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*.

We currently offer VCert qualifications at Level 2, which is certificated with a Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*. These are technical qualifications and are assessed through portfolio and at least one examination.

# Art

## Course Details

**Contact:** Mrs M Hibbs

**Examined Component:**

100% coursework based subject. 40% externally set task



**Summary of course content:**

GCSE Fine Art offers learners the opportunity to develop their skills in a range of materials and processes including drawing, painting, print making, sculpture and ceramics. During the course learners produce a portfolio of work on a personal theme and have to work towards 4 assessment objectives;

- Develop – Researching artists and designers, using this to help develop ideas.
- Refine – Experimenting with different materials and processes.

- Record – Drawing from observation, collecting primary source photographs.
- Present – Producing a final piece/s.

**Progression:** A-Level Fine Art

**Career routes:** Many move on to a Art Foundation or on to a creative degree including Fine Art, Interior Design, Concept Design for Video Games, Photography and Scenic Design.



**Summary of course content:**

GCSE Business focuses on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world, providing opportunities for exploring real business situations and researching topical business issues. Students investigate business issues and concepts from initial business start-up, right through to large multinationals. The course draws together the business functions and the external environment to study the objectives and strategies that businesses adopt, for example recent merger activities and Globalisation.

# Business

## Course Details

**Contact:** Mr L Athersych

**Examined Component:**

40% exam

**Controlled Assessment:** 60% coursework

Units include Marketing, Finance, Operations, Human Resources and Management

**Progression:** A -Level Business, Finance, Vocational Business

**Career routes:** The course is aimed at individuals who are looking at careers in Banking and Finance including Accountancy and Marketing. Students typically go on to study an aspect of Business at University or enter a Business Apprenticeship

# Child Development

## Course Details

**Contact:** Mrs Ferrier /Mrs Allen

**Examined Component:** 50%

**Controlled:** 50% Coursework

### Summary of course content:

As part of this course you will study reproduction and the roles and responsibilities of parenthood. You will understand antenatal care and preparation for birth. Then as part of the exam and the coursework you will look at how the child grows and develops and how adults can aid in the process, including development norms, equipment a child needs and the nutritional guide lines for children. As part of the course you will undertake a visit to a child between the age of 1-5 and complete activities with them to show how they have developed. This will inform your coursework.



**Progression: Apprenticeships:** Health and Social Care; Children and Young people's workforce; Early years Education (Level 3)

**Cambridge Technical:** Health and Social Care

**A - Level/BTEC:** Psychology / Health and Social Care; BTEC Children's play, learning and development

### Career routes:

Midwifery; Nursery Teacher; Nursery Nurse; Teaching



### Summary of course content:

**GCSE:** Opportunity to manage a group of dancers to create original choreography; learn movements taken from professional dance works; develop your Contemporary technique in focused classes with others who want to be there.

**BTEC:** Exploration of a range of professional dance works; develop your performance skills through practical lessons and workshops in street and contemporary dance, and perform extracts from professional repertoire as a large group. Opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus.

# Dance

## Course Details

**Contact:** Mrs A Lloyd/Mrs R Barber

**Examined Component:**

GCSE: 60% practical, 40% written. BTEC: Mostly practical

**Controlled:** 100% controlled assessment for BTEC

### Progression:

Further study at sixth form and possibly university.

### Career routes:

Dance performer ; Dance movement therapist; Choreographer; Dance critic (reviewer); Community Dance artist; Dance education officer; Dance teacher; Dance development worker; PE teacher; Primary School teacher; set design; costume design.

# Drama

## Course Details

**Contact:** Mr M Robinson

**Examined Component:** GCSE 60%

**Controlled Assessment:** GCSE 40%  
BTEC 100%

### Summary of course content:

Experiment with different styles and forms of theatre using both a variety of text and stimulus and learn how to interpret both to create exciting pieces of drama. Explore a wide range of issues and learn to master a wide range of both performance, interpersonal, communication and self-management skills.

Learn technical aspects of theatre from lighting to sound to set building and apply these practically in both the Drama studio and the theatre.

Learn how to work comfortably as an individual, in groups and speak/perform confidently in front of an audience. Trips to professional theatres are available for you to see performances that you will then review in class. Learn how to capture your thought processes clearly through written work.



**Progression:** A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies, or BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts courses.

**Career routes:** A GCSE or BTEC in Drama is suitable for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the business, which incidentally is the third largest industry in this country.

For those students who are still undecided about their future, or are thinking, 'I don't want to be an actor,' taking GCSE Drama will still benefit you because of the wealth of skills that you will learn from the experiences that you have with us. Many of the jobs that will exist in the next twenty years do not even exist yet as the rate of technological development moves apace every day. These employers will be looking for creatively minded problem-solvers who are confident and able to adapt in the face of change.

This qualification will suit anyone willing to push themselves, whatever they might wish to do in the future.



### Summary of course content:

**GCSE English Language:** There are reading and writing elements on both examined components. Component One assesses reading skills for twentieth century fiction texts and creative writing. Component Two assesses reading skills for non-fiction texts from pre 1900 and the twenty first century and transactional writing skills including formal letters, speeches and reports.

**GCSE English Literature:** A range of texts are studied across the two years covering prose, poetry and drama and also texts from across the timeline of English Literature. Students will study a poetry anthology of pre and post 1900 poems; a Shakespeare play; a modern novel or drama; a pre 1900 text and they will be prepared to analyse unseen poetry under examined conditions.

# English

## Course Details

**Contact:** Mrs C Gibson

**Examined Component:**

100% examination for both courses

**Controlled Assessment:** N/A

### Progression:

As a core subject, English Language and English Literature provide secure foundations for a range of L3 courses. Natural progression is to the A-Level English courses, and more essay based subjects such as: History, Sociology, Philosophy and Ethics.

### Career routes:

Journalism, Creative Writing, Teaching – both Primary and Secondary.

# Geography

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	Miss Bellamy
<b>Examined Component:</b>	100%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	N/A

### Summary of course content:

Paper 1: Living With The Physical Environment.  
Paper 2: Challenges In The Human Environment.  
Paper 3: Geographical Applications.



### Progression:

A - Level Geography.

### Career routes:

Teaching; Environmental jobs; Town Planning; Tourism; Conservation Manager; Chartered Surveyor; Accountancy; Advertising and Marketing; Social Worker; Utility worker.



### Summary of course content::

For all 4 parts of the exam, 3 main themes will be studied:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons.

Learning a second language will put you in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad.

# Spanish

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	Mrs E Wright
<b>Examined Component:</b>	Listening 25%
	Reading 25%
	Speaking 25%
	Writing 25%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	N/A

### Progression:

A- Level Spanish

### Career routes:

Linguist; Spanish teacher; opportunities to work abroad.

# History

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	S Dewey
<b>Examined Component:</b>	100%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	N/A

### Summary of course content:

#### Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

An examination of the problems facing the Weimar Republic post-WWI and the rise of Hitler and consolidation of his power over Germany including what life was like for people in Nazi Germany.

#### Medicine Through Time 1250-present

A thematic study of the progression of medicine over the last 750 years. This course focuses on change and continuity over time and allows students to develop a secure chronological understanding.



**Anglo-Saxon and Norman England:** A study into the reasons behind William the Conqueror's victory at the Battle of Hastings and the methods used by him to consolidate power over England.

**Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91:** An examination of the reasons behind the development of the Cold War post-WW2 and the key crises within the Cuban Missile Crisis. This course also studies the reasons behind the collapse of Communism in the Satellite States and within the USSR.

**Progression:** A-Level History, A-Level Government and Politics

**Career routes:** Law; Politics; Education; Research; Heritage; Archaeology; Police.



### Summary of course content:

Students study 6 strands of mathematics at GCSE level. These are number, algebra, geometry, statistics, probability and ratio and proportion. The GCSE course builds on students' prior knowledge from KS2 and KS3 and looks to extend their problem solving and reasoning skills.

Students will sit either 3 Higher or 3 Foundation papers at the end of year 11. One of these papers is a non-calculator paper so students must ensure they keep their mental arithmetic skills strong throughout year 10 and 11.

Lessons are taught using a wide range of resources including use of IT where appropriate and encourage pupils to delve into a deeper mathematical understanding of concepts.

# Maths

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	Mr R Marshall
<b>Examined Component:</b>	100%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	N/A

### Progression:

A level Mathematics

### Career routes:

Engineering; Accountancy; Actuary; Business and Economics; Game Design.

# Music

## Course Details

**Contact:** Mrs A Lloyd

**Examined Component:** GCSE 40%,  
BTEC 25%

**Controlled Assessment:** GCSE 60%  
BTEC 75%



### Summary of course content::

**GCSE Music** is a broad course giving you a good level of skill in Listening, Analysis, Composing and Performing.

To achieve best at GCSE music you should already be aiming towards Grade 3 on an instrument or voice as a minimum. It would be advantageous to be studying theory and attend extracurricular activities.

**BTEC Music** is a vocational course, developing skills such as confidence, organisation, time keeping and ICT. The aim of this course is to introduce you to specific aspects of the music profession through practical and creative work. It will give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the music industry.

### Progression:

A-Level Music or Level 3 BTEC

### Career routes:

Entertainment industry jobs; music teacher; performer; music technician; music industry jobs; music producer; musician.



### Summary of course content:

**OCR:** This course consists of 2 mandatory units in Y10 : Reducing the Risk of Injury and Applying Principles of Training. In Y11 there are a further 2 units: The Body's response to Exercise and Technology in Sport. The aim of the course is to allow students to develop and apply their knowledge and skills of understanding of sport through ongoing assessments. You will study key areas of sports science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness and health. The course consists of one external examination in year 10 and three coursework units throughout the two years.

# P.E

## Course Details

**Contact:** Miss Penney/Mrs Taylor

### Examined Component:

**GCSE** 70% exam 30% Practical  
**OCR** 25% exam 75% coursework

**GCSE:** This course will include a range of physical activities and the different roles that the active participant can choose from; linking physical activity with diet, work and rest for personal health; testing, training and lifestyle choices to assess and improve performance; knowledge and understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport. Students will be assessed across three activities including individual and team sports.

### Progression: A Level or CTEC Sport

### Career routes:

Sports science; PE teacher; physiotherapist; professional sports person; sports coach/consultant; sports policy at local and national level; diet and fitness

# Photography

## Course details

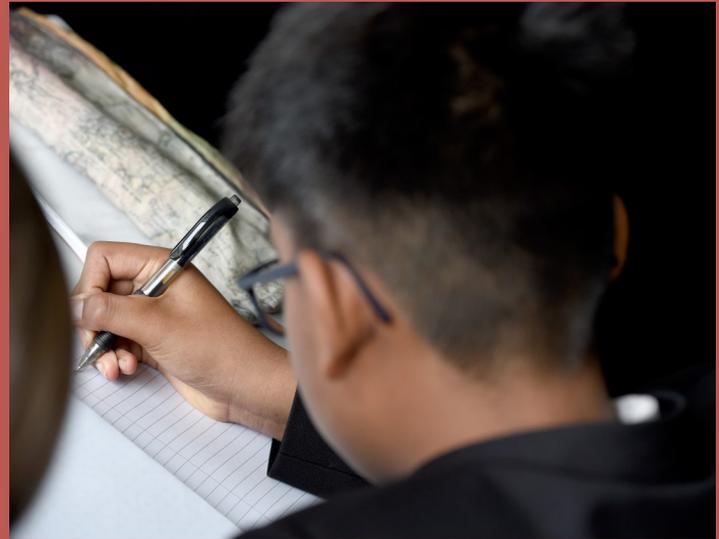
<b>Contact:</b>	Mrs M Hibbs
<b>Examined Component:</b>	40%
<b>Controlled Assessment :</b>	60%

### Summary of course content::

This course focuses on the creation of durable static or moving images by recording light with light-sensitive materials such as photographic film or digitally by means of an image sensor. At North Kesteven Academy we primarily focus on Digital photography practice.

Students undertaking the photography course are required to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding required to produce and evaluate high quality photographic work.

Areas of study include: Documentary photography, Photo-journalism, Studio photography, Location photography, Experimental imagery, Installation, Moving image: film, video and animation.



**Progression:** Cambridge Technical Level 3 Media  
A- Level Art and Design

### Career routes:

Photographer; Journalism; Photographic artist; Fashion.



### Summary of course content:

The Religious Studies course covers three main components. Component one (50% of overall grade) covers the study of ethical issues in the modern world including issues such as Relationships, Life and Death, Good and Evil and Human Rights.

Components two and three cover the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam. (25% of overall grade each)

Great Britain is a multi cultural country and an understanding of the ethics and various views of its people is essential. This course provides an introduction to the aspects of Religion, Ethics and Philosophy that influence our day to day lives.

# REP

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	Mrs S Allen
<b>Examined Component:</b>	100%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	N/A

### Progression:

The GCSE in Religious Studies lends itself to progression on to the A Level Religious Studies or Sociology courses as well as building written skills for essay based subjects such as English and History. Whilst it nicely complements science based subjects and Psychology or Criminology.

### Career routes:

Teaching, Medicine, Social Care, Lawyer, Sociologists, Psychologist. Police officer or other emergency services,

# Science

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	Dr D Mansfield
<b>Examined Component:</b>	100%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	N/A



### Summary of course content:

Science GCSE will be 2 or 3 GCSE qualifications as determined by Science teachers including: Biology, Chemistry and Physics as part of both courses. Some of the topics that will be covered will include:

**Biology :** cell level systems, organism level systems, genes, inheritance and selection and global challenges.

**Chemistry:** particles, elements, compounds and mixtures, chemical reactions, and global challenges.

**Physics:** Matter, forces, magnetism and magnetic fields, global challenges, radioactivity, electricity and energy.

**Progression:** A-Level Biology, A-Level Chemistry and A-Level Physics.

### Career routes:

Science teacher; Biologist; Veterinarian; Animal technician; Laboratory technician; Meteorologist; Microbiologist; Medical physicist.



### Summary of course content::

GCSE Sociology focuses on key structures within society, including families, the education system, and the role of crime and deviance.

You will learn the theories behind how and why societies function. Questions we will tackle include why some groups succeed in education whilst others fail, why certain groups are more likely to end up in prison and how families have changed over time.

Units to be covered include:

The Sociology of Families, The Sociology of Education, The Sociology of Crime and Deviance, Social Stratification and Theory and Methods

# Sociology

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	Miss G Betts or Mrs S Allen
<b>Examined Component:</b>	100%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	N/A

### Progression:

Progression on to A Level Sociology, A Level Philosophy and Ethics or A Level Psychology

### Career routes:

Teaching, Social Work, Psychologist, Youth Work, Probation, Policing.

# Technology - Food

## Course Details

<b>Contact:</b>	Mrs K Allen
<b>Examined Component:</b>	50%
<b>Controlled Assessment:</b>	50%



### Summary of course content::

Students will learn about the need for a healthy balanced diet and how to achieve that using a wide range of ingredients and food preparation techniques. In Year 11 students will undertake two controlled assessment projects based on themes set by the exam board.

**Progression:** A-Level Food Technology

### Career routes:

Catering industry, food science.













# North Kesteven Academy

*Think Excellence*

North Kesteven Academy  
Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9AG  
A company limited by guarantee. Registered No: 07657605

01522 881010  
[www.nkacademy.co.uk](http://www.nkacademy.co.uk)  
[enquiries@nkacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nkacademy.co.uk)