

Key Stage 4

Mandatory Courses, Option Courses and Next Steps



Welcome to Riverside Meadows St Neots Site.

We are an SEMH academy, which means that all our students have an EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan) and an identified need of SEMH (Social Emotional and Mental Health). Many of our students will have other identified needs, and we support them throughout their journey through Year 7 to Year 11, and beyond.

Our aim as an academy is to ensure that all students leave Riverside Meadows with an understanding and qualifications in at least English and Mathematics. We also work with their Social and Emotional needs to ensure that they are able to regulate themselves and be able to access the next stage of their journey, whether that is employment, education or training.

When our students reach the age of 15, usually in Year 9, we begin to look at possible subject options that take into account the students abilities and interests. We call this our "Options" curriculum and it runs alongside compulsory courses of English, Mathematics, Science, PE, PSHE and digital literacy.

Choosing subjects

The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is a very important time in any student's education, as it gives them the opportunity to choose which subjects and courses to study in Years 10 and 11. Making good decisions now, and for the future, depends on approaching all the options available with an open mind and finding out as much as possible about each subject and possible career interests and opportunities. Some general points to consider are listed below:

- Choosing certain subjects, or subject combinations, at GCSE could restrict your choices at 16+, whilst other combinations would leave you more choice later.
- There are 'new' subjects on offer (i.e. ones not studied at Key Stage 3). Choosing a new subject just because it is new may not be the right choice - if you know you are doing well in a subject already it may be better to stay with it.
- Choosing a new subject may be right for you - it could give you a fresh start that might benefit you.
- Try to talk to students, particularly in Year 10, who are currently studying GCSE subjects. They will be able to tell you a lot about the subject from a student's point of view.
- Do not choose a subject because your friends have chosen it - work to your strengths not theirs!
- Choose what you are interested in and what you have done well in so far.
- Base your choice on facts not emotions.

Options lessons are taken over three blocks for two hours each week. There is also opportunity for catch-up lessons built into the timetable should the options block clash with specific interventions and therapies. It is expected that students will study one different option from each block.

Career considerations

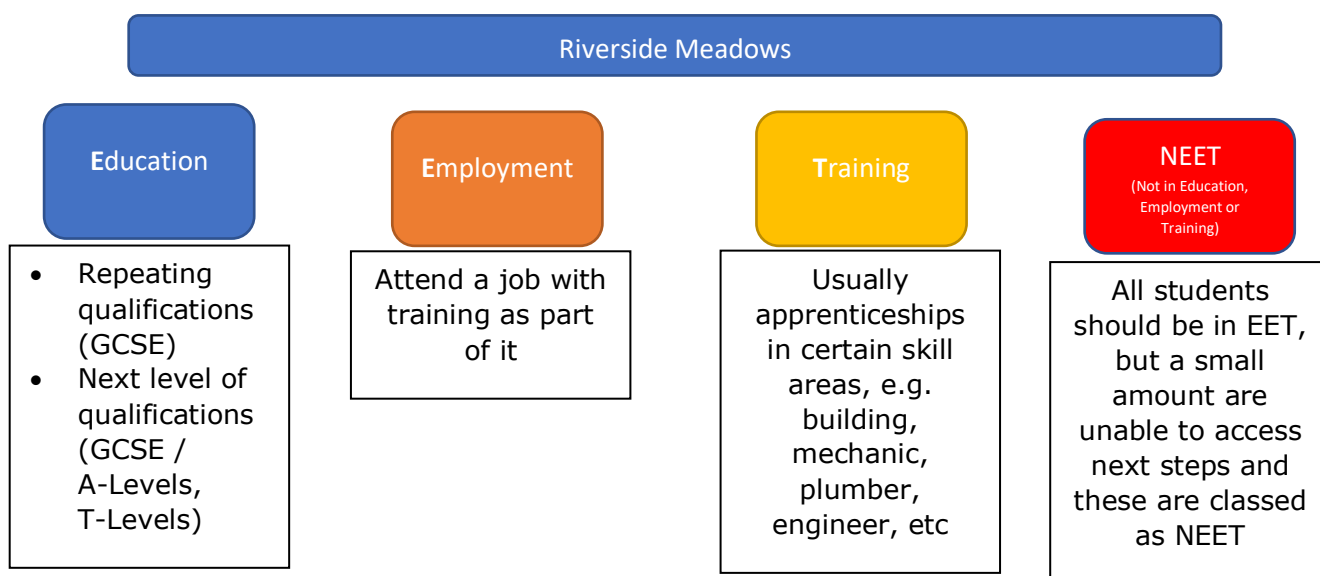
It is not essential to have a particular career in mind at this stage - some students do and some do not. You may wish to discuss with the relevant staff what careers particular choices might lead you into in the future. If, however, you do have a career area in mind, it would be worth consulting with your tutor or the Careers Adviser to check that your choices do not make it difficult to follow that career pathway in the future.

Options Blocks for 2023/24:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Art	Drama	Art	Drama	Business
Business	Food	Sport	History	Food
History	Sport	Film Studies	ICT	Sport
Land Based Studies	Triple Science	Child Care	Triple Science	Land Based Studies

So far our students have had some experience of careers development. Over the next two years we start to increase this through our careers fayres, educational talks and visits, college and university visits, work experience, work visits and the introduction of our college and apprenticeship advisor to help prepare the students for what comes next.

Options after Riverside Meadows:



The following pages will give a little more information about each of our subjects:

English Language		Mandatory Study	
Levels of Assessment	Entry Level	Functional Skills Level 1 Level 2	GCSE
Exam Board	AQA	AQA	WJEC
Number of Lessons	Four lessons per week		
Subject Information: English is a compulsory subject taught over four lessons a week and complimented with a library lesson to encourage reading and literacy. At GCSE this qualification is worth one GCSE Grade. Students will initially work towards an Entry Level qualification as a stepping stone in Year 9, before moving up to Functional Skills and GCSE when they are academically able too. English is typically taught by one of our experienced English teachers.			

Teachers Delivering: Raluca, Steve, Hannah	Assessment: External exam papers
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English Literature		Mandatory Study	
Levels of Assessment			GCSE
Exam Board			WJEC
Number of Lessons	Four lessons per week		
Subject Information: English is a compulsory subject taught over four lessons a week and complimented with a library lesson to encourage reading and literacy. At GCSE this qualification is worth one GCSE Grade. English Literature is typically taught by one of our experienced English teachers.			
Teachers Delivering: Raluca, Steve, Hannah, Claire		Assessment: External exam papers	

Mathematics		Mandatory Study	
Levels of Assessment	Entry Level	Functional Skills Level 1 Level 2	GCSE
Exam Board	AQA	AQA	AQA
Number of Lessons	Four lessons per week		
Subject Information: Mathematics is a compulsory subject taught over four lessons a week and complimented with a range of mathematic and dyscalculia interventions; and electronic resources such as Time Table Rockstars. Students will initially work towards an Entry Level qualification as a stepping stone in Year 9, before moving up to Functional Skills and GCSE when they are academically able too. Mathematics is typically taught by one of our experienced Mathematics teachers.			
Teachers Delivering: Othello, Andrew		Assessment: External Exam Papers	

Combined Science		Mandatory Study	
Levels of Assessment	Entry Level		GCSE
Exam Board	AQA		AQA
Number of Lessons	Four lessons per week		
Subject Information: Science is a compulsory subject taught over four lessons a week in our specialist science laboratory looking at Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. At GCSE this qualification is worth two GCSE Grades. Students will initially work towards an Entry Level qualification as a stepping stone in Year 9, before moving up to GCSE when they are academically able too. Science is typically taught by one of our experienced Science teachers.			
Teachers Delivering: Kelly, Hazel, Andrew		Assessment: External Exam Papers	

Triple Science		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment			GCSE
Exam Board			AQA
Number of Lessons	Four lessons per week + Two Option Lessons per week		
Subject Information: Triple Science is an optional subject taught using the four normal Science lessons and the two optional lessons each week in our specialist science laboratory. This course examines Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately. At GCSE this qualification is worth three GCSE Grades. Science is typically taught by one of our experienced Science teachers. There are a further three examination papers on top of the six combined science papers.			
Teachers Delivering: Kelly, Hazel, Andrew		Assessment: External Exam Papers	

Art		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment	Arts Awards		GCSE
Exam Board	Arts Mark		AQA
Number of Lessons	Two lessons per week		
Subject Information: Art is an optional subject in Key Stage 4, taught in the Art room by our specialist Art Teacher. The course uses a range of art techniques and materials, starting at Arts Mark Bronze moving through Silver, Gold, and finally if the student is academically able, it is studied at GCSE level. This qualification is worth one GCSE qualification.			
Teacher Delivering: Megan		Assessment: Portfolio and GCSE Assignment	

Business		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment		BTEC Level 1 BTEC Level 2	
Exam Board		Pearson	
Number of Lessons	Two lessons per week		
Subject Information: Business is an BTEC Optional course and it covers the basics of what a business is, how one operates and looks at different examples. The course is worth a BTEC qualification at either Level 1 or Level 2.			
Teacher Delivering: Anita		Assessment: 100% Externally Moderated Coursework	

Child Care		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment		BTEC Level 1 BTEC Level 2	
Exam Board		Pearson	
Number of Lessons	Two lessons per week		
Subject Information:			
Child Care is an optional course at Key Stage 4 and it covers the key information and processes required to look after young children. We will support the course with opportunities to have work experience at one of our partner schools to compliment your learning. The course is worth a BTEC qualification at either Level 1 or Level 2.			
Teacher Delivering: Pollie		Assessment: 100% Externally Moderated Coursework	

ICT		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment		BTEC Level 1 BTEC Level 2	
Exam Board		Pearson	
Number of Lessons	Two lessons per week		
Subject Information: ICT (Information Communication Technology) is a BTEC qualification that looks how computers work, their uses and how they have changed over time. The course gives opportunity to learn about different computer programs that we use in school and prepares students for the world of Digital Literacy.			
Teacher Delivering: Sally		Assessment: 100% Externally Moderated Coursework	

History		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment			GCSE
Exam Board			AQA
Number of Lessons	Two lessons per week		
Subject Information: History is taught as a GCSE option in Key Stage 4. Students look at the events of the past and how they have shaped the modern world. They investigate lessons learned and relate these two modern events, look at the different sources of information and form balanced discussions and ideas from them. This qualification is worth one GCSE qualification.			
Teacher Delivering: Claire		Assessment: External Exam Papers	

Land Based Studies		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment		BTEC Level 1 BTEC Level 2	
Exam Board		Pearson	
Number of Lessons	Two lessons per week		
Subject Information: Land based studies allows students to experience the world through ‘hands on’ learning, by preparing the school garden to grow a range of produce throughout the year whilst learning about how land could be used sustainably to ensure the best crop yields whilst minimising environmental impact of humans.			
Teacher Delivering: Hazel		Assessment: 100% Externally Moderated Coursework	

Sport		Optional Study	
Levels of Assessment		BTEC Level 1 BTEC Level 2	
Exam Board		Pearson	
Number of Lessons	Two lessons per week		
Subject Information: BTEC Sport looks at how we use sport to stay fit and healthy through nutrition and exercise. We look at body systems, coaching, different sports and how people progress at different sport over time.			
Teacher Delivering: Kareem		Assessment: 100% Externally Moderated Coursework	

Student Name: _____

Year Group: _____

Please select one option from each block by highlighting or circling your choice..

Do not select the same option more than once.

Year 10 Students who have gained a qualification in an option during Year 10, please do not reselect that option

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Land Based Studies	Triple Science	Child Care	Triple Science	Land Based Studies