

NETHER STOWE SCHOOL



KEY STAGE FOUR CURRICULUM BOOKLET

2020

Dear Student,

You have reached the time in your School career when you are asked to make important choices about your own future.

No doubt you have already begun to recognise that, as an individual, you possess a unique set of skills and abilities and you are developing preferences for subjects which you might wish to study during Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). Your personal interests and possible career aspirations may also influence your decision-making.

This booklet, together with the programme of advice which you received, has been provided to help you come to that decision.

The following pages explain the Core Subjects which are compulsory for all students. These subjects include English, Mathematics, Science, and ICT. The booklet also describes the optional subjects that you may wish to choose. We shall make every effort to provide the subjects of your choice, but sometimes there are unavoidable restrictions and, where these occur, you will have an opportunity to discuss any changes which may become necessary. Although decisions about examination entries will be made at a later stage, the majority of courses in Years 10 and 11 prepare you for the GCSE examinations and their vocational equivalents. Please be aware that information in the booklet is correct at the time of printing and may be subject to change prior to September 2020.

Look through the booklet carefully; listen attentively to the information and advice offered by your teachers and careers officer; discuss your choices with your parents. Remember that you are not only expressing a preference for a course for two years but you are also laying the foundation for what you will do after you reach the age of 16, especially in terms of further study, so it is important that you make your decision thoughtfully and wisely.

Yours faithfully,

A Shaw

MR A SHAW
Deputy Headteacher

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NETHER STOWE SCHOOL

KEY STAGE FOUR CURRICULUM

The courses that you take during Years 10 and 11 will:-

Key Stage 4

- 
1. provide you with a broad and balanced timetable
 2. give you a certain amount of choice and flexibility about the subjects you will study
 3. prepare you for GCSE and other examinations
 4. enable you to acquire the skills and interests to prepare you for your life after school

Information about GCSE Courses

Some GCSE courses involve controlled assessments as well as formal examinations. Controlled assessments may be a single piece of work or a number of pieces of work. Controlled assessment is part of the Year 10 and Year 11 programme.

At the end of the course, students are graded in a new way using a numerical grading system from 9 to 1 in most subjects (9 being the best, 1 being the worst). Further information regarding this change of grading will be given throughout years 10 and 11.

Some subjects will have Tiers (i.e. Higher and Foundations) whereas others won't. Subject teachers will be able to provide information as to whether or not their subject has tiers or not.



How to choose your subjects?

The choices you are about to make may affect your future career choice. The choosing of options is not an exercise to take lightly. You should ask yourself the following questions:-

What subjects do I enjoy?



Remember not to choose subjects because of the teacher you have had this year. You may not be taught by them next year.

What subjects am I best at?



It is your choice not your friends!

What future career might I be wanting to pursue?



Keep a broad range of subjects because you are likely to change your mind.

Have I made my choices based upon sound information?



Consider all the information in the booklet, the advice received at Options Evening and the information given by the different subjects.

YOUR SUBJECTS

Your subjects can be divided into two areas:-



Core Subjects which are compulsory for all students in Key Stage 4.



Optional GCSE/Vocational Subjects which are those you will select a preference for by completing the choices form.

Core Subjects

All students will study English, English Literature, Core & Additional Science, Mathematics, PE, and ICT. Students will also follow a Citizenship programme throughout KS4 during PSHE days

GCSE Subjects

Subjects can be selected from design and technology, the humanities, science, sport and modern foreign languages.

Level 1/2 Vocational Subjects

These courses take up the same amount of time that a GCSE Course and will be worth the equivalent of 1 GCSE (grades 9-1). These courses comprise of 66% coursework. At least one unit of work will have an external exam. Students following these courses must be aware of the demands of meeting deadlines.

Triple Science

Some students will be given the opportunity to study Triple Science in Option Block C. Students of whom the Science Department feel capable of studying this third subject will have received an invitation to select this as an option.

It may be that the type of course offered may change. For example, BTEC Art & Design may become GCSE Art & Design, BTEC Business may become GCSE Business.



Core Subjects

Course Information Sheet

Vocational Course

Subject	Digital Information Technology
Level	2
Board	EDXCEL BTEC
Entry Requirements	None
What will I study?	
Component 1 (30%)	User interface design principles and project planning (Coursework)
Component 2 (30%)	Presenting and Interpreting Data (Coursework)
Component 3 (40%)	Digital working Practices (Exam)
How will I be assessed?	
This is an intense course where you study 3 units in two years. There is one Exam Component all other units are by coursework during the lesson	
Equivalence	Level 2 - grades Distinction* - Pass at L2
Where will it lead?	Students can continue on to further vocational study with a Btec national in IT or computing at level 3. They could also progress to a computer science AS or A level, as well as apprenticeships or traineeships.
What will it be useful for?	
You will gain transferable skills during your studies for example self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving, which will support their current and future progression.	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	English Language
Level	GCSE
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	
What will I study?	
The English Language GCSE explores the way fiction and non-fiction texts are presented, and the ways in which language is used to create meanings. Students will study a range of texts and will be taught how to shape their own writing to suit a form, audience and purpose.	
How will I be assessed?	
This qualification will be assessed by two external examinations.	
Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	
Both exams are 1hr 45 minutes long and worth 50% of the GCSE	
Equivalence	GCSE Grade 9 - 1
Where will it lead?	All walks of life.
What will it be useful for? A qualification in English Language will be essential to securing college places and most jobs.	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	English Literature
Level	GCSE
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	
What will I study?	
Students will study a wide variety of texts including poetry, prose and drama - including a Shakespeare play.	
How will I be assessed?	
This qualification will be assessed by two external examinations.	
Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19 th century novel - 1 hr 45 mins worth 40% of the GCSE	
Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry - 2 hrs 15 mins worth 60% of the GCSE	
Equivalence	GCSE Grade 9 - 1
Where will it lead?	For those students wishing to pursue English Literature at A Level - this is essential.
What will it be useful for? English Literature is recognised as a strong academic subject and as such is useful for all students contemplating further educational study. It will be essential for those who might want to pursue Literature to A Level or beyond.	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	MATHEMATICS
Level	2
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	This is a compulsory course
What will I study?	
<p>The Mathematics GCSE course is designed to develop thinking and logic skills, as well as providing the knowledge and understanding of the Mathematics that comes into everyday life. The course comprises six key areas: Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion Geometry and Measures, Probability, Statistics.</p>	
How will I be assessed?	
<p>Students will be entered for a linear exam in the summer of Year 11. Each exam comprises three papers: one non calculator paper and two calculator papers. All three exams carry the same weighting and last for one hour thirty minutes. Students will be assessed throughout KS4 to decide on the appropriate tier of entry; the Year 11 mock exams will be used as a key indicator for this.</p>	
Equivalence	<p>Level 2, overall grades from 1 to 9 Foundation Tier grades 1 to 5 Higher Tier grades 4 to 9</p>
Where will it lead?	<p>As Mathematics is a strong indicator of problem-solving and analytical skills, many employers and further education courses require evidence of a good mathematical ability. To enter the 6th Form, specific grades will need to be attained depending on the courses wishing to be studied.</p>
What will it be useful for?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtually all career paths require a qualification in Mathematics. • Mathematics appears in almost every aspect of life including: all financial matters, running a business, running a home, shopping, wages, budgeting, savings; cooking, shopping, travel, DIY, computer programming, digital technology to name some. • As the world becomes more technological and 'data-rich', being able to use mathematics, models and statistics is vital. • Mathematics provides skills that are vital for many further education courses particularly the STEM subjects as well as many others. 	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	Physical Education
<p>At KS4 students will continue to participate in two hours of PE per week. PE allows students to develop personally and socially working as individuals, in groups and in teams. It develops students' competence and confidence as well as encouraging them to participate in healthy active lifestyles both in and out of school.</p>	
<p>At KS4 lessons are structured slightly differently, allowing students to take on more independent, recreational and competitive roles in their learning. Students will develop the concepts of fairness, personal and social responsibility as well as their knowledge, understanding, performance and competence.</p>	
<p>Students will be taught through a variety of activities continuing from KS3 as well as new activities such as fitness to include: aerobics, boogie bounce, boxercise, circuits, as well as volleyball, water polo and indoor football.</p>	
<p>Students will also be encouraged to take on a variety of different roles and responsibilities including, organising, leading and officiating which will in turn help to develop their leadership skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.</p>	
<p>When performing students will be required to think about what they are doing, analyse the situation and make decisions. They will also reflect on their own and others' performances and find ways to improve them.</p>	
<p>In Physical Education at KS4 we will continue to expect the highest standards of behaviour, commitment, kit and participation in lessons.</p>	
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	
<p>You will be assessed in a range of sports in line with the school assessment policy as well as your attitude to learning.</p>	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	AQA Trilogy Science (2 GCSE's)
Level	2
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	n/a

What will I study?

Biology	Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology
Chemistry	Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources
Physics	• Forces • Energy • Waves • Electricity • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure

How will I be assessed?

Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics. Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Equivalence	2 GCSE's Grades 9 - 1
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Where will it lead?	A Level sciences
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What will it be useful for?

Environmental Science, medicine, physiotherapy, dentistry, nursing, biochemistry and many other science related careers.

Course Information Sheet

Subject	AQA Triple Science (3 GCSE's)
Level	2
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Level 6a for triple award

What will I study?

Biology	1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology
Chemistry	1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources
Physics	1. Forces 2. Energy 3. Waves 4. Electricity 5. Magnetism and electromagnetism 6. Particle model of matter 7. Atomic structure 8. Space physics

How will I be assessed?

For each science subject:

Two papers for each science: each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clearer and simpler language, to assess students only on their scientific ability (6 papers in total over the three sciences).

Duration: both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Tier: Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Equivalence	3 GCSE at level 9 - 1
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Where will it lead?	A Level sciences
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What will it be useful for?

This course will permit you a choice of a wide variety of careers and degrees courses. If you are interested in pursuing any of the following careers then this is the right choice for you: Medicine, Veterinary Surgeon, Dentistry, Materials Science, Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Pharmaceutical Careers, Research, Radiology, Physiotherapy, plus many more!

Your Optional Subjects

Course Information Sheet

Subject	French
Level	2
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Discussion with subject staff
What will I study?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar including the Present, Future and Past Tenses; structures to help to develop complex sentences. • Translation from French to English and English to French. • Vocabulary related to the following topics: 	
Theme 1	Family, technology, free-time
Theme 2	Home, social issues, environment, poverty, travel/tourism
Theme 3	Studies, life at school and jobs
How will I be assessed?	
<p>There will be exams to test reading, listening, writing and speaking skills. All assessments will be in the form of an external examination which can be taken at either Foundation or Higher Level.</p> <p>All exams are taken at the end of the course.</p>	
Equivalence	GCSE Grade 9 - 1
Where will it lead?	6 th Form/ Higher Education / College
What will it be useful for?	
<p>As well as being a very-well respected 'academic' qualification, having a GCSE MFL qualification will help you succeed in a 'global' world; where employers increasingly want language skills and a good knowledge of culture. A foreign language qualification allows students at university to study courses with an international flavour e.g. law with French, or to study at an overseas university via an Erasmus year abroad.</p>	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	Geography
Level	2
Board	AQA A
Entry Requirements	Discussion with teacher
What will I study?	
3.1	Living with the physical environment
3.2	Challenges in the human environment.
3.3	Geographical applications
3.4	Geographical skills
How will I be assessed?	
Paper 1 - 3.1 and 3.4 Written Exam - 1hr 30mins 35% of overall exam Paper 2 - 3.2 and 3.4 Written Exam - 1hr 30mins 35% of overall exam Paper 3 - 3.3 and 3.4 Written Exam - 1hr 15mins 30% of overall exam	
Equivalence	GCSE Grade 9 - 1
Where will it lead?	You GCSE in Geography is the first step to a world of opportunity! It will lead directly onto an A level in Geography or it can take you indirectly to a plethora of jobs including; aid worker, crime analyst, environmental consultant, town planner, disaster manager or even a teacher!
What will it be useful for?	
Geography provides you with the necessary skills to be successful in the modern world. It holds the key to meeting the future needs of the planet and that is why it continues to be a highly sought after qualification and why geographers are in such high demand!	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	History
Level	2
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Discussion with subject staff
What will I study?	
Paper 1	American expansion 1840-1895 (The American West)
Paper 1	Conflict and Tension in Asia: Korea and Vietnam
Paper 2	Medicine; from Medieval times to Modern day
Paper 2	Norman England 1066 to c1100
How will I be assessed?	
2 x 2 hour examinations across all of the periods studied - 2 themes per paper - there will be NO coursework/controlled assessment	
Equivalence	
GCSE Level numbers 1-9	
Where will it lead?	
VIth Form / Higher Education / College	
What will it be useful for?	
History is recognised as one of the best academic GCSE subjects and is highly prized by employers and universities. It covers a large number of key skills such as how to present a clear and logical argument as well as learning to process large amounts of information into smaller, manageable chunks.	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	Philosophy and applied ethics: Religious Studies
Level	2
Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	
What will I study?	
Component 1	This unit will be studied from the perspective of Christianity and Islam . This will include some of the below topics:
The study of religions, beliefs, teachings and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belief in God, God's nature - Arguments for and against God - Problem of evil - Science verse religion
Component 2	This unit will be from the perspective of Christianity only .
Thematic Studies	Theme A- Relationships and families Theme B- Religion and life Theme C- The existence of God and revelation Theme F- Religion, human rights and social justice
How will I be assessed?	
There will be <u>two</u> examinations, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes	
Both examinations will take place at the end of year 11.	
Equivalence	E.g. (Level 2 - grades 1-9)
Where will it lead?	A level study in RE, Philosophy, Critical Thinking, Medicine, nursing. Work/Career in public services and public life. Work / career in any placement where people and care is important.
What will it be useful for? Preparing you to work and learn in a multi-cultural society. This will then give you the personal skills and knowledge to deal with real life issues and situations.	

Course Information Sheet

Subject	Resistant Materials	
Level	GCSE	
Board	AQA	
Entry Requirements	The ability to solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts. Has shown at least good attainment, effort and behaviour at Key Stage 3.	
What will I study?		
Unit 1	Resistant Materials written paper	
Unit 2	Resistant Materials task (Design and Making)	
How will I be assessed?		
Unit 1 is a 2 hour exam paper which is worth 40% of the total marks. Unit 2 is a 45 hour consists of a single design and make activity selected from a range of board set tasks		
Equivalence	GCSE Grade 9 - 1	
Where will it lead?	A Level 3D Design	
What will it be useful for?		
Anyone who is interested in becoming a designer, working in the manufacturing industry, engineering or architecture		

Course Information Sheet

Subject	BTEC Technical Award in Art and Design Practice	
Level	L1/L2	
Board	Edexcel	
Entry Requirements	Discussion with teacher	
What will I study?		
Component 1	Generating Ideas in Art and Design	
Component 2	Develop Practical Skills in Art and Design	
Component 3	Responding to a Client (Brief Externally Brief)	
How will I be assessed?		
This is an intense course where you study two components over two years. However Component 3 is an externally set task marked in school and moderated by Edexcel.		
Equivalence	1 GCSE grade	
Where will it lead?	To further study such as Advanced Level in Art and Design or Diploma.	
What will it be useful for?		
Art provides you with the necessary skills for you to work in the commercial and visual world in which we live in. It enables you to use artistic skills to develop your own individuality and creativity in an ever changing modern world.		

Course Information Sheet

Subject	BTEC Technical Award in Business	
Level	1/2	
Board	Edexcel	
Entry Requirements	Ability to Meet Deadlines	
What will I study?		
Component 1	Understanding how and why businesses exist	
Component 2	Designing your own Business	
Component 3	Promotion & Business Finance	
How will I be assessed?		
<p>This is an intense course where you study 3 units in two years. 2 units are coursework and internally assessed by your teacher. 1 unit is an external exam around Marketing & Finance for Business. This unit is key to your overall grade. Having good maths skills is important to pass the external exam.</p>		
Equivalence	Distinction * = A*/8, Distinction = A/7, Merit = B/6, Level 2 Pass = C/5, Level 1 Pass = E/3	
Where will it lead?	Level 3 BTEC Business	
What will it be useful for?		
<p>This course will prepare you for level 3 education and employment in the following areas ~ finance, accountancy, banking, insurance, marketing, research, statistics, public relations, advertising, human resource management, personnel, training, management, law, politics, economics, mathematics, teaching, information communication technology, computer studies/science ... many, many, more areas.</p>		

Course Information Sheet

Subject	BTEC Technical Award in Health & Social Care	
Level	1/2	
Board	Edexcel/Pearson	
Entry Requirements	Interest and potential to succeed in achieving the qualification and ideally be able to show a good standard of literacy and numeracy.	
What will I study?		
Component 1 (30%)	Human Lifespan Development	
Component 2 (30%)	Health & Social Care Services and Values	
Component 3 (40%)	Health and Wellbeing (external assessment)	
How will I be assessed?		
This is an intense course where you study three units over two years. Component 1 and component 2 are coursework units completed within lessons. These are internally marked and externally moderated. Component 3 is a three hour external exam..		
Equivalence	Distinction * = A*/8, Distinction = A/7, Merit = B/6, Level 2 Pass = C/5, Level 1 Pass = E/3	
Where will it lead?	BTEC Health & Social Care Level 3 course Employment in a Health and Social Care environment	
What will it be useful for?		
Achievement at Level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector, supporting progression on to other vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as the BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Health and Social Care. The course also prepares students for employment in a Health and Social Care environment.		

Course Information Sheet

Subject	BTEC Technical Award in Music	
Level	2	
Board	Pearson/Edexcel	
Entry Requirements	Ability to play an instrument and/or sing or an interest in composing or producing music.	
What will I study?		
Component 1	Exploring the music industry (30%)	
Component 2	Developing music skills (30%)	
Component 3	Responding to a music brief (40%)	
How will I be assessed?		
<p>Component 1 - the aim is to explore musical styles and techniques, and gain an understanding of roles in the industry.</p> <p>Component 2 - the aim is to develop musical knowledge, skills, and techniques and apply them to a music product.</p> <p>Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed assignments.</p> <p>Component 3 is externally assessed and you will put skills into practice by responding to a brief as a composer, performer or producer.</p>		
Equivalence	Distinction * = A*/8, Distinction = A/7, Merit = B/6, Level 2 Pass = C/5, Level 1 Pass = E/3	
Where will it lead?	Further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.	
What will it be useful for?		
<p>As the BTEC Tech Award in Music is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you can explore the sector while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ developing skills, including teamwork, leadership and communication ➤ developing and presenting music to a brief ➤ analysing, evaluating and enhancing their learning <p>During the course, you can see whether the music industry is one you want to be in, where you could go, and gain the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in your next steps. The transferable skills you master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support your progress.</p>		

Course Information Sheet

Subject	BTEC Technical Award in Performing Arts	
Level	2	
Board	Pearson/Edexcel	
Entry Requirements	Having demonstrated the ability to work well in a team, think creatively and have a keen interest in acting and performance.	
What will I study?		
Unit 1	Individual Showcase (25%)	
Unit 2	Preparation, Performance and Production (25%)	
Unit 3	Acting Skills (50%)	
How will I be assessed?		
<p>Unit 1: Externally assessed - Understand the skills required for the selected progression opportunity (voice & movement) and present a self-promotional response to the selected progression opportunity.</p> <p>Unit 2: Internally assessed - Take part in the preparations for a live performance, demonstrating performance or production skills and techniques in a performance.</p> <p>Unit 3: Internally assessed - Explore and develop your acting skills and review your own practice, using your acting skills within rehearsal and performance.</p>		
Equivalence	Distinction * = A*/8, Distinction = A/7, Merit = B/6, Level 2 Pass = C/5, Level 1 Pass = E/3	
Where will it lead?	Further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.	
What will it be useful for?		
<p>As the BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you can explore the sector while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ developing skills, including teamwork, leadership and communication ➤ developing and presenting Drama and Performing Arts to a brief ➤ analysing, evaluating and enhancing their learning <p>During the course, you can see whether the Performing Arts industry is one you want to be in, where you could go, and gain the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in your next steps. The transferable skills you master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support your progress.</p>		

Course Information Sheet

Subject	BTEC Tech Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness	
Level	1/2	
Board	Edexcel/Pearson	
What will I study?		
Component 1 (30%)	Monitoring and testing Health and Fitness	
Component 2 (30%)	Encouraging Participation in Sport and Physical Activities	
Component 3 (40%)	Planning to Improve Nutrition and Fitness	
How will I be assessed?		
This is an intense course where you study three units over two years. Component 1 and component 2 are coursework units completed within lessons. These are internally marked and externally moderated. Component 3 is a three hour external exam.		
Equivalence?	Level 2 Pass = Grades 4/5 Level 2 Merit = Grades 6/7 Level 2 Distinction = Grades 8/9	
Where will it lead?	BTEC National Sport Level 3	
What will it be useful for?		
Achievement at Level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector, supporting progression on to other vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as the BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport. The course also prepares students for higher education courses as well as careers and professions in sport.		

