



More than a School

Maplewell Hall School

KS4 Nurture Group Year 9 Option Information Booklet 2021



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Message from Assistant Head

Dear Year 9 Student's, parents/carers,

This is an exciting time for year 9 students as this is the first time they will be able to make a choice about their curriculum. To help students choose their options, they will need to think about what they want to gain by the end of key stage 4. This is an important decision and one that we as a school, will also support with.

Each year we offer slightly different choices. We are extremely ambitious for our students and our trustees expect us to furnish students with the best and most competitive batch of qualifications we can. This is so that our students can go forward and take advantage of all the opportunities available in post 16 courses, apprenticeships and the wider world.

Key Stage 4 is an exciting opportunity to choose foundation subjects that pupils will study for the next two years and possibly beyond. Deciding what your child wants to be able to do maybe difficult for them, so staff at Maplewell will support them during this time to prevent any anxiety, and where possible, misunderstandings of what happens in each subject. This booklet will help guide you towards making the best option choices for your future and inform you about the different qualification pathways in subjects at Maplewell.

At Maplewell we have provided students with a range of different qualifications that allow them to overcome their learning difficulties and achieve their full potential. In key stage 4 they will continue to be given plenty of support to enable them to reach this potential. Nevertheless, they will be trusted and supported to self-manage and take responsibility for their own development as a learner and as a person, to help prepare them for adulthood.

Year 10 and 11 is about focused study, creativity and trying a new experience during their learning. It is about working hard, earning rewards and being recognised for their achievements and contribution to school life. We will continue to build their independence skills and support them in striving to do their best to achieve their full potential. Above all, it is about them becoming the person they want to be in readiness for their future.

Kasia Glinka

Assistant Headteacher

Introduction

For our Year 9 nurture group we plan to offer a curriculum that enables them to continue progressing, alongside learning key skills that will help prepare them for the future. This curriculum offer has been adopted to ensure these elements of learning occur at key stage 4, alongside listening to the pupils' voice in what foundation learning they enjoy most.

What subjects must I take?

The ability to speak and write clearly and to understand numbers and quantities is essential in almost any walk of life. Therefore, all pupils must continue to study English and Mathematics. In addition, all pupils will continue to study Science as this covers a range of specialisms, and embeds the core subject skills with a range of experiences. All core subjects at Maplewell are taught to a qualification that is based on the right pathway for your child.

Our core subject qualifications can be studied at: -

- Entry level,
- BTEC level 1/2 or GCSE level.

Our subject teachers will place your child on a pathway that ensures they are able to do their best and get the best possible outcomes. This ensures that pupils are learning in an approach that is more individualised to their needs, alongside positive progression in these subject areas. Entry Level courses are more coursework or practical skills focused. Sometimes pupils can change courses in core subjects throughout key stage 4 based on the progress they are making. Again, your child's teacher will discuss this with you if this is the case.

In order to prepare your child for life beyond school, pupils will carry on having lessons in Physical Education (PE), Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Religious Studies (RE). These subjects offer the following outcomes:

- ICT offers a qualification that is technology based and pupils can achieve up to a level 2.
- RE offers a Short Course GCSE for pupils who are prepared to sit an exam at the end of Y11.
- Preparation for Adulthood (P4A) that covers a wide range of topics including; health, employment, independent living, friends, relationships and community inclusion. This is a very important area for our pupils to begin to make steps to independence and to prepare for young adulthood.

There are 24 subject lessons available each week. This is how lessons are allocated: -

English Entry Level (Step to success)	5 lessons per week
Mathematics Entry Level	5 lessons per week
Science Entry Level	4 lessons per week
Preparing for Adulthood (not examined)	1 lesson per week
Physical Education (PE)	1 lesson per week
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	1 lesson per week
Religious Studies (RE)	1 lesson per week
Up to 3 'Optional subjects'	2 per subject, 6 lessons per week

Making choices

This booklet has all the information to support with understanding the subjects that we have on offer, along with a more in-depth list so that you are able to see what future units we can select from the qualification.

Throughout the academic year, we will continue to ask pupils and yourselves about what learning opportunities pupils can experience.

Understanding the different types of qualifications

Vocational qualifications

All vocational courses tend to be coursework led so that the final grade is an accurate reflection of a pupil's performance over a 2-year period. Pupils study a range of units that cover different skills and topics to enable them to gain this qualification. Typically, the outcomes are:

- Credits for a unit - This ensures that if a pupil misses a lot of learning, the work they have done can still be recognised,
- Certification - This can be gained at Level 1 and 2.
Some subjects use BTEC qualifications. Again, these qualifications are marked through coursework and practical skills. Typically, the outcomes are pass/merit or distinction.

Entry level

Entry level qualifications are working below GCSE and Level 1, but enable all pupils to access a qualification to acknowledge the work that they have completed over 2 years. Typically these qualifications are coursework and practical skill led. The outcomes are: -

- Entry Level 1
- Entry Level 2
- Entry Level 3

Subject advice and information: Head of Faculty and Subject Leaders

Subject	Staff	Email address
Art and Design	Mrs Folland	A.Folland@maplewell.leics.sch.uk
Independent Living	Mr James Miss Collington Miss Knaggs	nathanjames@maplewell.leics.sch.uk L.Collington@maplewell.leics.sch.uk kateknaggs@maplewell.leics.sch.uk
Science	Miss Comerford	s.comerford@maplewell.leics.sch.uk
Maths	Mrs Greenhill-Chamberlain	C.Greenhill-Chamberlain@maplewell.leics.sch.uk
English	Mrs Ryman	R.Ivin@maplewell.leics.sch.uk

Guide to Qualifications on Offer in every subject at Maplewell

On the following pages, you will find the core subjects of Maths, English and Science. The other subjects follow in alphabetical order. In each case, we have given details of the examination board, subject specification and career pathways, so you know what is covered in each subject.

English

AQA Entry Level Certificate

Step Up to English

Step up to English helps Entry Level students build basic and relevant literacy skills and is suitable for students of all ages. The specification will encourage Entry Level students to develop the skills they need to read and understand a range of texts as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.



It offers two 'Steps': Silver Step (Entry Level 1 and 2) and Gold Step (Entry Level 3). The two step approach is ideal to build confidence and provide access to further English qualifications.

Assessment:

Assessment is carried out in the classroom. The specification offers two components in both steps:

- Component 1, Literacy Topics, asks students to complete a number of reading, writing and speaking and listening tasks based around a theme set by AQA.
- Component 2, Creative Reading and Writing asks students to read and answer questions about fiction and non-fiction texts, and to write creatively.

Future Pathways

Whichever English qualification your child studies at Maplewell Hall School, the reading, writing and communication skills learnt will form the basis of any future pathway. Whether students plan to continue with us into K5, enrol on a college course, or undertake the challenge of an apprenticeship, the English Department at Maplewell will endeavour to equip every student with the necessary functional literacy skills and creative mindset for future success.

Website Link

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/elc/step-up-to-english-5970/specification-at-a-glance>

Art and Design

OCR Entry Level Certificate in Art & Design

OCR's Entry Level Certificate in Art and Design provides learners with creative, exciting and practical opportunities to develop their artistic skills through their individual exploration of art, craft and design. It enables learners to develop creativity, imagination, communication and practical skills, and to express ideas, feelings and meanings through art, craft and design.



Course Overview:

This qualification offers five different areas of study for centres to choose from. These cover the depth and breadth of Art and Design by providing options to use traditional methods as well as digital technology. The qualification is ideal to enable learners of all abilities to access a qualification and grow in confidence. It also provides learners with a perfect opportunity to progress onto further educational pathways such as GCSE (9–1) or vocational qualifications in Art and Design. The qualification builds on the foundations and skills gained through the Key Stage 3 curriculum.

How the qualification is assessed:

There are two areas of assessment:

- Portfolio- Learners produce a portfolio of work developed from personal and/or centre devised starting points/briefs/scenarios or stimuli. (worth 60%)
- Externally set task - Learners select one theme from a list of OCR set themes to which they produce a personal response. The briefs are set for the lifetime of the specification (worth 40%)

Where does it lead?

The qualification is ideal to enable learners of all abilities to access a qualification and grow in confidence. It also provides learners with a perfect opportunity to progress onto further educational pathways such as GCSE (9–1) or vocational qualifications in Art and Design.

Website Link

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/entry-level/art-and-design-r310-from-2016/specification-at-a-glance/>

Mathematics

Course overview:

AQA Entry Level Certificate

The learning outcomes and assessment criteria reflect the national adult numeracy standards from Entry 1 to Entry 3. The qualifications in Mathematics are built from 8 components. Each component covers a particular topic area. The qualification is designed to cover concepts of functional Maths which students will need going forward to be as independent as possible.



How the course is assessed:

Internal assessment and/or portfolio.

You can expect to:

- Gain a firm understanding of following area of Mathematics:
 - Component 1: properties of number
 - Component 2: the four operations
 - Component 3: ratio
 - Component 4: money
 - Component 5: the calendar and time
 - Component 6: measures
 - Component 7: geometry
 - Component 8: statistics

Where does it lead?

The AQA entry level course is specifically designed to build the knowledge learners need to access the GCSE. Therefore students who excel in the course will have the opportunity to access the GCSE course and hence sit the same exams as described above. The qualification provides students with a basis for progression towards other related courses, and future employment.

The Mathematics qualifications cover:

- understand and use mathematical information
- calculate and manipulate mathematical information
- interpret results and communicate mathematical information

Website Link

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/elc/mathematics-5930/specification-at-a-glance>

Science

WJEC Entry Level in Science

Course overview:

WJEC Entry Level is a 100% coursework based science qualification. It is aimed at pupils who struggle under exam conditions. This is a very flexible and far more “hands-on” course, aimed at teaching pupils skills such as how to grow and maintain plants. This course is also designed to enable pupils to develop their independence and ability to work in a group. The course is taught in units over two years.



How the course is assessed:

Internal assessment – 100%

You can expect to:

- Complete research projects.
- Perform practicals.
- Develop team working skills.
- Develop independence.
- Develop organisational skills.

Where does it lead?

Upon completion of Entry Levels, there is the option of pursuing more skills-based qualifications in post-16.

The WJEC qualifications cover:

These qualifications aim to provide learners with basic scientific enquiry skills. They are designed to support pupils who may need to develop their basic practical abilities. The units chosen cover a variety of science topics, but are mostly focused on relatable topics such as food, health and animal care.

Additional information:

Students will require the following equipment for every lesson during the WJEC Entry Level course:

- pen, pencil, rubber and ruler

Website Link

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science-today-entry-pathways/#tab_overview

Independent Living – Entry Level



Exam board:

WJEC

Course overview:

This qualification includes units for developing skills, knowledge and self-awareness. As a school we have the choice to build the qualification around one subject area, or from a range of subject areas to give students a more general experience. After considering student's views of the option choices, we have put together an Independent Living Qualification that is built of 6 units.

At the end of year 10 we will revisit the course and plan different units that we will be offering in year 11, depend of students' choices. This will allow more flexibility within the nurture group curriculum and the units being taught will be, at times, pupil focused. These choices will be taught by members of staff who are able to teach an array of subjects, within the range of classrooms across the school.

How the course is assessed:

All Entry Pathways units are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Where does it lead?

This qualification can be achieved leading to a range of outcomes. Pupils need to attain different amount of credits to gain

- Entry 2
- Entry 3
- Level 1

Which lead to (three sizes) of qualification:

- Award (8 or more credits)

- Certificate (13 or more credits)
- Diploma (37 or more credits)

In some cases, pupils may not complete the full qualification due to unforeseen circumstances (illness, appointments etc). In these instances, pupils are still able to use the credits accrued from any work submitted to recognise their achievements. This is an advantage in comparison to other courses, as it gives pupils the flexibility to make different decisions about their pathway for the future, along with gaining accreditation for all work completed.

For further information about the Qualification please use these links, or you can discuss this further with subject teachers during parents evening.

Website Link

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/independent-living-entry-pathways/#tab_overview

Subject overviews for the Independent Living

Animal care

The units of work included in this topic support pupils in developing confidence when working with animals, supports them in checking an animal is healthy, learning how to groom a small animal and understanding how to show visitors around a small animal enterprise. The topics enable pupils to gain the basis of how to look after small creatures, alongside developing respect and understanding how to keep them safe.



Myself within the Community

This unit aims to enable learners to develop an awareness of their community and equip them with the skills and confidence to use various local services and facilities.

As a part of this course, pupils will have to be able to describe, identify and use various services.



Planning a Journey

Students will develop the skills and understanding of how to plan and undertake a journey within their community.

Students will learn how to use appropriate routes to undertake journeys. They will be able to learn how to use appropriate methods of transport to undertake journeys alongside learning about health and safety. This unit is very practical and will be assessed by 'doing'.



Maintaining Healthy Skin & Nails

This unit aims to enable learners to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of general skin and nail care. Students will have the chance to develop skills and understanding about different skin types and appropriate care products. They will be able to develop knowledge about different factors that contribute to the condition of skin and nails.



Food Preparation, Cooking and Serving

In this unit pupils will be able to acquire the knowledge and skills required to prepare, cook and serve a range of dishes.

Pupils will have the chance to develop a range of basic food preparation skills. They will learn how to select suitable equipment to complete set tasks. Students will learn how to identify and select correct items of equipment for preparing and serving food.

Health, Safety and Hygiene

This unit aims to help learners to obtain a knowledge and understanding of safety and hygiene when preparing, cooking and serving food.

Pupils will have the chance to develop knowledge and skills that will enable them to make decisions regarding safe and hygienic working practices.



Throughout the unit, students will learn about the common causes and types of food poisoning.

Students will develop basic knowledge about the main symptoms of food poisoning and the effects on health.

Introduction to Land Maintenance

In this unit, pupils will be able to acquire the knowledge around land studies and will have opportunities to plant and maintain a variety of pre-built and natural planted areas. They will learn how to select suitable equipment to complete set tasks. Students will learn how to identify and select correct items of equipment.

