



More than a School

# Maplewell Hall School

## KS4 Learning for Life Year 9 Option Information Booklet 2024



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## Message from the Deputy Head

*Dear Year 9 Student's, parents / carers,*

*Each year we offer slightly different option choices. We are highly 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 as students will study a number of different options for the next two years and possibly beyond.*

*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*

*Deputy Headteacher*

## Introduction

For our Year 9 Learning for Life pathway, we plan to offer a curriculum that enables them to continue progressing alongside learning essential skills that will help prepare them for the future. In this booklet, we are sharing with you the curriculum offer that has been adopted to ensure these elements of learning occur at Key Stage 4, alongside listening to the students' voices, 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 students must continue to study English and Mathematics. In addition, they 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 in Learning for Life pathway can be studied at: -

- Entry Level 1, 2 or 3

Entry Level courses are more coursework or practical skills focused. Sometimes students 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, students will carry on having lessons in Physical Education (PE), Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Beliefs and Ethics. These subjects offer the following outcomes:

- Computing. Each year students build on their generic computing skills and knowledge e.g. assessing computers; utilising the cloud; file and folder management, accessing files from various storage locations and safety. Students then progress on to understanding a project, computing theory, spreadsheet modelling and programming.
- Beliefs and Ethics
- 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 students to begin to make steps to independence and to prepare for young adulthood.

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

English Entry Level (Steps to Success)	5 lessons per week
Mathematics Entry Level	5 lessons per week
Science Entry Level	4 lessons per week
Physical Education (PE)	1 lesson per week
Computing	1 lesson per week
Beliefs and Ethics	1 lesson per week
Options – Independent Living	6 lessons per week

## Making choices

This booklet has all the information to support with understanding the subjects that we 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 students and yourselves about what learning opportunities they 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 student's performance over a 2-year period. Students 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 student misses a lot of learning, the work they have done can still be recognised,
- Certification - This can be gained at Level 1 and 2.

### Entry level

Entry level qualifications are working below GCSE and Level 1, but enable all students 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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Independent Living (Entry Level)	Mr James	<a href="mailto:nathanjames@maplewell.leics.sch.uk">nathanjames@maplewell.leics.sch.uk</a>
Science (Entry Level)	Miss Comerford	<a href="mailto:s.comerford@maplewell.leics.sch.uk">s.comerford@maplewell.leics.sch.uk</a>
Maths (Entry Level)	Ms Greenhill	<a href="mailto:C.Greenhill-Chamberlain@maplewell.leics.sch.uk">C.Greenhill-Chamberlain@maplewell.leics.sch.uk</a>
English (Entry Level)	Mrs Durrands	<a href="mailto:k.durrands@maplewell.leics.sch.uk">k.durrands@maplewell.leics.sch.uk</a>

### 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 Entry Level Certificate (Step up to English)

**Exam Board:** AQA

## **Course Overview:**

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.

## **How the qualification is assessed:**

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.

## **Where does it lead?**

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>

# Mathematics Entry Level Certificate

**Exam Board:** AQA

## **Course Overview:**

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 qualification 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.

## **Assessment and other information:**

- 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 Entry Level Certificate

**Exam Board:** WJEC

## **Course Overview:**

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

## **How the qualification 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.

These qualifications aim to provide learners with basic scientific enquiry skills. They are designed to support students 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.

## **Assessment and other 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](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science-today-entry-pathways/#tab_overview)

# Independent Living Entry Level Certificate

**Exam Board:** WJEC

## **Course Overview:**

This qualification includes units for developing skills, knowledge and self-awareness. The concept of this option is to allow students to work towards units linked to skills needed for independent living. This option will be mainly practical skills based to allow students to experience a variety of skills, with related coursework fitted in to allow completion of the units being covered.

At the end of Year 10 we will revisit the course and plan different units that we will be offering in Year 11, dependent of students' needs. This will allow more flexibility within the option and the chosen units will be, at times, student focused.



## **How the qualification will be assessed:**

All Entry Pathways units are internally assessed and externally moderated.

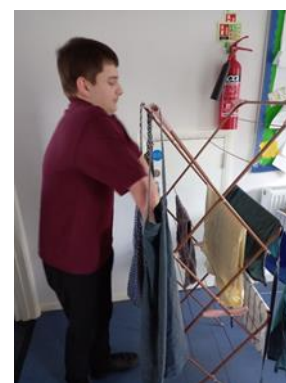
## **Where does it lead?**

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

- Entry 1
- Entry 2
- Entry 3

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, students may not complete the full qualification due to unforeseen circumstances (illness, appointments etc.). In these instances, they 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 students 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 the link, 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](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/independent-living-entry-pathways/#tab_overview)

## Examples of subjects covered for Independent Living

### 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, students 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'.



### Preparation for Work

This unit aims to enable learners to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of general skills needed for the workplace. Students will have the chance to visit different places of work and start to develop aspirations for their own future.



### Food Preparation, Cooking and Serving

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

They will have the chance to develop a range of basic food preparation skills, and 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.

Students 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.

