

Codsall Community High School

Per Ardua Ad Astra – Through Adversity to the Stars



Key Stage 4 Options 2021/22

Student Information Booklet



Letter of Introduction

Dear Student,

This booklet has been produced to explain the courses you can choose to study in Years 9, 10 and 11 alongside the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Core PE and Tutor Lesson. When making your decisions four things are important.

First, think about the subjects you are interested in and those you enjoy. It is in the areas where you have a passion for learning that you will excel.

Second, think about subjects you are good at so you end up with a strong set of qualifications at the end of Year 11. The grades you are getting at Middle School will help you see where your strengths lie as will talking to your teachers and parents.

Third, think about what you would like to do in the future. You might not have a clear picture of exactly where you would like your education to take you, but even if you don't you may know the sector you would like to work in, the type of job you would like to have or courses you might like to study at college or university. When selecting your options make sure your choices line up with your long-term goals.

Fourth, talk to as many people as you can before you decide. Join the virtual options evening and listen to the presentations to find out what each course involves so you can make sure it is right for you. Phone or message students you know who are already at our school. They might be doing the courses you are interested in, or have friends who are, so you can hear about their experiences. Talk to your parents as they know you better than anyone and their advice will be invaluable.

I trust you will find this booklet useful when exploring your options and in helping you choose the best courses for you and your future.

Mr Robinson
Deputy Headteacher
February 2021

Option Blocks

Block J

- BTEC Acting²
- GCSE Design Technology
- BTEC Enterprise¹
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- GCSE Triple Science

Block K - Accelerated

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business¹
- BTEC Dance²
- GCSE Design Technology
- BTEC Enterprise¹
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE French
- CN Health and Social
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- GCSE Statistics

Block L

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business¹
- GCSE Design Technology
- BTEC Enterprise¹
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- CN Health and Social
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- GCSE PE³
- BTEC Sport³

Block M

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business¹
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- CN Health and Social
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- BTEC Music
- GCSE PE³
- BTEC Sport³

Notes

- Circle one course from each box for your options.
- Do not choose any two options with the same small number.
- All students must choose at least one Bacc subject, which are GCSE French, GCSE Geography, GCSE German, GCSE History and GCSE Triple Science.
- Most students should choose two or more Bacc subjects as they will help with applications to sixth form, university and jobs.
- Select your options via email – your ICT teacher can help with this.
- Deadline for making initial choices is 31st March.
- Taster sessions at Codsall High on 7th July.
- Interviews to agree your options at your school in July.

Option Courses and Staff Contacts

BTEC Acting – Mrs Nicklin

This course is suited to people who enjoy performing and want to use dramatic techniques to express themselves. The work is practically based and centred around the performing arts industry. There are core units focused on preparation, performance and production and optional units focused on acting skills. The course is enjoyable, but also demanding. It will help students develop personal and social skills and prepare them for further courses and employment in performing arts.

GCSE Art and Design – Mrs Pugh

If you want to develop skills in Art and expand your creativity and imagination, then you will enjoy studying GCSE Art. You will work with a wide range of media and engage in painting, drawing, collage, printing, mixed media, photography and editing. You will learn how to investigate artists' work, express and record your own personal ideas, develop skills in a wide range of materials and go on to produce imaginative and creative practical outcomes.

GCSE Business – Mrs Kiely

GCSE Business gives students an invaluable insight into the world of business and work. The course explores how to establish and run a small business and how businesses develop and grow. You will learn how marketing campaigns are put together, how finances are managed and how small businesses grow into successful enterprises. The skills developed in GCSE Business will equip you with the confidence you will need to be a well-informed consumer, employee and entrepreneur.

BTEC Dance – Mrs Shillingford

BTEC Dance is a fantastic course for students that love to dance! One of the biggest advantages to this course is the large focus on practical activities and the opportunity to learn different dance styles. The units include: Exploring the Performing Arts, Developing Techniques and Skills in the Performing Arts and Performing to a Performance Brief. Students will have a number of performance opportunities during the 2 year course as well as the chance to watch live professional performances. The qualification is worth the equivalent of one GCSE.

GCSE Design Technology – Mr Shingler

In this course you will learn how to turn a brief into a design and how this can be manufactured as a product. The course looks at how products are designed and made. Students carry out a practical task to make their own product using a variety of different materials. In Year 9 students will develop their skills by carrying out a variety of short projects that include computer aided design and manufacture, orthographic drawing, marking out, turning, casting and product analysis.

BTEC Enterprise – Mr Singh

BTEC Enterprise gives students the opportunity to learn how businesses are set up and run. You will learn how marketing campaigns are put together, how finances are managed and how small businesses grow into successful enterprises. As this is a vocational subject, you will complete work-based projects and activities like the ones you would do if you were employed by a real business. The qualification is equivalent to one GCSE and provides an ideal basis for employment or more advanced work-related qualifications.

GCSE Food and Nutrition – Mrs Green

If you enjoy practical subjects and learn using hands on experience, then Food Technology is for you. It is a subject that combines both practical skills and written work. During Year 9 you will learn a wide range of practical skills which will give you the knowledge to be able to produce high quality products. You will investigate the effects of combining different ingredients during preparation and cooking and the impact and effect of using a range of different equipment to produce food items of quality and consistency. Students learn about the functional and nutritional properties of food and analyse, compare and evaluate products, developing skills required to produce the written evidence for the GCSE.

GCSE French – Mrs Reynolds

The study of at least one foreign language will help you learn more out about different cultures and gain useful and relevant skills to help you communicate with a wider range of people from different cultures. It can also give you a vital head start later on in a variety of different career choices. GCSE French involves the study and use of the foreign language for practical communication in a variety of ways. You will be able to communicate about your personal and social life, the communities where different people live and work and the wider world, including holidays and tourism. It is an essential GCSE subject for numerous careers such as pilot, journalist, air stewardess, primary teacher or lawyer and is an entry requirement for many degree courses and universities.

GCSE Geography – Miss Walton

GCSE Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant; it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming, the future of energy resources, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis and the spread of disease are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation. A GCSE in Geography is recognised for its academic 'robustness' and, most importantly, it also helps young people into the world of work. We know this is true because so many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide; be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills – and much more.

GCSE German – Mrs Reynolds

The study of at least one foreign language will help you learn more out about different cultures and gain useful and relevant skills to help you communicate with a wider range of people from different cultures. It can also give you a vital head start later on in a variety of different career choices. GCSE German involves the study and use of the foreign language for practical communication in a variety of ways. You will be able to communicate about your personal and social life, the communities where different people live and work and the wider world, including holidays and tourism. It is an essential GCSE subject for numerous careers such as pilot, journalist, air stewardess, primary teacher or lawyer and is an entry requirement for many degree courses and universities.

CN Health & Social Care – Mrs Holding

The Cambridge National in Health and Social Care is a vocationally-related qualification which will equip students with a sound, specialist knowledge along with skills for everyday use. The assessment methods reflect the variety of skills studied and support many progression routes into the world of work in a Health, Social Care or Early Years setting. Topics studied include essential values of care, communication, nutrition and child development. Links are made with a work placement in Year 10. The course is assessed by 75% coursework and 25% examination and is worth one GCSE.

GCSE History – Mr Shirley

History is an academically rigorous and fascinating GCSE choice. Learning about past events and the people who've influenced History will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future. This has never been more vital for students as history is becoming more central to cultural debates in society so it's important you are informed about the past of this country and the world. The AQA GCSE course involves studying four different topics – Migration, Empires and the People (c790 to present) Elizabethan England (1568 to 1603); American Expansion and Consolidation (1840 to 1895) and Conflict and Tension (1918 to 1939). Apart from studying this wide range of exciting historic periods, you'll also learn a range of skills that will help you with A-Levels and future work (in fields like Law and Journalism), including: excellent communication and writing skills; how to construct an argument; looking at the reliability of different sources of information; investigation and problem-solving skills; analytical and interpretation skills. The GCSE is assessed by 100% examination.

BTEC ICT – Mr Kooner

The ICT course is an essential subject for a student to succeed in the workplace and covers a variety of ICT and media skills across a range of multimedia software. We cover multimedia content such as video and audio editing along with animation and image editing. The skills you learn in ICT can be helpful in a number of careers as most workplaces that use ICT at some time. The course equips students with the key ICT skills to use a computer confidently and effectively, building on existing knowledge and motivating further learning. It covers the core media applications commonly used in many businesses around the world.

BTEC Music – Mr Wilson

BTEC Music is a practical course. It is designed to enable students to develop their musical skills and techniques in the areas of performance, composition and music production. It also aids progression to further study and prepares students to enter the workplace. It contains three units: Exploring Music Products and Styles; Music Skills Development and Responding to a Commercial Music Brief. The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is equivalent to one GCSE grade.

GCSE Physical Education – Mr Horsfield

GCSE PE is an examination-based course which allows you to experience both theoretical and practical elements of sport and exercise. The course follows the AQA GCSE PE specification. This subject suits the more academic learner who is well equipped to cope with revision and exams, as the theoretical element of the course is worth 60% of the overall GCSE grade. The practical element of the course (worth 40% of the overall GCSE grade) will require the learner to be competent across a range of sports and it is desirable that they are competing in competitive school or club sport on a regular basis. The course covers a range of topics including anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, training, sport psychology and socio-cultural influences affecting the world of sport.

BTEC Sport – Mrs Murphy

BTEC Sport is an ideal course for students who want to carry on to further study or employment in the world of sport. Students will have the opportunity to learn how the body is affected by exercise, gain a wider understanding of health-related fitness and organise an event for younger students. The course is graded by external assessments and pieces of coursework. It consists of 4 units: Fitness for Sport and Exercise, Practical Sports Performance, Training for Personal Fitness and Leading Sporting Activities. Practical work is undertaken but performance does not affect the overall grade outcome. The qualification is worth the equivalent of one GCSE.

GCSE Statistics – Mrs Hewitt

Statistics is an area of mathematics that uses logic and algebra to analyse information and make decisions. Students will learn how to assess trends in data, to use algebra to inform actions and challenge assumptions and use advanced probability techniques to calculate likely future actions. The course covers measures of average and spread, forming and testing hypotheses, sampling techniques and bias detection, the use of recognised indices such as consumer price index (CPI), gross domestic product (GDP), and using the binomial and Normal distributions to analyse probability. The course requires a good understanding of KS3 Mathematics and in particular a good understanding of algebra, since a key objective of the course is to teach students the formal algebra and notation of probability and statistics. The course is 100% terminal examination and uses the new GCSE grade 9-1 structure. This course serves as an excellent introduction to A-level Mathematics and students who complete a GCSE in Statistics will be well placed to support and extend their knowledge when studying the Statistics elements of A-level Mathematics.

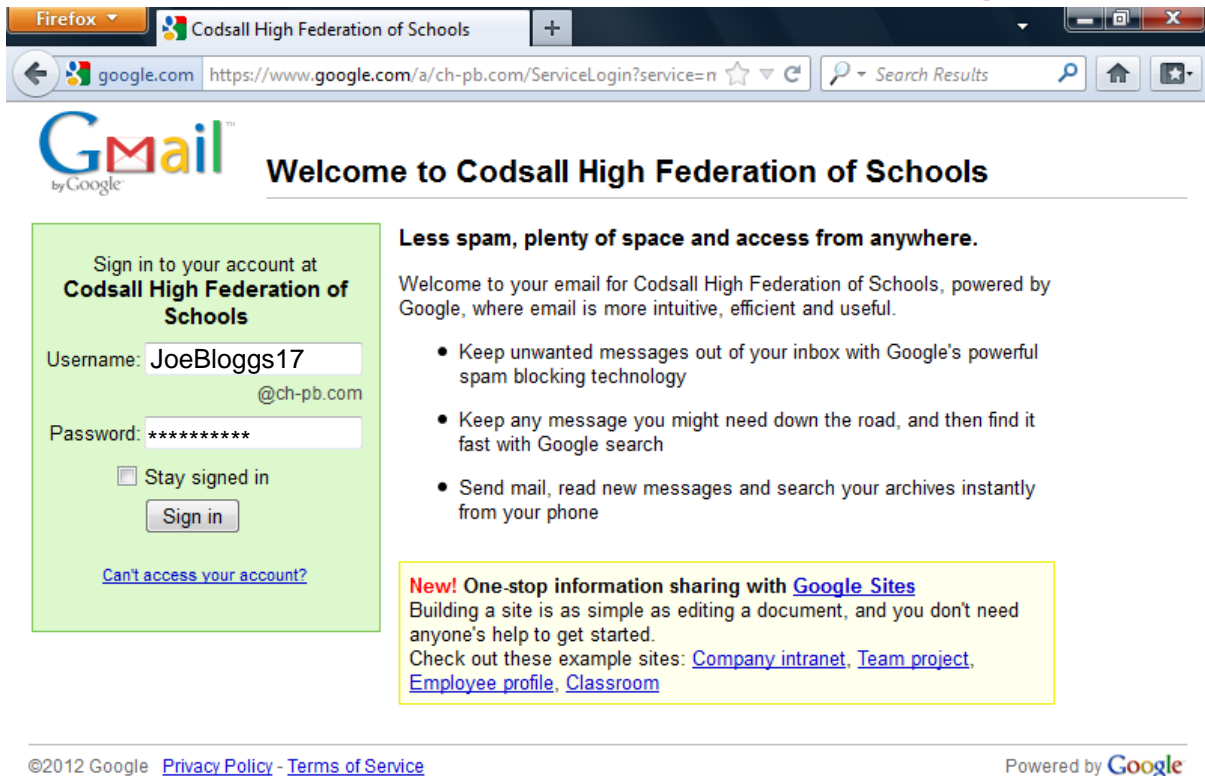
GCSE Triple Science – Miss White

Choosing Triple Science will mean that students study more science and end up with a GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs) rather than the double Science course (2 GCSEs). As this is the most demanding Science course, high grades in Science and Maths from Year 8 exams are required for this course.

Students should have a good work ethic and be prepared for extensive independent working. This course is recommended for highly motivated students who aspire for a good academic background in Science. GCSE Triple Science develops students' investigative skills and ability to apply their scientific knowledge to the world around them. The course extends the knowledge of traditional science and is excellent preparation for science in the sixth form and beyond. At a time when the economy is preparing for growth, there is a distinct need for people with STEM skills. Studying Triple Science gives students the required knowledge and confidence to continue studying science at A-level and subsequently, at university. So for students with a real passion and aptitude for the sciences and who would like to impress in the future by having three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, GCSE Triple Science is the ideal course for you.

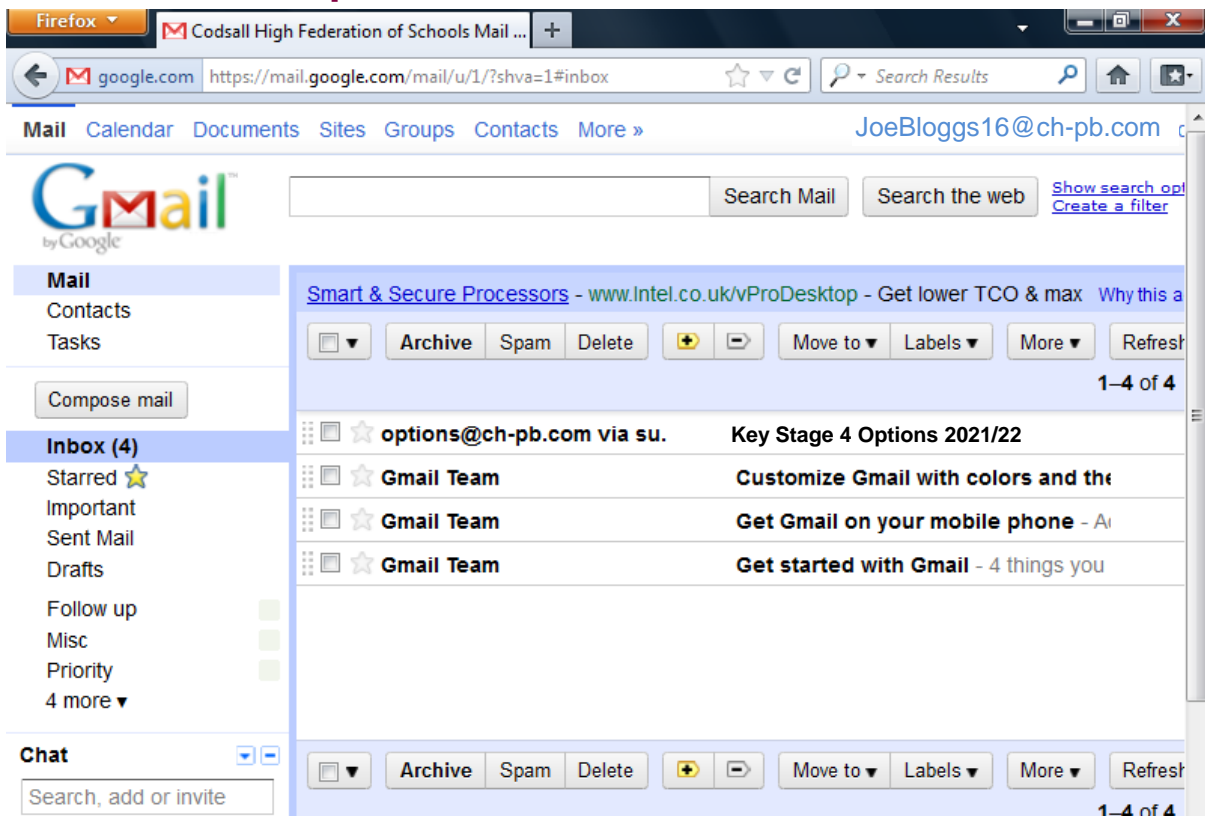
Selecting Your Options

1. Go to www.ch-pb.com/mail and type in your username (FirstnameSurname17) and password (codsallhigh)



The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying <https://www.google.com/a/ch-pb.com/ServiceLogin?service=n>. The page title is "Welcome to Codsall High Federation of Schools". The Gmail logo is visible in the top left. The main content area is a green box containing a sign-in form. The form has a "Username" field with the text "JoeBloggs17" and "@ch-pb.com" below it. The "Password" field contains "*****". There is a "Stay signed in" checkbox and a "Sign in" button. Below the form is a link: "Can't access your account?". To the right of the form, there is a section titled "Less spam, plenty of space and access from anywhere." followed by a welcome message and a list of three bullet points: "Keep unwanted messages out of your inbox with Google's powerful spam blocking technology", "Keep any message you might need down the road, and then find it fast with Google search", and "Send mail, read new messages and search your archives instantly from your phone". Below this is a yellow box with a "New!" announcement about Google Sites, stating "Building a site is as simple as editing a document, and you don't need anyone's help to get started. Check out these example sites: [Company intranet](#), [Team project](#), [Employee profile](#), [Classroom](#)". At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice "©2012 Google" and a link to "Privacy Policy - Terms of Service", and a "Powered by Google" logo.

2. Click on the options email and follow the instructions



The screenshot shows the Gmail inbox interface in a Firefox browser window. The address bar displays <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?shva=1#inbox>. The page title is "JoeBloggs16@ch-pb.com". The Gmail logo is in the top left. The left sidebar shows the "Mail" section with "Inbox (4)" selected. The main content area shows a list of emails. The top email is from "options@ch-pb.com via su." with the subject "Key Stage 4 Options 2021/22". Below it are three emails from "Gmail Team" with subjects: "Customize Gmail with colors and the", "Get Gmail on your mobile phone - A", and "Get started with Gmail - 4 things you". The interface includes search bars, "Search Mail" and "Search the web" buttons, and a "Compose mail" button. The bottom of the page shows "Chat" options and a search bar for contacts.

Enrichment Options

Two extra, accelerated options are offered as part of the enrichment programme.

These options are in addition to the four main options all students take and are delivered through a combination of after school lessons, in school teaching time and independent study.

Taster sessions will be delivered at partner middle schools or during Induction Day in July.

GCSE Computer Science – Mrs Radford-Smith

Computer Science is a subject for those who enjoy maths, problem solving and finding out how technology works. We cover topics such as networks, the components of a computer, the binary number system, logic circuits, cryptography and programming. The skills you learn in GCSE Computer Science are in high-demand and can be helpful across a broad range of careers in addition to jobs in programming. The course is assessed by examination. This subject is for hard-working pupils with a desire to become creators of new software and hardware in the future.

GCSE Religious Studies – Mrs Davies

In GCSE Religious Studies we study a range of contemporary issues and responses. For example, in the Ethics Unit we consider Animal Rights, Medical Ethics, Prejudice and War. In Philosophy we reflect upon ultimate questions raised by topics such as the origins of the Universe, the existence of an afterlife and the debates between Religion and Science. We study the key beliefs of Christianity and Buddhism and examine how they approach the ethical and philosophical issues covered. We also look at secular responses and how they may differ from the religious views. This is a popular and challenging course which is suitable for students of any faith or of none. If you enjoy finding out about the world around you, asking questions and listening to a variety of answers then you will enjoy Religious Studies!

Summary and Next Steps

Which subjects are studied by everyone?

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students study the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, Core PE and Tutor Lesson (Citizenship, Learning to Learn, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and Religious Education).

Which option courses are there?

There are twenty option courses on offer. You choose four.

How can I find out about the courses?

Read the information booklet and attend the virtual options evening.

How do I make my choices?

Click the link to the options email and follow the instructions.

What should I do if I have a question?

Ask a friend, a student who already goes to the High School, one of your teachers or email options@ch-pb.com.

What do I need to do and when do I need to do it?

Read the booklet and discuss it.

Attend the virtual options evening on 11th March with your parents/carers.

Complete the online options selector by 31st March.

Attend Induction Day in July.

Agree your final options during your interview in July.

Start your options when you join Codsall High in September.