

# Codsall Community High School

Per Ardua Ad Astra – Through Adversity to the Stars



## Key Stage 4 Options 2023/24

## 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 do 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. Come to the options evening and talk to the teachers at the High School about what each course involves so you can make sure it is right for you. Talk to 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 well 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  
March 2023

## Option Blocks

### Block J

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business<sup>1</sup>
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- GCSE Triple Science

### Block K - Accelerated

- BTEC Acting
- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business<sup>1</sup>
- BTEC Dance
- GCSE Design Technology
- BTEC Enterprise<sup>1</sup>
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- Further Maths and Statistics
- Health and Social Care
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- GCSE Statistics

### Block L

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business<sup>1</sup>
- GCSE Design Technology
- BTEC Enterprise<sup>1</sup>
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- Health and Social Care
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- GCSE PE<sup>2</sup>
- BTEC Sport<sup>2</sup>

### Block M

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business<sup>1</sup>
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- Health and Social Care
- GCSE History
- BTEC ICT
- BTEC Music
- GCSE PE<sup>2</sup>
- BTEC Sport<sup>2</sup>

## 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 27th March.
- Taster sessions at Codsall High in June and July.
- Interviews to agree your options at your school in July.

## **Option Courses and Staff Contacts**

### **BTEC Acting – Mrs Mayor**

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 Fine 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 – Miss Guest**

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**

Tech Award Enterprise gives students the opportunity to learn how businesses are set up and run. You will learn how small businesses are set up and how changes in the economy impact them. You will also look at producing and presenting a business idea to a professional level. In addition to this, you will also investigate and 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 controlled assessments and activities like the ones you would do if you were employed by a real business. The course is based on two controlled assessments and one finance exam at the end. The qualification is equivalent to one GCSE and provides an ideal basis for employment or more advanced work-related qualifications. This course opens up the opportunity to pursue business at BTEC Level 3 and A-Level, not to mention a whole host of marketing and business-related paths including apprenticeships and higher education. This is a demanding yet rewarding course that is suited to well organised and hardworking students.

## **GCSE Food and Nutrition – Mr Parlor**

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 – Mr Westwood**

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 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.

## **Further Maths and Statistics – Mr Murphy**

We now offer an exciting opportunity for talented & hardworking mathematicians. Alongside studying for GCSE Statistics, you will study the Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths. Further Maths is the ideal choice for students wishing to study Maths or Science at a top university. Further Maths is a three year course for students with ability in maths and excellent algebraic skills. It aims to broaden the knowledge and understanding of higher order concepts and techniques covered in GCSE Maths whilst developing an ability to relate different areas of maths. The content will not only provide a strong basis for studying A level Maths and Further Maths, but develop skills needed for related subjects. Assessment is by two final examinations in Year 11.

## **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 – Mr Westwood**

The study of at least one foreign language will help you learn 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. 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.

## **Health and Social Care – Mrs Holding**

The NCFE CACHE Technical Award in Health and Social Care is designed for learners who want an introduction to health and social care that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification is appealing to learners who wish to pursue a career in the health and social care sector or progress onto further study. The qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. Topics covered to promote learners' understanding of health and social care include researching the different provision and services in health and social care, the variety of job roles within the sector, human growth and development across the lifespan, care needs of individuals and how to meet the needs of service users accessing health and social care services to name a few. The course is assessed by 50% coursework and 50% examination assessment 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 BTEC Creative Media course enables learners to develop sector specific skills and knowledge across a range of media practices using a combination of practical, experimentation and realistic contexts. It offers an insight into what it is like to work in the Creative Media sector which covers exciting industries such as film, television, games, web and app development and publishing. Learners will develop technical skills and techniques in areas such as video/audio editing, website development, animation, image editing and greenscreen technology; produce a digital media product in response to a brief; develop personal skills such as managing creative projects, documenting progress, responding to briefs and presenting work and develop employability skills such as teamwork, time management and communication.

## **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 in which students explore the techniques and key features in different musical styles; Music Skills Development in which students develop two musical disciplines through practical tasks and documenting their progress; Responding to a Commercial Music Brief in which students develop and present music in response to a given 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 course suits academic learners who are 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) requires 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 – Mr Horsfield**

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in 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 about types of sport and the barriers that participants may face when doing activity as well as learning how to officiate and coach in different sports. The course is graded by an external exam as well as internal pieces of coursework and video evidence. It consists of 3 components: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity, Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance and Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (Exam).

## **GCSE Statistics – Mr Murphy**

Statistics is an area of mathematics that looks into different ways to investigate information and make decisions. Students will learn how to find trends in data that will help people make decisions and challenge things that were previously thought to be true. The course requires a good understanding of KS3 Mathematics and in particular a good understanding of using formulas, as a key objective of the course is to teach students the language of probability and statistics that is used in real life. There is no coursework, just two exam papers to be sat at the end of year 10. This course will help students with their understanding of GCSE Maths as well as being good preparation for any year 12 options that have elements of mathematics.

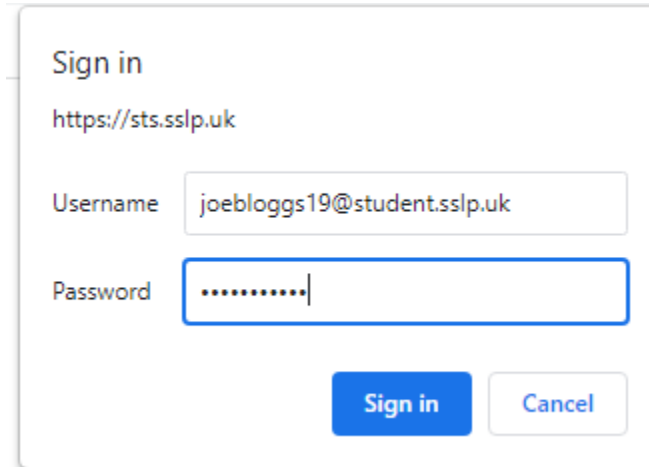
## **GCSE Triple Science – Miss Shipley**

Science is a core subject and all students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics to the end of Year 11. GCSE Triple Science is an opportunity to go above and beyond the core requirement and obtain separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics rather than two GCSEs in Combined Science. GCSE Triple Science is a fantastic option for motivated students with a keen interest in Science, a good work ethic and those already achieving well in Year 8 Science and Maths. It is a good basis for any student wishing to complete further study in Science e.g. A-level, Level 3 BTEC, an apprenticeship or Science related career and is well thought of by employers in general. The course aims to develop students' investigative skills and their ability to apply their scientific knowledge to the world around them. Through a variety of topics we investigate how scientific ideas have changed over time, how we use Science currently and where Science may go in the future. Whilst much of the content is the same as that covered in GCSE Combined Science there are some additional extras that only GCSE Triple Students will study including plant disease, fuel cells and space.



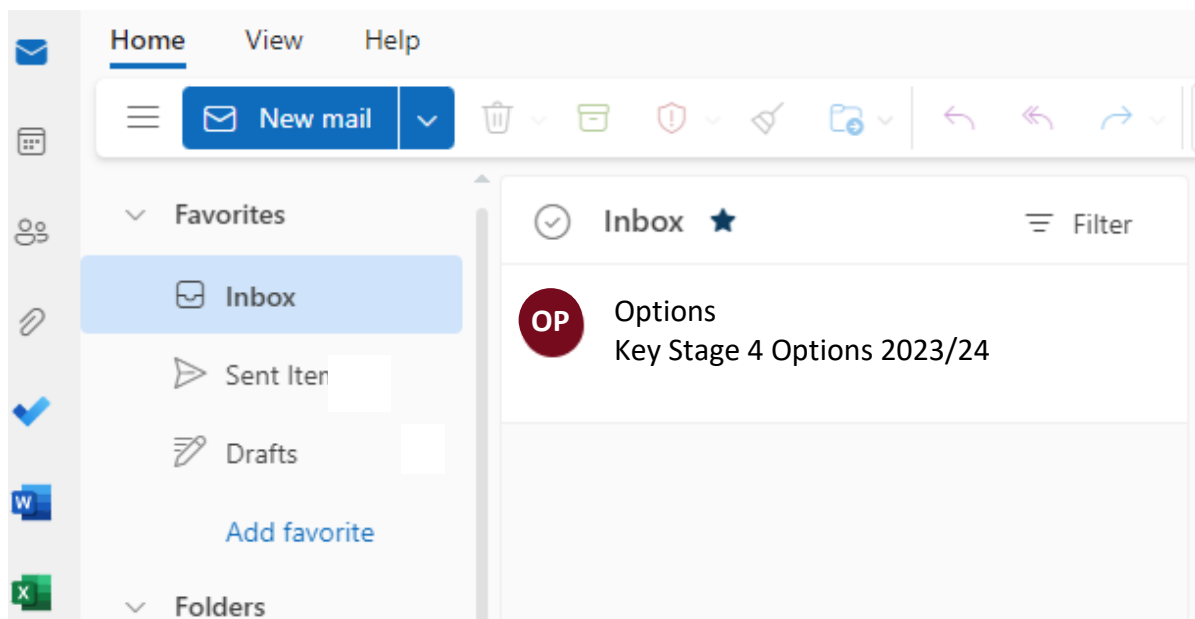
## Selecting Your Options

**1. Go to [outlook.com/sslip.uk](https://outlook.com/sslip.uk) and type in your username (FirstnameSurname19) and password (codsallhigh)**



A sign-in dialog box for Outlook. It has a title bar that says "Sign in". Below the title bar is the URL "https://sts.sslip.uk". There are two input fields: "Username" with the text "joebloggs19@student.sslip.uk" and "Password" with masked characters ".....". At the bottom right are two buttons: "Sign in" (blue) and "Cancel" (white with blue border).

**2. Click on the options email and follow the instructions**



**Note – You will be shown how to log in to your new email during a Computing lesson in your middle school.**

## **Enrichment Option**

We offer two accelerated GCSE options as part of the enrichment programme.

One of these can be taken in addition to the four main options and it is delivered through a combination of after school lessons, in school teaching time and independent study.

Taster sessions will be delivered during Induction Day in July.

### **GCSE Computer Science – Mr Hayward**

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 Media Studies – Mr Brown**

GCSE Media Studies is a subject of key importance to how we understand our surroundings. Media is about communication, particularly mass communication. The media creates products that are designed to entertain and inform, created for lots of people to hear, watch or read. Whenever you are watching television, streaming films, scrolling through social media or listening to a podcast, you are consuming media. The course will involve analysing and producing a variety of media so the course suits students who are not only inquisitive, but creative. If you enjoy finding out about the world around you, asking questions and analysing a variety of texts then you will enjoy Media 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, Mathematics, Science, Core PE and Tutor Lesson.

### **Which option courses are there?**

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

### **How can I find out about the courses?**

Read the information booklet and attend the 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@sslp.uk](mailto:options@sslp.uk).

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

Read the booklet and discuss it.

Attend the options evening on 9th March with your parents/carers.

Complete the online options selector by 27th March with your initial choices.

Attend taster sessions at Codsall High in June and July.

Agree your final options during your interview in July.

Start your options when you join Codsall High in September.