

Academic Year
2024 - 2025

A GUIDE TO THE

Key Stage 4 CURRICULUM

BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT



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MUSCAT

Welcome to Key Stage 4

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I am writing to introduce myself as the Head for Key Stage 4. Having worked at BSM for the past 12 years, I have already had the pleasure of teaching many of your children, and I am very much looking forward to continuing to build upon these relationships, and also the great work that has been accomplished in Key Stage 3. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to those who are joining us at the start of year 10.

Key Stage 4 is an important time for students as they work towards their GCSE and BTEC qualifications, and whilst it presents challenges, it also provides many opportunities. We hope to ensure that the transition for students is a manageable and exciting one.

I am confident that our students' experiences over the coming years will encourage both personal and academic growth, and will allow them to build fond memories and lasting friendships.

Alexandra McHenry
Head of Key Stage 4



What are GCSEs & BTEC Level 2 Qualifications?

General Certificate of Secondary Education, a British qualification students gain at the end of Year 11. Students then should progress to Key Stage 5.

For the majority of students, Key Stage 4 is their first opportunity to make choices regarding which subjects to study. Students have the opportunity to study subjects in further depth or try new subjects that are of personal interest.

GCSE and BTEC qualifications are 2 year courses leading to individual subject qualifications at the end of Year 11. Most students study at least 9 subjects made up as follows:

- Every student studies for GCSEs in the core subjects of English and Mathematics
- Every student studies Science with either 2 or 3 qualifications at the end of the course
- Most students study English (World) Literature
- Most students study a Modern Foreign Language
- Every student selects 3 option subjects from the content in this booklet.
- Students will also continue to study PSHE and Core PE which are non examined subjects

This curriculum will ensure that as many opportunities as possible remain open to students for further study, at school and in higher education, and for future careers.

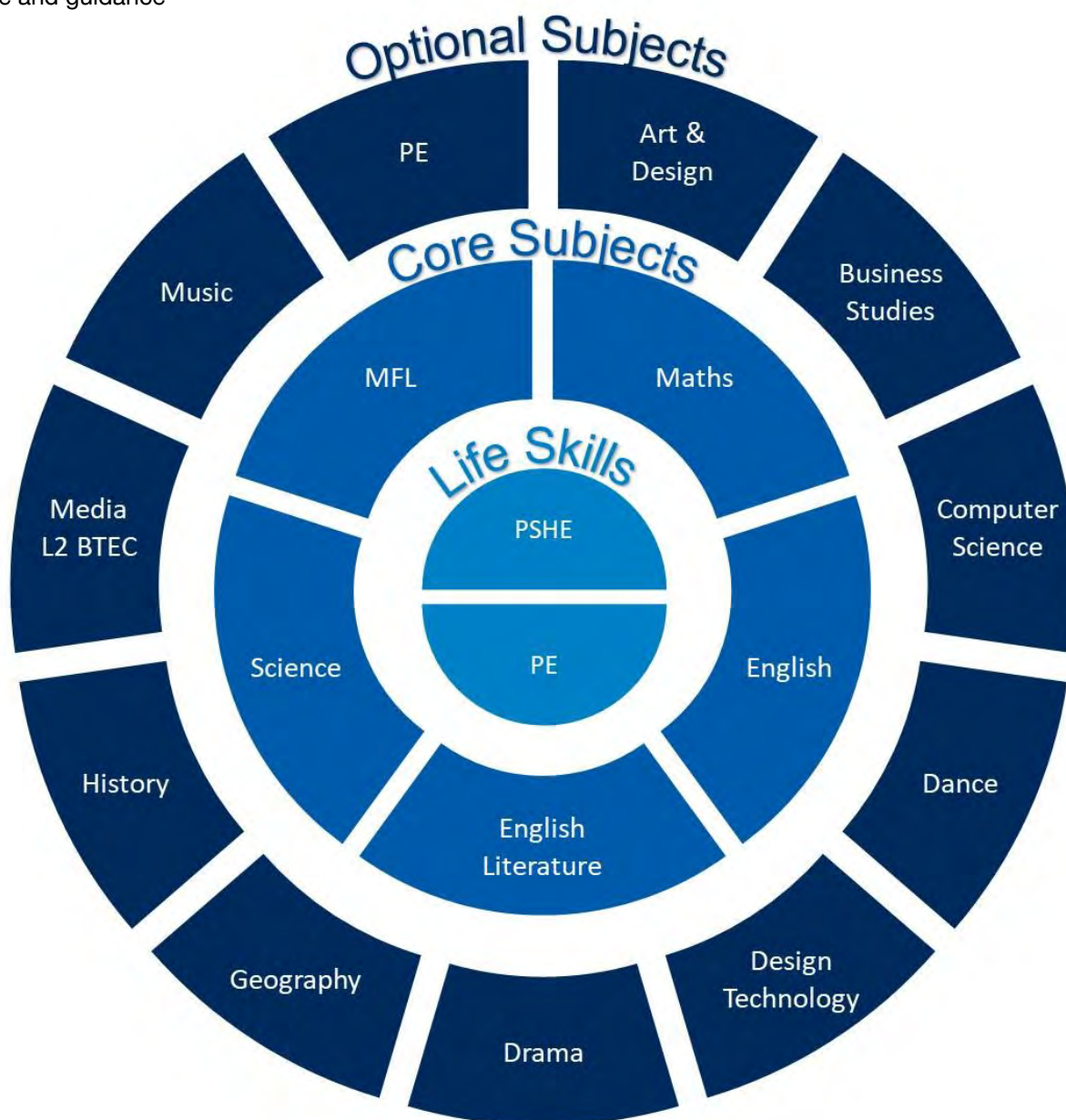
The subjects chosen for options should do two things. First, they should give a broad and balanced a platform as possible to maximise choices when moving on from BSM. Secondly, they should allow students to achieve the best possible results.

In making choices, students should listen to parents, teachers and other students. However, please remember they should be based on what a student will enjoy; what they are good at and what might be needed for future study and careers. Aim for a broad and balanced curriculum.

Subjects: Key Stage 4

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Students select 3 Optional Key Stage 4 subjects and one MFL subject. This choice is made in Year 9. We endeavour to ensure students can study their first choices options, however, it may not be possible to provide every combination. We also reserve the right to not offer a course should there be insufficient demand. If either of these scenarios occur parents and students will be advised and offered appropriate advice and guidance



Welcome to Key Stage 4

Pastoral Care

Students often find that there are increasing demands on their time during Key Stage 4. This is because as students grow and mature, taking responsibility for their educational success becomes more important. You may notice a significant change in the amount of homework set for example, or a change in the pressure to succeed.

Students can only thrive academically if their well being is a priority. Heads of Key stages, Year leaders, form tutors and all teachers at BSM are fully committed to ensuring that students feel valued, trusted, secure and respected. BSM students have a voice and they *are* heard.

Form tutors are often the first in the line of communication and communication is key. The more we know, the more personalised a students school experience can be.

The pastoral team is there to remove barriers to learning and smooth the way to ensure individuals needs are met.

We look forward to supporting each child and strive to help them achieve their potential both pastorally and academically.

#Wellbeingfirst
#everyoneCAN

PSHE and RSE

Personal, social, health and economic education, or PSHE, aims to give students the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy and successful independent lives. It is taught in all areas of the curriculum as well as through tutor time and assembly. We place a high degree of importance on creating a culture of kindness and belonging as well as educating students on risk management and making informed and educated decisions in the future.

RSE is part of the PSHE curriculum and means Relationships and Sex Education. It has become a mandatory section of the UK curriculum. The BSM curriculum focuses on exploring the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, having healthy and committed relationships, as well as empowering students to make consensual decisions.



Academic support

Academic Tracking and Monitoring

Throughout Key Stage 4, we have a supportive programme which enables students to thrive educationally. This includes:

- Monitoring lessons
- Liaising with teachers, nurse, external agencies, careers, councillor, inclusion team
- Meetings with parents
- Monitoring social areas and regular meetings with students
- Tracking and analysing data from reports
- Academic Monitoring
- Organising appropriate interventions
- Mentoring
- Monitoring Attendance
- Maths/ English support
- Study Skills and revision tips
- Behaviour, emotional, social support
- Peer mentoring
- After school study groups

Our aim is that when you leave BSM, you are fully equipped to enter the world with confidence, knowledge and happiness to fulfill your future selves.



Bring Your Own Device

All students in BSM's Senior School are encouraged to bring their own device to school to use during lessons. The use of VPNs on these devices is not allowed and as such should not be used when on the school site.

BSM is a Google School and we use Google Classroom and Google's free software for lessons and homework where required. There is no requirement for any software to be downloaded prior to the start of KS4.

A student's mobile phone is not classed as a device and should be switched off between arrival at school and 2pm.



Learning Support

Reports & Academic Monitoring

In Year 10 students will receive 3 Academic Reports: typically these are in December for term 1, March for Term 2 and June for Term 3.

In Year 11 students will receive 3 Academic Reports: November for term 1, February for Term 2 and March for Term 3.

After each report the Year Leader will analyse student attainment and effort levels. If a student has been evaluated as having inconsistent or poor effort by their subject teacher we will invite the student and their parents to a meeting to discuss how we can best support their studies.

The student may be asked to complete an Effort Report (with targets) or to take part in Academic Monitoring. Both are designed to support pupil progress and provide clear strategies to progress. .

Mentoring

To further support students in Key Stage 4 they may be invited to mentoring sessions. These sessions are designed to:

- Identify any barriers to their learning
- Develop student's confidence so that they can challenge themselves
- Make provision for the student to work on homework, revision and study skills
- Help the student thrive academically



Rewards at BSM

BSM's reward system was launched by our Teaching and Learning SIT (student impact teams). It focuses on verbal positive praise, achievement postcards, Year led Star of the Fortnight and charity tokens. A student led explanation of the Reward System can be [found here](#).

Celebration assemblies are held at the end of each term to showcase student achievements, both academic and practical, whilst also recognising those students who have exemplified BSM and HPL values.

BSM Vision #WellbeingFirst and #EveryoneCan

At British School Muscat, our philosophy centers on #EveryoneCan and #WellbeingFirst. We believe every student has the potential to succeed and thrive. #EveryoneCan embodies our commitment to fostering each child's unique talents and abilities, ensuring inclusive and personalised learning experiences. #WellbeingFirst prioritises the mental, emotional, and physical health of our students, recognising that a supportive and caring environment is crucial for academic and personal success. Together, these principles create a nurturing community where every student can flourish.

The 13 characteristics below form BSM's Learning Ethos which all students should develop in their time at BSM.

BSM Learning Ethos HPL Values, Attitudes and Attributes		
<p>HARD WORKING and SECURE INDIVIDUALS</p> <p>Practise Then and prepare through repetition of the same processes.</p> <p>Responsible Choose right from wrong Be honest about mistakes. Come ready and prepared for school.</p> <p>Persistent and be Resilient Persist in effort, face obstacles but never give up. Work diligently and systematically. Not be satisfied until high quality, positive and the desired outcome are achieved. Change what I need to. Not be put off by mistakes.</p>	<p>AGILE and RESOURCEFUL LEARNERS</p> <p>Motivated Work hard because it matters. Then independently. Think and do things for myself.</p> <p>Curious and Enquiring Ask questions about what I have learnt. Explore new ideas in my learning. Question what I see, hear and read.</p> <p>Self-reflexive Think and talk about what I have learnt. Improve what I have learnt. Use what I have learnt to make choices.</p> <p>Creative and Enterprising Be willing to innovate and extend multiple solutions. Adapt my approach according to needs. Show originality in work. Use initiative to find solutions.</p> <p>Risk Takers Think, then have a go. Find new ways to solve a problem. Do things differently to do them better.</p> <p>Open Minded Change my ideas because of what I've seen, heard or read. Think about things from another's point of view. Accept others have different ideas.</p>	<p>EMPATHETIC and RESPECTFUL CONTRIBUTORS</p> <p>Confident Talk about ideas clearly. Enjoy new challenges. Be confident in saying and doing.</p> <p>Collaborative Find out what other people think. Find answers with other people. Include other people.</p> <p>Community-minded Help others. Make a difference at BSM and in the community. Take care of the world around me.</p>

Learning Support

Inclusion Department

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

We provide advice and assistance for those families with children who have mild to moderate learning needs. Through a programme of tailored support where necessary, the progress of students on our Additional Needs Register is carefully monitored. Inclusion Assistants work with small groups as well as alongside teaching staff to ensure that your son/daughter's needs are met. In some instances, children may require the additional support of outside experts, such as speech therapists or educational psychologists, in which case the Inclusion team will work closely with professionals in the community.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

BSM offers a British curriculum and thus all teaching is in English. Students starting at BSM who need additional support in English will be able to discuss any provision available to them at the time of admission.

Student Leadership Committees

All students will have the opportunity to apply for a place on the five Student Leadership Committees (SLC). The committees are focused on: Teaching and Learning, Well Being, Charity, Sustainability and Diversity Equity and Inclusion. The SLC will allow students to develop the skills to plan and lead real change within the school and help prepare them further for later life.

Progression to Sixth Form

GCSE qualifications act as a gateway to the next stage of a student's education. Here at BSM, we offer A Level and Level 3 BTEC qualifications. Students typically select four subjects of study at Post 16.

Whether you plan to be here or elsewhere in the world, Post 16 education will require the following:

- At least 5 x GCSEs at Grade C/4 and above
- These *must* include Maths and English at grade 4/ C or above
- Each post-16 subject has its own minimum entry requirement for entry into that particular subject course.



Please view our

Options Booklets

on our

website

to discover more about our options and
courses available for study at
Key Stage 4 and Post 16.

Please note these option booklets
update yearly in November



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#BestForTheWorld



Ask us a question