



Beacon Academy Trust

A COMPELLING VISION FOR SUCCESS



Beal High School

Year 9 Progression Evening



Welcome

Ms Burrard-Lucas – Assistant
Principal KS4

Mr Round – Head of Year 9



Success at KS4

- ▶ Progress and attainment at KS4 put Beal High School significantly above national average year on year.

In 2024:

- ▶ Progress 8 score = + 0.62
- ▶ Attainment 8 score = 55.4
- ▶ Added Value of +4.32

- ▶ Beal High School is in the top 10% of schools nationally for:
 - Attendance
 - Progress
 - Attainment



What is the key to success?

- ▶ The right subject choice
- ▶ Academic core – Maths (numeracy) and English (literacy and oracy)
- ▶ A broad and balanced curriculum
- ▶ Attendance, conduct and attitude
- ▶ Listening to advice and guidance



What is the key to success?

- ▶ Students being reflective and finding their element
- ▶ Students knowing their strengths – building on them
- ▶ Students knowing their weaker points



KS4 Curriculum



We want our curriculum to support and challenge students to be...

- ▶ Successful learners
- ▶ Confident individuals
- ▶ Responsible citizens



The non-negotiable elements of our curriculum offer...

- ▶ Breadth and balance
- ▶ Equality of opportunity
- ▶ That our students leave with desirable skills for their future:
 - ▶ Creativity
 - ▶ Problem solving skills
 - ▶ Teamwork skills
 - ▶ Good communication
 - ▶ Resilience
 - ▶ Effective time management
 - ▶ Emotional intelligence & literacy
 - ▶ Digital Literacy



What do students have to study in Year 10 and Year 11?

- ▶ English Language (GCSE exam)
- ▶ English Literature (GCSE exam)
- ▶ Maths (GCSE exam)
- ▶ Science (GCSE exam)
- ▶ Core Philosophy (No exam)
- ▶ Core PE (No exam)
- ▶ PSHE (No exam)



What should students study in Year 10 and Year 11?

- ▶ History or Geography
- ▶ A Modern Foreign Language (if they are likely to be successful and enjoy languages)
- ▶ A practical/ creative subject

This will give students a balanced range of subjects

OPTIONS

40%

OF THE KS4 TIMETABLE



What courses are being offered?

Subjects students should take:

Geography or History

French, German or Spanish if they are likely to be successful and enjoy languages

Specialist Subjects:

Art and Design – Fine Art

Art and Design – Photography

3D Design

Business Studies

Computer Science

Drama

Economics

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Media Studies

Music

Music Technology

Religious Studies

Sociology

Sport



How to pick options subjects

How should students pick their options subjects?

- ▶ Should not base decisions on friends/ teachers
- ▶ Students should pick a subject because it is right for them
- ▶ Teachers might change next year
- ▶ Friends may be in a different class
- ▶ Use data available – reports

How should students pick their options subjects?

- ▶ Consider their strengths
- ▶ Think about what they are good at
- ▶ Look at their report – which subjects have the highest BMAT levels?
- ▶ Ask subject teachers about each subject at parents' evening
- ▶ Think about the subject(s) they enjoy



How should students pick their options subjects?

- ▶ All subjects have hard bits in at KS4
- ▶ Fine Art, 3D Design and Photography have lots of coursework
- ▶ Music and Drama have pressures of performance
- ▶ Humanities subjects involve lots of essay writing
- ▶ Geography and Drama involve trips

How should students pick their options subjects?

- ▶ All subjects get harder
- ▶ The harder students work in KS3, the easier it will be in KS4

Keep it balanced

Subject combinations students are advised to avoid:

- ▶ Business and Economics
- ▶ RS and Sociology
- ▶ Art and Photography

Think into the future – progression after Year 11?

Look at the information provided on the Beal website about the Sixth Form:

<https://bealsixthform.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/BSF-Sixth-Form-Prospectus-2025-26.pdf>



Progression to KS5

Important to be aware of the grades you need to progress to Level 3 courses – A Levels or BTECs

- ▶ To study most subjects at A Level at Beal you need to get a minimum of a grade 5 for English GCSE and a minimum of a grade 4 for Maths GCSE
- ▶ Many subjects also require a minimum of a grade 5 in a humanity
- ▶ Some subjects have more specific requirements e.g. a grade 7 in Maths to study Maths, minimum of a 66 in Combined Science to study one Science

Advice from current Yr 10s

Choose subjects you like and you are good at

Think about what you might want to do in the future

Additional Opportunities



Additional Subject – Community Modern Foreign Languages

- ▶ If students are able to speak, read and write one of the languages on the following slide they can take the GCSE in that subject.
- ▶ Where possible, the school will support and prepare students for these exams in sessions which take place after school.



Community Modern Foreign Languages

- Arabic (EDEXCEL)
- Bangla (AQA)
- Chinese (AQA)
- French (AQA)
- German (AQA)
- Greek (EDEXCEL)
- Gujarati (EDEXCEL)
- Hebrew - modern (AQA)
- Italian (AQA)
- Persian (EDEXCEL)
- Polish (AQA)
- Portuguese (EDEXCEL)
- Punjabi (AQA)
- Russian (EDEXCEL)
- Spanish (AQA)
- Turkish (EDEXCEL)
- Urdu (AQA)
- Tamil (IGCSE)

Year 9 Opportunity: Higher Project Qualification – AQA

The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) is a *2,000 word research report or a creation/artefact with a shorter written research report of 500 words*

- ▶ *Something that you decide it to be on. Therefore you should undertake the HPQ based on a topic that you have a genuine interest and curiosity about.*

60 hours

Transferable skills: independent research, critical thinking, verbal and written communication skills and innovation

- ▶ It is a pre-cursor to the EPQ an additional qualification we offer at Beal Sixth Form
- ▶ It is a level 2 qualification which is an equivalent to an additional GCSE



HPQ example titles

- ▶ *“Should societies use ‘nudges’ to achieve economic prosperity?”*
- ▶ *“How did the deaf community develop British Sign Language?”*

Myth busting: 'Universities prefer A-levels to BTECs'.

Beal BTEC students have progressed to study at:

Kings College, London, Queen Mary, University of London, Westminster, City, Greenwich, Sheffield Hallam, University of Kent, University of Essex, Nottingham University, Hertfordshire University, Loughborough University and more ...

You should look at your combination of subjects and RESEARCH what 6th form colleges and universities require.

Rely on careful research and not on popular media myths!

What will top universities look at?

- ▶ 8 top grades at GCSE (including English & Maths)
- ▶ Languages and History or Geography qualifications are valued amongst admissions tutors
- ▶ Medical courses may ask for 5 GCSEs at grades 8/9
- ▶ Universities will expect to students to pass both English and Maths.
- ▶ Some degree courses will ask for higher than this
- ▶ Top grades (A/A*) at A-level
- ▶ Extra-curricular activities



**How will we
help
students
make their
GCSE options
choices?**



Information, Advice and Guidance Sessions (IAG)

This will occur between now and the end of Year 9

- ▶ Options discussions with Form Tutors and the Year Team.
- ▶ Current teachers will tell you about their subject at KS4.
- ▶ 25th February is Yr 9 Parents' Evening
- ▶ Updated options information available on the school website



IAG Sessions with Tutors

Spring Term January to March

- ▶ Discussion of effort grades and BMAT levels on autumn/spring term reports.
- ▶ Discussion of aims post-KS4? *E.g. if you would like to go to university – which qualifications are needed?*
- ▶ Discussion of the courses where students can be most successful and ensure breadth of choice
- ▶ Discussion around the myths about subjects and qualifications (e.g. BTECs)
- ▶ **Additional IAG in April/May/June/July for students who require it**



What are our aims through IAG – Information Advice and Guidance?

- ▶ **Interest**

- ▶ **Progression to a range of study and employment opportunities**

- ▶ **Balance**



Parents' Evening

Tuesday 25th February

Held in the lower school

Will provide detailed information about your progress and achievement.

Will support students to make appropriate GCSE choices.



GCSE options handbook and subject information on the Beal High School website.

Click on 'Year Groups' and then KS3



T: [020 8551 4954](tel:02085514954)

E: admin@bealhighschool.co.uk

A screenshot of the Beal High School website. At the top, a navigation bar contains the following items: ABOUT US, SCHOOL INFORMATION, PARENT INFORMATION, YEAR GROUPS, BEAL SIXTH FORM, NEWS, and EXAMS. A dropdown menu is open under 'YEAR GROUPS', showing three options: YEAR 6 TRANSITION, KS3, and KS4. A green arrow points from the text 'Click on 'Year Groups' and then KS3' to the 'KS3' option in the dropdown. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image showing a teacher and students in a classroom. The text 'BEAL SCHOOL' is written in large, bold, white letters, with a green underline. Below this, the text 'An outstanding, diverse and vibrant community' is written in white. At the bottom of the banner, there is a green button with the text 'FEATURED EVENTS' in white.

ABOUT US ▾ SCHOOL INFORMATION ▾ PARENT INFORMATION ▾ YEAR GROUPS ▾ BEAL SIXTH FORM NEWS ▾ EXAMS ▾

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

KS3

KS4

BEAL SCHOOL

An outstanding, diverse and vibrant community

FEATURED EVENTS

YEAR 9 TEAM

Head of Year

Mr Round

admin@bealhighschool.co.uk

Deputy Head of Year

Ms Pryce

admin@bealhighschool.co.uk

SEN Deputy Head of Year

Ms Edgar

admin@bealhighschool.co.uk

YEAR 9

Year 9 is an exciting and important year where students choose their GCSE options and **continue to develop skills** and techniques required to help them excel both in and out of school. This year we also **explore further career options** for the future. In addition, Year 9 gives every student the **opportunity to develop their oracy skills** by taking part in the Excalibre project. As well as studying, we make sure to involve students in as many extra-curricular activities as possible to make the most of the wide range of opportunities available at Beal.

[KS4 Options Handbook](#)

[Course Outline](#)

[Beal Sixth Form Prospectus](#)



Click on the links for options information. This is in the Yr 9 section of the KS3 area on the Beal website



Year 9 GCSE Options Form

Wednesday 26th February

Following Year 9 Parents' Evening on 25th February the Year 9 GCSE Options Form will go live.

This is an MS Form where students can select their GCSE options choices.

A link will be emailed to parents

The deadline for completion is **Monday 17th March.**



KS3–KS4 Progression Key Dates

- ▶ 21st January: KS3–4 Progression Evening
- ▶ GCSE Options information on school website
- ▶ 25th February: Yr 9 Parents Evening
- ▶ 26th February Link to GCSE Options MS form emailed to parents
- ▶ 17th March: Deadline for GCSE options form to be submitted



Further Questions

Email :

year9optionssupport@bealhighschool.co.uk