



BIDDULPH HIGH SCHOOL

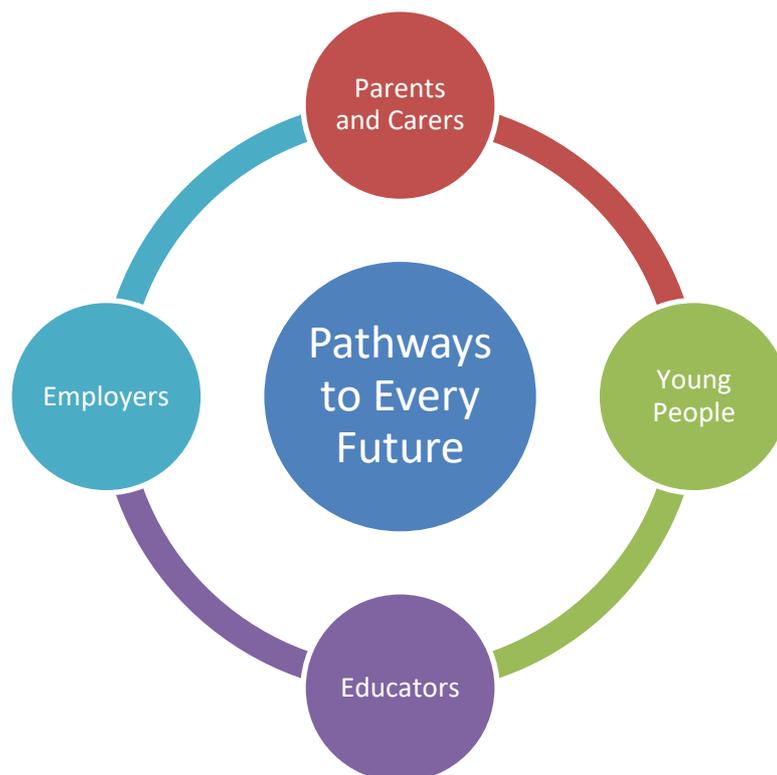
myFUTURE

14-19 Curriculum
Key Stage 4 Options Guide

myFUTURE



“A future
-focused curriculum that is
innovative, relevant, and
equips all learners with the
skills they need to thrive in
the real world”



myFUTURE



Engineering, Design &
Manufacturing



Construction & Green
Economy



Health, Social Care,
Sport & Public Services



Creative & Culture



Digital Technology,
Business & Finance



Education & Early
Years

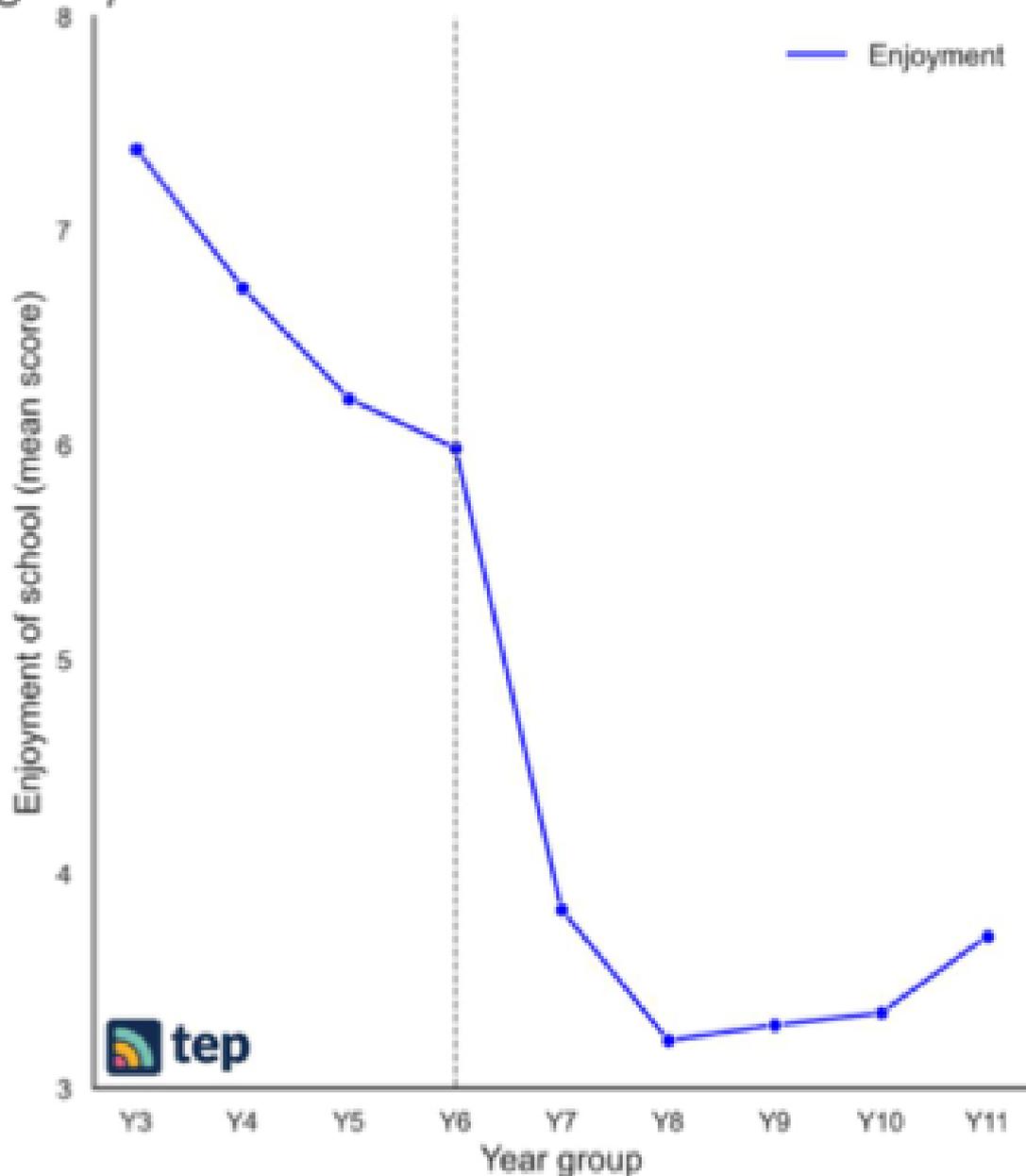


myFUTURE Curriculum Vision

1. Establish skills within the curriculum for future employment
2. Curriculum evolution over time creating more space for employability skills to be taught
3. Change our language in how we guide students with their year 9 options
4. Stronger collaboration between education, businesses and post 16 providers
5. All children leave at 16 with ambition for the future and skills for success
6. Establish stronger student engagement – raise aspiration!!

Enjoyment

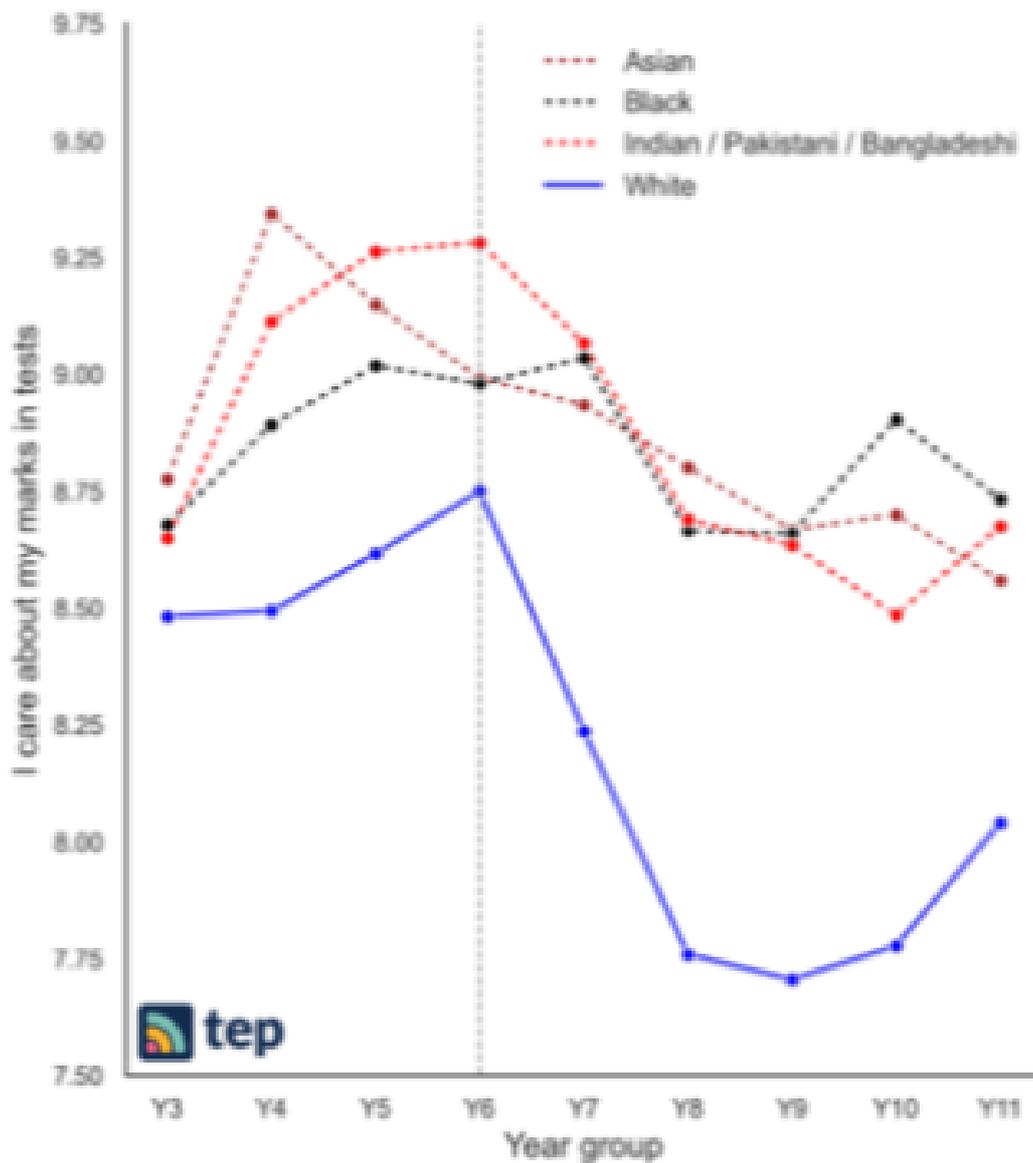
Pupils' reported enjoyment of school by year group



Mind the Engagement Gap: A National Study of Pupil Engagement in England's Schools (ImpactEd, 2025)

Engagement

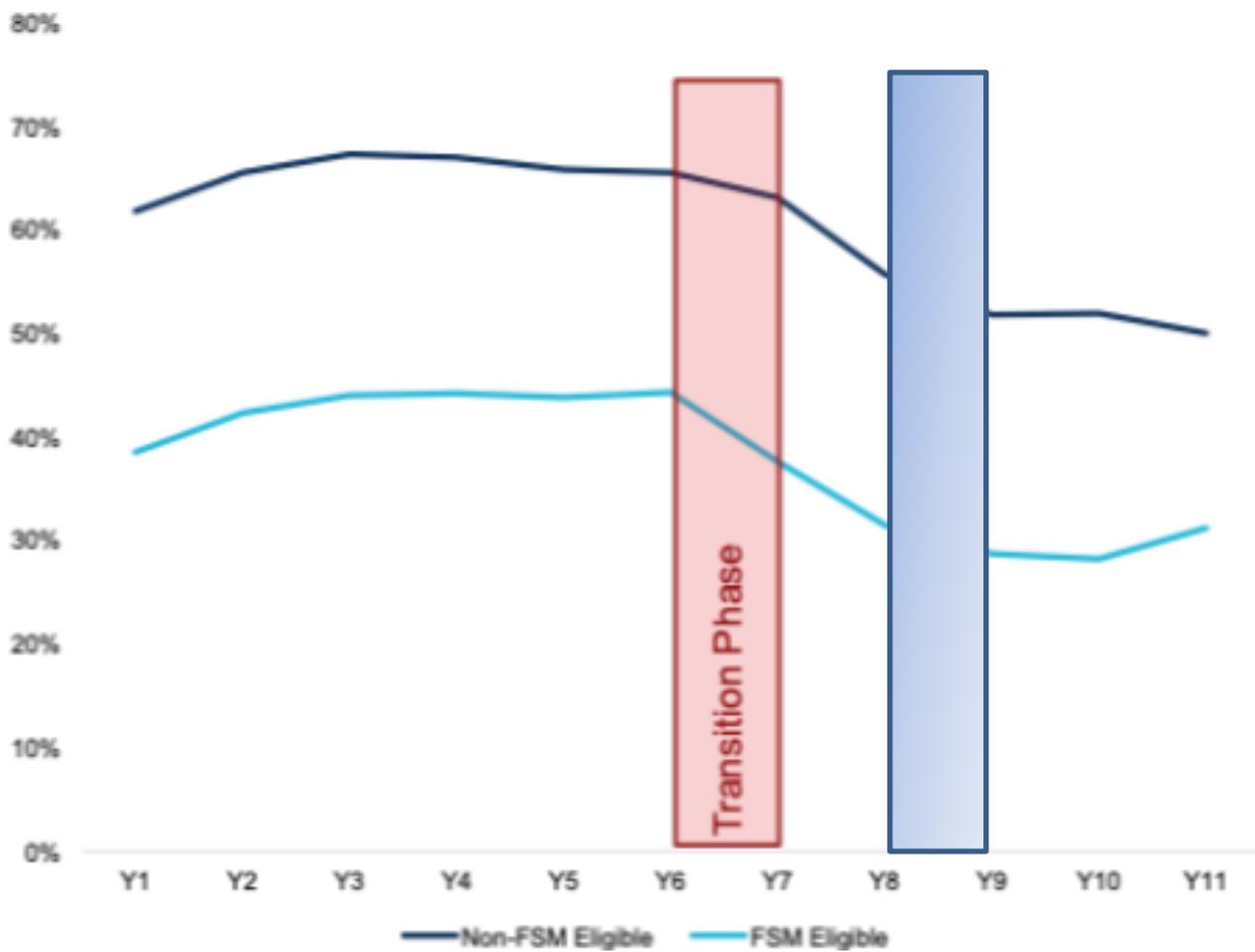
Responses to the question "I care about my marks in tests" by different ethnic groups and year group



Mind the Engagement Gap: A National Study of Pupil Engagement in England's Schools (ImpactEd, 2025)

Attendance

Percentage of pupils attending school nearly every day (95%+) by year group, 2023/24



myFUTURE

Engineering, Design & Manufacturing



- Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Hospitality & Catering
- Business Studies
- Computer Science or BTEC IT
- German
- GCSE PE or BTEC Sport
- Graphics, Product Design, Fine Art or Textiles

Construction & Green Economy



- Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Business Studies
- Computer Science or BTEC IT
- German
- Graphics, Product Design, Fine Art or Textiles

Health, Social Care, Sport & Public Services



- Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Psychology
- BTEC Health & Social Care or BTEC Child Development
- Business Studies
- Computer Science or BTEC IT
- GCSE or BTEC Sport
- Hospitality & Catering

Education & Early Years



- Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Psychology
- BTEC Health & Social Care or BTEC Child Development
- German
- Hospitality & Catering
- Music
- Graphics, Product Design, Fine Art or Textiles

Digital Technology, Business & Finance



- Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Business Studies
- GCSE or BTEC Sport
- Computer Science or BTEC IT
- German
- Graphics, Product Design, Fine Art or Textiles

Creative & Culture



- Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Psychology
- GCSE or BTEC Sport
- Business Studies
- Computer Science or BTEC IT
- Hospitality & Catering
- German
- Music
- Graphics, Product Design, Fine Art or Textiles



**Gateways guide choice, not limit them.
Choose what interests you and support your
future goals.**

Core Subjects

- English Literature + Language**
- Maths**
- Science**
- Digital** (Computing/IT)
- Core PE**
- PHSE / RE**

Gateways

Engineering, Design & Manufacturing



Construction & Green Economy



Health, Social Care, Sport & Public Services



Creative & Culture



Digital Technology, Business & Finance



Education & Early Years



Linked Subjects

- GCSE Separate Science: (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE German
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Business Studies
- BTEC Digital Information Technology
- GCSE Hospitality and Catering
- GCSE Physical Education
- BTEC Sport
- GCSE Graphic Design
- GCSE 3D Product Design
- GCSE Fine Art
- GCSE Textiles
- GCSE Psychology
- BTEC Health and Social
- BTEC Child Development
- GCSE Music

Employability Skills

- Academic & Analytical Strength
- Technical & Digital Capability
- Professional & Employability Behaviours
- Character & Personal Development
- Communication & Collaboration
- Future-Readiness & Enterprise

Employers

By working closely with local, regional and national employers, we are:

- Raising students' awareness of different career pathways
- Helping them understand the skills, qualifications and behaviours employers value
- Providing real-world context to classroom learning
- Developing confidence, ambition and professional readiness
- Creating opportunities for meaningful experiences such as workshops, projects, work experience and applied learning

Subjects that cannot be taken together:

Some subjects overlap in content and skills and therefore cannot be studied together:

Choose either **GCSE Computer Science** or **BTEC IT**

Choose either **GCSE PE** or **BTEC Sport**

Choose either **Child Development** or **Health and Social Care**

Design and Technology options:

Students choose only one of the following, as they run at the same time:

Choose either **Graphics, Product Design, Fine Art** or **Textiles**

Options Process

Opens tonight at 5pm and finishes on Friday 13th March 4pm.

Once a Gateway has been chosen, students will select:

- **3 main option choices, ranked in order of preference**
- **3 reserve choices**



WHAT IS THIS GATEWAY?

Shape your future through smart subject choices that lead to exciting careers in Engineering, Design and Manufacturing. This fast-moving sector combines creativity, technical skill, and innovation — from electric vehicles and robotics to 3D-printing. Choosing a balanced mix of creative, technical, and analytical subjects keeps your options open.

CORE SUBJECTS

- English Lit/Lang** – Clear communication for reports, presentations, pitches, and teamwork.
- Maths** – Essential for calculations, design accuracy, modelling, and problem-solving.
- Science** – Understand forces, materials, energy, and how things work.
- Digital (Computing/IT)** – Coding, CAD, automation, robotics, and smart technologies.
- Core PE** – Teamwork, resilience, health, and physical performance under pressure.
- PSHE / RE** – Ethics, safety, responsibility, teamwork, and professional decision-making.

LINKED SUBJECTS

- History** – Analytical thinking and problem-solving for engineering projects.
- Geography** – Sustainability, environments, and real-world engineering challenges.
- RE** – Ethics, responsibility, and decision-making in engineering.
- Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics** – For advanced engineering and innovation.
- Hospitality & Catering** – Systems, efficiency, and process control skills.
- Business Studies** – Finance, planning, and management for engineering projects.
- Computer Science** or **BTEC IT** – Coding and computational thinking for engineering systems.
Applied digital skills supporting engineering technologies.
- German** – Communication skills for international engineering careers.
- GCSE PE or BTEC Sport** – Teamwork, resilience, and performance under pressure.
- Graphics, Product Design, Fine Art** or **Textiles**
– Design, create, and develop creative products.



SKILLS LINKED TO THIS GATEWAY:

- Problem-Solving – core engineering skill
- Time Management – deadlines, production schedules
- Teamwork – production teams, design groups
- Communication – technical instructions, CAD handovers
- Resilience – testing, iteration, troubleshooting
- Can-Do Attitude – adopting tools/equipment quickly
- Confidence – presenting designs, prototypes



OPTIONAL OVERVIEW

GCSE HISTORY



GCSE History helps you understand how the modern world has been shaped by past events, people, and ideas. You study a range of British and international topics, including America in the twentieth century, the Cold War, the development of health in Britain, and Elizabethan England, building strong analytical and evaluation skills.

POST-16

Strong grades in GCSE History can lead to A-Level History, Politics, Law, English, Psychology, Sociology, and other essay-based subjects. These courses support progression into further study, apprenticeships, and a wide range of careers.

IN THE REAL WORLD?

History develops critical thinking, research, and communication skills used in many careers. These include law, journalism, politics, education, media, civil service, business, and any role that values analysis, argument, and understanding people and societies over time.

Exam Board	AQA
Course Code	8145
Assessment	Two papers, each worth 50% Paper 1: written exam, 2 hours, 84 marks Section A: America 1920–1973, Opportunity and Inequality Section B: Conflict and Tension East and West 1945–72 (Cold War) Paper 2: written exam, 2 hours, 84 marks, Section A: Britain – Health of the People c.1000 to present Section B: Elizabethan England c.1568–1603
Contact	Mrs Biddle: nbiddle@bhs.potteries.ac.uk



Click the gateway to return to the gateway page.

- Engineering, Design & Manufacturing >>
- Construction & Green Economy >>
- Health, Social Care, Sport & Public Services >>
- Creative & Culture >>
- Digital Technology, Business & Finance >>
- Education & Early Years >>





YOUR NEXT STEPS AT BHS - POST-16 STUDY

If you continue your studies at Biddulph High School, this Gateway can lead to a range of Post-16 courses that build on your skills and interests, supporting future study, apprenticeships, and careers.

- A Level Mathematics
- A Level Physics
- A Level Chemistry
- A Level Biology
- BTEC Business
- A Level Computer Science
- A Level Graphics
- A Level Art & Textiles
- AAQ ICT

CAREERS WITHIN THIS GATEWAY

[Mechanical Engineer](#)
[Electrical Engineer](#)
[Aerospace Engineer](#)
[Automotive Engineer](#)
[Robotics Engineer](#)
[CAD Technician](#)
[Engineering Technician](#)
[Manufacturing Technician](#)
[Product Designer](#)
[Materials Technician](#)
[CNC Machinist](#)
[Fabrication Engineer](#)
[Quality Assurance Technician](#)
[Packaging Designer](#)
[Process Engineer](#)
[Metering Technician](#)
[Industrial Maintenance Engineer](#)



Click to be taken to
job specific clips.

Find more careers information [here](#).



AN EXAMPLE OF A LEARNER'S JOURNEY IN THIS GATEWAY

Year 9

In Year 9, I follow the core curriculum while exploring different pathways and discovering what interests me most. Through digital learning, employer-linked projects, careers activities and hands-on experiences, I begin to recognise my strengths and feel inspired to choose the Engineering, Design & Manufacturing Gateway that matches my interests, skills and future ambitions.

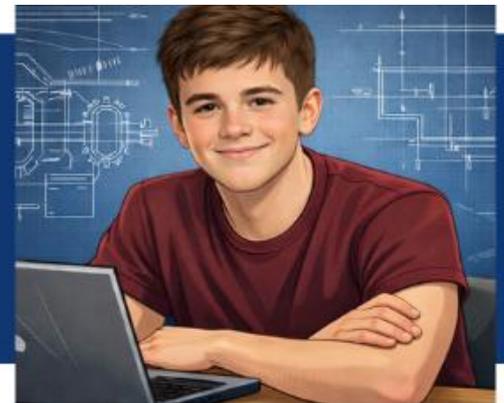


Year 10 and 11

In Years 10 and 11, I complete the Core Offer while committing to the Engineering Design & Manufacturing Gateway by choosing three linked subjects that match my interests and strengths. Through a mix of academic, technical and practical learning, I develop key skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, time management and resilience, applying my learning using digital tools and working confidently to turn ideas into real-world outcomes.

Year 12 and 13

I continue at Biddulph Sixth Form studying A Levels or vocational courses linked to construction, engineering, environmental science or design. I developed deeper technical knowledge, worked on real-world projects and learned how the green economy is shaping the future of construction.



Beyond

I move into an apprenticeship, further training or university in areas like construction management, civil engineering, surveying or renewable energy. I'm now working in a growing industry helping to build sustainable homes, infrastructure and solutions for a greener future.

Curriculum 2026

All subjects are linked the new curriculum which will involve

- 1 – Accreditation or Personal Development within each subject.
- 2- Employability Skills
- 3 - Employer Engagement

Personal Development Days

Each Gateway will have Personal Development/Enterprise Days which will support each student on their Gateway journey.

Employer Engagement / Work Experience

Working Party currently working to deliver on this section.
CCA,SST,SHA,LDE / JSM

Engagement Level	Description	Typical Time Commitment	Employer Example Contribution
Bronze – Introduce & Inspire	Short talks, Q&As, or virtual sessions introducing your sector to students.	10-30 mins	Inspire and inform students about career pathways; challenge stereotypes.
Silver – Investigate & Explore	2–3 hour PD sessions, workshops, or problem-solving challenges.	Half-day	Provide hands-on insight into workplace skills and challenges.
Gold – Apply & Demonstrate	Work experience, shadowing, or voluntary projects linking to the curriculum.	1 day – 1 week	Offer practical experience where students can apply learning to real projects.
Platinum – Employer of Choice	Deep, strategic partnership offering guaranteed job interviews, apprenticeships, or paid employment opportunities to selected Y13 leavers.	Ongoing	Co-design curriculum, provide regular placements, staff mentoring, and direct recruitment routes into your organisation.

Launch September 2026

Co/Extra Curricular/ Trips

Re-launched and aligned to the Gateways

Learner Journey

All students will create a Learner Journey which tracks/monitors students progress and also gateways experience

They will also engage in Work Experience throughout their 2 years

Exploring Subjects

- Subject areas are located in classrooms across the school. Use the map provided to help you explore.
- Subject teachers will be available to:
 - Explain course content and assessment
 - Discuss skills developed and progression routes
 - Answer questions about suitability and options
- Students are encouraged to visit subjects linked to their **Gateway**, as well as possible **reserve choices**

Support and Guidance

- Senior leaders, tutors and the careers team will be available throughout the evening
- Staff and prefects will be positioned around the school to support families and manage flow
- Rooms 133+134 is set up for parents to select options.
- CCA Careers advisor is available to support students and parents navigate career prospects. (Main Foyer)