

Contents

The Thrive Pathway	2
Compulsory Subjects	3
Alternative Courses	6

Some Important Dates

During this term you will be talking through the whole process of choosing your subjects for next year. Careers staff will also be talking to you and your friends in small groups by appointment.

Thursday 17th January – Options Evening. This is to explain the whole process to your parents and give them the opportunity to find the answers to any general questions they might have. **You need to join your parents at this meeting** and then visit all the subject areas around school to gather more information.

Thursday 31st January – Parents Evening. This is when you and your parents will be able to talk about your progress in individual subjects with your teachers.

Friday 15th February – You will be able to submit your Options Form.

The Thrive Pathway

The time has come for you to start thinking about the courses that are available to you, with the beginning of Year 10 less than two terms away. With support from your teachers and parents you now have the opportunity to consider which subjects to study and which not to pursue, within the framework of the pathway set out in the booklet.

In Year 10 the compulsory subjects include English Language, Mathematics and Science, as part of the Thrive pathway, these subjects may be either GCSE or Functional Skills qualifications.

The choices available in this pathway will make sure you have a broad and balanced curriculum that can be personalised in line with your strengths and interests.

Take time to look through the details on the following pages, to considering the subject content and assessment methods for each subject.

If you have particular interests or ambitions you will have the opportunity to speak to careers staff during the options evening and throughout the term ahead.

If you wish to discuss changing your child's current pathway please discuss this with a member of SLT.

English

Contact: Mr Kellett
Email: pkellett@philipshigh.co.uk

Examining Board: AQA

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Levels of Entry: Untiered

Grade range: 9 – 1

What will you study?

Pupils will have the opportunity to study fiction including novels, plays and poetry. They will also analyse a range of non-fiction texts including letters, extracts from autobiographies, biographies, reports, articles and extracts from educational websites.

They will then be required to apply the skills acquired through textual analysis to their own writing and they will be asked to produce pieces of writing for various audiences, purposes and styles. Pupils will also be asked to produce their own narrative writing.

Technical accuracy is very important and the writing produced by pupils will also be assessed for accurate spelling, sentence structure and punctuation.

Finally, pupils will be tested on their ability to speak to a live audience and will be asked to produce a formal presentation.

How will you be assessed?

The course is assessed by 100% external examination with no coursework or controlled assessment. However, pupils complete Key Assessed Tests at key points in the course to assess their progress. There are no separate tiers in either English GCSE so all pupils will be sitting the same examinations. There is a new 9–1 grading scale, with 9 being the top level.

In **English Language**, pupils sit two papers, which both assess Reading and Writing. Reading and Writing are each worth 50% of the GCSE.

Paper one focuses on fiction. Pupils are then required to produce their own piece of narrative or descriptive writing.

Paper two focuses on non-fiction. Pupils are then required to produce their own piece of transactional writing such as a letter, speech or article.

Texts for the reading assessments are from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Mathematics

Contact Mrs Thompson
Email: athompson@philipshigh.co.uk

Examining Board: Edexcel

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Levels of Entry: Higher and Foundation

Grade range: Higher 9 - 4 Foundation 5 - 1

Both levels of entry require pupils to have a scientific calculator.

What will you study?

Pupils will study units covering Number, Algebra, Shape and Data Handling

Pupils receive 4 lessons a week at KS4.

How will you be assessed?

The course is linear, meaning assessment is at the end of Year 11.

Pupils sit **three** examination papers (**one** non-calculator and **two** with a calculator).

Each paper is one and half hours long.

There is no controlled assessment.

Possible Career Links:

Many people are unaware of the wide variety of careers that use mathematics as a foundation.

These include diverse employment such as Accountancy, Aerospace and Defence, Automotive, Bio Sciences, Chemicals, Construction, Engineering, Government, Pharmaceutical, Healthcare, Travel and Transport and even the media.

This is not an exhaustive list and more information is available on www.mathscareers.org.uk

Science

Contact: Mr Howarth
Email: ihowarth@philipshigh.co.uk

Examining Board: Edexcel

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Levels of Entry: Higher and foundation

Grade range: Higher 9 - 4 Foundation 5 – 1

You will receive 2 GCSE grades for Combined Science. Eg: 6 – 6 or 5 – 5, but there can be one grade difference eg 6 – 5.

What will you study?

All courses will provide you with a variety of biology, chemistry and physics topics such as:

- Cells, genetics, classification and disease;
- Atomic structure, groups in the periodic table and fuels; and
- Solar system, electricity and energy.

How will you be assessed?

- For Combined Science GCSE you will sit six written examinations. (1hr 10mins each)

Examinations will take place in the summer at the end of year 11, there will be no coursework component.

Possible Career Links:

Biochemist

Geoscientist

Material Scientist

Botanist

Pharmacologist

Microbiologist

Chemical Engineer

Psychologist

Nuclear Engineer

Dentistry

Medicine

Veterinary science

Alternative Courses

Art & Design

Contact Mrs Cooper
Email: fcooper@philipshigh.co.uk

<u>Examining Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Type of Qualification:</u>	Art and Design
<u>Levels of Entry:</u>	Entry Level
<u>Grade range:</u>	Entry 3, Entry 2, Entry 1

What will you study?

Entry Level Certificate in Art and Design provides learners with creative, exciting and practical opportunities to develop their artistic skills through their individual exploration of art, craft and design. It enables learners to develop creativity, imagination, communication and practical skills, and to express ideas, feelings and meanings through art, craft and design.

- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Photography
- Textile Design
- Three Dimensional Design

This qualification offers five different areas of study for centres to choose from. These cover the depth and breadth of Art and Design by providing options to use traditional methods as well as digital technology. The qualification is ideal to enable learners of all abilities to access a qualification and grow in confidence.

How will you be assessed?

Our Entry Level Certificate is made up of 100% internally assessed tasks and tests that can be taken at any point during the course.

Possible Career Links:

Future careers that you could consider if you have art qualifications include: Court artist, prop and set design for theatre or television, game designer, sign writing and design, self-employed artist in education, architect, police artist, editor, fashion design, fashion illustrator, textile artist, teacher, art technician, graphic designer, greetings card designer, jewellery artist /designer, ceramicist, cartoonist, gallery curator, gallery education, picture framer, shop window design, photographer and the list goes on.

Computer Science

Contact Mrs Cooper
Email: fcooper@philipshigh.co.uk

<u>Examining Board:</u>	OCR
<u>Type of Qualification:</u>	Computer Science
<u>Levels of Entry:</u>	Entry Level
<u>Grade range:</u>	Entry 3, Entry 2, Entry 1

What will you study?

The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. The content has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding but to engage learners and get them thinking about real world application of Computer Science.

This course provides learners with opportunities to become familiar with how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. Through the introduction of computational thinking, algorithms and programming, this course will help learners develop their problem solving skills. It will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

How will you be assessed?

There is no terminal examination as this is a nonlinear qualification and assessment is by means of a combination of centre-marked tests and a programming project task. All assessments are centre-based, supervised by the learner's own teacher, and are carried out at times determined by the centre.

Possible Career Links:

A computing qualification is a good basis for work as a Programmer, IT Consultant, Software Engineer, Computer Engineer, Data Analyst, Data Modeller, Systems Administrator, Network Administrator or an IT Technician.

Physical Education

Contact Mrs Cooper
Email: fcooper@philipshigh.co.uk

<u>Examining Board:</u>	OCR
<u>Type of Qualification:</u>	Physical Education
<u>Levels of Entry:</u>	Entry Level
<u>Grade range:</u>	Entry 3, Entry 2, Entry 1.

What will you study?

The Entry Level Certificate in Physical Education will allow learners to develop and apply their knowledge, skill and understanding of physical education through participating in a range of practical activities. Learners are required to select four activities, one from the team list, one from the individual list and then their other two are a free choice.

Throughout the chosen practical activities pupils will learn:

- The importance of being physically active
- The benefits of positive attitudes through understanding the conventions of fair play, competition and good sporting behaviour
- Different roles within physical activities (where applicable)
- To analyse and improve their own or others performance by identifying strengths and weaknesses and suggesting how performance may be improved
- To participate in safe practice through understanding the rules and procedures of practical activities, the need for appropriate clothing and protection, and the need to warm up and cool down after exercise

How will you be assessed?

The Entry Level Certificate in Physical Education is 100% internally assessed, with the focus of the course being on the performer and on performance.

Possible Career Links:

Sports Science, Sports Coach/Consultant, Diet and Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer.

Short Course In Animal Care

Contact Mrs Cooper
Email: fcooper@philipshigh.co.uk

<u>Examining Board:</u>	ASDAN
<u>Type of Qualification:</u>	Short Course in Animal Care
<u>Levels of Entry:</u>	Entry Level
<u>Grade range:</u>	Counts towards Personal Development Program. Bronze = 6 credits, Silver 12, Gold 18.

What will you study?

This qualification will help learners understand how to care for animals. This could range from looking after domestic pets at home to working with farm animals and wildlife in the community. This Short Course is split into seven modules, each containing activities based around a different aspect of animal care:

- Animal investigation
- Safety around animals
- Looking after animals
- Animals in trouble
- Animals in the media
- Animals and the law
- Careers in working with animals

How will you be assessed?

The Entry Level Certificate in Animal Care is 100% internally assessed, with learners presenting their evidence in an organised portfolio or e-portfolio.

Possible Career Links:

Animal Care Assistant, Zoo Keeper, Veterinary Nurse.

Short Course In Independent Living

Contact Mrs Cooper
Email: fcooper@philipshigh.co.uk

<u>Examining Board:</u>	ASDAN
<u>Type of Qualification:</u>	Short Course in Independent Living
<u>Levels of Entry:</u>	Entry Level
<u>Grade range:</u>	Counts towards Personal Development Program. Bronze = 6 credits, Silver 12, Gold 18.

What will you study?

The ASDAN Living Independently Short Course is focused on helping pupils make a successful transition from school education to adulthood. Developed in collaboration with local authorities, the course helps young people become independent.

The Living Independently Short Course contains nine modules:

- Earning and spending money
- Keeping track of your money
- Making financial choices
- A place of your own
- Health and wellbeing
- Cooking on a budget
- Practical cooking skills
- Career management
- Preparing for the world of work

How will you be assessed?

The short course in Independent Living is 100% internally assessed, with learners presenting their evidence in an organised portfolio or e-portfolio. This will include:

- a record of challenges completed, with supporting evidence for each challenge
- recording documents, showing how learners have planned and reviewed their activities
- summary of achievement, highlighting skills development
- personal statement

Short Course In The Environment

Contact Mrs Cooper
Email: fcooper@philipshigh.co.uk

<u>Examining Board:</u>	ASDAN
<u>Type of Qualification:</u>	Short Course in the Environment
<u>Levels of Entry:</u>	Entry Level
<u>Grade range:</u>	Counts towards Personal Development Program. Bronze = 6 credits, Silver 12, Gold 18.

What will you study?

The Environmental Short Course has been developed in partnership with The Wildlife Trusts includes various environmental activities and projects.

The Short Course is split into six modules:

- My environment – review and awareness raising
- The atmospheric environment
- The built environment
- The natural environment
- The wider environment
- My environment – managing and monitoring

How will you be assessed?

The short course in Environment is 100% internally assessed, with learners presenting their evidence in an organised portfolio or e-portfolio. This will include:

- a record of challenges completed, with supporting evidence for each challenge
- recording documents, showing how learners have planned and reviewed their activities
- summary of achievement, highlighting skills development
- personal statement

Possible Career Links:

Environment officers, Rangers, Ecologists, Game and Wildlife, Renewable energy

BTEC Home Cooking Skills

Contact Mrs Cooper
Email: fcooper@philipshigh.co.uk

<u>Examining Board:</u>	Edexcel
<u>Type of Qualification:</u>	BTEC Home Cooking Skills
<u>Levels of Entry:</u>	Level 1 / 2
<u>Grade range:</u>	Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

What will you study?

This qualification will give learners the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy cooking meals at home.

You will learn essential knowledge and skills such as:

- Kitchen basics: what equipment you need and the best way to stock your store cupboard, fridge and freezer
- Food safety and hygiene: knife safety, fridge management and rotation
- How to shop cleverly: shopping lists, seasonal food and planning ahead
- Preparing ingredients and understanding confusing food labels.

How will you be assessed?

This BTEC course is 100% internally assessed, learners will complete assignments throughout the course and will also complete a final practical exam where their preparation skills will be assessed.

Possible Career Links:

This can lead to jobs as chef, restaurant manager, consumer scientist, baker, cake decorator, food stylist, technologist, researcher and food journalist

Produced and Edited by Mrs A Reed