

HELSEBY

High School



Achieving Success  
Valuing Others

# PROGRAMME OF COURSES AT KEY STAGE 4

2025 - 2027





# Our Curriculum Vision and Intent

## Our Whole School Vision

*“To be a learning environment in which all students and staff strive for excellence in all that they do, **achieving success** and **valuing others** to enable them to make positive contributions to society, and to become confident global citizens.”*

## Our Intent

*“Our curriculum is designed to allow students to strive for excellence through the provision of learning opportunities which enable them to Achieve success and Value Others.”*

# Achieving Success by Valuing Others

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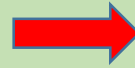
Achieving Success  
Valuing Others

Encourage high aspiration and a love of learning



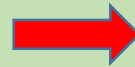
Contributing to a safe school environment

Maximising progress and potential



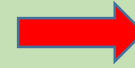
Showing tolerance, respect and fairness

Providing rewarding learning experiences



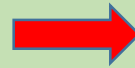
Listening to and respecting others' views

Offering diverse opportunities



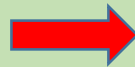
Appreciating and embracing diversity

Recognising and celebrating achievement



Being an active member of our school and local community

Preparing for independence and future challenges



Cooperating with others

# How do we deliver our curriculum intent?

Providing a Key Stage 4 curriculum which continues to have the EBacc at its heart, to provide a wide variety of subjects enabling students to pursue their own interests and equip them with the knowledge and skills for future education and work.

**“Leaders are ambitious for all pupils to achieve well.”**

**“Leaders have crafted a broad and ambitious curriculum for all pupils, including those with SEND. Leaders have successfully increased the uptake of the Ebacc suite of subjects.”**

# EBacc

The benefits of following the EBacc are:

- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Academic Currency
- Gives students a competitive edge in the future employment market

EBacc includes the following GCSEs:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Geography or History
- A Modern Foreign Language



# Core Curriculum

## GCSE Qualifications in:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science

## Non-Examined courses in:

- PE
- PSHCE
- Religious Education



# GCSE Science

- All students must study the 3 subjects of Science, namely Biology, Chemistry and Physics to a level that achieves a minimum of the equivalent of 2 GCSEs. This is called Combined Science.
- Students have the opportunity to take GCSE Separate Sciences which studies the science subjects to a greater depth, and students would achieve 3 separate GCSE qualifications.
- Students can either select this option as part of their free choices, or take it as an extra GCSE which includes compulsory lessons afterschool.

# KS4 Options Process

- Students have an option to choose a Language from the following:
  - French
  - German
  - Literacy Support and Personal Development
- Students have an option to choose a Humanities subject from the following:
  - Geography
  - History
- Students will then have 2 Free Option choices.

*Please note that students can take more than one Humanities subject or Language by selecting them from the Free Option choices.*



# The Free Option Choices

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Digital Info Tech (BTEC)
- Enterprise & Marketing (Cambridge National)
- Food Prep & Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- Health and Social Care (Cambridge National)
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- Performing Arts – Acting (BTEC)
- Performing Arts – Dance (BTEC)
- Photography
- PE
- Religious Studies
- Separate Sciences
- Sociology
- Sports Studies

# Additional Qualification

- We are also offering an additional GCSE qualification in the form of Further Mathematics for students who have a passion for this subject.
- This will be delivered through afterschool lessons 3 times per fortnight.
- Please note: The afterschool lessons for Separate Science and Further Mathematics take place at the same time, and so if a student would like to take both, they must select Separate Science as one of their Free Choices.



# KS4 Options - Discussions

- Encourage students to think about what they would like to study at GCSE.
- Encourage students to think about future education and career options.
- All students of all abilities are able to study the courses offered.
- All students have the potential to make progress succeed.

# KS4 Options - Discussions

- Students have access to GCSE Class 2027 Options Support Team.
- Each course has a folder containing:
  - Course information overview
  - Narrated course information guide
  - Taster lesson
- Students and parents/carers are encouraged to view these materials to support their decision making

# KS4 Options

- **Sixth Form progression**

To check subject entry requirements for Sixth Form, please refer to the prospectus on our website

To check university entrance requirements, please refer to

**[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)**

For further advice or general Sixth Form queries – contact Mrs Cross

[vcross@helsbyhigh.org](mailto:vcross@helsbyhigh.org)



# Options Form

Tick one box to indicate your GCSE Science study route:

- 1) GCSE Combined Science – this is what most students at Helsby and nationally take as their science route.
- 2) GCSE Separate Science – requires 3 hours per fortnight afterschool lessons (Cannot be selected if also taking GCSE Further Maths)
- 3) GCSE Separate Science – additional time taken by using one of the Free Option choices.

<b>Part A: Choose one option below to indicate your Science study preference (tick one box)</b>	
<b>1) Combined Science</b> <b>(This is the statutory minimum study for Sciences and is equivalent to 2 GCSEs)</b>	
<b>2) Separate Sciences</b> <b>(Study the 3 science subjects as separate qualifications and achieve 3 GCSEs)</b>  <b>Studied as part of afterschool lessons</b>	
<b>3) Separate Sciences</b> <b>(Study the 3 science subjects as separate qualifications and achieve 3 GCSEs)</b>  <b>Studied as part of students options in Part C</b>	

# Options Form

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Select one option from both Section 1 and Section 2.

Students should select the MFL that they have studied from Year 7. If a student wishes to take both MFLs, the second must be selected as one of the Free Option choices and will be discussed on an individual basis with the Department Leader for MFL. This is the same for if a student wishes to take both Humanities.

We appreciate that studying a MFL may not be appropriate for a small number of students. As such these students can select Literacy Support and Personal Development. This is not a GCSE qualification, however students will receive support in these areas to assist their wider curriculum.

<b>Part B: Choose one subject from within section 1 and one from section 2</b>		
<b>Section 1: Modern Foreign Languages</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Preferred choice</b>
	<b>German</b>	
	<b>Literacy Support &amp; Personal Development</b>	
<b>Section 2: Humanities</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>Preferred choice</b>
	<b>History</b>	

# Options Form

Students must select two Free Option Choices and then two reserves. It is important that students write these in their order of preference. We guarantee that students will get their first choice, however their second choice will depend on the timetable structure.

<b>Part C: Choose two further subjects from within the options below</b>		
<p><b>Choose a further 2 options from this list and 2 reserve choices, in order of preference.</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: - If you have chosen to study Separate Science as part of the options (preference 3 in Part A), this must be selected as your first choice.</b></p> <p>We make every effort to ensure that students get their first choice options, but sometimes this is not always possible if the number of students selecting a course is low or the timetable does not permit the combination selected.</p>	<p><b>Art and Design</b>  <b>Business</b>  <b>Computer Science</b>  <b>Design and Technology</b>  <b>Digital Info Technology</b>  <b>Enterprise &amp; Marketing</b>  <b>French</b>  <b>Food &amp; Nutrition</b>  <b>Geography</b>  <b>German</b>  <b>Health and Social Care</b>  <b>History</b>  <b>Media Studies</b>  <b>Music</b>  <b>Perf. Arts (Acting)</b>  <b>Perf. Arts (Dance)</b>  <b>Photography</b>  <b>Physical Education</b>  <b>Religious Studies</b>  <b>Separate Science</b>  <b>Sociology</b>  <b>Sports Studies</b></p>	<b><u>First choices</u></b>
		<b>1.</b>
		<b>2.</b>
		<b>Reserve choices.</b>
		<b>3.</b>
<b>4.</b>		



# Options Form

Tick to indicate if the student would like to take GCSE Further Mathematics as an extra qualification.

Please note that if students wish to take Further Mathematics as well as Separate Science, the latter must be selected as one of their Free Option choices.

We are also offering GCSE Further Mathematics as part of our KS4 curriculum provision. This will be studied across Years 10 and 11 through additional afterschool lessons. If a student wishes to take both GCSE Further Mathematics as well as GCSE Separate Science, they will need to select Separate Science as part of their options (preference 3 in Part A).

<b>Optional Additional GCSE Further Mathematics (Please tick if would like to take this course)</b>	
<b>GCSE Further Mathematics (This will be studied across Years 10 and 11 through additional afterschool lessons)</b>	

# KS4 Options

Options Form Deadline:  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Please email the completed form to  
[y9options@helsbyhigh.org](mailto:y9options@helsbyhigh.org)

**OR**  
**Hand into the student's Form Tutor**

Subject specific queries –  
contact Departmental Leaders.

General Options queries [Y9options@helsbyhigh.org](mailto:Y9options@helsbyhigh.org)



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