

HELSEBY

High School



Achieving Success  
Valuing Others

# PROGRAMME OF COURSES AT KEY STAGE 4

2026 - 2028



# 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

HELSBY

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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 provides 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.”**

Ofsted Report September 2023

# 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 are required to study and be assessed in the Core curriculum as described. It is also essential that they have at least one facilitating subject in their options to ensure appropriate depth to their curriculum and maintain open pathways for all post-16 provision.

- Students have to choose at least one from the following:
  - French
  - German
  - Geography
  - History
- Students will then have 3 Option choices.

*Please note that students can take more than one Humanities subject by selecting them from the Free Option choices. If a student wishes to take a MFL, they should select the one they have studied from Year 7. If they want to take both, the second must be selected as one of their 3 free choices and will be discussed on an individual basis.*



# The Curriculum Breadth Option Choices

## Depth Subjects

- French
- German
- Geography
- History

## Breadth Subjects Technology/STEM

- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Enterprise & Marketing
- Food & Nutrition

## Breadth Subjects Expressive Arts or Creative based subjects

- Art & Design
- Health & Social Care
- Media Studies
- Music
- BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)
- BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)
- Photography
- P.E or Sports Studies
- GCSE R.E
- Sociology

# 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 three 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 and succeed.

# KS4 Options - Discussions

- Students have access to GCSE Class 2028 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)



# KS4 Options

Options Form Deadline:

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Subject specific queries –  
contact Departmental Leaders.



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

# KS4 Options Process

## KS4 Options Booklet



## KS4 Options Form



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