

Hallfield Seniors

CURRICULUM INFORMATION BOOKLET



FOUNDED 1879

HALLFIELD
SCHOOL



Year 7 – 11

Happy | Inspiring | Purposeful

Welcome to Hallfield Seniors

At Hallfield Seniors we have designed a curriculum that is broad and flexible and aims to support students in achieving their immediate and long term goals and ambitions. Small class sizes, lessons delivered by specialist teachers and Heads of Departments, alongside individual guidance means your child can reach their full potential. Added to this is a nurturing environment, and a pastoral approach that supports pupils to thrive and be happy, confident, and accomplished individuals, laying the foundation for their future success.

This booklet provides a brief overview of the rich curriculum offered at Hallfield Seniors. I invite you to get in touch and have a further conversation should you have any questions about what we can offer your child at Hallfield Seniors.

Mr K B Morrow

Keith Morrow

Head Master



**Our children are
bright, engaged
and proud to be
Hallfieldians**

Curriculum: Years 7 and 8

Year 7 and 8 at Hallfield Seniors provides an invaluable opportunity for students to grow academically and socially. Students are taught by subject specialists, including Heads of Departments, ensuring a high-quality educational experience. The curriculum during these years is intentionally broad, with weekly lessons in the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology, Physical Education, Modern Foreign Languages, Hallfield Enrichment, and PSHE. Games sessions occur twice a week, and students regularly participate in inter-school fixtures.

All senior pupils will benefit from timetabled tutor sessions, which provide small group or one-to-one guidance focusing on enterprise, current affairs, careers, study skills, and personal development. A structured homework timetable helps students consolidate their learning and build independence as they prepare for GCSE studies, with supervised homework sessions available after school.



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Hallfield Seniors strikes the right balance between academic rigour and pastoral care. Their pastoral care is spot on for children who flourish in smaller and more nurturing environments. The school is very inclusive and attentive to each child's needs. I'm so pleased an offering like Hallfield Seniors came to Birmingham.

Dr Baldrighi, Hallfield parent

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Year 7 and 8 pupils also enjoy a variety of enrichment experiences, including trips and events that reinforce classroom learning and inspire a love of discovery. Recent highlights have included:

French language and cultural trip

- Biennial international trip to Iceland
- Shakespeare theatre visit
- Buddhist temple visit
- Seniors camp out

At Hallfield, we are proud to offer the Hallfield Challenge Programme, which fosters life skills, encourages community engagement through volunteering, promotes physical activity, and culminates in an expedition. This programme serves as an excellent precursor to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, which pupils can join in Year 9.

Students can benefit from after school supervised homework and study sessions



Curriculum: Years 9, 10, and 11

At Hallfield, we are committed to supporting each child's unique potential throughout their formative years and into their GCSE journey. Beginning in Year 9, our GCSE programme offers an exceptional pathway for academic and personal growth. Strong connections with both independent and maintained sixth forms ensure that each Hallfield pupil receives tailored guidance for the next stage of their education.

Our approach prioritises a broad and flexible selection of GCSE options, allowing pupils to play to their strengths while enjoying a well-rounded experience. With small class sizes, expert teaching, and a nurturing environment, Hallfield provides the individual attention that larger schools simply cannot offer.

While GCSE results are significant, we recognise that success looks different for every pupil. In a world where

external pressures on young people are increasing, we are proud to provide a supportive, confidence-building atmosphere. Our focus on pastoral care, happiness, and balanced encouragement ensures that pupils feel empowered to perform their best without undue stress.

Education at Hallfield extends beyond academics. It flourishes on the stage, in the music room, and on the sports field. We create an environment where students develop resilience, adaptability, and lifelong skills alongside academic knowledge. We believe this holistic approach is key to future success.

As you consider GCSE options, this booklet aims to provide high-level guidance. Nothing can replace a conversation with our expert staff, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.



Hallfield Seniors provides the individual attention that larger schools simply cannot offer

Our GCSE programme offers an exceptional pathway for academic and personal growth

Subject Choices

Core Subjects

All pupils will study the core GCSE subjects:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Double Award Science

In addition, students will select five optional GCSEs. At least one of these must be a Humanity (Geography, History, or Religious Studies). Weekly lessons in PSHE and PE/Games will also be part of the timetable.

Optional Subjects

Optional subjects include:

- Art
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- English Literature
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish

Our students develop resilience, adaptability, and lifelong skills alongside academic knowledge

Subjects

Grading System

All national GCSE qualifications are graded numerically from 1 (the lowest grade) to 9 (the highest grade). Although these new grades do not align perfectly with the old letter system, the table below provides a general comparison:

Old Grades	Numerical Grades
A*	9
A	8 7
B	6
C	5 (Strong Pass) 4 (Standard Pass)
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

Grade 9 distinguishes the highest-performing students, surpassing the previous A* standard, while Grade 4 represents a standard pass.

Our GCSE Curriculum

Choosing GCSEs is an important milestone for pupils, marking the first significant step in shaping their own educational journey and future. This process encourages students to take ownership of their learning, reflect on their interests, and consider their aspirations beyond Year 11.

To support this transition, we host an Options Evening in the Spring Term of Year 8, where pupils and parents can discuss choices with staff. Options forms are submitted by the end of the term to ensure ample planning time for the upcoming academic year.

Choosing Your Options

We encourage pupils to select GCSE subjects they both enjoy and excel at. Ideally, their choices will reflect a balanced and diverse range of subjects that align with their future education and career goals. However, every child is unique, and we will work closely with each family to provide personalised support.

While we aim to offer a wide range of subjects, timetabling constraints may mean some combinations are unavailable. Optional subjects may also be grouped into blocks, and students will need to prioritise their preferences. If a subject combination is not feasible, we will notify parents and pupils promptly to discuss alternatives.

When making decisions, pupils should prioritise their own interests rather than following friends' choices, as they may not be placed in the same classes. Similarly, selections should not be based solely on a current teacher.

Studying a subject at GCSE can be beneficial if it is a potential option for A-level or further study, but this is not always essential. Our goal is to ensure that every pupil makes choices that suit their abilities, interests, and aspirations.

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Edward has thrived here. It is a friendly, nurturing environment. He has grown in both his academic abilities, his personality and leadership skills. It's an all-round education that is clearly to a high academic standard. But the whole educational experience promotes leadership, team building, individuality, the development of personality, sport, music, drama, the list goes on.

Professor Bryan, Hallfield Parent

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Students are taught by subject specialists, including Heads of Departments

Options



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