



# Alder Community High School

Pathways Booklet 2020-21  
*Living and Learning Together*

## Timeline for the Year 9 Green Pathway

Here is a brief guide to help you understand the process of deciding which subjects that your child will study at Key Stage Four.

As a Green Pathway student you will be studying the following compulsory subjects; English, Mathematics, Science (double award), Spanish and Citizenship.

You may then choose three subjects to study, one of which must be Geography or History along with two reserve subjects.

### Online Subject Assemblies

Monday  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021



Friday  
12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

During live lessons in lesson slots to inform students further about each course to help them decide on their subject pathways.

The Pathways booklet, containing all the relevant information on the courses available, will be available on the school website during this period.

If after looking at the online subject assemblies, you have questions relating to the individual subjects you are considering you can email [pathways@alderchs.uk](mailto:pathways@alderchs.uk) with your questions. This mail-box will be monitored and questions asked will lead to updated subject information on the school website.

### Form Tutor Live Lesson

Monday  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

To choose their subjects, students will need to register for the Pathways Online Portal. This is a website that each student will login to and will be then able to make their subject choices following the pathway they are on.

In the tutor live lesson, a video will outline the online pathway process that will be completed after Pathways Evening.

### Year 9 Pathways Evening (online)

Wednesday  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

If after Pathways Evening on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, you still have subject specific questions you will have an opportunity to contact a member of the subject team who will be able to help. If necessary, a follow up telephone call can be arranged. This mail-box will be monitored, and requests collated on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February and the relevant member of staff contacted who will respond the following week.

Following pathways evening students will be able to register and login to the online portal to make their choices.

This process has two stages.

1. An email will be sent, from school, to your child's email address explaining how to set up their SIMS options account and how to select their subjects.
2. An invitation email, from SIMS, will then be sent to your child's school email address and there will be a link to access the online portal. The instructions in the previous email will explain what they need to do.

We recommend that parents/carers work through this process with their child and ensure that all parties are happy with the pathway choices made before the deadline of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Choices can be changed at any point up to this deadline.

Friday  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Deadline for the online submission of the Pathways form.**

## Timeline for the Year 9 Yellow Pathway

Here is a brief guide to help you understand the process of deciding which subjects that your child will study at Key Stage Four.

As a Yellow Pathway student you will be studying the following compulsory subjects; English, Mathematics, Science (double award) and Citizenship.

You may then choose four subjects to study, one of which must be Separate Sciences, Geography, History, a language or Computer Science along with two reserve subjects.

### Online Subject Assemblies

Monday  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

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Friday  
12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

During live lessons in lesson slots to inform students further about each course to help them decide on their subject pathways.

The Pathways booklet, containing all the relevant information on the courses available, will be available on the school website during this period.

If after looking at the online subject assemblies, you have questions relating to the individual subjects you are considering you can email [pathways@alderchs.uk](mailto:pathways@alderchs.uk) with your questions. This mail-box will be monitored and questions asked will lead to updated subject information on the school website.

### Form Tutor Live Lesson

Monday  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

To choose their subjects, students will need to register for the Pathways Online Portal. This is a website that each student will login to and will be then able to make their subject choices following the pathway they are on.

In the tutor live lesson, a video will outline the online pathway process that will be completed after Pathways Evening.

### Year 9 Pathways Evening (online)

Wednesday  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

If after Pathways Evening on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, you still have subject specific questions you will have an opportunity to contact a member of the subject team who will be able to help. If necessary, a follow up telephone call can be arranged. This mail-box will be monitored, and requests collated on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February and the relevant member of staff contacted who will respond the following week.

Following pathways evening students will be able to register and login to the online portal to make their choices.

This process has two stages.

1. An email will be sent, from school, to your child's email address explaining how to set up their SIMS options account and how to select their subjects.
2. An invitation email, from SIMS, will then be sent to your child's school email address and there will be a link to access the online portal. The instructions in the previous email will explain what they need to do.

We recommend that parents/carers work through this process with their child and ensure that all parties are happy with the pathway choices made before the deadline of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Choices can be changed at any point up to this deadline.

Friday  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Deadline for the online submission of the Pathways form.**

# ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

**It is important that you should support your child by:**

- Reading this booklet carefully;
- Discussing the courses which are available;
- Assisting your child to make suitable choices.

**Over the next two years it is important that you continue to support your child by:**

- Encouraging regular and punctual attendance;
- Supervising homework/independent learning;
- Attending Parents' Evenings;
- Assisting with revision;
- Keeping regular communication with your child's teachers and progress leaders.

The grade scale for new GCSEs now range from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest.

Since 2018, it has applied to all GCSEs and Technical Qualifications.

## GCSE

BTEC	
Level 2 Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	5.5
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1.25

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

# ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

## Think and Discover

It is important to think very carefully about your choice of courses. Once a decision has been made a change will be allowed only in *very* special circumstances.

It is very important that you are able to succeed in your chosen courses. It is crucial that you leave school with the best grades possible to open up your opportunities not just at college but also in employment for years to come.

## Ask Yourself

- Am I really interested in this subject?
- What success have I had in the past?
- Will I be able to cope with the work?
- Do my teachers agree that it would be a good choice for me?
- Do I need any specific subjects for the sort of career in which I am interested?
- Will the type of assessment suit me?

## Do Not

- Do not choose a subject because your friends have chosen it as you may be placed in a different group. Your choices need to be based on what is best for you.
- Do not choose a subject just because you like your current teacher as there is no guarantee that you will have the same teacher.
- Do not choose a subject just because you think it will be an easy option. All subjects will require you to work hard.
- Although it is useful, do not think that choosing a course means that you have to follow that pathway to employment or college.
- Do not think about gender stereotypes in certain subjects. There is no such thing as a boy's subject or a girl's subject.
- Do not think that you must choose subjects that complement each other or seem to go well.

# WHAT IF...

**What if I want to choose the same subjects but two different qualifications?**

This won't be possible. Where a subject can offer a BTEC or GCSE option you will only be allowed to opt for one of them.

**What if I want to choose more than two BTEC options?**

We would advise against choosing more than two BTEC options as this may impact on the courses you can study when you leave Alder.

**What if only a few people choose the same subject as me?**

We cannot guarantee that we will be able to run the courses if only a few students choose the subject. However, we can sometime run courses with low numbers. This depends on staffing and resources.

**What if I don't want to go to college when I leave school?**

The most common route into employment is through an apprenticeship. The requirements for this pathway vary but we recommend, due to competition at least five good passes (grades 5) at GCSE/BTEC level to follow this route.

**What if too many students choose the same subject as me?**

This is very unlikely, although if it does happen, we will speak to the curriculum leaders, consult the students and parents involved regarding their reserve choices.

# POST-16 PATHWAYS

## T Levels

T is for technical. They are new courses to do after GCSEs and some will be available from September 2020.

They are at the same level as A Levels but are much more focused on getting knowledge and skills to work in a particular industry like digital or finance industries.

They are 80% classroom based and 20% with an employer.

## A Levels

A Levels are traditional qualifications where you study some of your favourite subjects in much more depth.

They are very academic and are assessed with an exam at the end.

They are the same level as T Levels but you will spend 100% of your time on classroom learning.

## Traineeships

If you are not quite ready to apply for a job or an apprenticeship, you can top up your skills and knowledge after leaving school, with a traineeship.

It's like a work placement with an employer with additional training from a college or training provider.

You won't be paid but you will be ready for your next step towards paid employment.

## BTECs

BTEC stands for the Business and Technology Education Council.

They combine practical learning with subject and theory content. BTEC qualifications are flexible and you can take one alongside (or instead of) GCSEs and A levels in schools and colleges.

BTECs are divided into units, which cover specific areas of knowledge, skills, and understanding of a particular sector or industry.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a paid job with an employer plus structured training with a college or training provider.

You'll spend 80% working and 20% studying.

You can do an apprenticeship at any time in your life and there are different levels of difficulty depending where you are in your career.

## Local Post 16 providers:

- Tameside College
- Clarendon College
- Ashton Sixth Form
- The Manchester College
- Stockport College
- Marple Sixth Form College

