

Year 10

Dear Year 10 Parent,

I hope you have enjoyed a restful and peaceful summer, and the chance to share some quality family time with your child. We are looking forward to welcoming them to an exciting new year here at Irlam and Cadishead College, with many fantastic planned developments for our school.

One of the key areas for development is our students' curriculum. To increase the life chances of our youngsters, it is crucial that we provide a curriculum that prepares them for the modern world and global marketplace. Sixth form colleges, higher education, universities and in turn, employers, increasingly value the skills developed and accredited in academic subjects, such as the Sciences, Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages.

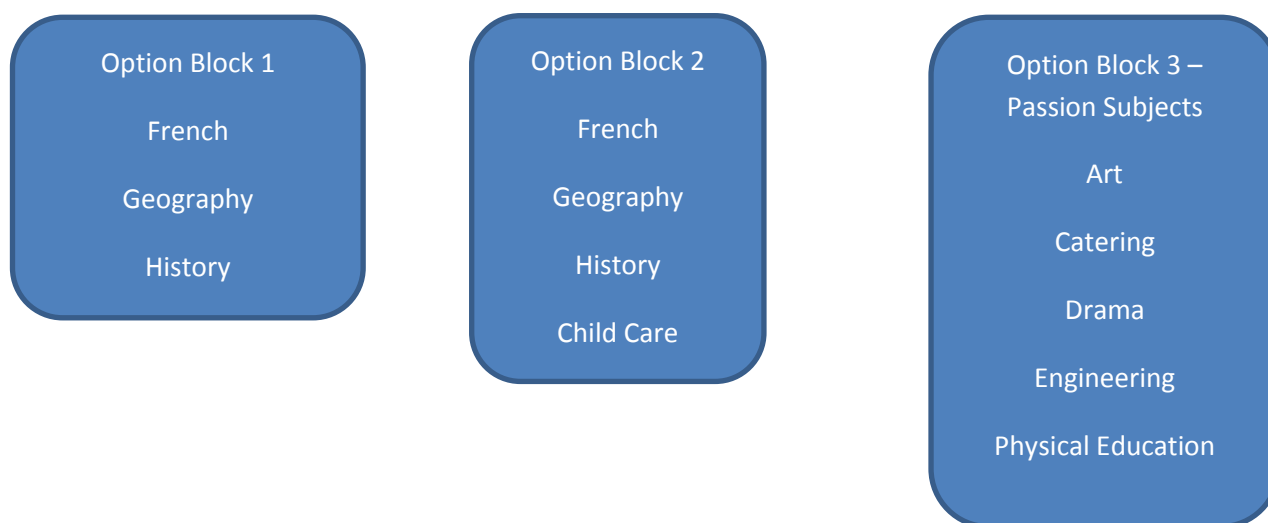
Nationally, a quarter of all Key Stage 4 students achieved the English Bacallaureate suite of academic qualifications in 2016 (a good pass in one of English and English literature, Maths, two Sciences, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language). We anticipate that this will be above a third for 2017, with this number sure to rise to half of all students and beyond in the next couple of years.

As a result of this, and following a year which saw significant improvements to the grades students achieved in their GCSEs at ICC (in Maths 61% of students achieved a 'good pass'), we have undertaken a full review of our curriculum at all levels here at ICC and have decided to make some important improvements. The aim is to provide a curriculum offer for our students that we know will prepare them fully for their future. Additionally, we have taken the decision to concentrate on a fewer subjects, which will give these areas additional time and resources and will further support the progress of our students.

For Year 10 students this means some changes to their diet of subjects and options choices. We understand that they made their option choices before the summer; however, we have amended these to accommodate further academic subjects. They will still study at least one of their chosen 'passion' subjects, such as Health and Social Care, Art etc., however their timetables will now include an increased diet of English, Maths, Sciences, History, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages.

Prior to our curriculum restructure only 30% of Year 10 students had an academic pathway as outlined above, however from this week nearly half of students can now access this and all the future benefits that this opens and creates. I must emphasise again that students still have the opportunity to pursue their chosen interests and potential vocation via their 'passion' subject, and will be supported fully to ensure they realise their full potential across their subjects.

Curriculum Model:



Students will choose one subject from each of the blocks.

FAQs:

Will the curriculum choices limit the future options for careers or education courses for my child?

No, the new curriculum model will help to ensure your child stands out in the increasingly crowded market place for education or work. Employers and universities always look at GCSE grades alongside other qualifications, and the EBacc suite of subjects are highly valued.

Will students find these subjects hard?

The subjects offered are academic and highly prestigious. However, the reforms to exams mean that all GCSE and equivalent qualifications are challenging. Additionally, we have provided more curriculum time for all examination subjects, to help further support the success of students. Additionally, by concentrating on fewer subjects, students will be able to spend greater time mastering their option subjects.

If you would like to discuss any questions, you may have, my team and I will be happy to arrange to meet to discuss these further. Please contact Mrs Cotton (Clements) to arrange an appointment.

Finally, may we thank you for your continued support, and wish you all great success in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

D Kiddier

Mr D Kiddier
Assistant Principal

D Cotton

Mrs D Cotton (Clements)
Head of Year 10