

# Mr Hussain

## Assistant Headteacher

### Year 8 Pathways Lead



# Mrs Searle

## Head of Year 9



**PATHWAYS**  
Phase Two onwards

# Welcome to Year 8

## Pathways to Success



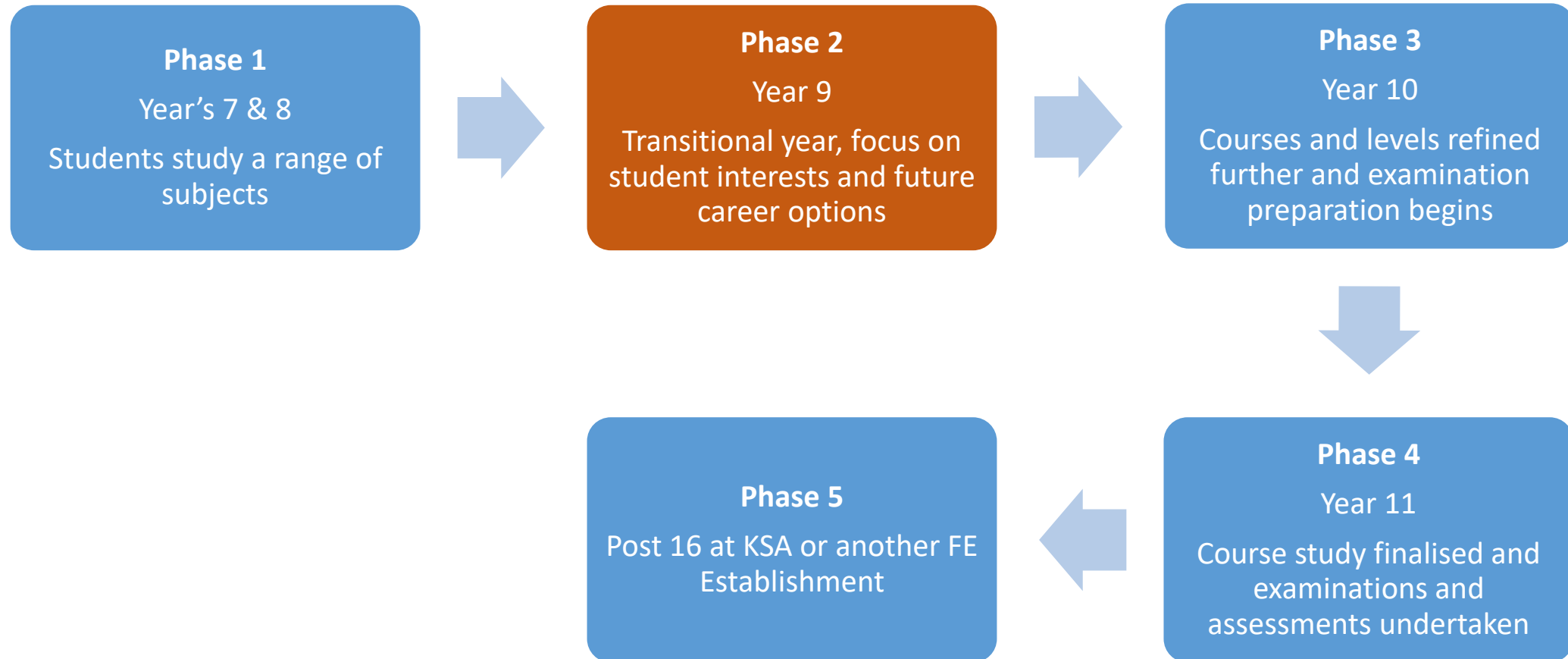
# Aim of the evening



- Helping you and your child choose the right options for them
- Students will be selecting subjects they will potentially be studying for 3 years
- It is important we work in partnership to help get this right



# The Pathways Process



# How the process works...



# How the process works

Talk to subject staff tonight.

Find out what is involved in each course.

View subject videos on our website

[www.KenStimpson.org.uk/curriculum/pathways](http://www.KenStimpson.org.uk/curriculum/pathways)



## Take part in subject taster days

- Weeks commencing 19<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February
- Ask questions of our subject specialists



Year 8 Parents Evening (virtual) Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

An opportunity to discuss how your child is progressing in their subjects

Pathways Interviews – 2<sup>nd</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> February

An opportunity for students to have key discussions with our careers team



## **Pathways Choices form opens Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

This is sent to students' school email addresses

## **Deadline for completion: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

All forms must be submitted by this date



All students will study a set of compulsory subjects:

- English Language/English Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Science (2 GCSEs)
- Core PE (2 Lessons)
- Personal Development (Careers, PSHE, Religious Studies – 1 Lesson)



# Option Subjects - Green (EBacc) Subjects

- Art and Design
- Business and Enterprise
- Childcare
- **Computer Science**
- Construction
- Hospitality & Catering
- **Geography**
- Health and Social Care
- **History**
- Information Technology
- **French**

- Film Studies
- Performing Arts - Dance
- Performing Arts - Drama
- Performing Arts - Music
- Religious Studies
- Sports and Physical Education
- Statistics
- Textiles
- **Triple Science**

Historic  
Model



- Focus on Breadth / Creative subjects
- Focus on GCSEs – potentially affecting Hospitality & Catering, Construction, Drama (may need to switch from vocational courses to GCSEs)
- Music will remain vocational



# Option Subjects - Creative GCSEs\*

- Art and Design
- Business and Enterprise
- Childcare
- Computer Science
- Construction (\*Design & Technology)
- Hospitality & Catering (\*Food)
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Information Technology
- French
- Film Studies
- Performing Arts - Dance
- Performing Arts – Drama\*
- Performing Arts - Music
- Religious Studies
- Sports and Physical Education
- Statistics
- Textiles
- Triple Science

New  
Model

\*subjects that are currently vocational and may need to switch to an equivalent GCSE

Students need to rank all of the different options from their most favoured to their least favoured.

We will then put students into 5 options for year 9 (2 lessons each), which will reduce to 4 or 3 subjects in year 10 (3 lessons each).

We will be using an 'open blocking' model instead of a fixed model.



Students should make preference for the subjects they wish to study not specific qualifications.

Heads of Faculty will guide students onto the appropriate course.



## Good reasons to choose a subject

- Enjoy the subject
- Good at the subject
- Relevant to your future

## Bad reasons to choose a subject

- Your friends are doing it
- Just because it is new
- Taught by your favourite teacher



If I choose a subject and change my mind after, can I switch?



We cannot guarantee first choices – it is impossible for all students in the year group to get all of their top 5 ranked subjects.

Some courses are limited to the number of students they can take for health and safety reasons. Number of classes to be scheduled may be restricted by the staffing availability.

We will also need to ensure we comply with government directives – currently suggesting at least 2 creative subjects.

If a course does not attract sufficient interest, it will be withdrawn.

We may potentially be able to offer new courses, which are not on the current list.



When courses are oversubscribed, we will also consider additional criteria, such as:

- Attendance
- Attitude to Learning
- Examination performance



## Every lesson matters.

- Missing even one means missing learning you can't get back.
- Students with excellent attendance achieve higher grades—it's proven.
- Students who miss over 10% of school sessions (persistent absentees) may earn around **£10,000 less per year** by age 28 compared to those with 95–100% attendance.
- Imperative for vocational courses.



- Careers team in the foyer on our Pathways Evening
- All students (and parents/carers) have access to unifrog
- Students will all have had opportunity to logon in school.
- Pathways Interviews 2<sup>nd</sup> February – 27<sup>th</sup> February



# Next steps – take your time

- There is a lot to take in!
- Think

## Discuss with:

- Parents/Carers
- Tutor
- Subject teachers
- Older students
- Careers team (lower block 3 foyer)
- SEND and Block 5 team (3L04)



- Taster Weeks – week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026
- Year 8 Parents Evening (virtual) 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- Deadline for completing forms 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Options confirmed in Summer term
- If you're unsure, think about what you enjoy most or do best in
- These preferences are for 3 years of study
- Direct queries to [pathways@KenStimpson.org.uk](mailto:pathways@KenStimpson.org.uk)

