



Key Stage 4 Curriculum 2026-2029

Curriculum Intent
Year 9 – The Matrix
EBacc and GCSE qualifications
Curriculum outline 2026–2029

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Curriculum Intent



The curriculum at Colchester County High School for Girls (CCHSG) is designed to enable students to:

- **develop depth of knowledge**
 - **have richness of experience**
 - **develop their strength of character**
- ▶ At CCHSG students will develop the knowledge and skills to become life-long learners, to be independent, resilient and responsible leaders.
- ▶ This will enable our students to be prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, and be able to compete in a sustainable global economy whilst making a positive contribution to society. The CCHSG curriculum also aims to promote a love of learning through subject mastery, social, spiritual, moral, and cultural opportunities alongside the mental and physical development of each student.

Year 9 - The Matrix



- ▶ Subject Mastery
- ▶ Development of skills
- ▶ Supports your GCSE programme and beyond
- ▶ Enrichment days – Geography, History, Computer Science, Creative Arts, Enterprise, Well-being and Enterprise Education



Guidance

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

Updated 20 August 2019

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Introduction

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is:

- English language and literature
- maths
- the sciences
- geography or history
- a language



Curriculum Outline for 2026-29

There are 3 areas:

- ❑ Core curriculum - non-examination and examination subjects
- ❑ Core curriculum - option subjects
- ❑ Enrichment option subjects

The compulsory core curriculum

Non-examination subjects

- ▶ Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (including RSE)
- ▶ Physical Education
- ▶ Enterprise Education
- ▶ Information and Communication Technology
- ▶ Careers Education (including IAG)

The compulsory core curriculum

Examination subjects



- ▶ GCSE in English Language
- ▶ GCSE English Literature
- ▶ GCSE Mathematics
- ▶ GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

The core option choice subjects



Students will choose one language they have studied in Y7 and 8:

GCSE German **or** GCSE French **or**
GCSE Latin **or** GCSE Spanish

and either

GCSE History **or** GCSE Geography

The Enrichment Subjects



Students select 3, of which 2 will be studied from the following list. You can only choose either Fine Art or Graphic Communications:

GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art

GCSE Art and Design: Graphic Communications

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Drama

GCSE French

GCSE Geography

GCSE German

GCSE History

GCSE Latin

GCSE Music

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Psychology

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Spanish

Enrichment subjects



Choose 2 subjects in order of priority and 1 reserve subject.

Every effort will be made to allocate the first two subject choices, but it will be dependent on:

- timetabling constraints due to subjects chosen by the cohort
- demand for the course due to subjects chosen by the cohort
- availability of staff within the timetable

NB: It is not on a first come first served basis

Making decisions – points to consider



Do find out as much as you can before making choices.

Do choose subjects that you think you will be successful with.

Do choose subjects that you enjoy.

Do make your OWN choices.

Making decisions – points to consider



Don't choose a subject because your friends choose it.

Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher.

Don't choose to give up a subject because you don't like the teacher.

Don't choose a subject because someone told you it was easy.

NB Students can change options up until February Half Term.

Careers advice



- KUDOS, Unifrog, Real Game
- 1:1 appointments with Ms Poyser Independent Careers Advisor
- Subject information in lessons over the next two weeks
- Key Stage 4 Curriculum Student Booklet issued in PSHCE

Timings



- ▶ Key Stage 4 Curriculum Evening **Thursday 12 March**
18.00-20.00
- ▶ Parent Consultation Evening **COL Thursday 19 March,**
HES Thursday 26 March
- ▶ Online form will be sent to parents **Friday 24 April**
- ▶ Deadline for return of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Form
Thursday 30 April

If you have any questions, please email Mr Snow at
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