



BYRCHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Choices 2026-2028

YOUR SCHOOL
YOUR FUTURE
YOUR COMMUNITY!

THINK SMART | LOOK SMART | BE SMART



Live to Learn
(Enjoy and Achieve)

Learn to Live
(Now and in the Future)

Aims

The curriculum offers opportunities for all young people to become:

- **successful learners** who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- **confident individuals** who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- **responsible global citizens** who make a positive contribution to society

Key features

- Develop skills for life and work
- High achievement
- Ensure a broad, balanced, ambitious and relevant curriculum
- Develop specialisms appropriate to aspirations, aptitude and talents
- Personal development
- Prepare young people for the world of employment, further and higher education and their futures

Curriculum -5 Year Plan

Year 7 - Transition

- Broad and balanced and meets all statutory requirements
- Progression from KS2
- Establish high expectations
- Develop numeracy and literacy
- Personal Development curriculum and opportunities
- Range of extra-curricular activities

Year 8 - Development

- Broad and balanced and meets all statutory requirements
- Development of numeracy and literacy skills
- Range of extra-curricular activities
- Personal Development curriculum and opportunities
- Development of subject specific skills, knowledge and understanding
- Range of extra-curricular activities

Year 9 - Progression

- Broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum
- Subject skill development, increased depth and breadth of knowledge in the core curriculum
- Preparation for a flexible choice, equal access and preparation for a broad 14-19 curriculum
- An age appropriate, ambitious and personalised Personal Development curriculum
- Subject specific key skill development, increased depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding in a range subjects

Year 10 Achievement

- Consolidation and development in skills, knowledge and understanding in core curriculum and option subjects
- Introduction to the additional requirements of GCSEs and vocational qualifications

Year 11 Enhancement

- Development, application, extension and support in core curriculum and in optional subjects
- Development, application, extension and support for GCSEs and vocational qualifications

Year 10 and Year 11

- Core subjects plus 3 optional choices
- An age appropriate, ambitious and personalised Personal Development curriculum, with opportunities and enhancements
- A bespoke extra-curricular range of opportunities to meet the needs, aspirations and interests of individuals
- Prepare for the next stage of their education

Choices

- Conventional GCSE Courses
- Technical/Vocational Courses
- 1 humanities choice
- 2 further choices
- Plus a reserve choice

How to Choose Subjects:

- **Do they enjoy the subject?** This will help your child stay motivated.
- **How do they prefer to learn?** Coursework or exams, what suits them best?
- **Is it their decision?** Not picking it because their friends are.
- **Does it feel right for them?** Encourage them to think about their strengths and what they feel confident in.

GCSEs and Technical/Vocational Qualifications

GCSEs

- Academic study and final assessment
- Graded 9-1

Technical/Vocational Awards

- Specifically for pre- 16 and challenging
- Industry related, with practical elements
- 25% externally assessed, 75% coursework
- Grade Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* at Level 1 or Level 2

Curriculum Structure

Y9 2025-2026	Hrs pw	Y10 2026-2027	Hrs pw	Y11 2027-2028	Hrs pw
Expressive Arts & PE (Art, Drama, Music, PE)	4	Option A (Geography or History)	3	Option A (Geography or History)	3
Product Design	2	Option B	3	Option B	3
Computing	1	Option C	3	Option C	3
Science	5	Science	5	Science	5
Maths	4	Maths	5	Maths	4
English	4	English	4	English	5
MFL	2	PE	1	PE	1
Humanities (Geog, Hist, RE)	3	RE	1	RE	1

Core Curriculum

- GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Science (Double Award) – NB Triple Science is an option
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE RE
- Physical Education
- PDL – Personal Development Lessons

Curriculum Choice A

GCSE Geography

or

GCSE History

Curriculum Choice B, C and Reserve

GCSE Art
GCSE Business Studies
GCSE Computer Science
GCSE Dance
GCSE 3D Design
GCSE Food and Nutrition
GCSE French
GCSE Geography
GCSE History
GCSE PE
GCSE Photography
GCSE Spanish

BTEC Music
Child Development Award
Creative i-Media Award
Drama/Performing Arts Award
Engineering Award
Enterprise and Marketing Award
Further Maths
Further Science
Health & Social Care Award
IT Award
Sport Science Award

Different Examples

1)

- Curriculum Choice A- GCSE History
- Curriculum Choice B- GCSE French
- Curriculum Choice C- Further Maths

2)

- Curriculum Choice A- GCSE Geography
- Curriculum Choice B- IT Award
- Curriculum Choice C- GCSE History

3)

- Curriculum Choice A- GCSE Geography
- Curriculum Choice B- Health and Social Care Award
- Curriculum Choice C- Drama- Performing Arts Award

Support

- Students have already taken part in taster lessons and subject leads have spoke in assembly about their subject.

Plus:

- Opportunities for an appointment with the Careers Personal Advisor.
- Parents and students can see the subject presentations available on the school website and discuss the choices available.
- Students can discuss the subjects on offer with their current teachers and ask for further advice.
- Progress Report 13th February 2026 followed by Parents' Consultation evening on 25th February 2026.
- Parents can contact Miss Hesketh, Miss Jones or Mrs Smith if they have questions or need to discuss choices during the week beginning 2nd March 2026 and an appointment can be made if necessary.

Help and Advice

If you need any more help speak to:

- Your subject teachers
- Mr Rastrick
- Miss Hesketh
- Miss Jones
- Mrs Smith
- Mrs Shaw - SENDCo
- Careers Advisor – Anna Fishwick is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Julie Tindall is available on alternate Wednesdays.

Key Dates

- Progress report – 13th February 2026
- Parents' Consultation evening (Online) – 25th February 2026
- **FINAL** deadline for return of the options form 13th March 2026