



BYRCHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Choices

2026-2028

**YOUR SCHOOL  
YOUR FUTURE  
YOUR COMMUNITY!**

THINK SMART | LOOK SMART | BE SMART

# 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

# Choices

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

# How to Choose

- A subject **you** like and are good at.
- Because **you** have chosen it rather than your friend
- You like the **subject** not the present teacher.
- Because **you** think you will enjoy it
- Coursework or exams? What are **you** more comfortable with?
- It's **your** choice

# 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

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 followed by Parents' Consultation evening on 25<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- Parents' Consultation evening (Online) – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- **FINAL** deadline for return of the options form 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026