



BEAL HIGH SCHOOL

**SIXTH FORM
PATHWAYS**





BEAL SIXTH FORM PATHWAYS

We have introduced a Pathways programme for progression from Year 11 to Year 12. This is designed to provide a broad range of courses that provide progression routes for the majority of our Year 11 students and to maximise success. The pathways are:

Average GCSE Point Score is calculated by allocating numbers to grades (A* = 8, A = 7, B = 6 etc.), taking the number scores for English and Mathematics, adding them all together and dividing by the number of subjects taken.

Pathway Name	Average GCSE Point Score	Subject Choices
Mastering	6.4 and above	4 A Levels/BTECs
Secure	5.5 - 6.3	4 A Levels/BTECs (Maximum 3 Facilitating Subjects)
Developing	5 – 5.4	4 A Levels/BTECs (Maximum 2 Facilitating subjects)
Emerging	4 – 4.9	3 A Levels/BTECs (Maximum 1 Facilitating subject)

These pathways are based around the Russell Group of universities categorisation of Facilitating and Specialist* subjects, as well as our own category of Vocational. Facilitating subjects, as defined by the Russell Group, are those that are often more commonly required by these universities and “facilitate” the study of other subjects. For example, Mathematics not only prepares for the future study of Mathematics, but also it facilitates the study of Engineering and Economics; Biology prepares for a degree in Biology, but it also facilitates the study of Sport Science and Medicine. From your previous studies in school, you will notice that the Facilitating subjects are the Core and Ebacc subjects.

The Russell Group also suggests that the Facilitating subjects are more challenging and contain more rigour. Our own data on student outcomes also reflects this and indicates that students with higher GCSE grades perform better in these subjects. Hence, our Pathways enable the best qualified students to choose all Facilitating subjects if they wish, but limits the number of Facilitating subjects chosen for less well qualified students. These pathways have been informed by analysing the success of former students on these courses and considering their performance at GCSE.

The other courses on offer in the Sixth Form are Specialist and Vocational subjects. Specialist subjects are the other A Level courses not defined as Facilitating and the Vocational courses are the Level 3 BTEC courses that we offer.

In addition to the Average GCSE Point Score requirement to access a given pathway, students will also need to achieve subject specific entry requirements for certain subjects. For example, students wishing to study A level Mathematics will need to achieve a minimum of a Grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE and students wishing to study Geography will need a C in Geography GCSE as well as a 5 in English and a 4 in Mathematics. *See the Russell Group “Informed Choices” at <https://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5272/informedchoices-print.pdf>