

FAQs about Pathways Parallel Curriculum

1. What is Pathways in more detail?

The Ladies' College Guernsey has created Pathways, a parallel curriculum for Sixth Form students beginning in September 2024. The secondary curriculum will help to equip students with the skills they will need for the fourth industrial revolution.

Working with key stakeholders and partners in the community, including leading local businesses, UK schools and universities, our parallel curriculum will create unique opportunities for The Ladies' College pupils.

At the heart of Pathways lies the commitment to providing students with genuine experiences that will engender personal development and build the skills and attributes we believe will be important to thrive in our future world.

This personal growth will be grounded in expert mentoring and unwavering support alongside their traditional studies. We are dedicated to empowering students with the resources and support necessary to achieve their goals and confidently embark on their journey as young adults.

2. What are the benefits of Pathways?

Together, we will shape tomorrow's leaders, innovators, pioneers and changemakers, ensuring that they are well-prepared and equipped to make a difference in the world beyond their educational journey.

Students will learn key skills to:

- *Understand themselves, their future and the world around them;*
- *Adapt to be able to create, critique and innovate; and*
- *Influence in order to collaborate and lead.*

3. Which Pathways can students follow?

Changemakers is a pathway that builds the skills and understanding for those who want to shape and change our world.

In this pathway, we delve into the concepts of protest, democracy, debate and policymaking, empowering students to become advocates for social justice and agents of change. Through interactive discussions, engaging projects, and real-world simulations through partnerships with local businesses and the third sector, you will explore how to effect meaningful and sustainable transformations in various sectors.

This pathway goes beyond theoretical knowledge and equips students with practical skills to engage with complex issues. They will develop critical thinking abilities, learn to navigate diverse perspectives, and sharpen communication and leadership skills. We believe in the power of young

voices to shape the future, and our Changemakers pathway provides the platform for students to make their mark.

Innovators and Creators is a pathway designed for students who want to harness the power of creativity and lateral thinking to solve problems and make a meaningful impact.

This pathway encourages you to think outside the box, challenging conventional wisdom and embracing a growth mindset. You will be inspired to push the boundaries of your imagination. From product design to user experience, from art installations to cutting-edge technology solutions, you will have the opportunity to explore diverse avenues of creative expression.

This pathway goes beyond theoretical knowledge and focuses on practical application. Students will learn to iterate, prototype and refine their ideas, gaining valuable problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. By engaging with real-life design challenges, students will gain a deep appreciation for the power of creativity to shape new experiences and find solutions.

Business Leaders is a pathway designed for students who aspire to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the world of business.

In this pathway, students will gain an understanding of business principles, entrepreneurship, and the power of collaboration. Businesses play a crucial role in human development; therefore, students will have the opportunity to explore innovative business models, sustainable practices and social entrepreneurship, discovering how business can be a force for good.

Throughout this pathway, students will have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience, collaborate with peers and connect with mentors and industry professionals. By immersing themselves in entrepreneurial projects, startup simulations and networking opportunities, they will develop a deep understanding of the entrepreneurial mindset and the practicalities of building successful ventures.

Science Pioneers is a pathway for students who aspire to become pioneers of discovery, leveraging scientific knowledge to make a positive impact on our natural and technological worlds.

In this pathway, we create a deep appreciation for scientific enquiry, exploration and environmental stewardship. You will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiments, conduct research and explore scientific advancements that address pressing global challenges. Students will experience conducting scientific investigations, analysing data and critically evaluating research findings.

The Science Pioneers pathway will integrate various scientific disciplines including biology, chemistry, physics and environmental sciences. It allows students to nurture a sense of curiosity, problem-solving and innovation. Students will be encouraged to explore innovative solutions to environmental challenges, leveraging scientific research and technology to drive positive change.

4. Why is The Ladies' College making this change to the Sixth Form provision?

For over 150 years, education has remained largely unchanged, built upon a knowledge-based system that predates the existence of libraries and the internet; The Ladies' College Guernsey is challenging this status quo and evolving education for the modern era.

We need to authentically equip children with the skills and knowledge they will need for a future that holds many unknowns.

5. What is wrong with the current system?

Through a combination of rigorous academic study, practical experience and personal development initiatives, our Sixth Form students already emerge as well-rounded individuals who are prepared to navigate the complexities of the modern world, but we recognise that the world is changing and we need to keep pace with change to best serve our students.

The College has considered a balanced approach between the strengths of traditional education and the need to develop the skills and personal attributes required to tackle some of the big challenges our students will face, including artificial intelligence, climate change, political and economic instability. The future world of work will be different to today and our approach to education needs to evolve accordingly.

6. What will my child get out of the new parallel curriculum?

Each pathway will focus on the specific knowledge for that area of specialism. For example, working on a board room challenge, carrying out independent research, putting together change campaigns and designing and building an app.

This knowledge is not taught in the current academic curriculum. Each pathway will give students opportunities to gain experience in their chosen field. They build key skills such as leadership, influence, collaboration and innovation.

The cornerstone of profound personal skill development lies in the opportunity to authentically explore, persevere through challenges and learn from both successes and failures.

7. How will this affect my child's experience at The Ladies' College?

We recognise the value of real-world experiences in shaping students' educational journeys. We want to create meaningful connections and forge partnerships that provide our students with authentic learning opportunities. Thus, Pathways will offer opportunities for authentic projects and challenges that go well beyond the traditional curriculum and our new mentoring system will mean that there will be someone walking alongside each student, providing the coaching and mentoring to help them grow.

We want to create an environment where our Sixth Form students are inspired to embrace their potential, pursue their passions and become passionate leaders who make a positive impact on their communities.

8. What is the next step?

After research and discussion with key stakeholders, we have started to identify skills that are key to navigating the Fourth Industrial Revolution – such as intellectual and emotional flexibility, problem-solving, comfort with technology and AI, influence and leadership. These qualities are already a part of The Ladies' College culture and ethos in everything from leading inter-house events through to taking part in digital and investment challenges. However, we recognise the need for these skills to become even more central.

9. Will there still be Sixth Form tutor groups?

We carried out significant research on how to build those wider skills of resilience, emotional and intellectual flexibility and risk-taking. We found often they were best developed by engaging in an authentic challenge and then having a mentor or coach to help an individual and learn from the experience.

We thus thought carefully about how to embed that in our culture and so, as of September 2024, to augment Pathways we will be phasing in a replacement of the current model of Sixth Form Tutor Groups.

Instead, we will have a much more individualised system, where each member of the Sixth Form will be paired with a member of staff who will meet them regularly and mentor them over their two years of Sixth Form study.

10. Will the Sixth Form uniform be changing?

We recognise that given the challenges coming, it is key that students develop a sense of individual voice and agency. Learning how to follow rules and expectations is vital, particularly in the early and middle years. It creates not only a sense of accountability but also a calm environment that allows young people to learn and thrive.

As our students move into Sixth Form, we feel the values of accountability and self-discipline are well embedded and developing their individual voice and sense of purpose becomes of increasing importance, particularly given the changing future landscape.

After careful thought, we have thus decided that from September 2024 we will be altering the Sixth Form dress code. There will be a Sixth Form academic gown that will be worn in assemblies and other formal events, but outside of that we will be allowing the students to, within sensible expectations, choose their own clothes. We recognise that in some ways this may be seen as the most radical change in our provision, but we think the heart of what we are trying to do is to help the girls develop their voice and sense of self and give them more freedom to express themselves in these final two years feels in line with the values we wish to uphold.

11. Will students be asked to wear suit attire, similar to other Sixth Form schools?

We will be taking part in a consultation including students, staff and parents which will allow people to give their thoughts on reasonable expectations and a decision will be made following this on the exact nature of the guidelines.

12. How does this uniform position sit against the message for Lower School?

We recognise that uniform plays a different role at different ages and thus are fully committed to the value of uniform in younger teenage years, when both building a sense of accountability and also creating a sense of unity and parity is particularly important. As students move into the Sixth Form at The Ladies' College, we see that they have developed a strong sense of the value of accountability and respect and are ready to take the next step towards independence, having space to further develop their own sense of self and make appropriate decisions about what to wear.

