



Year 9 Options

Information Evening
Thursday 14th March 2024



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The start of the GCSE journey...

It only seems like yesterday that your child was about to start in year 7!

GCSE courses are finished in only 5 and a half terms!

The keys to success are:

- Working hard from day one
- Never wasting time
- Being in school every day
- Asking for help when you are stuck



Important skills:

- Punctuality
- Engagement
- Presentation
- Attire
- Empathy
- Organisation
- Professionalism
- Leadership
- Communication





Choosing subjects

- This is a very exciting time in your child's educational journey.
- Making wise, informed choices is vital
- Do not choose a subject because your friends are choosing it
- Do not choose a subject because you like the teacher or you think it will be an easy subject
- Do not strike a subject off your list because you think it is hard



The Core Curriculum

All students will study:

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (triple or combined)
- RE
- PE (non-examined)
- PSHCE (non-examined)



Pathways

Blue Pathway – English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

This includes:

- The core curriculum
- Geography or History
- French or Spanish
- One free choice

Green Pathway

This includes:

- The core curriculum
- At least one of Geography or History or French or Spanish
- Two free choices



Pathways

Bespoke Pathway

This includes:

- The core curriculum
- Additional Maths and English/support
- Up to two free choices

All pathways give a clear progression route to further study in our sixth form, or at college, and on to university or other training or employment.



What are EBacc qualifications?

The EBacc is the English Baccalaureate. It is not a single qualification, like a GCSE - it is a set of qualifications that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is:

- ★ English Language and English Literature
- ★ Maths
- ★ The sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computing)
- ★ Geography or History
- ★ A language



Why take EBacc subjects?

Studying **History** helps us understand how the past has shaped, and continues to shape, global, national and local relationships between societies and people.

A degree in History could lead to a career in:

- Law**
- Politics**
- Journalism**
- Teaching**
- Human resources**
- Marketing**
- Heritage and museums**
- Civil service**
- Archaeology**

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Studying **Geography** is very relevant to issues such as climate change, migration, environmental issues, social and economic inequalities. Studying Geography makes you a well-informed global citizen.

A degree in Geography could lead to a career in:

- Architectural technology**
- Business analysis**
- Environmental consultant**
- Teaching**
- Town planning**
- Transport planning**
- Nature conservation**
- Political risk analysis**

Studying **Languages** gives you a window into another culture. It has also been shown to improve working memory, helping students to retain more information for all exams. It increases employability in today's competitive job market.

A degree in Languages could lead to a career in:

- Academic research**
- Translating**
- Teaching**
- Law**
- Politics**
- Journalism**
- Sales and marketing**
- International aid work**

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Further information

HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- History or Geography
- A language
Ancient or modern



WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.
The Centre for Longitudinal Studies, August 2017

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."
Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. (The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."
Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.
Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017



Click on the links below to access the Department for Education's leaflet on EBacc and the parent section of Careerpivot website:

[DFE EBacc leaflet](#)

[Careerpivot parent information](#)



There is now an opportunity to speak with the Heads of Department for each optional subject and to find out more about what students have to do to be successful in each of those subjects in years 10 and 11.

Please ask lots of questions tonight.

Senior staff are available to answer questions too.

Thank you for coming and Enjoy the rest of the evening.