

# Year 9 Options 2024

Key decisions for an exciting future

# Welcome!

*Your first opportunity to make real choices about the direction of your education...*



# What is a 'GCSE'?



Broad and  
balanced  
curriculum  
Core Subjects  
Humanities  
choice – 3 opts  
Future proofing  
your career

Linear Courses:  
End of Course  
Examinations

BTEC – units over  
time

1-9

- GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education.
- It is a formal qualification that is highly valued by employers. You will almost always be asked for them when applying for jobs.
- The GCSE curriculum is designed to give a broad and balanced curriculum and give you a range of experiences across academic discipline so you leave Y11 with a real broad suite of skills and knowledge.

## How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
D	4 STANDARD PASS
	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

- For GCSEs you will be graded 1-9. 9 is the highest.
- Different courses after GCSE have different requirements and so you need to think what you want to do beyond Y11 and know the requirements.
- Grade 4 is what is known as a standard pass. Old numbers – C is 4. Grade 5 is a strong pass. 9 is an A\*\*. 1-3% gaining it.
- Everyone needs to get the very best they can.

GCSEs



Pearson  
BTEC

- GCSEs are what we call 'linear'. This simply means you learn the content over Y10 and Y11 and have your exam at the end – like a line.
- BTEC courses are modular. You complete a series of units across the two years, some are externally assessed, others are coursework, and each has its own grade which you 'bank' as you go.
- Different courses suit different styles!
- Start now – you've been building the skills and knowledge for years! Good habits and routines are key.

- You may not have any idea what you want to do for a career – you may even want to have multiple careers!
- Think carefully about how these choices may affect your future. For example:
- If you want to join the medical profession, think about the sciences and mathematics
- If you were interested in marketing and graphics, think about IT and Graphic Design



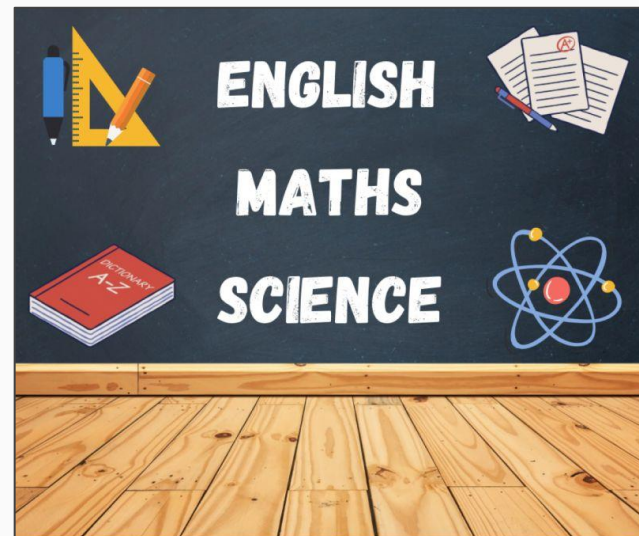
# What is an 'EBacc?!'



- First – the 'English Baccalaureate' is not a qualification – you do not 'get' an Ebacc.
- It is a term used by the government to describe when a student gains a pass in a suite of certain subjects: English, Maths, Science, a humanity and a modern foreign language.
- It was introduced following research into which suite of subjects were most likely to lead students to success in later life. These were the key ones.
- Languages are key – some employers of global companies will not contemplate taking you on without a language.

# What do I have (and not have) a choice about?

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History **or** Geography (or both!)
- Some 'forbidden' combinations:  
Art/Photography, DT/Engineering,  
Art/Graphic Communication



# What are the options?

Option 1	Option 2	Option3	Option 4
Catering Dance Graphic Design Geography History Engineering French Spanish	Art Geography History Photography Sport Triple Science	Geography History Spanish French Child Development Film Studies Sport Music	Catering Drama DT History Geography IT Engineering Triple Science

There are no ***soft*** options!

# What will my timetable look like?

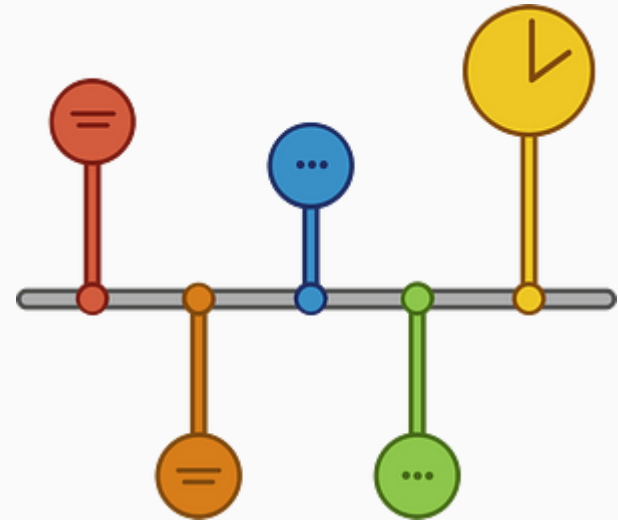
<b>Year 10</b>	English (8/9)	Maths (8/9)	Science (8)	PSHE (1)	EPR (1)	PE (3)	Opt A (5)	Opt B	Opt C	Opt D
<b>Year 11</b>	English	Maths	Science	PSHE	EPR	PE	Opt A	Opt B	Opt C	Opt D

More time in 'core' – passes in these subjects are especially life-changing.

Compulsory – to provide balance and support wider knowledge, culture and wellbeing.

Options – 5x over two weeks.

- Have more conversations with teachers and support at home.
- Take and read through the options booklet carefully. If you lose it – it is on the website too!
- Read through the options on the insert.
- Complete the Google Form with your options - **22<sup>nd</sup> March** deadline for options choices



- Take time and talk it through
- Think about your values, your successes and your aspirations
- Don't make choices based on your friends' choices or teacher preferences
- Please remember – **we cannot guarantee choices!**
- Some courses are subject to change – we will inform you if this happens at the earliest opportunity.
- There are no *soft options*
- *Enjoy it!*

