

Y9 Options Process

Guidance for Parents & Carers



Objectives

- To outline students' choices in Y10.
- To explain the Options process.
- To answer your questions about GCSE Options and beyond.



The Key Stage 4 Offer

- A wide ranging curriculum offer both in terms of subjects and qualifications.
- A focus on life-long learning and building skills for the future.
- Building the knowledge needed to pass exams and to do well in coursework.
- Examination techniques are a strong feature of teaching, learning and assessment.

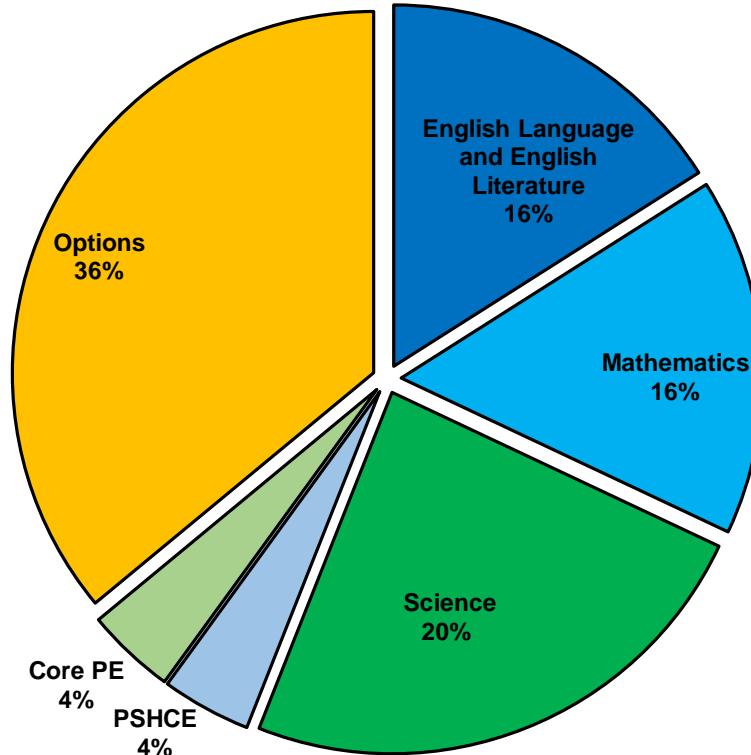


The Core Curriculum

- Students choose part of their curriculum when they join Year 10.
- They have no choice over the core curriculum - the part of the curriculum that all students follow.



The core curriculum makes up approximately 2/3 of a student's timetable so they get to choose the other 1/3.





The Core Curriculum comprises;

- English Language and English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE (Further Maths additional)
- Science (Combined worth 2 x GCSEs) or Triple Science (3 separate GCSEs)

- Core P.E.
- P.S.H.R.C.E.



Options Curriculum

- In terms of KS4 choices, all courses result in a GCSE or a qualification equivalent to a GCSE (Cambridge Nationals).
- GCSE Options – more or exclusively exam-based.
- Cambridge Nationals use more continuous assessment with a smaller percentage of the grade based on exams.



Options Curriculum

- We ask all students to choose **three** option subjects.
- This gives the majority of students **eight** GCSEs or equivalent qualifications at the end of Year 11.
- Our sixth form, and most colleges, require **six** high passes to continue onto A-Levels and equivalent courses.



New Options Process

- There is **more time** allocated to Options subjects.
- There are two main routes: **EBacc** and **Non-Ebacc**.



EBacc Route

- Choose History **or** Geography (a Humanity)
- Choose French **or** Spanish (a MFL)
- Make **one** other choice – this can come from the subjects above or a pool of Open options.



Non-EBacc

- Choose at least **one** of the following ‘traditional’ subjects:

History, Geography, French, Spanish,
Computer Science

- Make **two** other choices – these can come from the list above and/or a pool of Open options.



Pool of Open Options

Business Studies

Physical Education

Health & Social Care

Art

Drama

Design & Technology

Sport

Religious Studies

Computer Science

Media Studies

Sociology

Music/ Music Technology

Food Prep & Nutrition

Dance

Creative iMedia

Enterprise & Marketing



Making Choices

- There is no rush! The process goes on for over two months.
- Take time to do research.
- School focus: tutor time activities, taster sessions, careers interviews and one-to-one interviews with senior staff.
- Use information from reports and parents' evenings.
- Think about future plans.



Making Choices

- When it comes to choosing Options, we are asking students to select reserve choices for what they would like to study.

There are a number of good reasons for this.....timetabling, group sizes, staffing.



Making Choices

- We have sat with students to explain how to fill out the form for the route that they have been selected for.
- Students identified for the EBacc route have shown the ambition and potential to do well in the Government's 'gold standard' qualification, often with university or higher professions in mind.
- ***Any student can choose to follow the EBacc route – this can also be selected using the Non-EBacc form.***



Making Choices

Please encourage your daughter/son to think carefully about how they:

- choose preferred subjects and reserves
- rank order their choices of subjects
- decide whether to specify a Humanity or a language, and how flexible they are prepared to be on this.

It is acceptable to write comments on the form if you think this will help to guide us when making allocations.



What Next?

- Work in school looking at Careers and Options
- Own research on Options
- Taster lessons – next week
- Information from Parents Evening (**12th March**)
- Forms in for Monday **16th March**
- Applications processed
- Notified of allocated Options towards the end of the school year.



Thank you for your time and
attention.

Please do not hesitate to get in
contact if you have any further
questions after tonight.

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