



Wigston Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that, during this term, your child will have the opportunity to choose the GCSE or other Level 2 courses that they would like to follow alongside the core subjects of English, Maths and Science as they prepare to enter Years 10 and 11.

Most students will be studying for eight GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications) next year which will easily allow them to qualify for the next stage of their education. Students wishing to study more than this will be able to do so through our Triple Science programme and/or by opting for a Further Maths qualification.

A significant number of our students should expect to follow the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) route which is the government's 'gold standard' for GCSEs. This route involves choosing either History or Geography (a Humanity), then either French or Spanish (a Modern Language) as well as their third choice of subject. The EBacc route is being increasingly recognised as the preferred route for university, for higher or degree level apprenticeships, and for key professions. On this basis, schools are encouraged to identify those students who are appropriate for this route to ensure they have the opportunity to achieve their potential and to be on par with others of the same aptitude. We are keen to make sure we do this for our students. Even though we will be directing certain students towards this route, any student can choose to follow the EBacc route. However, some will be supported to choose one 'traditional' subject (i.e. History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computer Science) alongside two other options rather than the full EBacc route.

The Option process will begin this month, with every Year 9 student meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss their progress and aspirations. As part of this discussion, we will identify the students who we believe should follow the EBacc route. You will be able to get more information on the whole Options process, and the subjects and courses on offer, at our Options Evening event on **Wednesday 5th February from 6-8pm, to be held at Wigston Academy**. There will also be information available on our website throughout the process. Students will also have the chance to do taster lessons in the subjects they're interested in studying to further help with their choices. These taster lessons will take place as part of the school day during the last week of this half term. Finally, we have a Parents' Evening on **Thursday 12th March** where there is an opportunity for you to discuss final choices with your child's current teachers before the deadline for the Options application form which is **Monday 16th March**.

You will hopefully see that a lot of effort does go into helping your child make the right choices and, as parents and carers, you are a key part of this process too. We look forward to seeing you on the 5th February but if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me using mbillingham@wigstonmat.org

Yours faithfully

Mark Billingham
Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum and Assessment