

Year 8 Options Evening

20 May 2021

What will we be covering this evening?



1. Progression from KS3 to GCSE – Mrs Wickliffe
2. Guide parents/carers and pupils through the choice of options – Mrs Wickliffe
3. Advice and support in making informed choices – Ms Ahima
4. Key dates and deadlines – Mr Gunningham

The core curriculum at KS4 (year 10 and 11)

- Maths
- English Language & English Literature
- Science – Double and Triple science
- Religious Education

- PE, PHSE & enrichment

- Options.....

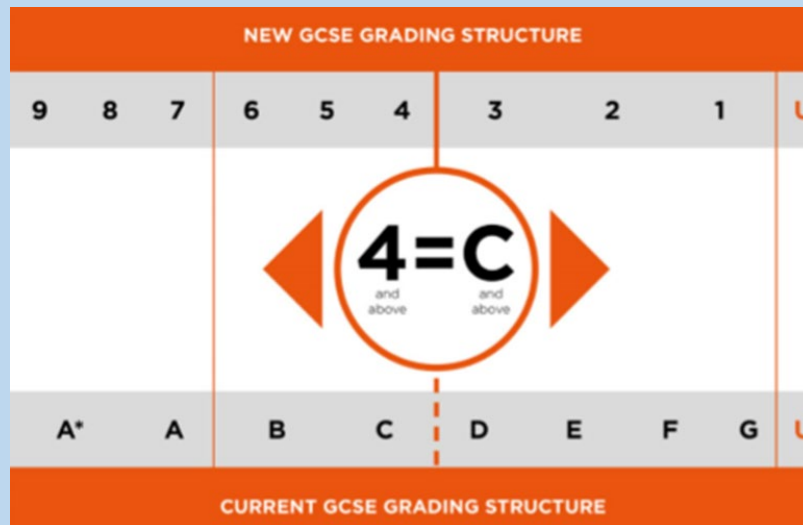
The English Baccalaureate combination (Ebacc)

English
Maths
Two Sciences
A Humanities subject
A Modern Foreign
Language

This combination is seen by employers and universities as a good academic mix of subjects but for some pupils there are other equally appropriate pathways to take.

Curriculum updates

All subjects will be assessed against the new GCSE grading structure of 9-1, or BTEC subjects will be pass, merit or distinction.



Subjects to be studied in Year 9

Core subjects

Geography

History

Spanish

Two option subjects

Option subjects

1. Art and Design (GCSE)
2. Business (GCSE)
3. Computer Science (GCSE)
4. Design and Technology (GCSE)
5. Drama (GCSE)
6. Film Studies (GCSE)
7. Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)
8. Music (GCSE)
9. Physical Education (GCSE)
10. Textile Design (GCSE)

What happens next

You will receive

1. Options booklet
2. A link to the promotional videos from subject leaders

These will give you detailed information about each subject for you to make an informed choice.

Choices will be online via SIMs – student. This can be completed over the half term after careful consideration.

Information of how to use the SIMs app will be sent next week.

Things to consider

- What are your aspirations and interests post 16?
- Your report
 - Progress
 - Effort
 - Homework
- Do you enjoy the subject?
- How is the course assessed? (Exams/coursework etc)
- Practical vs theory
- Remember no subject is superior to another

Things not useful to consider

- What your friends are choosing
- The subject teacher

Do's and Don'ts

- ✓ Do get involved in the process as parents. The choice is ultimately your child's but your advice and those of their teachers is invaluable
- ✓ Do choose a variety of subjects. e.g. Art and PE GCSE might not seem to compliment each other but this gives you a year to decide if you're more artistic or athletic.
- ✓ Do speak to someone if you have any doubts or questions about the process.

Do's and Don'ts

- × Don't make a choice before watching the videos or reading the options booklet completely. Only make a decision after accessing all the information available to you. Submitting your form first does not guarantee you the subjects you have chosen .
- × Don't limit yourself by choosing subjects that are too similar. e.g. Art and Textiles are very similar and there will be a lot of the same curriculum covered in these subjects which you would find repetitive and boring. The same could be said for Drama and Film Studies.
- × Don't overextend yourself with purely academic subjects. e.g. choosing Business Studies and Computer Science, two very academically demanding subjects, might be too much for you. Sixth form and universities always look favourably on a blend of creative and academic subjects .

Key dates

- Monday 24 May – You will receive the subject information
- Wednesday 26 May – Pupils will receive an email inviting them to activate their SIMS account
- Thursday 27 & Friday 28 – Pupils with limited IT access receive help after school
- Half term – All other pupils complete their options at home online
- Monday 7th June – Deadline for choices to be completed online
- Friday 9th July – Letter to be sent home confirming subjects for Year 9
- Monday 12th July – Parents can raise any queries they have