

# TOP TIPS

## FOR THE OPTIONS PROCESS

### Read the options booklet carefully.

The options booklet is designed to give an overview of each subject you can choose to study in Year 10 and 11. Think about the qualifications you might enjoy, which subjects do you find interesting? Read about what you will study and how this is assessed. Some courses may offer coursework, while others are completely exam based.

### Consider your future.

Think about what type of career you might want to do in the future. Are there any qualifications that would be more helpful for that career? If you are not sure, make an appointment with the school careers advisor Mr Farmer. If you aren't sure what type of career you would like to pursue, consider keeping your options choices open and picking subjects that keep a wide range of options available to you.

### Talk about your options.

Talking to people about your options choices is a really important part of the process. Subject teachers will be able to give you more information about the specifics of the course you will study. There will be an Options Evening on the 19th of January where you and your parents will be able to speak to members of the Senior Leadership Team about courses and their requirements. In addition, Year 9 Parents Evening is being held on the 7th of February so parents can ask your subject teachers any specific questions relating to your progress in subjects.

Speak to people at home too. Speak to parents about your options choices, they may be able to give you some advice. Siblings or other family members of a similar age might also be able to give you advice about the process.

### Are you choosing subjects for the right reasons?

- Don't pick subjects because your friend is picking them, the chances are you won't end up in the same class. Also don't pick a subject because you like a particular teacher, you may not end up having them at GCSE. You should pick subjects you enjoy because you enjoy them and want to learn more about them.



# FAQ

## YEAR 9 OPTIONS



### **When does the options process take place?**

The options process takes place in the spring term. Dates of deadlines in the options process will be detailed in the options pathways booklet.

### **How many subjects will I study?**

All students will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science double award. Students will also pick 3 subjects as options to study and gain GCSEs in.

### **Where can I find information about potential options subjects?**

The information for each course can be found in the options booklet which will be printed and given to students ahead of the options information evening. You can also find an electronic copy on our website.

### **Is there setting at GCSE?**

Students are put in to sets for English, Maths and Science. Options subject groups are typically mixed ability.

### **When do GCSE subjects start?**

Students will begin studying their GCSE courses when they return to school in September.

### **Why do I have to pick reserve choices?**

We cannot guarantee at this stage that all the courses included in this booklet will be offered in September 2023. If there is very low demand for a particular subject it may not be possible to run the course. Therefore, we ask students to pick reserve choices which they will study in the event a particular course cannot run.

### **What is the EBacc?**

The English Baccalaureate is a group of qualifications. The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, that offer a wide range of knowledge and skills to young people. To achieve the English Baccalaureate, students will need a good GCSE grade (9-5) in English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, and History or Geography. Universities consider these subjects to be useful for higher education.

### **What if I change my mind about my options choices?**

In the event a student chooses a subject then wishes to swap to another, this should be discussed with their head of year. Once we have started the GCSE courses, any changes would mean that pupils have missed vital work on key content and skills. No changes will be permitted after the first 2 weeks of the start of the term in September. Any changes after this date would only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Headteacher.

### **Who can I talk to about the options process?**

Students are encouraged to make an appointment with Mr Farmer, our careers advisor to discuss options. They can also speak to their subject teachers, form tutor or head of year. We also encourage students to have conversations about options at home with parents.