



# Year 9 Options

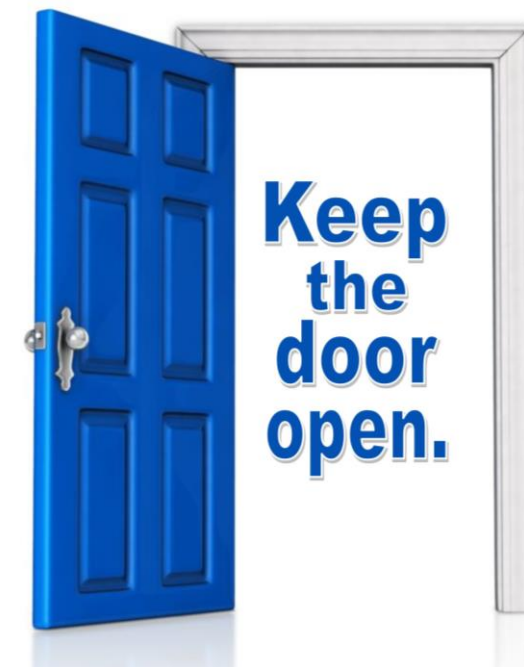
Guidance for 2022-23

## The GCSE Options Process



Core  
Curriculum

*plus*  
Optional  
Subjects



The Key Stage 4 curriculum combines core and optional subjects. Students are advised to ensure that the subjects they choose keep their future choices open. They should not worry too much about how their GCSEs will link to future career. The best preparation is a broad and balanced curriculum.



## Curriculum Pathways

Students will be allocated to one of three Curriculum Pathways.

### EBacc Pathway

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science (Trilogy)  
Language  
+  
History or Geography  
+  
2 other options

### Open Pathway

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science (Trilogy)  
+  
History or Geography  
+  
3 other options

### Success Pathway

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science (Trilogy)  
+  
Additional  
Qualifications  
+  
2 other options

We will guide you onto the Pathway we believe is most suitable for you based on your attainment and progress so far in school.



## The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In addition to their core curriculum, students will choose two, three or four options based on their curriculum pathway.

<p><b>Core Curriculum</b></p>	<p>English (Language and Literature) Maths Science</p>		<p>Language (EBacc Pathway only)</p>
<p><i>plus</i> <b>Optional Subjects</b></p>	<p>History or Geography</p>	<p><i>plus</i> <u>Two</u> or <u>three</u> additional subjects (on EBacc/Open Pathway)</p>	
<p><i>plus</i> <b>Additional Subjects</b></p>	<p>Two optional subjects on Success Pathway</p> <p>Practical PE (two lessons per fortnight) &amp; Personal Development</p>		

## About the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

### EBacc Pathway

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science (Trilogy)  
French  
+  
History *or*  
Geography  
+  
2 other options

- You need to a **broad and balanced** curriculum that prepares you effectively for your next steps.
- If you are on the Ebacc Pathway it is because you have shown the **ability to continue to study a broad range of academic subjects at GCSE**. This helps to keep the most options open for the future.
- This **breadth and rigour** is important; it prepares you for the challenges of higher education and employment by ensuring you **learn a wide range of knowledge and skills**, no matter your intended career path.
- It demonstrates to colleges, universities and employers that you have the **academic ability and resilience** to succeed in a wide range of different qualifications.
- Studying a language also ensures that you continue to experience the many wider benefits of studying a foreign language.

## Benefits of Language Learning

- Learning another language provides many wider benefits:
  - Strengthens **cognitive development** – it makes your brain more powerful
  - Promotes **positive attitudes** towards other languages and cultures
  - Supports learning in other subjects because it:
    - Enhances problem-solving skills
    - Improves memory function (short-term and long-term)
    - Increases creativity
    - Helps to better understand our own language, supports progress in English
- Evidence that those who learn another language enjoy **higher incomes** later in life
- It keeps your **future options open**

## Choosing the right subjects and qualifications for you

### Things to consider

Your interests

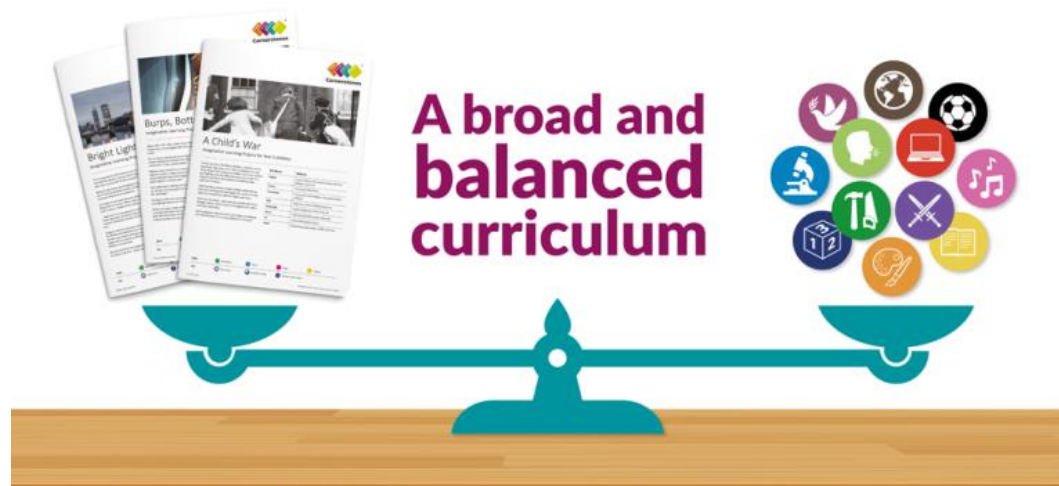
Your talents

Post-16 choices

Future plans

Career aspirations

Breadth and balance



### Mistakes to avoid

Making decisions based on friends' choices

Making uninformed choices

Rejecting a subject because you don't like your teacher or other students in the class

Narrowing your curriculum to soon

Taking too many similar subjects

Choosing subjects because they are 'easy'

Dismissing subjects because they are 'hard'





## Preferred and Reserve Option Choices

We aim to allow you the subjects you have chosen, but it is not always possible – there are no guarantees.

You will be asked to indicate two RESERVE OPTIONS when you make your choices.

They may need to be used, so make sure they are subjects you would be happy to study.





## Next steps

Look at the information provided on the website and in the 2022-23 Options Booklet to find out more about your potential choices

Discuss your options with parents, carers and teachers

Review your choices with teachers at Options Interviews (in Feb 2022)

Make your final choices in early March 2022

Students are encouraged to speak to their teachers and personal tutors if they have any questions or concerns about their options.