

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum 2019-2022





# Aim of the session

- How the options process works
- New GCSE reforms
- What is compulsory and what is optional
- Which subjects and qualifications are offered at KS4



# The Options Process

- Year 8 Parents' Evening
- Option information assembly
- Options booklet
- Options fair – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>  
February – Led by pupils in Yr 9 and  
10
- Options information evening



# New GCSEs

- Higher level of challenge, more rigorous than GCSEs in previous years
- More subject content
- Higher levels of knowledge, understanding and skills expected
- Written examination papers at end of course.
- Examined by extended writing. No more 'bite size chunks'



# New Grading System

- New grading scale 9-1 (9 the highest).
- '**Good pass**' benchmark = grade **5**
- Old grade C = new grade 4



# Combined Science and Triple Science

In Yr9, you will start working towards your Science GCSEs, the course content is very similar to start with, so a decision as to which course you are best suited to will be made **by the end of Yr9.**



# KS4 Courses

- Most GCSE courses are examined at the end of Year 11 with **final (terminal) written examinations**.

They are **graded 9-1**

- Some GCSE examinations include a coursework requirement **and** some subjects have a **practical examination** at the end of the course.
- We also offer **Vocational courses**.



# The EBacc

- The EBacc is not a qualification, but a government initiative that recognizes achievements across a range of selected academic qualification

## **Core:**

English

Maths

Science

## **Options:**

Geography or History

French or Spanish

To 'achieve' the EBacc, you would need to attain a 4 or above in English, Maths, 2 sciences and then a language and either Geography or History.





# Universities

Currently local 6<sup>th</sup> form providers and Universities are not asking for the EBacc as an entry requirement. **However**, the Russell Group do refer to certain A levels [known as facilitating subjects] that are required more often than others and will give a wider choice of options at degree level.



# But it's not all about the Ebacc!

- Despite reforms implemented by the Department for Education over the past three years making access to creative and practical subjects harder for young people, we strongly believe in the value of these subjects.
- We believe in a balanced curriculum that introduces and develops a wide range of skill areas to ensure stability and flexibility of learning.



# Vocational Courses

- We also offer vocational courses such as Cambridge Nationals. They are broad, high-quality level 1[4-1] and level 2[9-5] qualifications.
- They are **more practical** in nature and provide you with knowledge and highly sought-after skills in preparation for post 16 study, apprenticeships and the workplace.



# The Options Booklet

- This will give you information on
  1. What each course will cover
  2. How you will be assessed



# Choices should be based on:

- *YOUR* interests
- *YOUR* future plans –if you know what they are!
- *YOUR* enjoyment of the subject



## and not on...

- YOUR best friend's favourite subject
- who else might or might not choose the subject
- who YOUR favourite teacher is
- what YOU think will be the *easiest* choice



# Options/Pathways

- Three pathways are;
- **EBACC** -you will choose either history/geography and Spanish/French plus one more option
- **Open pathway**-you will choose any 3 options from the list
- **Alternative Pathway**-you will choose any 3 options from the list.



# Core Subjects-taken by everyone

Everyone in Year 9 will take the subjects listed below and because everyone takes them they are referred to as **CORE** subjects:

## Exam subjects

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Religious Education

Combined Science or Triple Science

## Non-exam subjects

Physical Education

PSHCE

Study Skills





# KS4 Options

- ✓ Art & Design
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Computing
- ✓ Design and Technology
- ✓ Food Preparation and Nutrition
- ✓ French
- ✓ Spanish
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ History
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Constructing the Built Environment
- ✓ Creative Media
- ✓ Enterprise and Marketing
- ✓ Health and Social Care
- ✓ Sports Studies



# “Will I get the options I choose?”

We will do our best to ensure that most students get all their first choices

It may not be possible if -

- Too few pupils choose an option.
- Too many pupils choose an option.
- The block structure doesn't allow it.



# Deadline

Completed Option Forms should be returned to your tutor  
by

**Tuesday 26 February**