

***Year 8 Options
Parents Information
Evening***

Mrs Allon



The aim of this evening is to explain all about the Options process and how your child will choose their subjects which they will study for GCSE.

Like many schools in England and Wales, we have already moved to a 3 year KS4 beginning in Year 9.

They will begin their GCSE courses when the timetable rolls over to the new year at the beginning of July.



The process:

- The students have had an assembly
- You will get an Options booklet – tonight
- You will go around the different Options Subjects' stalls in Ashford block
- You can discuss with the teachers their strengths and suitability for the preferred GCSEs
- You will decide which Options you will study.
- You will return your Option Form by **23rd FEB.**

New Assessment Framework 9-1

- Many of you will know that the way GCSEs are graded and awarded is changing.
- It is a three year transition process and we are in Year 2. English and Maths results were published last year in 9-1 with other qualifications being awarded in A*-G.
- This year most other subjects will be awarded in 9-1
- A few subjects – Technology and Psychology will be awarded in A*-G in 2019.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9 8 7	A*
6 5 4	A B C
3 2 1	D E F G

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above



The EBACC qualification is a more academic pathway and the Government and Universities recommend that as many students as possible follow this pathway. To be eligible for the EBACC qualification, you will need to study:

English, Maths and Science (Compulsory)

French or Spanish

and

Geography or History

Students in Grammar and Set 1 are directed to follow this academic pathway.

Languages

- The Government have brought in new rules about languages. It is highly recommended that you select 1 language – either French or Spanish in either the EBACC block or in the Open block option.
- This is because in the future, employers will expect you to have a GCSE in another language.
- **However, there are a few students who don't currently do French or Spanish.**

Types of qualifications

GCSE

- GCSEs are Level 2 qualifications.
- Some subjects have coursework that counts towards the final grade in addition to the terminal exam.
- The amount of coursework will vary depending on the subject and you will need to talk to the subject teacher about whether the course will suit your style of learning.
- In some GCSEs there are two tiers of examination - a higher tier for (Grades 9-5) and a foundation tier for (Grades 5-1).

Types of qualifications

BTEC Level Two Qualifications (and Level One)

- BTECs courses have the equivalency of GCSEs.
- They offer a more vocational style of learning where written coursework is a significant proportion of the marks. However, most BTECs now have an exam element also.
- A level 2 course is the equivalent of a GCSE at grades 9-5 but use the terminology of Pass, Merit and Distinction.
- Some BTECs also have a Level 1 component, which enables a student to achieve a qualification with the equivalency of a GCSE at grades 4-1.

Lower ability students

Entry Level Certificates

- Where it is not possible to do a GCSE because attainment is below grade 1, some subjects offer Entry Level certificates.
- These can lead on to GCSEs and you could be entered for both an Entry Level qualification and a GCSE in the same subject.
- We currently offer these in English and Science.

The compulsory subjects...

subjects which MUST be studied

Those subjects are:-

- English – Language and Literature
- Maths – we will also do Statistics
- Science – (double GCSE)
- An EBACC subject...
- Values – PSHE, Careers, RE
- PE



**The EBACC subjects... (stands for English Baccalaureate)
All students **MUST** study at least one of:-**

Geography

History

French

Spanish

Computing (Grammar and Set 1 only)

So, you need to choose ONE from this list...

However, there are a few students who don't currently do French or Spanish.

What can you do at home?

Read: short stories, novels from 19th and 20th Centuries

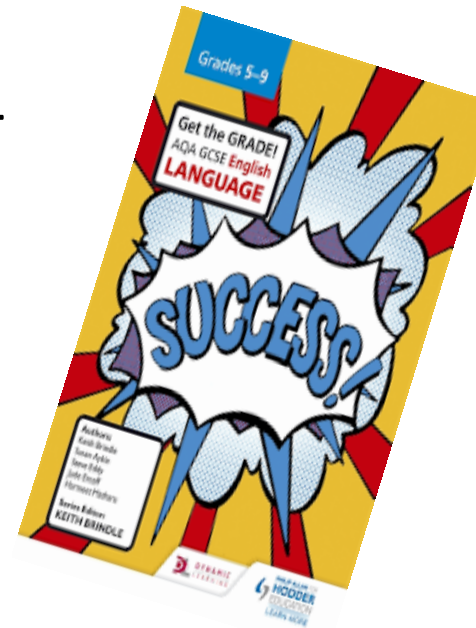
Consider – how they are structured

Understand the language

Summarise texts

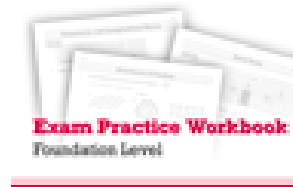
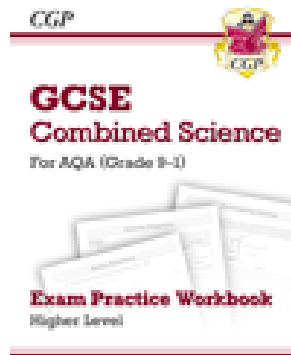
Compare texts - including non-fiction

Writing: study guides



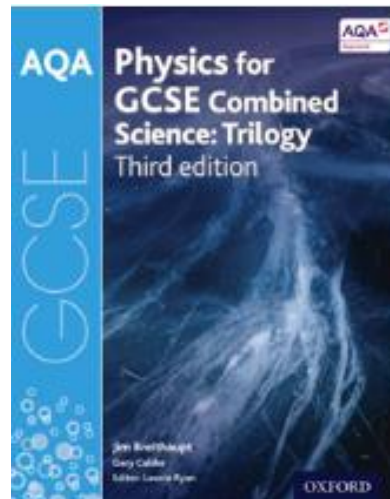
Revision materials

Revision guides and workbooks are available for purchase, to support students in science. **START REVISING AT THE START OF THE COURSE!**



Online text books

- All students have FREE access to the online text books via Kerboodle.



Students CHOOSE a subject from the blocks, highlighting your 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd choice where applicable.

Grammar / Set 1

EBACC Block Pick 1 st & 2 nd Choice		OPEN Block (get one) Pick 1 st & 2 nd Choice	
Computing		Animal Care	
Geography	1 st	Art	2 nd
History	2 nd	Design & Technology	
		Ethics	
		Food Technology	
		Geography	
LANGUAGE Block Pick 1 st & 2 nd Choice		Health & Social Care	
		History	
French	1 st	Information Technology	
Spanish	2 nd	Music	
		Performing Arts	
		Photography	
		Physical Education	
		Psychology	1 st

Set 2/3

EBACC Pick 1 st & 2 nd Choice		OPEN Block (get two) Pick 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Choice	
French	1 st	Animal Care	
Geography		Art	
History	2 nd	Design & Technology	
Spanish		Ethics	
		Food Technology	
		French	
		Geography	
		Health & Social Care	3 rd
		History	
		Information Technology	
		Music	
		Performing Arts	
		Photography	1 st
		Physical Education	2 nd
		Spanish	



The Options Booklet

You should have been given a booklet when you signed in this evening.

All of the information from tonight's meeting is in the booklet. I will also put the powerpoint on the website.

Please read through the information carefully and consider each Option subject very carefully.

In the front of the booklet are the Options Forms based on the student's current set.



What next?...

- You need to go and speak to the teachers of the subjects you may be interested and some of those you may not know much about...
- ASK QUESTIONS...
- You can talk to people about possible careers – see Mrs Lamberton
- READ the booklet
- Choose wisely and for the right reasons...

RETURN YOUR COMPLETED OPTIONS FORM BY 23rd Feb.

Earlier IS fine, BUT make sure you won't change your mind...

THINK about it first & only when you're sure hand it in!

Thank you very much for your attendance this evening.

Have a safe journey home.