

# KS4 Options Process

- What are options?
- What do you need to consider?
  - What will happen when?
- What is in my options booklet? How should I use it?



# Year 10 is the start of Key Stage 4

- In year 10 you will start studying for formal qualifications
- These qualifications are very important for your future – they will dictate your next steps
- There are two different types of qualification:
  - GCSEs
  - Vocational awards
- There are some subjects you **have** to take and then you are able to choose 4 further subjects.



# What do I have to take?

- The government states that you have to take the following:
  - English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE
  - Mathematics GCSE
  - Science GCSE (combined which is 2 GCSEs or triple 3 GCSEs)
- You will also have core PE lessons which will not be examined and RE/PSHE.



# What can I choose to take?

- You will choose 4 options that you will study alongside the subjects mentioned.
- These options can be all GCSE subjects or a combination of GCSE and vocational qualifications



# How will you be assessed?

- When choosing your options, you can pick GCSEs or Vocational Qualifications
- GCSEs are graded from 9-1
- Most GCSE subjects are assessed by 100% examination at the end of the course.
- Vocational qualifications (BTEC or WJEC Vocational awards) are graded from Distinction\* to Level 2 Pass, there are also some Level 1 grades.
- They are approximately 60% in lesson coursework and 40% examination
- They will have a work/industry focus



# The English Baccalaureate

- The EBacc is a set of GCSE subjects that are recognised as the best for enabling you to access university courses in the future.
- They are viewed as being the best academic pathway. You should consider this if you are considering taking A-Levels or going to university after school.
- In order to achieve the EBacc, you will need to study:
  - English Language and English Literature
  - Mathematics
  - Science (your best 2 grades including computer science if you choose it)
  - Geography or History
  - French or Spanish



# The key dates from the process

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 options assembly
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 Progress evening
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – KS4 Taster lessons for all year 9 subjects
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Option blocks confirmed in assembly and options form emailed
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Deadline for options form completion
- Week Beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June – Options choices start to be communicated





# What to do

- Read the options booklet in detail at home
- Speak to subject teachers and subject leaders for advice on subject – make sure you understand the assessment model
- Speak to your form tutor for advice
- Use links available in options booklet
- Complete options form – choose 3 top choices for each block
- Choose subjects that are interesting and that you enjoy.
- Think about future study and career paths.
- Stick to deadlines!
- Pick subjects you like, not what your friend picks
- Do not pick subjects based on your favourite teachers





# The Next steps...

Read your options booklet



# Your Options booklet

- It has important information in it:
  - Who to ask for help
  - The options process
  - Overview of the lessons you will have in years 10 & 11
  - The EBacc
  - How to choose your subjects
  - The options blocks
  - The subjects that discount against each other
  - Information on each subject



# Who to talk to

- We are giving you four weeks to have a real think about your options before we open up the options form.
- In this time you will need to talk to your teachers and parents or carers so that you make an informed decision.
- Use progress evening to explore options subjects
- Consider potential onwards study
- If you want to know about:
  - Careers – Mr Guy is currently coordinating year 9 careers appointments
  - Subjects – your subject teacher or the subject leader
  - The process – your form tutor or me.



# On 8<sup>th</sup> March

- The email will contain a link to a Microsoft form for you to fill in your option choices
- This is the **only** way you can fill in the form
- It can **only** be completed using your school account
- It can **only** be completed once (if you change your mind, you must talk to me)
- Options are not allocated on a first come first served basis so do this in your own time – you do not need complete it immediately
- If you complete your options form after 29th March, your options will be allocated last and you will miss out if a subject is full.



# The options

You will choose your top 3 subjects in each option block

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
<b>Geography</b>	Art	Art	Drama
<b>History</b>	Computer Science	Dance	<b>Geography</b>
<b>French</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>French</b>	Hospitality & Catering
<b>Spanish</b>	Music	GCSE PE	BTEC Sport
	Religious Studies	<b>History</b>	Travel & Tourism
	BTEC Sport	Hospitality & Catering	Triple Science
	<b>Spanish</b>		

We are still working on next year's timetable and therefore, these options blocks may change

You can only study one of:  
- GCSE PE or BTEC Sport

