

Year 9 Curriculum and Options Evening

Friday, 26 January 2024

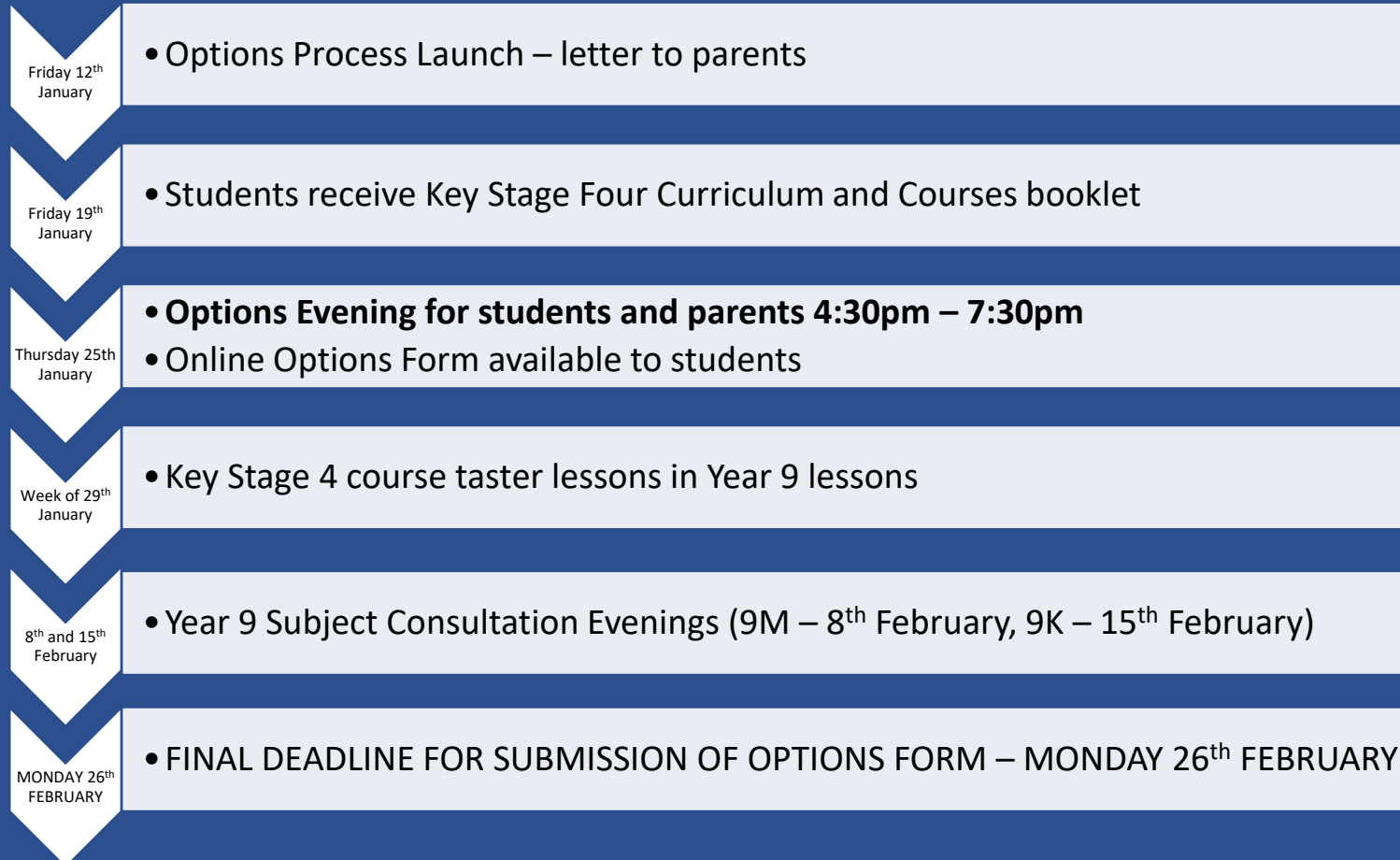
Key Stage 4

A very exciting time for Year 9

When students move into Year 10, they will:

- Study courses towards qualifications – eg GCSEs, BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, Vocational Awards
- Get to study some subjects they may not have studied before
- Get to have some say in which courses they study

Options – A Timeline



Key Stage 4 Courses

GCSEs	BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, WJEC Vocational Awards
Often more 'traditional' school subjects. Some qualifications are mandatory.	Vocational subjects: more practical and specialist knowledge for work in certain sectors.
Mainly assessed by examination at the end of Year 11 and graded between 9 (highest) and 1 (lowest). Some subjects include non-exam assessment (NEA) (Coursework)	Mainly assessed by assignments that are marked in school and moderated externally. Some examination. Graded Pass/Merit/Distinction
English, Maths, Spanish, Geography, Art, Computing, Sociology	Travel and Tourism, Sports Studies, Health and Social Care, Design Engineering, Enterprise and Marketing, ICT

Key Stage 4 Courses - Grading



GCSE 9-1 Grading

Grade

9

8

7

6

5 → **STRONG PASS**

4

3

2

1

U

Vocational Course Grading

Level / Qualification Grade	Grade Equivalent
Level 2 / Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 / Distinction	7
Level 2 / Merit	5.5
Level 2 / Pass	4
Level 1 / Distinction	3
Level 1 / Merit	2
Level 1 / Pass	1.25

Key Stage 4 Curriculum



Subject	Lesson Allocation per week
English (Language and Literature)	4.5
Mathematics	3.5
Combined Science	5
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language	2.5
EBacc 2 – History or Geography	2.5
Option 1 – Student Preference	2.5
Option 2 – Student Preference	2.5
Physical Education	1
Wellbeing	1
Tutorial	5 x 20-minute sessions

Core Subjects – Students will all study GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Combined Science (unless they opt for Triple Science).

EBacc Subjects – Students will be expected to continue to study a language, GCSE Spanish, and at least one from GCSE Geography or GCSE History.

Option Subjects – Students will be able to rank their top four preferences to complete their choice of courses. There is a wide range of GCSE and vocational courses available and students can select from any of these, with some restrictions around combinations.

Other Subjects – Students will continue to have Physical Education lessons, Wellbeing lessons and Tutorial sessions to support their wider development.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Core Subjects

All students must study the core subjects at GCSE level. They form the basis of the Key Stage Four curriculum.

The core subjects account for five GCSE qualifications:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science (equivalent to 2 GCSEs)

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Ebacc Subjects



Students will be expected to have the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as the foundation of their Key Stage Four curriculum. The Ebacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. It is a government expectation that the Ebacc forms the basis of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The EBacc is:

- GCSE English Language and Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- The sciences – at least 2 science GCSEs – this could be via Combined Science or Triple Science
- GCSE Geography or GCSE History
- A modern foreign language – GCSE Spanish

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Preferences



The Options Preferences form will require students to decide the following:

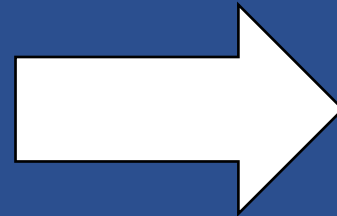
- a) EBacc Humanities subject – History or Geography?
- b) Mandarin – would you like to be considered to study Mandarin as an alternative to Spanish?
- c) Options preferences – Choose your top 4 subjects and rank them in order of priority 1-4.
- d) Would you like to be considered to study Further Mathematics as an additional qualification?

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects

Points to note: Triple Science

Triple Science takes up one of the Option slots, and also replaces Combined Science.

Subject
English (Language and Literature)
Mathematics
Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language
EBacc 2 – History or Geography
Option 1 – Student Preference
Option 2 – Student Preference



Subject
English (Language and Literature)
Mathematics
Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs)
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language
EBacc 2 – History or Geography
Option 1 – Student Preference

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



Points to note: Mandarin

Students wishing to study Mandarin – select this on the form

Suitability to study Mandarin GCSE will be discussed with the Languages Department.

GCSE Mandarin will require a commitment to an additional after-school twilight lesson every week.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects

Points to note: History and Geography

Students can study both History and Geography. Choose one in the EBacc Humanities slot, and make sure you put the other in your preferences.

Subject
English (Language and Literature)
Mathematics
Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language
EBacc 2 – History or Geography
Option 1 – Student Preference
Option 2 – Student Preference

Choose Geography here →

History can go here →

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects

To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, students are strongly advised not to select the following subject combinations as preferences 1 & 2:

- GCSE Physical Education and Cambridge National Sports Studies
- GCSE Design Technology and Cambridge National Engineering Design
- GCSE Business Studies and Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing

If students wish to select these combinations as preferences 1 & 2, or they wish to study both GCSE Computer Science and ICT Vocational Award, they must discuss this with Mr Brown before submitting their option preferences form.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



Points to note: Further Mathematics

Suitability to study Further Mathematics will be discussed with the Maths Department.

Further Mathematics is an additional qualification which does not take up an option slot. It will require a commitment to additional after-school twilight lessons every week.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



Every effort will be made to ensure students can study their top preferences.

We cannot guarantee that all students will do so – courses with low uptake may not run.

It is important students are prepared to study any of their 4 preferences.

What Next?



- Use this evening to gather as much information as possible – ask questions.
- Look at your progress report which will highlight the subjects you are doing well in. This will be sent home on Friday 2nd February.
- Talk to your parents/carers and teachers about the courses and your suitability for them.
- Consider all of the courses carefully and ensure that you have made the right decision for you. Use the taster lessons next week to help you.
- Consider how your choices may affect your opportunities after Year 11, in terms of further education and your career pathway.
- Talk to our careers advisor if you are unsure about career pathways.
- Use Subject Consultation Evening on 8th and 15th February to ask your teachers final questions.

Thank You



Friday 26th
January

- Link to the electronic options form sent to students and parents.

Week of 29th
January

- Key Stage 4 course taster lessons in Year 9 lessons.

Friday 2nd
February

- Year 9 Progress Checks to Parents.

8th and 15th
February

- Year 9 Subject Consultation Evenings.

MONDAY 26th
FEBRUARY

- **FINAL DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OPTIONS FORM – MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY.**