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# Year 9 Options



WE ARE HIGHFIELDS

# December

Options assembly:

- Explain the options available
- Explain what will happen when
- Encourage students to make informed choices



# January Year 9 PSHE lessons

Focus on options and careers

- What are your personal strengths?
- What do you want to do in the future?
- How are you going to get there?




# The importance of an informed choice

In considering your options, you should ask yourself four important questions:

- Which courses will I enjoy?
- Which combination will provide me with a broad range of experiences, covering humanities, languages, creative, technological or physical courses?
- Which courses might I achieve the highest grades in?
- Which courses will help to move me in the direction I want to go?





# Everybody takes a 'Core' of subjects

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Science (at least 2 GCSEs)
- PRS and PSHE (not examined subjects)
- Core PE (not an examined subject)



# The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

9-4 grades (equivalent to A\*-C grades) in:

- English
- Mathematics
- 2x science
- **History or geography**
- **A modern foreign language (French/German/Spanish)**
- **Two other choices**

If you have a CAT score of 104 or above you are expected to take the Ebacc. If you have a CAT score of below 104 you should give it serious consideration.

CAT scores are on assessment profiles



Students must take at least 1 of these:

- History
- Geography
- French
- German
- Spanish



# Year 9 option choices

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## Year 9 Option Choices

### Compulsory for all students:

English Literature

Maths

English Language

Science

Core PE

Religious Studies

### Science option:

All students will study Science. You will follow Combined Science (Two GCSE grades) unless you choose Triple Science (Three GCSE grades) as one of your options.

### Other options:

Our advice is that you should select a broad range of courses that interest you and cover different areas of learning. The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a combination of subjects comprised of English language, English literature, maths, two sciences, a humanities subject (history or geography) and a modern foreign language. This provides the basis of a broad, balanced programme of learning which will provide you with the knowledge and skills to understand the world around you and ensure all future opportunities are open. **We expect all students with 'Advanced' subject benchmarks to take the EBacc, and advise all other students to give it their serious consideration.** In addition to the EBacc course you have 2 further options, meaning a very wide range of programmes can be created, matching your interests and strengths.

Please choose one EBacc Option, **in red**, to start with and then five further Guided Options – listing them in order of preference 1 to 5 – you will be allocated three from this list.

To take the EBacc you need to choose a Language along with History or Geography.

You can take as many **red** subjects as you want.

Subjects that are similar appear in **orange** boxes together. You can pick **ONE** subject from within each of the **orange** boxes.

Art & Design: Fine Art	Drama	<b>History</b>
Art & Design: Photography	Engineering	iMedia (Cambridge Award)
Art & design: Textiles	Film Studies	Music
Business	Food Preparation & Nutrition	PE (GCSE)
Computer Science	<b>French</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Dance	<b>Geography</b>	Sport (BTEC)
Design & Technology	<b>German</b>	Travel & Tourism (BTEC)

Fine Art  
Art Textiles

PE (GCSE)  
Sport (BTEC)

*NB: Option subjects are correct as at time of print and are subject to change*

*This is a good school. Ofsted, May 2017*

*A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012*



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# Option choices

**Art & Design: Fine Art**  
**Art & Design: Photography**  
**Art & design: Textiles**  
**Business**  
**Computer Science**  
**Dance**  
**Design & Technology**

**Drama**  
**Engineering**  
**Film Studies**  
**Food Preparation & Nutrition**  
**French**  
**Geography**  
**German**

**History**  
**Music**  
**PE (GCSE)**  
**Religious Studies**  
**Spanish**  
**Sport (BTEC)**  
**Travel & Tourism(BTEC)**  
**Triple Science**

**Fine Art**  
**Art**  
**Textiles**

**PE**  
**(GCSE)**  
**Sport**  
**(BTEC)**





# Types of qualification

## GCSE

### General

Mainly assessed by exam  
(though some controlled  
assessment)

## BTEC

### Work-related

Mainly assessed by portfolio  
evidence (though all contain  
external assessment to a  
maximum of 25%)



# Option choices form

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Year 9 Option Choices

## My preferred choices:

At this stage your choices are **ONLY** provisional. Your choices will be discussed with you at your individual options interview.

- **Compulsory subjects:** All students will take these subjects

English Literature

Maths

Core PE

Religious Studies

English Language

Science

## Option Preference:

- Please choose one EBacc Option to start with and then five further Guided Options – listing them in order of preference 1 to 5 – you will be allocated three from this list. You can choose as many **red** subjects as you would like.

### EBacc First Choice Option

French/ Geography/  
German/History/ Spanish

1.
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### Further Options

Can include any other  
Options including French/  
Geography/ German/History/  
Spanish.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.



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# Y9 GCSE Options Data Collection

Our advice is that you should select a broad range of courses that interest you and cover different areas of learning. The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a combination of subjects comprised of English language, English literature, maths, two sciences, a humanities subject (history or geography) and a modern foreign language. This provides the basis of a broad, balanced programme of learning which will provide you with the knowledge and skills to understand the world around you and ensure all future opportunities are open.

We expect all students with 'advanced' subject benchmarks to take the EBacc and advise all other students to give it their serious consideration. In addition to the EBacc course you have two further options, meaning a very wide range of programmes can be created, matching your interests and strengths.

Please choose one EBacc option to start with and then five further guided options – listing them in order of preference 1 to 5 – you will be allocated three from this list.

At this stage your choices are ONLY provisional. Your choices will be discussed with you at your individual options interview.

Hi Charlotte, when you submit this form, the owner will be able to see your name and email address.

\* Required

1. First Name \*

2. Last Name \*

3. Form \*

4. EBacc First Choice - Please choose one EBacc option to start with \*

5. You will be allocated three subjects from the next five options. Make sure you put them in order of preference. You can choose as many EBacc subjects as you would like. You can only choose one from Fine Art or Textiles. You can only choose one from PE or Sport.

First Option Choice \*



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# Year 9 Autumn Profile – November 2023

CAT4 Test Mean Score	87		
Subject	Current Standard Working At	Approach to Learning	Concerns
Art	Developing	3 - Not yet strong enough	
Computing	Core	2 - Strong	
Design & Technology	Core	3 - Not yet strong enough	Inconsistency
Drama	Advanced	2 - Strong	
English	Advanced	2 - Strong	
French	Core	3 - Not yet strong enough	Engagement
Geography	Developing	2 - Strong	
German	Core	3 - Not yet strong enough	Engagement
Music	Core	2 - Strong	
PE	Developing	2 - Strong	
Philosophy & Religious Studies	Developing	2 - Strong	
PSHE	Core	2 - Strong	





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# January

Year 9 options and parent consultation evening

Presentation available online for you and your  
parents/carers



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# February 12<sup>TH</sup> 2024

Initial option choices to be agreed submitted via Microsoft forms by February 12<sup>th</sup> 2024.

The options you choose here will form the basis of your formal options interview.







# After Easter

Formal individual options interviews with the senior leadership team:

- Based on your provisional choices, future plans and your personal statement
- Ensuring that your choices are right for you
- Make a positive impression





# During the summer term

Letters sent home to confirm option choices for September.

Please check carefully – if any changes were required after your formal interview we will have discussed these with you in person.



# What Now?

You should:

- Read the course information on the courses we offer in year 10.
- Consider your talents and aspirations and discuss them with your parents/carers, tutors and teachers.
- Scrutinise your year 9 assessment profile
- Attend the options evening and gather as much information as possible in order to make an informed choice.



# Whatever you decide

The following things will be important:

- Qualifications
- Experiences
- Personal qualities
- References



**Continuous effort,  
not strength or intelligence,  
is the key to unlocking our **true  
potential****



Winston Churchill

