RUTLISH SCHOOL
YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROCESS

KEY INDIVIDUALS FOR SUPPORT DURING THE PROCESS

- **Tutor – your first point of contact; they can link you to appropriate staff**

- **Head of Year**

- **Deputy Head of Year**

- **SENDco and Deputy SENDco**

- **Key Worker**

- **Subject Teachers**

- **Heads of Department**

When choosing subjects, consider:

- subject you are **likely to succeed in and that you enjoy**

- subject that will enable you to progress with education/ training at 16

THE OPTIONS PROCESS

- **Early February:** Option Booklet and Selection Form will be distributed to students (a copy of each will also be emailed to parents, and will be available on the school website).

- **Thursday 23rd March**: Final date for completed Options forms to be returned to tutors. A signed copy of the slip is returned to tutors.

WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR OPTION CHOICE IF YOUR FORM IS RETURNED AFTER THIS DATE

- **Week beginning Monday 27th June:** Students' final Options are confirmed.

If there are any issues surrounding options, we will contact you prior to this date. *Please note that confirmation of final options is sometimes dependent on Government announcements. In the past, this had led to slight delays in the process which is beyond our control.*
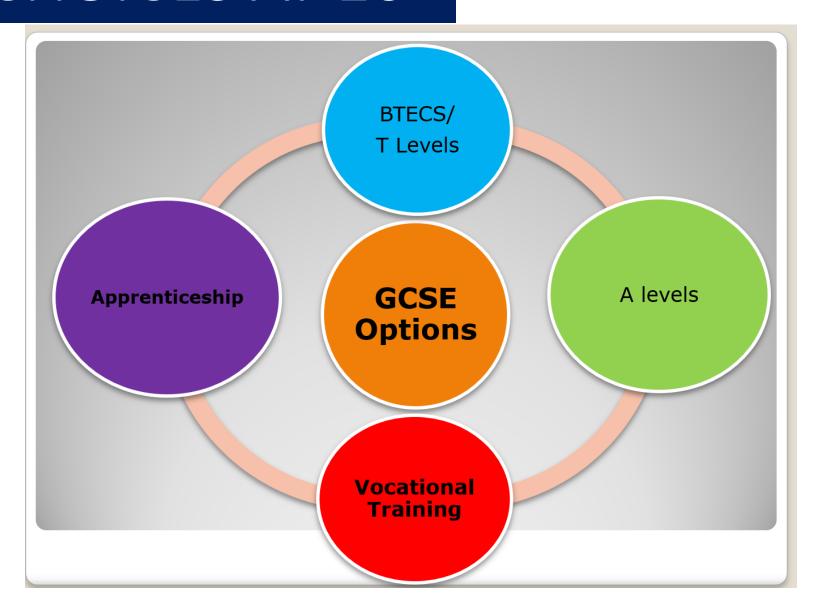
DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS

- **GCSE**
- **BTEC – Vocational (limited exams)**
- **OCR Nationals – in ICT only (limited exams)**

CHOICES AT 16

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF YOUR 5 YEAR PLAN!

What GCSE subjects should I study to enable me to do the required A levels?

What Level 3 Qualifications do I need to meet university entry requirements?

What degree?

Example 5 Year Plan – Degree Pathway

ENGLISH AND MATHS GCSE

If you do not achieve a grade 4 or higher in these subjects then you need to continue studying them at college or 6th Form

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- GCSE Sciences
- GCSE RE
- Physical Education (no examination)
- PSHE (no examination)

GCSE GRADING

Grade 7 = A Grade

Grade 4 = Low C Grade

Grade 1 = G grade

VOCATIONAL COURSES

BTEC & OCR National GRADES COURSES

BTEC and OCR National courses are awarded different grades to GCSE. There is no direct comparison for each grade, however, the table below provides an indicator of the standards achieved.

BTEC Grades	GCSE Equivalence
Level 2 Distinction *	
Level 2 Distinction	Equivalent to a Grade 7
Level 2 Merit	
Level 2 Pass	Equivalent to a Grade 4
Level 1 Distinction	
Level 1 Merit	
Level 1 Pass	
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NEW GOVERNMENT MEASURES

- **Progress 8**
Average progress across 8 subjects

- **Attainment 8**
Average grade across 8 subjects

PERFORMANCE OF BOYS NATIONALLY IS AN ISSUE

	All STUDENTS	GIRLS	BOYS
Progress 8	- 0.03	0.22	-0.27
Attainment 8	46.69	49.47	44.02

English Baccalaureate

- The EBACC is a school performance measure.

- You do not get an certificate to say that you have done EBACC. It is a pathway; *a group of 'academic' subject that are valued by several universities.*

You will need to pass all these subjects at a Grade 4 or above:

- **GCSE English Language or Literature**
- **GCSE Maths**
- **2 GCSE Sciences**
- **GCSE History or Geography**
- **GCSE French, German or Spanish**

Rutlish Recommendations

- If you are predicted to achieve a **Grade 3+** or higher at the end of Year 9 in English and MFL, you should consider an EBACC pathway.

Common Misconception

- **Please do no assume that non-EBACC subjects are easier.**

STUDENT'S FULL NAME: .... (please print)   TG: ....

STUDENT COPY

For students who wish to follow the **English Baccalaureate** two of your choices must contain
either **Geography** or **History** AND either **French, German** or **Spanish**

OPTION A	✓	OPTION B	✓	OPTION C	✓	OPTION D	✓
French GCSE (EBACC)		Art GCSE		Art GCSE		Drama GCSE	
Geography GCSE (EBACC)		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway	
German GCSE (EBACC)		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway	
History GCSE (EBACC)		Enterprise BTEC Vocational		Economics GCSE		Economics GCSE	
IT - Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		French GCSE (EBACC)		Enterprise BTEC Vocational		Enterprise BTEC Vocational	
Spanish GCSE (EBACC)		Geography GCSE (EBACC)		Geography GCSE (EBACC)		History GCSE (EBACC)	
		German GCSE (EBACC)		IT – Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		IT - Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)	
		History GCSE (EBACC)		IT - Imedia Cambridge National		IT - Imedia Cambridge National	
		Media Studies BTEC Vocational		Media Studies GCSE		Performing Arts BTEC Vocational	
		Media Studies GCSE		Music GCSE		Physical Education GCSE	
		Spanish GCSE (EBACC)		Physical Education GCSE			
		Sport BTEC Vocational					

Example of completed form:

Signed: .... (Student)   Date: ....

Signed: .... (Parent/Carer)

EXAMPLE OF COMPLETED FORM

Please read the guidance in the Options Booklet on how to complete this.

OPTION A	✓	OPTION B	✓	OPTION C	✓	OPTION D	✓
French GCSE (EBACC)		Art GCSE		Art GCSE		Drama GCSE	
Geography GCSE (EBACC)		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway	✓
German GCSE (EBACC)		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway	
History GCSE (EBACC)	✓	Enterprise BTEC Vocational		Economics GCSE		Economics GCSE	
IT - Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		French GCSE (EBACC)		Enterprise BTEC Vocational	✓	Enterprise BTEC Vocational	
Spanish GCSE (EBACC)		Geography GCSE (EBACC)		Geography GCSE (EBACC)		History GCSE (EBACC)	
		German GCSE (EBACC)	✓	IT – Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		IT - Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)	
		History GCSE (EBACC)		IT - Imedia Cambridge National		IT - Imedia Cambridge National	
		Media Studies BTEC Vocational		Media Studies GCSE		Performing Arts BTEC Vocational	
		Media Studies GCSE		Music GCSE		Physical Education GCSE	
		Spanish GCSE (EBACC)		Physical Education GCSE			
		Sport BTEC Vocational		Sport BTEC Vocational			

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

DT GCSE

- **Graphics Pathway**
- **Resistant Pathway**

These are the same courses/ qualification. The units for examinations are the same.

The only difference is the focus of the coursework.

RESTRICTIONS

- Can't do **OCR National I Media and Computer Science**
- Can't do **GCSE Drama and Performing Arts**
- Can't do **GCSE Economic and BTEC Enterprise**
- Can't do **GCSE PE and Sport (PE) BTEC**
- Can't do **GCSE Media and BTEC Media**
- Can't do **BTEC Media and OCR National I Media**

If you are thinking of doing **Computer Science**, you need to be working at **strong grade 3 in Maths to be successful in this subject** due to high demand of mathematical skills needed in the course.

Consider that the subject below are also assessed though Practical elements:

- GCSE Music *e.g. if you do not play in instrument, you will struggle*
- GCSE PE
- GCSE Drama

If a subject is full...

Criteria for Selection

- Aptitude and ability for the subject
- Potential for benefitting from the course
- Overall choice of options

For students to consider when choosing their subjects:

- **Do I enjoy the subject?**
- **Do the topics in this subject interest me?**
- **Can I be successful in this subject?**
- **What subjects do I need to carry on post 16? Post 19?**
- **Can I cope with exams?**
- **Can I cope with coursework?**
- **Am I leaving my options open?**

MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

- Talk to students currently doing the course
- Talk to the class teachers
- Research what subjects you need for different career pathways
- Visit the LRC to view post 16 opportunities: what are their entry requirements?
- Discuss with tutors
- Discuss with key staff e.g. SENDco, Key Worker

DEADLINE

- **Will I be at an advantage if I return the form early?**

- No. Option forms are only processed after the 23rd March.
YOU MUST MEET THIS DEADLINE!

Summary

- Choose subjects that will give you the opportunity of being successful
- Choose subjects that you enjoy
- Consider the balance of the Options. It is unwise to do lots of subjects that have a significant amount of coursework
- This stage in your education must be looked at as a 5 Year plan. What do you need to progress ?

REMEMBER, WE ARE ALL HERE TO SUPPORT

- **Tutor**

- **Head of Year**

- **Deputy Head of Year**

- **SENDco and Deputy SENDco**

- **Key Worker**

- **Subject Teachers. Heads of Department**