



# RUTLISH SCHOOL YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROCESS





# KEY INDIVIDUALS FOR SUPPORT DURING THE PROCESS

- **Tutor**
- **Head of Year**
- **Deputy Head of Year**
- **SENDco and Deputy SENDco**
- **Key Worker**
- **Subject Teachers and Heads of Department**



# KEY MESSAGE

**When choosing subjects, students should consider:**

- subject they are **likely to succeed in and that you enjoy**
- subject that will enable them 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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





**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 students do not achieve a grade 4 or higher in these subjects then they need to continue studying them at college or 6<sup>th</sup> Form, etc.



# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

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



# GCSE GRADING

Grade 7 = A Grade

Grade 4 = Low C Grade

Grade 1 = G grade

## New GCSE Grading Structure

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

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

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

# 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	
U	U



# GOVERNMENT MEASURES

- **Progress 8**

Average progress across 8 subjects

- **Attainment 8**

Average grade across 8 subjects



# PERFORMANCE OF BOYS NATIONALLY IS AN ISSUE

## EXAMPLE:

*(please note that these change slightly each year, but the gap tends to remain)*

	GIRLS	BOYS
Progress 8	0.22	-0.27
Attainment 8	51.4	46.3



# WHAT IS THE EBACC?

## English Baccalaureate

- The EBACC is a school performance measure.
- You do not get an EBACC certificate.
- *It is simply a group of 'academic' subject that are valued by several universities.*

# EBACC PATHWAY

**Students 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 Recommendation

- The school is strongly recommending that students predicted to achieve a **Grade 3+** or higher at the end of Year 9 in English and MFL should consider an EBACC pathway.



# Common Misconception

- **Please do not assume that non-EBACC subjects are easier.**



# EXAMPLE OF COMPLETED FORM

OPTION A	✓	OPTION B	✓	OPTION C	✓	OPTION D	✓
Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		Art GCSE		Art GCSE		Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)	
<b>French</b> GCSE (EBACC)	✓	DT GCSE <u>Graphics Pathway</u>		Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		Drama GCSE	
Geography GCSE (EBACC)		DT GCSE <u>Resistant Materials Pathway</u>		<b>DT GCSE</b> <u>Graphics Pathway</u>	✓	DT GCSE <u>Graphics Pathway</u>	
German GCSE (EBACC)		Enterprise BTEC Vocational		Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE		DT GCSE <u>Resistant Materials Pathway</u>	
History GCSE (EBACC)		Geography GCSE (EBACC)		Economics GCSE		Economics GCSE	
Spanish GCSE (EBACC)		<b>History</b> GCSE (EBACC)	✓	Geography GCSE (EBACC)		<b>Enterprise</b> BTEC Vocational	✓
		Media Studies BTEC Vocational		IT – <u>iMedia</u> Cambridge National		History GCSE (EBACC)	
		Media Studies GCSE		Media Studies GCSE		Performing Arts BTEC Vocational	
		Sport BTEC Vocational		Music GCSE		Physical Education GCSE	
				Physical Education GCSE			



# 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.**



If a subject is full...

## Criteria for Selection

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

# RESTRICTIONS

- Can't do **OCR Nationals iMedia and Computer Science**
- Can't do **GCSE Drama and BTEC Performing Arts**
- Can't do **GCSE Economics 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 Nationals iMedia**



## Rutlish Recommendations

We that students who choose to **strongly suggest** take GCSE Computer Science are working at a strong grade 3 in Maths due to high demand of mathematical skills needed in the course.



## Rutlish Recommendations: Practical Subjects

Consider that the subject below are also assessed through Practicals:

- GCSE Music
- GCSE PE
- GCSE Drama

# 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



## Year 9 Options

Students in Year 9 decide what options they wish to take in Year 10 and 11 in addition to the compulsory subjects.

Information is given to parents at Subjects Evening and can be found in the Options booklet, which is emailed to parents and carers in February.

[OPTIONS 2024 - FAQs](#)

[OPTIONS BOOKLET](#)

[OPTIONS FORM](#)

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## Important Dates

Key dates	
February	Year 9 Options Booklet emailed to parents
February	Year 9 Subject Evening
14 March 2024	Final date for the Options form to be submitted to tutors
June	Options confirmed with students



## DEADLINE

- Will my child be at an advantage if I return the form early?
- No. Option forms are only processed after the 19<sup>th</sup> March.



# Summary

- Choose subjects that will give your son the opportunity of being successful
- Choose subjects that he enjoys
- 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 sons education must be looked at as a 5 Year plan. What do they need to progress ?



# 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**