# Year 9 Options Evening

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024





## Outline of the presentation:

- Understand key dates / timeframes
- Understand the key stage 4 curriculum offer
- Understand the CORE curriculum offer
- Know which subjects are part of the options curriculum
- Understand the difference between a GCSE and a BTEC / Cambridge National qualification
- Understand how different subjects are graded at the end of Year 11
- Understand what an EBacc is and know which subjects are part of the EBacc
- Know what in-school support is available for students when choosing their options choices
- Opportunity for questions

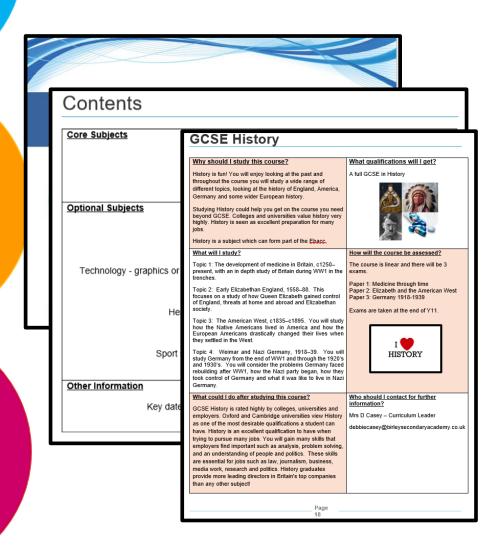


# Year 9 options process key dates:

Date	Event
Wednesday 10	Student assembly around the importance of studying an MFL
January	
Monday 15 – 24	Student option subject assemblies during form time
January	
Monday 15 January	Year 9 Options and Careers Parents' Information Evening (6 – 7pm)
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 Progress Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.30pm)
Monday 29 January	Optional parental / carer meeting with members of the school Leadership Team
	around making informed options choices (5.30 – 7pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Options online opens
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Option online deadline



## Information booklet:



#### **Key contacts:**

- Mr Casey Acting Headteacher
- diarmaidcasey@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk
- Mr Gillett Assistant Headteacher
- dangillett@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk
- Mrs Buxton Head of Year 9
- vivbuxton@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk
- Ms Smith Deputy Head of Year 9
- rebeccasmith@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk



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## Our key stage 4 curriculum:

- It is informed by the Ofsted framework that says...
  - Academies are expected to offer all pupils a broad curriculum that should be similar in breadth and ambition to the national curriculum, and must include **English, mathematics, science** and **religious education**.
  - Required to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
  - In KS4 the government's national ambition is that 90% of Year 10 study EBacc GCSE courses nationally by 2025 (taking their exams in 2027).



## CORE offer: At least 5 GCSEs

All students follow the core curriculum, which consists of the following subjects:

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Combined (trilogy) science: equivalent to 2 GCSEs
  - or separate sciences: equivalent to 3 GCSEs (see next slide)
- PSHE
  - Includes RSHE, SMSC and Citizenship
- Core PE



# Options subjects: 4 options choices from 16 subjects

- Art
- BTEC sports
- Creative media
- DT technology graphics or resistant materials
- Engineering
- Food technology
- French
- Geography
- Health and social care

- History
- Music
- Performing arts
- Religious studies
- Separate science
  - Biology GCSE
  - Chemistry GCSE
  - Physics GCSE
- Travel and tourism

End of Year 11 = 9 qualifications



## Types of qualifications:

#### **GCSEs**

- General Certificate of Secondary Education in one subject area.
- Typically studied over two years with an exam/s at the end of Y11.
- Graded from 1 to 9.

### **BTEC / Cambridge Nationals**

- Equivalent to one GCSE.
- Developed for subject areas that need to assess students in <u>more vocational</u> ways, e.g. coursework.
- Graded from Level 1 / 2
  - Level 2 pass
  - Level 2 merit
  - Level 2 distinction\*



## Qualifications on offer:

#### **GCSEs**

- Art
- DT technology graphics or resistant materials
- Food technology
- French
- Geography
- History
- Religious studies
- Separate sciences

### **BTEC / Cambridge Nationals**

- Creative media
- Engineering
- Health and social care
- Music
- Performing arts
- Sports studies
- Travel and tourism



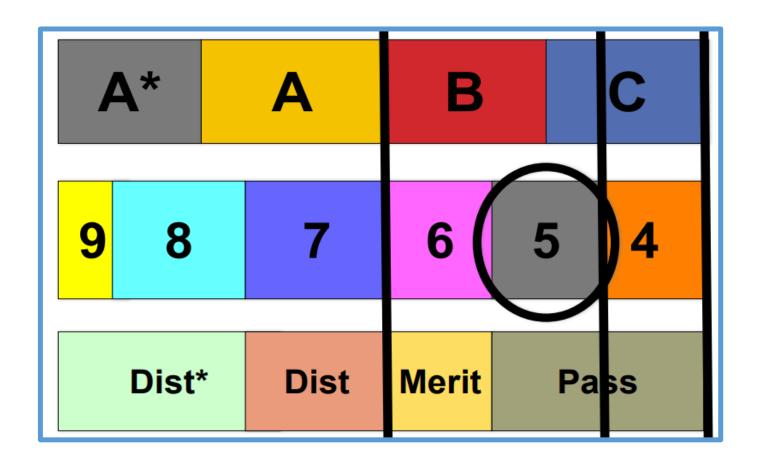
## GCSE grading:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A *
8	A*
7	А
6	В
5	
4	С
3	D
2	Е
-	F
1	G
U	U

- The bottom of a grade 7 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade A
- The bottom of a new grade 4 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade C.
- The bottom of the new grade 1 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade G.
- A grade 5 is considered a "strong pass".
- A grade 4 is considered a "standard pass".



## BTEC / Cambridge Nationals grading:





## **English Baccalaureate:**

- Known as EBacc, it is a suite of subjects that the government want 90% students to study by 2025.
- It is a collection of subjects a student can study. It is achieved when a student attains a **grade 5** or better in all of:
  - English
  - Maths
  - Sciences (Trilogy or separate sciences)
  - French (a language)
  - Either, History or Geography
- As a school do know that this diet of subjects is not right for everyone.



## Choosing your options:

Don't choose based on the teacher you currently have or copy friends.

#### Consider:

- Career choice (if you have a clear idea)
- What you enjoy
- What you are interested in
- What you are good at
- Maintaining a range of courses



# Support available: Who can child ask for help?

- Form tutor
- Subject teachers
- Head of Year (Mrs Buxton)
- Careers Lead (Mrs Gillham)
- Parents
- They should read the relevant pages of the Options booklet
- Assemblies



## Option choice 1:

Geography

History



## Option choice 2:

- Art
- DT technology graphics or resistant materials
- Food technology
- French (doing has the potential to secure an EBacc)
- Geography
- History
- Religious studies
- Separate sciences



## Option choices 3 and 4:

- Art
- BTEC sports
- Creative media
- DT technology graphics or resistant materials
- Engineering
- Food technology
- French

- Geography
- Health and social care
- History
- Music
- Performing arts
- Religious studies
- Separate science
- Travel and tourism



## Securing your options choices:

• We will make every effort to ensure your son/daughter gets his/her preferred options choices.

We will ask students to choose a reserve subject.

 Where a problem exists a senior member of staff will discuss this with your son/daughter in the first instance.

Last year, all students got their options choices.



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