



Year 9 Options Evening

Monday 15th 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 January	Student assembly around the importance of studying an MFL
Monday 15 – 24 January	Student option subject assemblies during form time
Monday 15 January	Year 9 Options and Careers Parents' Information Evening (6 – 7pm)
Thursday 25 th January	Year 9 Progress Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6.30pm)
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Friday 9 th Feb	Option online deadline

Information booklet:

Contents	
Core Subjects	GCSE History
Optional Subjects	<p>Why should I study this course?</p> <p>History is fun! You will enjoy looking at the past and throughout the course you will study a wide range of different topics, looking at the history of England, America, Germany and some wider European history.</p> <p>Studying History could help you get on the course you need beyond GCSE. Colleges and universities value history very highly. History is seen as excellent preparation for many jobs.</p> <p>History is a subject which can form part of the Ebacc.</p> <p>What will I study?</p> <p>Topic 1: The development of medicine in Britain, c1250–present, with an in depth study of Britain during WW1 in the trenches.</p> <p>Topic 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88. This focuses on a study of how Queen Elizabeth gained control of England, threats at home and abroad and Elizabethan society.</p> <p>Topic 3: The American West, c1835–c1895. You will study how the Native Americans lived in America and how the European Americans drastically changed their lives when they settled in the West.</p> <p>Topic 4: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39. You will study Germany from the end of WW1 and through the 1920's and 1930's. You will consider the problems Germany faced rebuilding after WW1, how the Nazi party began, how they took control of Germany and what it was like to live in Nazi Germany.</p> <p>What could I do after studying this course?</p> <p>GCSE History is rated highly by colleges, universities and employers. Oxford and Cambridge universities view History as one of the most desirable qualifications a student can have. History is an excellent qualification to have when trying to pursue many jobs. You will gain many skills that employers find important such as analysis, problem solving, and an understanding of people and politics. These skills are essential for jobs such as law, journalism, business, media work, research and politics. History graduates provide more leading directors in Britain's top companies than any other subject!</p>
Technology - graphics or	<p>What qualifications will I get?</p> <p>A full GCSE in History</p> 
He	<p>How will the course be assessed?</p> <p>The course is linear and there will be 3 exams.</p> <p>Paper 1: Medicine through time Paper 2: Elizabeth and the American West Paper 3: Germany 1918-1939</p> <p>Exams are taken at the end of Y11.</p> 
Sport	<p>Who should I contact for further information?</p> <p>Mrs D Casey – Curriculum Leader debbiec Casey@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk</p>
Key date	<p>Page 18</p>

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 more vocational 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	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	D
3	E
2	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:

A*	A	B	C		
9	8	7	6	5	4
Dist*	Dist	Merit	Pass		

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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