

September 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

In March of next year, your child will begin the options process where they will select the subjects that they will take for GCSE.

We have made changes over recent years to the options process in order to support young people at our academy to strive to achieve more than they feel possible and have access to as wide a range of subjects as possible.

We have added this year 2 new vocational qualifications, Engineering and Health and Social Care and are currently looking at the possibility of adding more subjects for next year.

Currently, students are placed on one of two pathways for options. One of these pathways, Pathway C, encourages students to select courses that would lead to the EBACC (A nationally recognized suite of subjects which students gain when completing GCSEs in History/Geography, Science, English, Maths and a Language).

Following on from the success of this, we are now in a position to move further forward and will be altering our pathways to include a full EBACC pathway for some students.

This pathway will be open to all but will be compulsory for some.

If your child is selected for the EBACC pathway, they will take English, Maths and Science (as will all students) but they will have to take either History or Geography and the language (French or German) that they have been studying at KS3. This will still enable them to make 2 further option choices from all subjects available.

We feel strongly that the EBACC provides students with a broad and balanced suite of subjects for GCSE and, in particular, the language element will open many doors to exciting future educational and career opportunities. Qualifications in languages have always been highly regarded by higher education establishments and employers and holding these could give students an advantage in a competitive market.

A qualification in languages not only gives your child the ability to be able to speak another language, which is in itself impressive, but also helps to develop cultural awareness and understanding and the skills learnt will also support and consolidate the grammatical knowledge in their native language helping to improve their English GCSE.

You will receive more information about this process, but we wanted to make you aware of these changes as early as possible.

Kind Regards



**Mrs S Baird**  
**Assistant Headteacher**