

April 2025

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 a wide range of academic and vocational courses.

We work hard each year to ensure that the range of subjects is broad and caters for the needs of each cohort. We currently have options such as Health and Social Care, Enterprise and Photography that have been added to our curriculum offer in recent years.

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

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 in either set 1 or set 2. This will still enable them to make 2 further option choices from all other available subjects.

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 during the options process in Year 9, but we wanted to make you aware of these arrangements as early as possible.



Kind Regards

Ms N Mason
Headteacher



Mrs C Cain
Assistant Headteacher