

Year 9 GCSE Options FAQ: January 2023

Are core subjects examined?
English (Language and Literature), science and maths are examined. Sport, Statutory RP and PSE are not examined.
Is combined science taught in ability sets?
Yes, it is.
If you do combined science can you do a science at A level?
Yes, you can. Students who take combined science are still able to take science A-Levels. An agreed grade will have to be achieved in the same way as for triple science. For all three sciences at A level, we ask that a minimum grade 6-6 is achieved in the combined (Trilogy) award. Physics also require maths at minimum grade 6.
Where does computer science sit on the EBacc pathway?
Computer science is on the EBacc pathway as a science.
Is computer science a core subject or an optional part of EBacc pathway?
Computer science is an option for GCSE as part of the EBACC pathway and is not a core subject.
Is triple science an option this year?
No it's not. Decisions about students taking triple science will be made by their teachers. Students who take triple science will complete the three separate sciences in double science time.
If you do triple science does this equate to 9 or 10 GCSEs?
Those selected to study triple science will study 10 GCSEs. All others study 9.
Why are students in set 1 and 2 in maths being asked to follow the EBacc pathway?
The EBacc is a traditional academic pathway for students. The DFE have asked that schools base the curriculum on EBacc. It is regarded as the set of subjects that keep the widest possible open for young people in the future, particularly those aiming to go on to university. Whilst we feel students in these sets are more likely to do well in the EBacc subjects, we encourage all students to choose it.
My son would prefer not to take MFL but he's in set 1 in maths. Does he have to?
We expect all students in sets 1 and 2 of maths to take the EBacc pathway so that they attain the most academic and rounded education possible and keep all doors open for their future. This includes a modern foreign language.
Do all schools follow the EBACC scheme?
Yes – it is nationally recognised.
Why are some options on 2 or more blocks on the options form? Does this determine which class they get placed in?
Some subjects appear in different blocks to try to ensure students can select all the courses they would like to take forward. It does not indicate setting or specific class allocation. It is possible that two students could choose the same subject in one column, yet be allocated to the same subject in a different column. This is done to fit as many options in as possible.

Do you offer General Studies?

No – this is not a subject we offer

What are the new equivalents of A-C grades?

Exams are now graded 1-9 with 9 being the highest achievement. 4 is the equivalent of a 'low' C, a 5 is a 'high' C.

Is English Literature and English Language one GCSE or two? Same question for science (not triple)?

English Literature and English Language will count as two separate GCSEs. That is the same as combined science.

Will there be revision support for students (timetabling, note-taking etc)?

Absolutely. There will be several workshops for them over the next two years.

What happens if a subject my child really wants to do is oversubscribed?

Students will need to write down their reserve subject(s) at the bottom of the options form. We will do everything we can to accommodate your child's choices. If the subject is oversubscribed and we cannot run more than one class due to constraints on facilities, then we will discuss this with your child and the teachers.