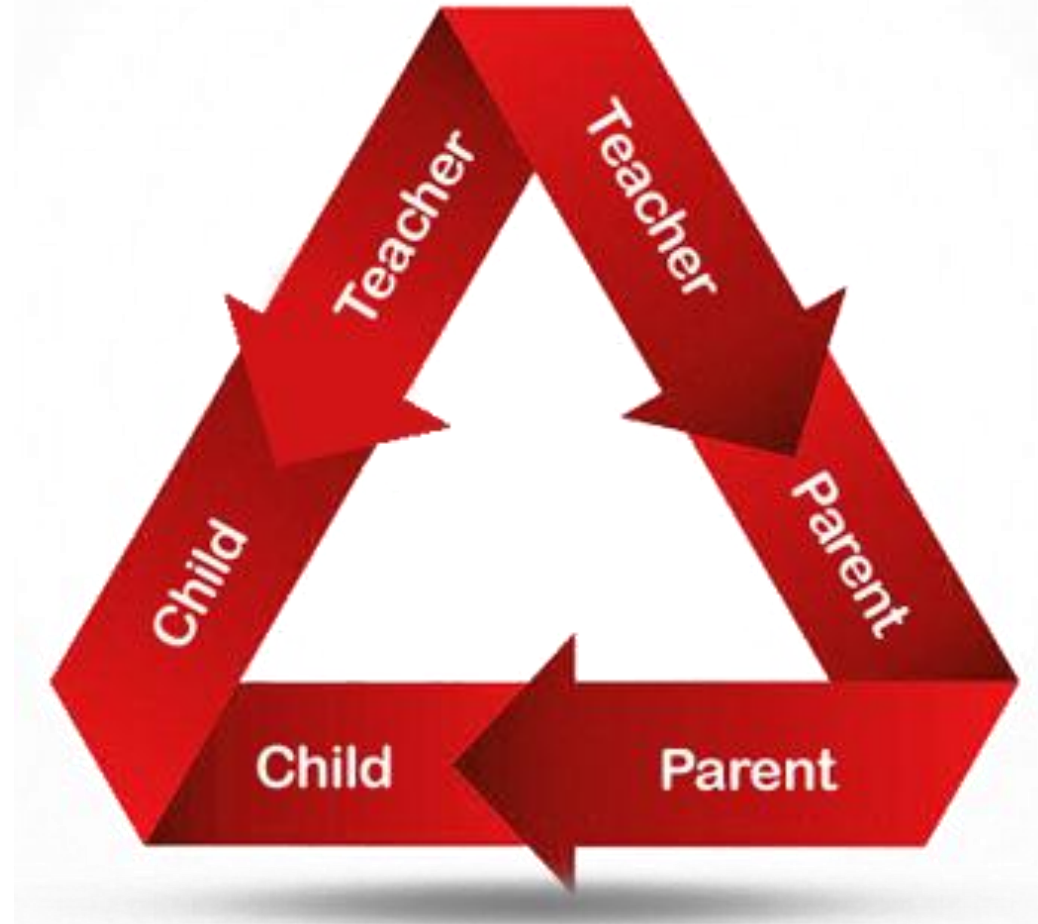


## Year 9 Options 2026

- Introduction
- Context
- Curriculum offer
- Timeline
- Visit subjects



Work hard- **be kind-** be proud

# Our aim



Work hard- **be kind**- be proud







# An ambitious curriculum



Work hard- **be kind-** be proud

# Breadth vs depth

- Broad and balanced
- Ensure students get enough time to study their subjects in sufficient depth



# The English Baccalaureate

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- A suite of qualifications:
  - English language and literature
  - Maths
  - Science
  - History or Geography
  - A Language
- **The EBACC is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers**

# Rationale



How are the EBacc and Attainment 8 reforms changing results?

Dr Rebecca Allen and Dave Thompson, Education Datalab

- We find that pupils at these schools largely benefitted from these changes. They were more likely to achieve good GCSEs in English and maths, refuting claims that the more academic curriculum would distract focus from these core subjects.
- Those pupils who attended the *curriculum change* schools were 1.7 percentage points more likely to be taking an A level or other level 3 qualification after the age of 16 and 1.8 percentage points less likely to have dropped out of education entirely.

## EBacc improves pupils' chances of studying A-levels

Alix Robertson

Studying subjects in the English Baccalaureate increases the likelihood that a student will stay on at school and sit A-levels, regardless of their ability, according to new research.

Students who pursue the full range of EBacc subjects – maths, English, science, history or geography, and a language – between the ages of 14 and 16 have “a greater probability of progression to all post-16 educational outcomes”, while taking applied GCSEs has “the opposite effect,” according to researchers Vanessa Moulton, Morag Henderson, Jake Anders and Alice Sullivan.

## What Skills Can You Gain by Studying Humanities?

*Published On: October 13, 2017*

The humanities teach students creative thinking skills, reasoning, and the best ways to ask questions. These are fundamental skills that allow us to perform well in all fields, from art and music to business and politics.

Humanities studies also teach us about various cultures and how they have evolved over time. While libraries and schools have always employed those with expertise in the humanities, their value is becoming evident in other industries, too. The critical thinking skills gained from studying this subject may give you a competitive advantage in business.

## Cognitive benefits of language learning: the research

He highlights a few studies based in the UK.

■ The first, *Does bilingualism influence cognitive aging?*, was conducted by cognitive neuroscientist Thomas Bak and others at the University of Edinburgh in 2014. Around 853 monolingual people had their cognitive abilities tested in 1947, aged 11 years old, and then retested in 2008 and 2010, aged 70 and over.

The researchers found those who had learned languages at school performed significantly better than predicted, with the strongest effects on general intelligence and reading.

Another study, *The influence of learning a second language in primary school on developing first language literacy skills*, published by Victoria Murphy, a professor of applied linguistics at the University of Oxford, and others in 2015, looked at the impact of foreign language instruction had on metalinguistic awareness.

At the end of the 15 weeks, the researchers found the pupils who had been taught Italian and French outperformed their peers in English reading accuracy and different aspects of phonological processing.

They also found those who had learned Italian, outperformed the French and control groups on some measures, which the researchers suggested means features of Italian (its transparent mapping of sounds onto phonemes, for example) might have a particularly facilitative influence on developing literacy skills.

The report also highlights there are “many positive influences of foreign language learning on other aspects of educational attainment”.



# Beyond EBACC: Breadth is important



- It's important to get breadth and consider a range of non-EBACC courses.
- Eg WHO research on role of creative subjects in improving wellbeing
- Or music: 'Choice of music at KS4 was associated with greater academic performance on English Baccalaureate subjects'- Levstek et al, 2023



ORIGINAL ARTICLE | Open Access |

**Music always helps: Associations of music subject choices with academic achievement in secondary education**

[Maruša Levstek](#) [Daniel Elliott](#), [Robin Banerjee](#)

First published: 27 November 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/berj.3928>

# Number of GCSEs

- Students need sufficient time to study subjects in depth
- Colleges do not expect more than 8 GCSEs
- Universities only look at top 8 GCSEs
- 2025 National average number of GCSEs: 7.8 GCSEs
- Average number of GCSEs- downward trend nationally
- In line with most other local schools
- Statistics and further maths also offered in Y11 as additional GCSEs

	Kibworth Mead	Manor High	Gartree	Beauchamp	Welland Park	Robert Smyth
Number of Qualifications	8/9 (if they take Triple Science)	9	9	9/10	8/9	9

# Curriculum 2026

- All students will study the following GCSE subjects

## Core GCSE subjects

- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science**



# Curriculum 2026

- All students will study the following statutory non-examined subjects

## Non-examined statutory subjects

- **PSHE**
- **PE**
- **Religious Education**

# Curriculum 2026

## Options

- **History or Geography or French or Spanish**
- **2 other options**

# Options

- **History or Geography or French or Spanish**
- **2 other options**



## 2026 Options subjects

- **Fine Art**
- **Business**
- **Computer Science**
- **Design Technology**
- **Drama**
- **Economics**
- **French**
- **Food preparation and nutrition**

- **Geography**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **History**
- **Music**
- **PE GCSE**
- **Religious Studies**
- **Sociology**
- **Spanish**
- **Sports Studies**



**Avoid the two pairings  
that narrow the  
curriculum too much**

## 2026 Options subjects

- Fine Art
- **Business**
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- **Economics**
- French
- Food preparation and nutrition

- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Music
- **PE GCSE**
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- **Sports Studies**

# Double or Separate Science

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- Separate science (triple science)- 3 GCSEs
- Double science (trilogy; combined science)- 2 GCSEs
- These have the same curriculum time
- **Not** part of options process

# Choices for EBACC option

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- Students will be asked to state their first and second choice
- French
- Spanish
- Geography
- History



# Choices for options 2 and 3

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- Students will be asked to state their first and second choice for each option
- This will be done by ranking 4 options
- We will build a curriculum to give as many students as possible their first choice
- **We cannot guarantee students' first choice**
- **We cannot guarantee all courses will run**

# Timescale

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- **Year 9 Options evening 29 January 2026**
- **Assembly to students 30 January 2026**
- **Year 9 Parents' evening 5 February 2026**
- **Tutor time discussions**
- **Time to discuss with teachers**
- **Deadline for completion of forms 9 am Friday 27 February 2026**
- **Options processed March**
- **Options finalised- after Easter**

# Make informed choices

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- Think about what you are good at
- Think about what you enjoy
- Choose the subject not the teacher
- Don't pick based on what your friends are choosing



# Tonight

- **Look through booklet**
- **Talk to subject leaders- find out about the subjects**
- **Talk to your child- discuss their interests, goals and future plans**

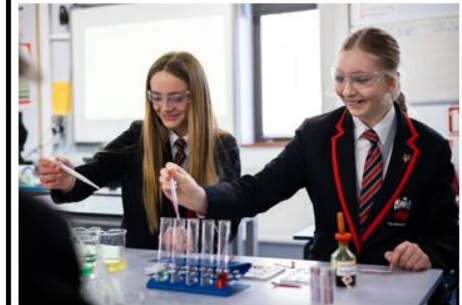
**GCSE Options Booklet 2026  
for Year 9 students**



# Recap

- **Make informed choices**
- **3 option choices**
- **1 choice of  
History/Geography/Spanish/French**
- **2 free choices (rank 4 choices total).**
- **Deadline: 9 am Friday 27 February**

**GCSE Options Booklet 2026  
for Year 9 students**



# Subject fair

- **In Sports Hall**
- **Find out about the subjects**
- **Talk to teachers**
- **Have an open mind**

**GCSE Options Booklet 2025  
for Year 9 students**

