

# **Year 8 OPTIONS for KEY STAGE 4 2020 - 2023**

## **Outcomes:**

- To understand the reasons for and benefits of a three year Key Stage 4.
- To understand the options process for Year 8.

# Key Stage 4: 2020 - 2023

- **Options launch assembly and PD sessions**  
(booklets given out, students will have a chance to fill in a 'mock' options form - on website)
- **Tuesday 7th January:** New Option Subjects Assembly (presentation on school website)

# Key Stage 4: 2020 - 2023

## Key dates

- **Thursday 23rd January:** Year 8 Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday 27th February:** **After school drop in session** to answer questions in the LRC 3:15 – 4:30pm with Ms Sorrell, Ms Egan, Mr Cook Mr Aschettino and Mr Backshall
- **Wednesday 4th March:** **Options forms in** to form tutors – no promises for early submission!
- **April/May:** Decisions will be made about classes and timetabling. You will be contacted if there are any problems.
- **June:** You will get a letter telling you about the subjects you will be taking in Year 9.

# Why a three year Key Stage 4?

## Principles

*Three years allows us more time to:*

- offer students four options at GCSE and to ensure breadth
- prepare students more effectively and earlier for their GCSE exams
- incorporate regular repetition of content that research has shown aids memory
- spread exam-based preparation over a longer period of time
- ensure that one GCSE (Religious Studies) is completed by the end of Year 10
- build enrichment into lessons

# Key Stage 4: 2020 - 2023

## Types of Courses:

- Full GCSE – terminal exams, coursework in some practical subjects
- Vocational – mainly portfolio work but all now have an element of exam units (not as much as GCSE). As rigorous as GCSEs - and have same value - but targeted at students who learn differently and struggle with knowledge retention. More accessible in many ways.
- College placements combined with vocational qualification (offered to a small number of students during Year 9 for the start of Year 10)

# Key Stage 4 in 2020 - 2023

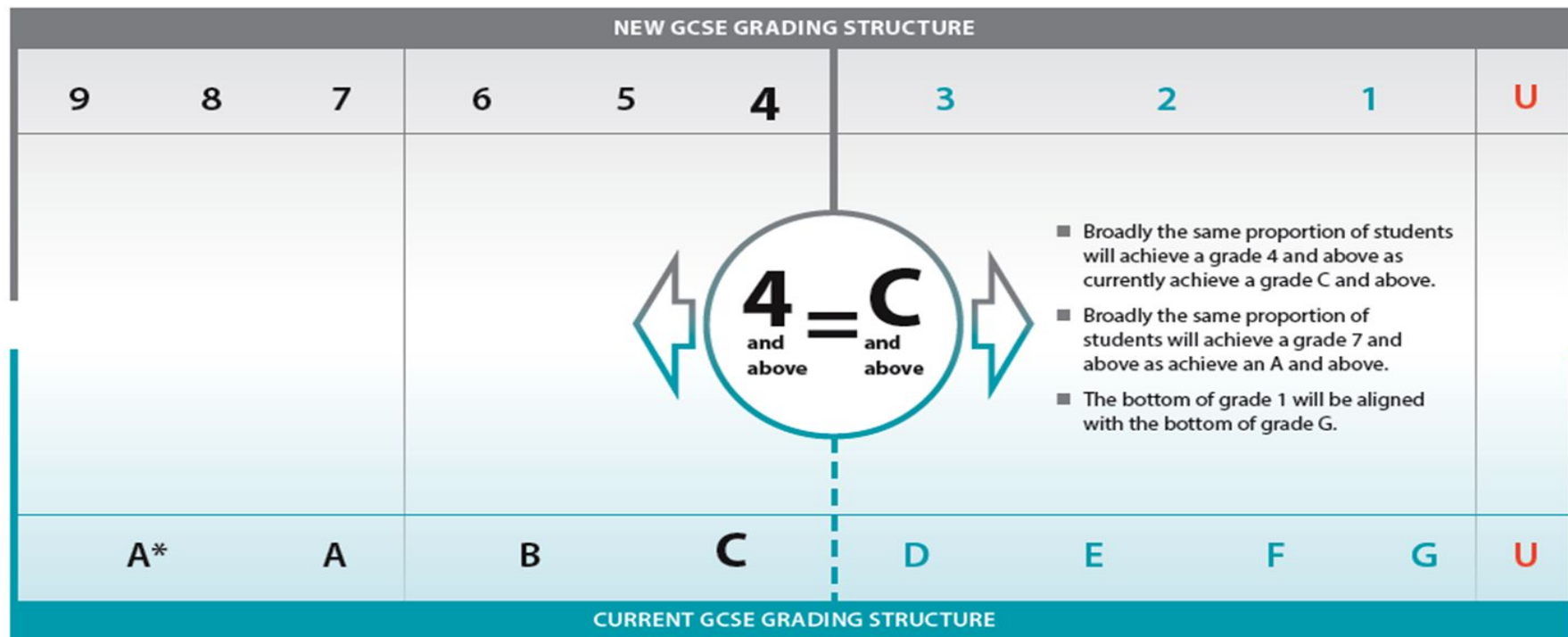
## Core Curriculum in Year 9:

- English language AND English literature
- Mathematics
- Science\*
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education
- Personal Development
- Citizenship
- Work-Related Activities
- Careers

Studied by all  
students  
nationally.  
Statutory  
requirement.

\*Students may indicate a preference to follow the triple science pathway (tbc by staff in Year 10) (Biology, Chemistry, Physics); all others do double (Combined Science)

# Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



**Some key decisions...**



# How do I choose?

- Think about where your options will take you:
  - Sixth-form subjects → College/University → Career
  - Further Education College → Employment
  - Employment
- Make sure you opt into something you enjoy!
- Talk to your parents, careers, teachers, tutors, **tutor group**
- Keep a *broad and balanced* curriculum
- Don't overload yourself with coursework subjects

# What can I choose?

You must choose one from:

- History
- Geography
- MFL (German, Spanish, French)
- Computer Science

In addition, you must make three more choices from these options:

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Computer Science
- Art OR Ceramics
- Design Technology
- Business Studies
- Drama
- Food & Nutrition
- Health & Social Care
- I.T - imedia
- Media Studies
- Music OR Music Technology
- P.E.

# The E-Bacc route

**This is optional.** It is:

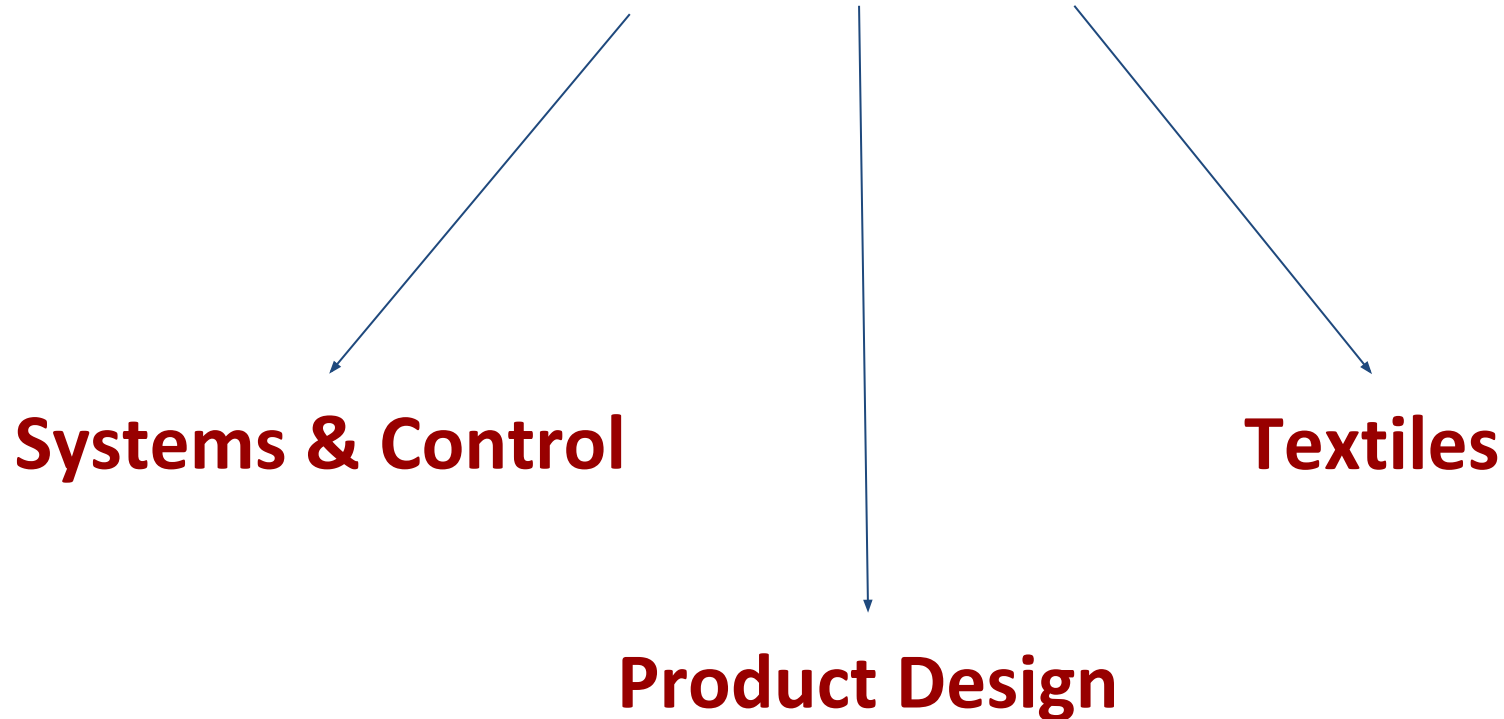
- The Government's agenda for a broad and balanced curriculum
- English, Maths, Science, French OR German OR Spanish & Geography OR History
- Recommended for students wishing to follow an academic route into universities (Russell Group)

It is NOT:

- A formal qualification with a certificate
- Compulsory

You **MUST** indicate if you want to do E-Bacc on your form

# GCSE Design Technology



All three of these are examined as the same GCSE so you can only choose one, but Food & Nutrition is NOT a Design Technology subject so can be taken in addition to a Design Technology.

# Combinations of Subjects

These are combinations which don't work:

- Art and Ceramics
- Music and Music Technology

This is a combination which is inadvisable:

- Computer Science and IT

# Completing the Form

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> subject choice:<br>(circle ONE) | French / German / <b>Spanish</b> / History /<br>Geography / Computer Science |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Ceramics</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Art</i>   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Drama</i>   |
|   |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Computer Science</i>  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Ceramics</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Geography</i>   |

These two subjects are too similar

This is NOT allowed. WHY?

# Completing the Form



|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> subject choice:<br>(circle ONE) | French / German / <b>Spanish</b> / History /<br>Geography / Computer Science |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Ceramics</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Product Design</i>  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Textiles</i>  |
|   |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Computer Science</i>  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>French</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Geography</i>   |

These are both the same subject - technology. You can only get one technology qualification, so you mustn't pick two (choose from Systems, Product or Textiles. Food is NOT a technology subject at GCSE)

This is NOT allowed. WHY?

# Completing the Form



|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> subject choice:<br>(circle ONE) | French / German / <b>Spanish</b> / History /<br>Geography / Computer Science |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Ceramics</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Product Design</i>  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Food &amp; Nutrition</i>                                      |
|   |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Computer Science</i>  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>French</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Geography</i>   |

Food is NOT a technology subject at GCSE, so you can study it with any of the other technology subjects

This IS allowed. WHY?



# Completing the Form



|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> subject choice:<br>(circle ONE) | French / German / Spanish / History /<br>Geography / <u>Computer Science</u> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>History</i>   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Geography</i>   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Food</i>  |
|   |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Drama</i>   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Ceramics</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Music tech</i>  |

No - because  
there is no  
modern  
foreign  
language  
chosen

Does this mean that the student will follow the E-Bacc route?

# Completing the Form



|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> subject choice:<br>(circle ONE) | French / German / Spanish / History /<br>Geography / Computer Science |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>History</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Spanish</i>  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> subject choice:                 | Free choice <i>Computer Science</i>                                   |
|   |   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Drama</i>  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Ceramics</i>   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> reserve choice:                 | Free choice <i>Music tech</i>   |

It is entirely possible to pick all your subjects from the list in the first box

It is VERY important that subjects are chosen in priority order



# Completing the Form

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| I would like to be considered for Triple Science | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|

Tell us if you want to be considered for Triple Science – tick the box.  
If you DON'T want to do it, leave it blank.

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| I wish to do EBacc subjects (please tick box) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|

Tell us if you want to do Ebacc – tick the box.  
If you DON'T want to do it, leave it blank.

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| I have chosen at least ONE of Hi, Gg, Fr, De, Sp or Co | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|

If you do not think you are suited to doing one of these subjects,  
you must speak to Ms Sorrell prior to handing the form in.

# And lastly ...

## CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| • I have given my 4 subjects in priority order  |  |
| • I have chosen at least one of History, Geography, French, German, Spanish or Computer Science |  |
| • I have given 3 reserve subjects   |  |
| • I have indicated whether I want to do <u>EBacc</u> subjects                                   |  |
| • I have indicated whether I want to be considered for Triple Science                           |  |
| • I have signed the form  |  |
| • My parent/guardian has signed the form  |  |
| • My form tutor has signed the form   |  |

**Complete the checklist...**

Parent's Signature .....

Student's Signature .....

Tutor's signature.....

**...and please don't forget to sign the form!**

# FAQs:

- If a subject is oversubscribed how do you decide who is chosen?
- What happens if they get to September and do not like the course?
- What do we hear and when?
- Can I do a subject at A Level if I haven't done it at GCSE?

All this information is on the school website

Under 'Curriculum' - 'Key Stage 4' - 'Options'

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmwn8xs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmwn8xs)

Year 8 Options Booklet 2020-2023



Year 8 Options Form 2019-20



Y8 Options New Subjects Assembly 2020



## Contact details

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Copies of the options form, the options booklet and this presentation will be available on the website under Teaching & Learning - Key Stage 3.