

# GCSE GUIDED CHOICES 2023

## MR PHILLIPS – HEAD OF SECONDARY

## MR TILLING – HEAD OF YEAR 9

- French
- Spanish
- History
- Geography
- Fine Art
- Business Studies
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education & Sports Studies
- Computer science
- Religious Studies (Full course)
- Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)



# GCSE Core Curriculum

**All students will follow this Core Curriculum.**

**It comprises:**

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science (unless Separate Sciences are selected)
- Also:
  - Core PE
  - Religious Studies
  - PSHE



# GCSE English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

**In addition, pupils will then choose an Ebacc subject from:**

- French
- Spanish
- History
- Geography



# The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

In order to achieve the **English Baccalaureate** qualification, pupils will need to select and complete GCSE qualifications in the following subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (*either* GCSE Combined Science *or* 3 single sciences)
- Geography *or* History
- A Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)



# The Advantages of the EBacc

- Studies show that options students select at GCSE play a key role in determining their opportunities beyond school
- The subjects combined in EBacc study offer a broad and balanced curriculum, building a wide range of skills and knowledge
- Research by the UCL Institute of Education has found that studying for the EBacc provides pupils with greater opportunities in further education, increasing the likelihood that they will stay on in full-time education
- Russell Group universities say that the EBacc is made up of the subjects that open more doors to more degrees
- Sutton Trust research has found that studying EBacc subjects can help improve a pupil's performance in English and maths



# GCSE English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.

Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

The government's ambition is to see 90% by 2025 studying EBACC subjects

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>



# GCSE Open choices

In addition to the core curriculum students will select a 2 or 3 additional subjects, making 9 GCSEs in total:

- French
- Spanish
- History
- Geography
- Fine Art
- Business Studies (GCSE)
- Technical award in Business
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Computing
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education (GCSE)
- Sports Studies & Outdoor activities
- Religious Studies (Full course)
- Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)





# EBacc is a good choice for you if you want to gain...

- The experience of a broad, balanced and varied curriculum which develops a full range of skills
- Increased skills and improved performance in English and maths
- Advantages in opportunities for further study and higher education at top universities
- A wide range of eventual career options open to you and an excellent CV





# The reserve choice...

- We cannot promise that all your courses will run or are possible to timetable without clashes, which is why we ask you to pick a reserve subject.
- You must be prepared for the fact that you may have to study your **reserve subject** instead of one of your free choices; so please pick wisely.



# Timeline

## **Guided Choices Evening - 17th January**

## **OnLine PPC, 25<sup>th</sup> January**

During the PPC evening you will have the opportunity to talk to your existing teachers about their subjects, there will also be information about new subjects and a chance to make appointments with teachers for subjects not studied in year 9 (Business & Media).

## **Guide Choices goes live on Sims Online, Friday 26th January**

## **Completion of Guided Choices Form, 23rd February**

The online form needs to be completed by 23/2/24.

Mr Phillips has created a guide to explain how to login and complete via SIMS OnLine.



# Key Information

- You now have approximately a month to choose your options
- **DO NOT RUSH**
- Don't complete your choices too early, in case you change your mind. Keep asking questions and talking to your teachers
- Speak to your teachers and tutors if you have any queries
- Your parents must sign (electronic tick in a box) your Guided choices form
- Don't pick subjects because of a friend or the teacher!



# Pathway 1 – Target grades 6+

- In addition to the core subjects (Maths, English and Science) pupils must select
- Either Geography or History
- Either French or Spanish
- Then a free choice of 2 other subjects.

\*During the PCC evening you will have a booked time with a member of the leadership team to discuss your pathway.



# Pathway 2 – Target grades 4-5

- In addition to the core subjects (Maths, English and Science) pupils must select
- Either Geography, History, French or Spanish
- Then a free choice of 3 other subjects
  - We still strongly encourage all pupils in pathway 2 to select either Geography or History and French or Spanish
- \*During the PCC evening you will have a booked time with a member of the leadership team to discuss your pathway.



# Pathway 3 – Target grades 3

- In addition to the core subjects (Maths, English and Science) pupils must select
- Either Geography or History or Spanish or French.
- Then 2 further free choices.

\*Please speak with Mr Fowler (our SENCO for secondary) about the PIP provision.

\*During the PCC evening you will have a booked time with a member of the leadership team to discuss your pathway.



Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed. An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.







# **GCSE GUIDED CHOICES – HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR ONLINE FORM**

**MR PHILLIPS – HEAD OF SECONDARY**



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Free School**  
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# Key Information

Before completing the options form, please refer to the guided choices booklet.  
In addition to the core subjects (Maths, English and Science) pupils must select:

## Pathway 1

- Either French or Spanish
- Then a free choice of 2 other subjects. You must select 1 from French or Spanish and 1 from Geography or History.
- You then have '2 open choices' – please see booklet for all subjects (this can include another French; Spanish, Geography or History if not previously selected)

## Pathway 2

- Either Geography, History, French or Spanish
- Then a free choice of 3 other subjects
  - We still strongly encourage all pupils in pathway 2 to select either Geography or History and French or Spanish

## Pathway 3

- Either Geography or History or Spanish or French.
- Then 2 further free choices.



# How to complete the form

All pupils/ parents need to select one subject from the list below.

To select a subject please click on the subject box

The box 'you have chosen 0/1 courses from the subject will change to green – showing 1/1.

To change chose click again on the subject you selected (this will unselect) and the click another subject.


Pathway A

## EBACC - compulsory choice


EBACC - Compulsory choice. All students must selected one subject from the list.

You have chosen 0 of 1 ☒ courses from this list


**French** GCSE Full Course

 This course is also available in Open Choice


**Geography** GCSE Full Course

 This course is also available in Open Choice

**History** GCSE Full Course

 This course is also available in Open Choice

**Spanish** GCSE Full Course

 This course is also available in Open Choice



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All pupils/parents need to select three subjects from the list below.  
 As before, click on unclick as required. However, the most important subject to you should be selected first; then the 2<sup>nd</sup>; finally the 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
 It is important to select a reserve subject after this.

## Open Choice

Open Choice -- choose three subjects.

We strongly recommend that you study both a language and a humanities subject.

You have chosen **0 of 3** ☒ courses and **0 of 1** ☒ reserves from this list

<b>Art</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Business Studies</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Computing</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve
<b>Finance</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Drama</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve
				<i>i</i> This course is also available in EBACC - compulsory choice	
<b>Food Technology</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve
		<i>i</i> This course is also available in EBACC - compulsory choice		<i>i</i> This course is also available in EBACC - compulsory choice	
<b>Media Studies</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Music</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Product Design</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve
<b>Religious Studies</b> GCSE Double Award	Reserve	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Triple Science</b> General	Reserve
		<i>i</i> This course is also available in EBACC - compulsory choice			



At this stage you have selected your subjects.

It is important for parent/carer to approve the subjects choice. To do this please click on the box.

After the stages – Mr Phillips (Head of Secondary) or Mrs Turnbull (Head of Year 9) will approve – school approval box.

Should there be any issues we will be in contact.

▼ School Approval
<input type="checkbox"/> School Approval
▼ School Comments
<div>Add any comments here</div>
▼ Student Comments
<div>Add any comments here</div>
▼ Parent/Carer Approval
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Carer Approval
<div></div>



- **Key information**

It is important you select your subject in preference order.

In this example, French (Ebacc compulsory choice) is 1<sup>st</sup>. Then History is the next most important, Media 3<sup>rd</sup> and Business studies 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### My Choices in Order of Preference

(Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 French  
GCSE Full Course EBACC - compulsory choice

2 History  
GCSE Full Course Open Choice

3 Media Studies  
GCSE Full Course Open Choice

4 Business Studies  
GCSE Full Course Open Choice

#### My Reserves in Order of Preference

(Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Geography  
GCSE Full Course Open Choice





# Key Information

- The online link for options will be 'live' from 26th January
  - We will send a link with this information in the letter
  - [www.sims-parent.co.uk](http://www.sims-parent.co.uk)
  - You will be required to log in; please see letter/guide how to log into SIMs. This was sent via email from [noreply@sims.co.uk](mailto:noreply@sims.co.uk)
- The deadline to complete the form is 25/2/24.
- You can change your subject choices up until this date.





# Key Information

- Any questions regarding subject choices please contact your child's form tutor and the subject leader (see teacher contacts in the guided choices booklet).
- If you have any questions regarding how to complete the form, please contact Mr Tilling (Head of Year 9) or Mr Phillips (Head of Secondary).

