

Year 9 Options Information Evening

13 March 2024



Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust

A broad and balanced curriculum

- Year 9 is an exciting time for our students.
- They have reached an important stage in their school career, when they will begin working towards the qualifications that will impact upon future opportunities and career goals.
- In September 2024, students will begin Key Stage 4: Years 10 and 11.
- As well as studying for a core set of subjects, they will be able to choose **FOUR** options subjects.
- This will allow our young people to personalise their learning so that they can begin planning for the future after they leave Eckington School.
- We are encouraging students to choose a range of subjects: from the humanities, modern languages, creative arts and technology.



The Core Curriculum

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science (Combined or Triple)

- *Physical Education (non-examination).*
- *Character Education – including Personal, Social and Health Education, Religious Education, Careers Education and Citizenship (non-examination).*



The Core Curriculum

- The Core Curriculum is one followed by all students across the country.
- It is designed to ensure that all students follow a curriculum which will prepare them for adult life.
- The range of subjects (totalling between 5 and 6 GCSEs) will allow students to progress to almost all post-16 pathways.



The Options

- Art & design: fine art
- Art & design: photography
- Business
- Creative iMedia
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- Health & fitness
- Health & social care
- History
- Hospitality & catering
- Media studies
- Music
- Physical education
- Religious studies
- Triple science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Three-dimensional design
- Travel & tourism



The English Baccalaureate

- As part of the Government's emphasis on an academic curriculum, we do ask all students to choose at least one subject from **history, geography, French or German**.
- These subjects form part of the English Baccalaureate or EBacc. The English Baccalaureate was introduced in 2010. It is not a qualification in itself, but it recognises pupils who have secured a 'good' GCSE grade across a core of academic subjects – **English, mathematics, the sciences, history or geography and a modern language**.
- The subjects included in the EBacc are designed to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to them for future progression.



Triple Science

GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics

- Students with a passion for science can choose to study for three separate GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Students who choose this option will combine the time allocated for Combined Science, with three additional options subject lessons.
- This additional time will allow for the subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics to be taught in greater depth and lead to three separate qualifications: one for each subject.
- This option is suited to students who are self-motivated, willing to work at pace in lessons and have a record of completing homework and lesson prep work to the best of their ability, in a timely manner.



Physical Education / Health & Fitness

- GCSE PE requires students to be assessed in 3 sports (1 team/1 individual and 1 other).
- Students MUST have a good record of participating in PE lessons every week and always bringing kit.
- To get a good pass (at least a grade 5), students need to be performing at a good level in sport:
 - To do the course students MUST train and compete in at least 1 sport outside of school.
- How often should they be training and competing outside of school?
 - Ideally training should be weekly with regular competitions; although competitions in some sport are less frequent)
- Students should be prepared to join an extra-curricular sports club if directed to by their PE teacher.
- If they are not training and competing regularly in a sport outside of school, GCSE PE may not be for them. Consider Health & Fitness instead; although there is little practical work here.
- The course leader for PE will make the final decision on which course a student follows.



The Option Blocks

<p>Block A</p> <p>Art & Design: Fine Art Business Creative iMedia Drama German History Hospitality & Catering Physical Education / Health & Fitness</p>	<p>Block B</p> <p>Art & Design: Fine Art Business Creative iMedia French Geography Hospitality & Catering Media Studies Music Three-Dimensional Design</p>
<p>Block C</p> <p>Art & Design: Photography French Health & Social Care History Media Studies Physical Education / Health & Fitness Religious Studies Three-Dimensional Design Travel & Tourism</p>	<p>Block D</p> <p>Art & Design: Photography Business Geography German Health & Social Care Media Studies Science: Triple Three-Dimensional Design</p>



Thinking about the future.

- If your child is already interested in a particular career, going on to study at our Sixth Form or university, or have an apprenticeship in mind, you should check that their options choices help them to progress towards these goals.
- Our Careers Adviser, David Holloway, is available this evening in Foundation Year Hall, or encourage your child to visit him at a drop-in session (every Tuesday lunchtime).
- All Year 9 students will be interviewed by a member of the Leadership Team. Please do not complete the Options Choice Form until after this interview.



Guidance to students

- You should not make any choices until you have discussed them with parents/carers, teachers and, if necessary, our careers adviser.
- You **MUST NOT** choose a course based on the choices your friends have made or on your favourite teacher.
- You **MUST** be clear about your choices as changes **WILL NOT** be allowed once the course has started.
- You **MUST** include a reserve choice for each block – if this is not done, there will be a delay in processing the options choices.
- We try our best to ensure students are allocated their first choices, but we cannot guarantee this. It is usual for every student to get one reserve subject.
- If the number of students opting for a course is too small, the course will not run.



Returning the Options Choice Form

Families should discuss and agree on the options choices.

Together, you should complete the online Options Choice Form.

The link to this will be sent to parents/carers in an email.

There is also a QR code in the Options Booklet.

If a family does not have access to IT, there is a paper copy of the Options Choice Form on the final page of the Options Booklet.

This should be returned to the Year 9 Office (Mrs Gregory and Mrs Marshall) by the deadline.



What happens next?

- **Tonight – Wednesday 13 March 2024**
 - Visit the subject stalls and speak to teachers about the course content, assessment methods and typical lessons.
 - If necessary, speak to David Holloway, an independent careers adviser, for further guidance. Students can also attend a drop-in session on a Tuesday.
- **Now until 28 March 2024**
 - Students attend their Options Interview with a member of the Leadership Team.
- **Tuesday 16 April 2024**
 - Deadline for return of option forms.
- **Friday 10 May 2024 (target date)**
 - Students and parents to be informed of final option allocations.

