

**Welcome to the
Year 9 Options Evening**

How will this evening be structured?

- I will start by providing an overview of the options process and the courses and qualifications available.
- There will then be an opportunity to ask questions.

How have GCSEs changed?

- New GCSEs have been introduced in every subject our students study over the past few years.
- Almost all controlled assessment/ coursework has gone.
- In most subjects, all assessment is now by final (terminal) examination at the end of Year 11.
- The grading scale has changed from A*-G to 9-1 (9 is the highest grade).

How does the new grade scale work?

Current GCSE grades	New GCSE grades
A*	9
A	8 7
B	6
C	5 4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1

The government's benchmark for achievement for students in English and maths has moved upwards. While the 'good pass' on the A*-C scale was seen to be a C grade or above, the new 'standard pass' is a Grade 4 (C grade on old scale) and a 'strong pass' is a Grade 5 (high C/ low B) or above.

Core Subjects

- Everyone takes a core group of subjects:
 - English Language and English Literature
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - RS
 - PE (not examined)
 - ICT (used as a tool across all subjects)
 - PSHE (not examined)

Option Subjects

- There is also a wide range of option subjects that you can choose from.
- These include:
 - GCSEs
 - Vocational Courses
 - Extra English and maths

How many choices do I have?

- There are four slots for option subjects on your timetable.
- Each of these slots covers five one hour lessons across each fortnight.
- You will need to make **five option choices**.
- These will cover the four subjects which you want to take plus one reserve subject.
- Most subjects count as one choice but BTEC Workskills will count as two.

GCSE Option Subjects

(each 1 option choice)

- Art & Design
- Business
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- MFL – French
- MFL – German
- MFL – Spanish
- Music
- PE
- Sociology
- Triple Science

English Baccalaureate (EBacc.) subjects at GCSE

- We require that almost all our students must opt for at least one EBacc subject as part of their option choices.
- The Ebacc subjects we offer are:
 - Geography
 - History
 - Languages (French, German or Spanish)
 - Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)
- We also require that **all** dual linguists will need to choose at least one language.
- We also encourage single linguists to opt for a language.
- This can count as your EBacc subject.
- We also **encourage** strongly students opting for a language to consider opting for geography and/or history.

Vocational Courses at Gillotts

(1 or 2 option choices)

- We will be offering two work-related courses this year:
 - BTEC Children's Play, Learning and Development
 - BTEC Workskills
- These courses are linked to developing the skills needed in the workplace.
- BTEC Children's Play, Learning and Development will take up **1** option choice.
- BTEC Workskills will take up **2** option choices.

BTEC Workskills

(2 option choices)

- This course will take up **two** option choices.
- Students will complete a series of assignments in a range of work-related activities.
- These may include activities such as CV writing, interview practice, managing money and developing leadership skills.
- They may also involve sector specific activities (e.g. growing plants, food preparation and cookery)
- The aim is for it to be a practical course which will develop a range of 'life skills'.
- It will also mean that the students can focus on a smaller number of GCSEs (8).
- We hope to also include some additional English and maths support and, possibly, some mini work experience.
- We are guiding students towards this option.

Extra English and Maths

(1 option choice)

- While every subject is important, having strong literacy and numeracy skills is fundamental.
- This is in terms of both developing the skills themselves but also gaining good grades (Grade 4 or above) in these subjects.
- These skills will support you in your studies both at Gillotts and beyond – but also throughout adult life.
- We are offering ‘extra English and maths’ as an option.
- This will take up **one** of your option choices.
- Around 25 students are being guided towards this option.
- You can only opt for this option if we have recommended it to you.

Completing the options form

- You will need to return the form to Student Services by Monday 4th February.
- It must be signed by your parents and tutor.
- It is not 'first come, first served'.
- If you are unsure about how to complete it, please ask.

[GCSE Options Form – EBacc requirement](#)

[GCSE Options Form – No EBacc requirement](#)

Options Booklet

The options booklet can be accessed online by clicking on the link below:

<http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/key-stage-3>

Key Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 7 th January	GCSE Options Evening
Thursday 31 st January	Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening
Monday 4 th February	Options Form Deadline
Late April/ Early May	Confirm Options

The next part of the evening

- If you would like to ask any questions please remain in the Hall.
- Katherine Grainger from Adviza (Careers Services) is available in the Hall Foyer.