HAILSHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMY TRUST

'Be the very best you can be'

9th January 2024: Year 9 Options Evening

Making Informed Choices

What are Y9 Options?

Year 9 options is an important milestone in your child's education.

By the end of Term 3, students will **choose the option subjects they wish to study from the start of Year 10**. They will select from a wide range of subjects that include both academic and vocational options.

Students will receive guidance from their subject teachers, form mentor, Head of Year, PSHE teacher and SLT to support their decisions.

GCSE grading system

GCSEs are now awarded on a **scale of 9 to 1.**

- 9 is the highest grade
- Level 2 qualifications range from 4 – 9
- Level 1 qualifications from 1-3
- Students who do not achieve grade 4 or above in English and/or Maths are required to continue studying them in Key Stage 5.

Department for Education

GCSE Grading

New Grading Structure	Old Grading Structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
	F
1	G
U	U

What will students take?

All students will study:

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Science

In addition, they will also study:

KS4 PE	PSHE & RE

They will then choose 4 option subjects:

Option 1 Geography / History	Option 2 Free choice	Option 3 Free choice	Option 4 Free choice

Compulsory entitlement

Choice

There are many subjects to choose from...

GCSEs		BTECs (Vocational Courses)
Art & Design	History	Business
Art Textiles	Media Studies*	Dance
Computer Science	Music	Music
Design & Technology	Photography	Sport
Drama	RE	Travel & Tourism*
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Sociology	ICT
French	Spanish	Health & Social Care
Geography	Triple Science	

What is the EBacc and how would I achieve it?

The **Department for Education recommends these core subjects**, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open.

The EBacc includes:

1. English language and English literature;
2. Maths
3. Combined Science

   or

3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science;
4. History or Geography
5. A language (either French or Spanish at HCC)

What is the EBacc and how can I achieve it?

- The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – **it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language**, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

- While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, **choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge** that employers are looking for.

- If they are thinking of going to university, **the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities**.

Helping you make good choices..

- What would you find interesting and be motivated towards?
- Where are your strengths?
- Are there any Sixth Form and/or university courses you are already interested in?
- What have you been recommended?
- How would each course support your longer-term goals?
- What will you enjoy?
- Have you talked with your teachers, family and mentor?

Things that should not influence your decisions...

- Who <u>might</u> be teaching the course

- Who else is taking it (friends etc.)

- The subject sounds 'cool'

- Purely because of a future job and/or future earnings

What is the timescale for options?

Through Term 3 – PSHE lessons supporting the options process

9th January – Year 9 Options Evening

w/b 15th January - Options Booklet published

18th January – Year 9 Parent's Evening

w/b 22nd January – Options Assembly

w/b 29th January – Students complete draft copy of the form (to be taken home and discussed)

w/b 5th February – Students complete their options form and hand it in to their form mentor

What happens next?

What to do next…

Communication is important when making your options choices

You should talk to:

Family

Form Mentors

Your teachers

Like-minded friends

Find out about all the courses, what you would study, whether you are well-suited to them and whether you would find them interesting.