

Key Stage 4 Courses

September 2020
June 2022



Mr Ward
Vice Principal
Guide for Students and Parents

Your future

- ▶ Unprecedented times.
- ▶ This is the first time that that you will have to select subjects at school.
- ▶ You will be staying in education or training until the age of 18. (This is called ‘Raising the Participation Age’)
- ▶ Choices made now may help your future career pathway.
- ▶ Your choices will not limit / stop you entering a particular career but they may help them get there.



Types of courses on offer

- ▶ Subjects that are on offer are full GCSE courses or their equivalents.
- ▶ Some courses are more vocational and develop skills for employment. These are GCSE equivalent courses - they can only do a limited number of these. There are BTECs OCR Nationals, vGCSEs and many more.
- ▶ Teachers will advise on suitability for various courses.

The English Baccalaureate

- ▶ The Government has introduced the EBacc to identify students following a broad academic range of subjects (**English, Maths, Science, Humanities and a Language**).
- ▶ It is expected that most students to follow the EBacc route however those who could one day go onto university will need it.
- ▶ This has been voted for in 3 general elections.
- ▶ The EBacc has become more important for colleges, universities and employers e.g. several universities will only accept students with EBacc.
- ▶ The Education Minister expects all pupils to follow EBacc.

Core subjects in Year 10/11

- ▶ English
- ▶ English Literature
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Physical Education
- ▶ PSHE, Careers and Citizenship (SKL) RE
- ▶ A Humanity - geography or history.
- ▶ A Modern Foreign Language - we do Spanish.

Advice

- ▶ Approximately 900 000 students will be choosing options this year.
- ▶ By making sure that everybody does the core subjects no career is closed to you.
- ▶ Nationally there is a great shortage of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and linguists. They generally get paid well.

There are more courses available than can run. This is to give you actual choice!

- ▶ We have to offer Value for Money for the taxpayer.
- ▶ If 6 students pick GCSE Basket Weaving then we would not be able to offer it as a GCSE option at the normal time. We might be able to offer it after school.
- ▶ If 58 students pick GCSE Morris Dancing then we would have 2 classes. If 27 students pick it then we would have 1 class.

Selecting Preferences

To help you:

Options booklet (Year 9)

Preference form

Discussion

Options evening - albeit an odd one!

Emailing Teachers

Video conferencing friends and family

Original preference form.

The final version will be decided after parent / student feedback.

Name: _____

Tutor Group _____

All students will follow **GCSE** courses in English, English Literature, Maths, Double Science.

The most able scientists will be allowed to take triple science (numbers permitting). All students will also follow courses in **RE, PSHEE** and core **PE**.

Core Curriculum		Extended Core		OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
English Language		Spanish		History	Art	Business
English Literature		Or by invitation		Geography	Photography	Drama
Maths	PSHEE	Citizenship / RE			Computer Sci	DT
Core PE	Core RE	Youth Award	Cope		Music	Food
Science (Double)					PE	Triple Science
					RE	Health and Social Care

Only the most able students will thrive on computer science and triple science. Students need to be on track for grade 5+ to do well on these courses. A small minority of students will not do Spanish. Some may be selected for extra PSHEE, citizenship or RE and others for Youth Award / COPE. Please select your top 5 preferences in order 1,2,(3,4,5) from the 'Options' list. Those subjects with sufficient students will run. We are funded for 4 courses in each option block.

Signed _____

(Student)

I would like to do Economics or Business Studies at GCSE. Is it possible?

Name: _____ Bertie Bing

Tutor Group _____ 91 _____

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Core Curriculum		Extended Core		OPTION 1		OPTION 2		OPTION 3	
English Language		Spanish		History	1	Art	1	Business	
English Literature		Or by invitation		Geography	2	Photography	2	Drama	4
Maths	PSHEE	Citizenship / RE				Computer Sci		DT	3
Core PE	Core RE	Youth	Cope			Music	3	Food	2
Science (Double)		Award				PE	4	Triple Science	1
						RE		Health and Social Care	5

I really want to be a midwife and think triple science would be really helpful. Can you ask Mr Murray if I would be suitable? I can't think of a 5th choice in Option 2. Sorry!

Signed _____ Bertie B. _____

(Student)

Should you wish for another course, or have a course combination that is not currently available, then please write that here. It may be possible:

I would like to do Economics or Business Studies at GCSE. Is it possible?

Name: Bertie Bing

Tutor Group 9I

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Tutor Group 9I

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English Literature		Or by invitation		Geography	2	Photography	2	Drama	4
Maths	PSHEE	Citizenship / RE				Computer Sci		DT	3
Core PE	Core RE	Youth Award	Cope			Music	3	Food	2
Science (Double)						PE	4	Triple Science	1
						RE		Health and Social Care	5

I really want to be a midwife and think triple science would be really helpful. Can you ask Mr Murray if I would be suitable? I can't think of a 5th choice in Option 2.

Sorry!

Signed Bertie B

(Student)

Sign:

you ask Mr Murray if I would be suitable? I can't think of a 5th choice in Option 2. Sorry!

Signed Bertie B

(Student)

you ask Mr Murray if I would be suitable? I can't think of a 5th choice in Option 2. Sorry!

Signed

Bertie B

(Student)

I will count up all the forms and work out where the subjects can go so that as many people as possible get their first choices. Two blocks of time would be made and you will end up with 1 lesson in each. It is possible to get a computer to do this. However, I always do it by hand so I can read everything the pupils want to tell me.

OPTION 2		OPTION 3	
Art	25	Business	27
Photography	22	Drama	58
Computer Sci	27	DT	22
Music	27	Food	24
PE	1	Triple Science	1
RE	31	Health and Social Care	1

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Tutor Group _____ 91 _____

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						RE		Health and Social Care	5

I really want to be a midwife and think triple science would be really helpful. Can you ask Mr Murray if I would be suitable? I can't think of a 5th choice in Option 2. Sorry!

Signed _____ Bertie B. _____

(Student)

Student ends up with

Spanish
History
Art
Food

93% of students ended up with their first choices.
7% of students got their first and second choices.

Completing the Preference Form

- ▶ Study the Guidance Booklet carefully
- ▶ Select your top 5 preferences and number

them in order of preference..

i.e. 1st choice = 1..... 5th choice = 5

in the open option section

- ▶ Complete your form in **and email it to kevin.ward@open-academy.org.uk**

Will I get my choices?

You will end up with 4 extra subjects.

- ▶ There will be a humanity.
 - ▶ There will probably be a language.
 - ▶ There will be 2 other subjects.
-
- ▶ 93% of students ended up with their guided first choices in all categories.
 - ▶ 7% of students got their first and second choice in one category.

How will effort have an impact?

- ▶ We have a class size limit of 30 in most classrooms.
- ▶ There must be an average of 26 in all classes because of the numbers of students.
- ▶ That leaves 4 students between the average class size and the biggest.
- ▶ If 5 students apply for those places in a particular course then a choice will be made using the following criteria:
 - ▶ Timeouts / GMs in that subject
 - ▶ Timeouts / GMs overall
 - ▶ Commendations
 - ▶ Homework quality and completion
 - ▶ Attendance

Getting the best combinations of pupils

- ▶ We will be changing some students sets so that they work with different people to see if that helps or hinders them.
- ▶ That way we know who could work with whom.
- ▶ If there is a combination of pupils that do not work well together they will not be allowed in the same class even if that means they can't have their first choices.

And finally...

- ▶ Be careful not to choose what your friends choose unless it is what you really want. Even if you pick the same subjects you may not be in the same classes. I will separate pupils who do not work well together
- ▶ If you would like a particular course and it is not present on the preference form that will be because historically there was no demand. If you don't ask...

And finally (- a bit more...)

We will try and accommodate all requests but....

sometimes we are not able to do this due to large/small numbers choosing some subjects (it varies year by year)

and.... **lack of suitability of some students to certain courses**

- ▶ We have to abide by the Value for (taxpayers) Money rules set down by the government.

2020 Actual Preference Form

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English Literature		Or by invitation		Geography	Photography	Art (1 class)	
Maths	PSHEE	Citizenship / RE			Computer Sci	DT	
Core PE	Core RE	Youth Award	Cope		Music	Food	
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(Student)