

Year 9 Options Evening

Monday 8th January 2024

What am I going to talk about?

- I will start by providing an overview of the options process and the courses and qualifications available.
- I will then take you through how to complete the options form which you will complete online using a Google Form.

How have GCSEs changed?

- New (9-1) GCSEs were introduced in every subject our students study between 2017 and 2019.
- Almost all controlled assessment/ coursework has gone.
- In most subjects, all assessment is now by final (terminal) examination at the end of Year 11.
- There are a few subjects which still have some non-examined assessment (see the options booklet).
- The grading scale also changed from A*-G to 9-1 (9 is the highest grade).

How does the 9-1 scale work?

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

The government's benchmark for achievement for students in English and maths moved upwards. While the 'good pass' on the previous A*-G scale was seen to be a C grade or above, the 9-1 GCSE '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 'Life beyond school' will count as two.

What happens next?

- After the options deadline I will construct the four option blocks.
- These are based on the choices which students make and also the staffing we have available.
- If a subject is under-subscribed we may not be able to run it.
- If this is the case we will be in contact with you about making a new choice.
- If there is a clash with your options based on these blocks, we will also be in contact.

What happens if a subject is over-subscribed?

- There is, inevitably, a limit to the number of students we can put in a class.
- In most cases we cap the number of students - typically at a maximum of 32 students.
- In some cases, the cap is lower – e.g. for equipment or health & safety purposes (e.g. Design Technology, Food). The cap is normally 16 in Food and 20 in DT.
- Where possible we will add another class to accommodate the students opting for the subject.
- However, this is may not be possible for staffing/ timetable reasons.
- There will be some subjects (e.g. BTEC Child Development, Design Technology, Food) **where it is unlikely we will be able to run more than one group in each subject next year.**

What happens if a subject is over-subscribed?

In the event of a subject being oversubscribed and the school being unable to expand provision to accommodate the additional students, the following criteria will be used (in rank order) to allocate places in order to ensure that we best meet the needs of our students:

1. Students with an identified SEND
2. Students who have not been allocated one or more of their other option choices owing to the construction of the option blocks
3. Students who have been allocated their other first choices but cannot be allocated their reserve subject owing to the construction of the option blocks
4. Once the first three groups have been allocated, the remaining students will be drawn through lots

In cases where we are not able to offer a student all his/ her choices, parents will be contacted and students will be advised about the alternatives available to them.

Are there any combinations of subjects I cannot opt for?

- Owing to the way our timetable is constructed you can only opt for **one** subject out of the following list:
 - Dance
 - Design Technology (DT)
 - Drama
 - Food Preparation & Nutrition
- You can choose one of the subjects listed above as your reserve option (even if you have chosen one of the other subjects as a main option).
- If you are thinking about opting for Triple Science please make sure that you read about the entry requirements in the options booklet.
- Choosing Triple Science as an option may also have an impact on setting in mathematics.

GCSE Business and Computing

- Unfortunately we will not be offering either GCSE Business or Computing this year.
- This is mainly linked to staffing – including the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified staff.
- We do have a wide range of other subjects available for students to choose from.

GCSE Option Subjects

(1 option choice each)

- Art & Design
- 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 the majority of our students must opt for at least one EBacc. subject as part of their option choices.
- The EBacc. subjects we are offering this year are:
 - Geography
 - History
 - Languages (French, German or Spanish)
 - Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)
- We also require that **all** dual linguists choose at least **one** language (unless they have an identified Special Educational Need).
- We also encourage single linguists to opt for a language.
- This can count as your EBacc. subject.
- We also **really encourage** students opting for a language to consider opting for Geography and/or History.

Vocational Courses

(1 or 2 option choices each)

- We will be offering two work-related courses this year:
 - BTEC Technical Award Child Development
(1 option choice)
 - Life Beyond School
(2 option choices)
- These courses are linked to developing the skills needed in the workplace.

BTEC Technical Award Child Development

(1 option choice)

- This course is based around studying content and developing skills which are relevant to a specific vocational sector (world of work).
- This course is equivalent to GCSEs and counts as 1 option choice.
- It involves the students completing one external exam and two non-examined assessments (completed under controlled conditions).

Life Beyond school

(2 option choices)

- This is a course which we have put together ourselves to provide opportunities for students taking a reduced number of options.
 - It will not lead to external qualifications (e.g. GCSEs).
 - It will take up two of your child's option choices.
 - Miss Collyer (our SENCO) will be in contact with you if we believe this is a suitable option.
- It involves a mixture of activities including:
 - Extra English, Maths and Science (where possible)
 - Mini work experience
 - Developing life skills and skills to help students prepare for the world of work (e.g. managing money, writing a job application, leading an enterprise activity)

Option block in Learning Support

- We work very hard to tailor the curriculum to the needs of all our students.
- This includes students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.
- Some students with identified SEND may spend one of their option blocks in Learning Support rather than in a GCSE subject.
- This time will be spent developing study skills and completing GCSE work.
- Miss Collyer (our SENCO) will be in contact with you if we believe this is a suitable 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 these skills themselves but also gaining good grades (Grade 4 or above) in these subjects.
- These skills will support students in their wider studies both at Gillotts and beyond.
- We are offering 'extra English and maths' as an option.
- This will take up **one** option choice.
- Around 20 students are being guided towards this option.
- Students can only opt for this option if we have recommended it.
- It **cannot** be taken along with the Life Beyond School course.

Options Letter

- You will have received an options letter (sent by e-mail at the end of last term) with a suggestion about the sort of subject combination your child might opt for (not the specific subjects).
- It will also identify if your child is required to take a language at GCSE.
- If your child's letter states that they must take a language but they have an identified SEND (and you do not want them to take a language) please e-mail me.
- The letter will also contain a link to the Google Form which you should complete to show your child's option choices.
- If you have not received this e-mail by the end of the week, please contact your child's House base.

Options Booklet

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

<https://gillotts.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/options>

- There are also some subject videos (Child Development and Sociology) which are accessible via this web-page.

Seeking advice

- Your child's tutor will be the main point of contact for most of you.
- Miss Collyer (SENCO) or your child's Head of House will be in contact directly with some of you.

Key Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 8 th January	Options information sent out
Thursday 25 th January	Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening
Monday 5 th February	Options Form Deadline
Late April/ Early May	Confirm Options

Completing the options form

- You will complete the option form on your child's behalf using a link to a Google Form which was sent out to you with the options letter.
- This will need to be submitted by Monday 5th February at the latest.
- It is not 'first come, first served'.
- If you do not think you will make the deadline, please contact your child's House administrator.

GCSE Options Form 2024/25 (EBacc subject required) ✕ ⋮

To be submitted by no later than Monday 5th February 2024.

Please note that if you miss this deadline it may mean that your child's option choices are reduced. If there is any reason why you may not meet the deadline please contact your child's House administrator.

Email *

Valid email address
.....

This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

Child's Legal Surname: *

Short-answer text
.....

Child's Legal First Name *

Short-answer text
.....

Child's Tutor Group: *

Short-answer text
.....

Instructions for completing your child's option choices using this form

- Select one subject from the first group of subjects ('EBacc subjects') and then select three further single subjects from the second group of subjects ('Other subjects').
- This is unless you choose 'Life beyond school' from the 'Other subjects' list. As this counts as two choices, you should choose 'Life beyond school' plus one other subject in the 'Other subjects' section.
- Please also indicate a reserve subject in addition to the subjects you have chosen.
- You are required to opt for a language if you are currently studying two languages in Year 9.
- Owing to timetable constraints you will only be able to choose one of the following subjects as a main option: Dance, Design Technology, Drama or Food Preparation & Nutrition. You can also choose one of these subjects as your reserve subject.
- If you opt for Triple Science please make sure that your child will meet the entry requirements listed in the options booklet. If we have any concerns about your child opting for this subject, Mr West will contact parents/guardians following the options deadline.
- The extra English and Maths, Learning Support and Life Beyond School options are only for students directed to these choices by the school.

EBacc subjects- You must choose one of the subjects from the list below. *

1. Geography
2. History
3. MFL – French
4. MFL – German
5. MFL - Spanish
6. Triple Science

Other subjects - Please choose three (3) single subjects from the list below or 'Life beyond school' and one (1) other subject. These choices must not include the subject you have chosen as your EBacc subject in the last section of this form.



Checkboxes

- Art and Design ×
- Child Development (BTEC) ×
- Dance ×
- Design Technology ×
- Drama ×
- Extra English and Maths (only for students directed to this choice by the school) ×
- Food Preparation & Nutrition ×
- Geography ×
- History ×
- Life Beyond School (counts as two choices) ×
- MFL – French ×
- MFL – German ×

- MFL - Spanish ×
- Music ×
- PE ×
- Sociology ×
- Triple Science (counts as one choice) ×
- Learning Support (LS) (only for students directed to this choice by Miss Collyer) ×

Reserve subject: *

Short-answer text

Full Name of Parent / Carer / Guardian *

Short-answer text

I confirm that the Options chosen have been discussed and agreed by myself and the student *
named above

Yes

After section 1 Continue to next section

Section 2 of 2

Note to Parents, carers and students



Every effort will be made to ensure that students gain places on the courses you have opted for. However, in some instances, where this is not possible, we will ensure the options offered are as closely matched as possible to the student's requirements. The school reserves the right to withdraw a course if it is not feasible to run it.

If you have any questions about how to complete this form, please contact your child's House Administrator.

Please submit this form by Monday 5th February 2024 at the latest.

GCSE Options Form 2024/25 (Bespoke)



To be submitted by no later than Monday 5th February 2024.

Please note that if you miss this deadline it may mean that your child's option choices are reduced. If there is any reason why you may not meet the deadline please contact your child's House administrator.

Email *

Valid email address

This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

Child's Legal Surname: *

Short-answer text

Child's Legal First Name: *

Short-answer text

Child's Tutor Group: *

Short-answer text



Instructions for completing your child's option choices using this form

This form will be completed by the parents of students being supported by Miss Collyer, our SENCO

Please select four subjects unless you choose 'Life Beyond School' (which counts as two subjects) in which case select 'Life Beyond School' and two other subjects.

Please also indicate a reserve subject in addition to the options you have selected.

If you are currently studying two languages in Year 9, you are required to opt for a language.

Owing to timetable constraints you will only be able to choose one of the following subjects: Dance, Design Technology, Drama or Food Preparation & Nutrition. You can also choose one as your reserve subject.

If you opt for Triple Science please make sure that your child will meet the entry requirements listed in the options booklet. If we have any concerns about your child opting for this subject, Mr West will contact parents/guardians following the options deadline.

The extra English and Maths, Learning Support and Life Beyond School options are only for students directed to these choices by Miss Collyer.

Please select four subjects or 'Life Beyond School' and two other subjects *

- Art and Design
- Child Development (BTEC)
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Extra English and Maths - only for students directed to this choice by Miss Collyer
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Life Beyond School (counts as two choices) - only for students directed to this choice by Miss Collyer
- MFL – French
- MFL – German
- MFL - Spanish
- Music

PE

Sociology

Triple Science (counts as one choice)

Learning Support (LS) - only for students directed to this choice by Miss Collyer

Reserve subject: *

Short-answer text

Reserve subject: *

Short-answer text

Full Name of Parent / Carer / Guardian *

Short-answer text

I confirm that the options chosen have been discussed and agreed by myself and the student *
named above

Yes

After section 1 Continue to next section

After section 1 Continue to next section

Section 2 of 2

Note to Parents, carers and students

Every effort will be made to ensure that students gain places on the courses you have opted for. However, in some instances, where this is not possible, we will ensure the options offered are as closely matched as possible to the student's requirements. The school reserves the right to withdraw a course if it is not feasible to run it.

If you have any questions about how to complete this form, please contact your child's House Administrator.

Please submit this form by Monday 5th February 2024 at the latest.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the options process, please contact your child's tutor.