



Year 9 Options

Make an informed choice!



Welcome to Year 9 Options

Supporting Your Child's Future

A Crucial Time for Year 9 Students

As your child approaches the end of Key Stage 3, they will begin making important decisions about their future studies in Years 10 and 11. At Alperton Community School, we understand that this is a significant moment, and we are committed to providing **comprehensive guidance and support** to ensure every student selects subjects that align with their strengths, aspirations, and future goals.

Support for Students and Families

Choosing the right subjects can shape your child's **academic journey and career prospects**. We encourage all parents and carers to take an **active role** in this process by:

✓ **Discussing options together** – helping your child reflect on their interests, skills, and future ambitions.

✓ **Exploring career pathways** – considering how subject choices may relate to college, university, apprenticeships, or careers.

✓ **Reviewing subject overviews** – understanding the content, structure, and assessment methods for each course.


✓ **Seeking advice** – encouraging your child to speak with teachers, career advisors, and mentors.

Accessing Essential Information

To support you and your child, we have created a dedicated **Year 9 Options Page** on the school website, where you will find:

 **Subject Overviews** – detailed insights into each available course.

 **Key Dates & Deadlines** – important milestones in the options process.

 **Informative Videos & Presentations** – additional resources to guide decision-making.

Your child has access to this information via the school website, and we encourage you to explore it together.

Need More Support?

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can:

 **Email** the school for personalised support.

 **Attend** scheduled information events and guidance sessions.

[Year 9 Options Page](#)


Guidance and Support for Your Child's Subject Choices


Seeking Expert Advice


Choosing GCSE subjects is a significant milestone, and we encourage students to explore all available resources to make well-informed decisions. In addition to discussing options at home, your child should seek advice from:

 **Their Tutor** – for general guidance and support.

 **Subject Teachers** – for insight into course content, expectations, and suitability.

 **Teaching and Learning Leaders** – for expert advice on subject progression and curriculum details.

 **Pastoral Manager for Year 9** – for support in balancing workload, well-being, and aspirations.

 **Senior Leaders** – for overarching guidance on GCSE pathways and future opportunities.

Additionally, students will attend **informative subject presentations** for courses they have not previously studied, providing valuable insights to help them decide.

Selecting Reserve Subjects

While we strive to allocate each student their **first-choice subjects**, availability may be affected by factors such as **course demand, class sizes, and timetable constraints**. To ensure a smooth process, students must also **select reserve subjects**, which will be considered if their preferred options cannot be accommodated.

✓ **Clear instructions** on how to complete the selection process will be provided to all students and parents.

✓ **Careful consideration** should be given to both main choices and reserves to maintain a balanced and enjoyable learning experience.

Next Steps in the Process

◆ **Attend options presentations** – explore all available subjects.

◆ **Speak with teachers and mentors** – gather expert advice.

◆ **Discuss choices at home** – consider future aspirations.

◆ **Complete the subject selection process** – ensuring reserve choices are included.

For further information, please visit the **Year 9 Options Hub** on the school website, or contact us directly if you have any questions. **Together, we can ensure every student makes the best choices for their future success!**

The application form will open on Student Portal on Wednesday 19th March 2025.

The deadline is Wednesday 26th March 2025.

Please note, it is highly unlikely that students who return their application late will gain a place in their first choice subjects.

Final allocations will be communicated to you. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at office@alperton.brent.sch.uk

Year 9 Options | 4 Week Timeline

| Week Commencing | Countdown | Action |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 24.2.25 | Week 1 | Information, advice and guidance during form time |
| 3.3.25 | Week 2 | Information, advice and guidance in lessons |
| 10.3.25 | Week 3 | Information, advice and guidance linked to careers |
| 17.3.25 | Week 4 | Options Fair Decision week and completion of online form on Student Portal |

Year 9 Options: How Do They Work?

Your GCSE Journey

As students enter **Years 10 and 11**, their timetable will include a combination of **compulsory** and **optional** subjects, shaping their academic future and career pathways.

At **Alperton Community School**, we provide a **broad and balanced curriculum**, allowing students to select subjects that match their interests, strengths, and aspirations.

Compulsory Subjects

All students will study the following **core subjects** as part of their GCSE curriculum:

- ✓ English Language
- ✓ English Literature
- ✓ Mathematics

- ✓ **Combined or Triple Science**
- ✓ **Sport & Health – Non-examined**

These subjects form the foundation of every student's academic profile and are essential for future studies and employment.

What is the EBacc?

The **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)** is a set of subjects that universities and employers look for. While it is not compulsory, students are **encouraged** to consider this pathway.

The **EBacc subjects** include:

- 📖 **English Language**
- 📊 **Mathematics**
- 🔬 **Science (Combined or Triple)**
- 🌐 **History or Geography (One MUST be chosen)**
- 🗣️ **A Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish, or Gujarati)**

Why choose the EBacc?

- ✓ Keeps future career and study options open.
- ✓ Recognised by universities and employers.

Students who achieve **Grade 5 or above** in these subjects will have access to a **wide range of A-levels** and **university options**.


Choosing Your Options

In addition to the **compulsory subjects**, students will choose **four option subjects** from the list below.

- ✦ **One of these MUST be either History or Geography.**
- ✦ **Students are encouraged to choose a Language.**

GCSE & BTEC Option Subjects:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Art |  Gujarati |  Psychology |
|  Business |  Health & Social Care |  Religious Studies |
|  BTEC ICT |  History |  Triple Science |
|  Computer Science |  BTEC Media |  Sociology |
|  Drama |  Music |  Spanish |
|  Food |  BTEC PE |  Statistics |
|  French |  Product Design |  Textiles |
|  Geography | | |

 **Important:** Some subjects have limited spaces and may be **oversubscribed**. If a student's first-choice subject is unavailable, a **reserve option** will be used.

✦ Key Considerations When Choosing Options

- ✓ **What are your strengths?** – Choose subjects you enjoy and excel in.
- ✓ **What are your future aspirations?** – Consider how subjects align with career paths or A-level choices.
- ✓ **Do you want to achieve the EBacc?** – Think about how this could support future university applications.
- ✓ **Do you prefer coursework or exams?** – Some subjects have more coursework-based assessments (e.g., BTEC courses).

📖 Where to Find More Information

- 🗣️ **Speak to your teachers** – Your subject teachers, form tutor, and Pastoral Manager know you well and can help guide your choices.
- 📄 **Visit the Year 9 Options Page** – Detailed subject overviews, videos, and guidance documents are available online.
- ? **Ask questions** – Use the online question form on the **Year 9 Options Page** to get answers to any queries.
- 📅 **Review the Year 9 Options Presentation** – A step-by-step guide to the process is available to ensure students and parents make informed decisions.

❤️ Support & Guidance

- 🗣️ **Pastoral Manager** – Offers advice on workload balance and well-being.
 - 🗣️ **Teachers & Subject Leaders** – Provide insight into course content and expectations.
 - 🗣️ **Senior Leaders** – Can answer questions about GCSE pathways and future opportunities.
- 💡 **Remember:** This is an exciting opportunity to tailor your education to your strengths and ambitions. Take your time, ask for advice, and make choices that will help you succeed in the future!

Key Terms

Compulsory subjects: subjects that you must continue to study
Optional subjects : subjects you can choose

Important notes

Oversubscribed Courses

There are a set number of places for each course. These are allocated primarily on a first come, first served basis. After this, other factors may be taken into account, such as previous attainment, progress and attitude to learning.

Undersubscribed Courses

If only a small number of students opt for a course, it may not be possible for it to run.

Changing Options

The timetable will have been created, subject groups will be full, work will have been missed and other subjects will be affected negatively. Hence, we cannot make changes. This is to give all students the best possible chance of success. Please do ensure that students utilise all of the information, advice and guidance given to them.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school BEFORE the application form opens.