

Ridgeway Secondary School Year 9 Options Evening

... exciting times ahead!



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SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Aims of today's presentation

1. To help you navigate the options process
2. To give you the information that you need to make informed choices
3. To explain the curriculum at Key Stage 4 including the EBACC



What are Options?

- This is an exciting and important time in your education
- The time to start to really think about your future beyond school
- The chance to choose some of the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11



Core Subjects

- These are subjects that you must study, they are **compulsory** for everyone

English Language English Literature	Mathematics	Science
PE (Core)	RE	R360



Option Subjects

- These are the 'option' subjects that you can choose **4** from to study in addition to the Core subjects

GCSE French

GCSE History

GCSE
Geography

GCSE Religious
Studies

GCSE Media
Studies

GCSE Food and
Nutrition

GCSE PE

GCSE Business

GCSE Triple
Science

GCSE Art

OCR iMedia

GCSE Design
and Technology



Our Curriculum Offer at Key Stage 4

- It is important that our curriculum offer in Years 10 and 11 is:
 - Broad and varied
 - Suited to the strengths, interests and individual needs of students
 - Able to prepare our students for their next steps in education and life

But ! There are some contextual elements for parents/carers to understand when exploring the option blocks.



Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
GCSE Geography	GCSE French	GCSE Triple Science	GCSE PE
GCSE History	OCR iMedia (L2)	GCSE PE	GCSE DT
	GCSE Art	GCSE Food	GCSE Religious Studies
	GCSE Media	GCSE Art	GCSE Business



Understanding the EBacc

- EBacc was introduced in 2010.
- A direction from the Government to encourage all pupils to take Maths, English, Science, Geography or History and a language.
- Currently 39.3% of pupils sit Ebacc nationally (2022/23).



Different styles of assessment

- We offer a core, traditional curriculum.
- There are 13 examinations for just the 6 core GCSEs.
- There will be a further 7-12 exams for the remaining options.
- Some students may wish to consider the impact of taking subjects that offer a controlled assessment element (iMedia/ DT/ Food/ Art/Media)



What to do before I pick my options?

1. Read the Options information booklet on the website
2. Think about the presentations delivered by your teachers last week
3. Talk to Heads of Department, teachers, Mrs Dixon (Careers), parents and students who might be studying courses already
4. Research A levels/Level 3 Qualifications, Degrees and jobs that you might be interested in
5. Look at the subjects that you might need to do these courses/jobs



How should I choose my options?

Some of you will have a relatively clear idea about the further and higher education courses you want to follow or jobs that you would like to do, Some of you will not and that's ok.

- Choose subjects that interest you and that you will enjoy
 - Choose subjects that you are good at
 - Choose subjects that will help you along your chosen path
- or
- Choose a wide variety of subjects to keep your future options open



How **not** to choose my options?

- Do not choose subjects because your friends are doing them
- Do not choose subjects because you like the teacher
- Do not 'avoid' exam-based subjects – coursework is not easy!



Completing the Options Form

- The options form can be collected as you leave this evening
- The options choices are made up of 4 blocks, from Option Block A to Option Block D
- You have to choose a first (1), and second (2) choice subject in each option block
- This will give you the **4** option subjects that you would like to study



Completing the Options Form

Look at the example below for Option Block A

You have to put a 1 (first choice subject) and 2 (second choice subject) in each Option Block

Option Block A	
GCSE Geography	1
GCSE History	2



Completing the Options Form

When complete your form will look something like this.

Option Block A		Option Block B		Option Block C		Option Block D	
GCSE Geography	2	GCSE French	1	GCSE Triple Science	1	GCSE PE	1
GCSE History	1	OCR iMedia (L2)		GCSE PE		GCSE Design & Technology	
		GCSE Art	2	GCSE Food	2	GCSE Religious Studies	2
		GCSE Media Studies		GCSE Art		GCSE Business	



Completing the Options Form

Once complete and signed by student and parent, the form should be given to Mr Vernon by **15th March**

Options Timetable

**26th February
2024**

Options Information delivered to students in form time.

7th March 2024

Options Information Evening 6pm

15th March 2024

Signed Options forms to be returned by this date



Will I get my subject choices?

- The ability, attitude and commitment of students will be taken into consideration when allocating subjects
- **Most students will receive their first choice subjects**
- Where numbers do not make a course viable to run then second choices will also be used



Thanks for listening!

Our Subject Leaders are now available, along with the SLT team, should you have any questions...



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