

Shirebrook Academy Y9 Options 2021



What are options?

Most Y10 and Y11 students study for 9 qualifications, some will do slightly fewer.

ALL students study the Core curriculum -

- English Language/English Literature – 5 lessons per week: 2 GCSEs
- Maths – 4 lessons per week in Y10 and 5 in Y11: 1 GCSE
- Combined Science - 6 lessons per week: 2 GCSEs
- Core PE – 2 lessons per week – no qualification
- Personal Development – 1 lesson per week in Y10 only – no qualification

In addition to the 5 GCSEs in the Core curriculum, students will choose UP TO 4 additional GCSE or Vocational qualifications – these are the option choices.

Students will have 3 lessons of each option subject per week.

Options at Shirebrook Academy

There are 3 distinct pathways for students at Shirebrook -

Navy pathway (Ebacc)

Blue pathway (Core)

White pathway (Foundation Learning)

English Baccalaureate 'award'

- Ebacc stands for English Baccalaureate.
- A broad & balanced range of Ebacc subjects allows more flexibility for future pathways.
- Ebacc subjects help to develop better critical thinking & writing skills.
- The Ebacc is awarded only to students who have studied all 5 of the following:
 - English Language & Literature
 - Mathematics
 - Science – Combined or Triple
 - 1 or more Humanities subject – History or Geography
 - 1 or more Modern Foreign Language – French or Spanish

Subjects Overview

Option subjects on offer at Shirebrook are:

GCSEs

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

DT: PAPERS AND BOARDS

DRAMA

FRENCH

HISTORY

PHOTOGRAPHY

SEPARATE SCIENCES (*eligible students only*)

TEXTILES DESIGN

COMPUTER SCIENCE

DT: TIMBERS

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

GEOGRAPHY

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SPANISH

BTECs

DANCE (PERFORMING ARTS)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

SPORT

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MUSIC

Limitations

- *Can't do Art and Textiles*
- *Can't do Art and Photography*
- *Can't do Sport and PE*
- *Can't do P&B and Timbers*

Courses will only run if there are enough students that have picked it

Students must have studied the Foreign Language chosen in Year 9

Which pathway?

Navy pathway (Ebacc)

Suited to students who have mainly been studying 2 languages in Year 9, essentially MfL set 1.

Blue pathway (Core)

Suited to students who have mainly been studying 1 language in Year 9, essentially MfL sets 2 & 3.

White pathway (Foundation Learning)

Suited to students who need a more personalised approach and will benefit from additional support in English & Maths

Students will receive guidance directing them to the pathway which is the most appropriate

Navy pathway (Ebacc) Option Choices

Core curriculum – 5 GCSEs

English
Language &
Literature (2)

Maths (1)

Combined
Science (2)

PD &
PE

Option choices – 4 GCSEs or BTECs

Option 1
Geography
or History

Option 2
French or
Spanish

Option 3
Subject
choice 1

Option 4
Subject
choice 2

Blue pathway (Core) Option Choices

Core curriculum – 5 GCSEs

English
Language &
Literature (2)

Maths (1)

Combined
Science (2)

PD
& PE

Option choices – 4 GCSEs or BTECs

Option 1
Geography, History,
French, Spanish or
Separate Sciences (Triple)

Option 2
Subject
choice 1

Option 3
Subject
choice 2

Option 4
Subject
choice 3

White pathway (Foundation Learning) Option Choices

Core curriculum – 5 GCSEs

English
Language &
Literature (2)

Maths (1)

Combined
Science (2)

PD &
PE

Option choices – up to 3 GCSEs or BTECs

Option 1
Geography, History,
French or Spanish

Option 2
Foundation
Learning

Option 3
Subject
choice 1

Option 4
Subject
choice 2

GCSE v VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Vocational courses include qualifications such as BTEC Tech Awards and BTEC Firsts
- Vocational courses mimic and directly develop workplace skills.
- Vocational courses usually involve more practical work than most traditional GCSEs. They recognise skills that are valuable in the workplace.
- GCSEs have exams at the end of the course to assess students.
- With vocational courses assessment is continuous throughout the course with more of the final mark based on the continuous assessment and less of the final mark based on exams.
- Vocational courses require a high level of independence to be successful.
- GCSEs are assessed on a 1-9 grading scale
- Vocational courses are assessed on a L1 PASS, L2 PASS, L2 MERIT L2 DISTINCTION & L2 DISTINCTION* scale
- Both are recognised equally

Where do the courses lead?

When students leave Shirebrook at age 16 they must continue in some form of education either -

- School 6th Form
- Further Education College
- Employment with Training (Apprenticeship)

Students who achieve a Level 2 qualification (GCSE Grade 4+ or BTEC Level 2 Pass+) can move on to a Level 3 course: i.e. A Levels, T-Levels, BTEC National.

However, many A Level courses require at least a grade 5 in the subject to be studied plus English and Maths at 5+

Can progress to A Level Science with Combined Science but better to do separate Sciences (Triple) if this is your route

What next?

19th January,

26th January,

2nd February

3rd February

12th February

w/c 22nd February

PD online lessons used to introduce and explain the options process to students

Option books, Which Way Now? Guidance & option forms distributed to parents

Deadline for options forms to be completed using Google forms

Consultation with students who have mis-completed forms.
Discussion re the viability of subjects.

Consultation with students who need to choose alternative option choices.

Support

All staff

- Subject teachers
- Form Tutors
- Ms Wakefield
- Mr Moran
- Miss Smith
- Mrs Horton
- Mr Smith

The School Website

- Curriculum pages
- Options page

External links

- Exam boards – specifications etc

Current Y10 and Y11 students!!

Parental Support

Speak to your child regarding their options –

- *What do they enjoy?*
- *What are they good at?*
- *What plans do they have for their future and how will they get there?*
- *Are they choosing their options for the right reasons?*

At home –

- *Talk about their subjects*
- *Check they are completing independent work*
- *Work with us – we are all here to give them the best chance of success.*
- *Support them – GCSEs are hard and stressful.*

Our advice

MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE

✓	x
I enjoy the subject	My mates are choosing it
It gives me a good balance	I like the teacher
I know what the subject is about and how it is assessed	It looks easy
It keeps my options open for the future	My family told me I have to do it
It gives me the qualifications I need for my future	

