



Birchwood High School

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YEAR 8 OPTIONS EVENING
25 April 2023



WELCOME

Miss Munro, Head of Year 8

CURRICULUM & OPTIONS PROCESS

Mr Connor, Assistant Principal

INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Miss Munro, Head of Year 8



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What are Options?

All students in all secondary schools across the country take part in an options process.

Options is the term used to describe the subjects you choose to study at GCSE level. It gives you the opportunity to select **some** of your subjects based upon your enjoyment and aptitude.

Options also allow you to make choices about what qualifications you will achieve at 16 and your future progression.

It is a very important and significant milestone in your education.

The purpose of this evening is to give you an overview of the process and lots of information relating to individual subjects



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Curriculum & Options Process



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Year 9 Curriculum 2023



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A need to ensure our curriculum offer remains broad and balanced.

A need to ensure that all students are accessing an *Ebacc* curriculum in Year 9, as in other schools locally and nationally.

A desire to maintain the principle of student choice in Year 9.

A clear understanding that, whilst we value student choice, Year 8 students also need some additional time to make **final** GCSE choices.





Year 9 will act as a bridging year between KS3 and KS4 study.

There will be a combination of **compulsory subjects** and **optional subjects**.

There will be a dual options process. Your subjects selected in Year 9 will be 'narrowed down' for final GCSE option choices in Year 10.





Year 9 Compulsory Subjects

All students will study these subjects in Year 9	All students will continue with these subjects into Year 10 and 11
English	Leads to English Language and Literature GCSE at the end of Year 11
Maths	Leads to Maths GCSE at the end of Year 11
Science	Leads to Additional Science GCSE at the end of Year 11 Some students will study for Triple Science GCSE at the end of Year 11
Core PE	Non-examined subject – continues in Year 10 and 11 as compulsory for all students
PSHCE	Non-examined subject – continues in Year 10 and 11 as compulsory for all students



Year 9 Compulsory Subjects

All students will study these subjects in Year 9

All students will be required to continue with at least one of the subjects below into Year 10

History

Leads to History GCSE at the end of Year 11, if selected

Geography

Leads to Geography GCSE at the end of Year 11, if selected

French *

Leads to French GCSE at the end of Year 11, if selected
Students who have studied Spanish or German in Year 9 can continue with this, if selected

* A small number of students will be selected for additional Literacy and Numeracy provision and will not study French in Year 9



Year 9 OPTIONAL Subjects

All students will select 4 optional subjects to study in Year 9.

These should be subjects they would consider studying for their final GCSEs in Year 11.

All students will then narrow down their subjects at the end of Year 9 for final GCSE study into Year 10 and 11.

For the vast majority of students they will be taking forward 2 or 3 of their 4 optional subjects into Year 10.

Students need to choose carefully now, as it is unlikely we will allow students to pick up 'new' subjects in Year 10.





Optional Subjects Year 9

Art
Computer Science
Dance
Design & Technology
Drama
Film Studies
Food Preparation & Nutrition
German
Media Studies

Music
PE
Religious Studies
Spanish
Statistics
Triple Science
Business BTEC
ICT BTEC



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	English	Maths	Science	CORE PE	PSHCE	Option A History	Option B Geography	Option C French	Option D, E, F, G
Hrs PW	4 hours	3 hours	4 hours	3 hours	0.5	1.5hrs	1.5	1.5	1.5
Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9	Compulsory for all students in Year 9 *	<p>Students need to select 4 subjects, with a 5th subject as reserve, to study in Year 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Business (Enterprise) BTEC • Computer Science • Dance • Design & Technology • Drama • Film Studies • Food Preparation & Nutrition • German • ICT BTEC • Media Studies • Music • PE • Religious Studies • Science Triple • Spanish • Statistics
Year 10 & 11	Compulsory for all students in Year 10 & 11	Compulsory for all students in Year 10 & 11	Compulsory for all students in Year 10 & 11	Compulsory for all students in Year 10 & 11	Compulsory for all students in Year 10 & 11	All students will be required to select at least ONE of History, Geography or MFL in Year 10			The majority of students will continue with either 2 or 3 of these subjects in Year 10 & 11 for their GCSEs





GCSE and BTEC

The majority of subjects we offer are **GCSE**.

Examination at the end of the **GCSE** course (Year 11) is the main form of assessment in **GCSE**.

Controlled assessment or coursework units have been removed or slimmed down in value. However, this does vary across subjects so it is important to check.

BTECs are modular in design, with a greater emphasis on coursework and examinations at specific points in the course. Again, this will vary across subjects.

BTECs will be assessed and graded using a different system from GCSE.

BTECs provide excellent progression to Sixth Form, College and Apprenticeships.





Future Progression

Choose your subjects carefully.

You will be expected to continue with at least 2 or 3 of your **OPTIONAL** subjects into Year 10 and 11 to study for final GCSEs.

All students now have to stay in education or training until the age of 18 after their GCSEs.

Therefore, your GCSE choices will have an impact on what you can study at post 16, either in Sixth Form or at College.

In all cases, your GCSE and BTEC performance will determine your future progression routes and what is available to you. Choose carefully!



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The Options Process

Options forms will be sent out by email following this evening.

These need to be completed online. The deadline for forms to be returned online is Friday 12 May 2023.

Subjects should be ranked in order of preference (1 to 5) when making choices.

A reserve subject must be considered carefully and treated as a viable choice.

Some courses will be dependent on student numbers and some courses will have a limited capacity. This may therefore lead to changes to some allocations.

Information on which subjects you have been allocated will be sent out in June.





Timeline

3 February 2023	Year 8 interims published
21 February 2023	Year 8 Parents Evening
25 April 2023	Year 8 Options Evening - Option booklet, Online option choices on the school website
26 April 2023	Link to Options form emailed home
12 May 2023	Deadline for completed online options forms to be returned
June 2023	Subject allocations sent out
5 September 2023	Year 9 begins





Information, Advice & Guidance

Parents and Carers - What might you want to do in the future? Which subjects are you strongest at or enjoy the most? Which subjects do your parents think are your best?

Older siblings - What was their experience of options choices? Is there anything they would have done differently?

Form tutors - Advice and Guidance on the options process.

Subject teachers - These are the best people to speak to if you are unsure about your suitability for a subject or if you are still unsure of what a subject will be like.

KS4 Information, Advice & Guidance booklet - Contains all the information you require on specific courses.

Curriculum Maps – Available on the website and will show you the content and structure of each subject area in Year 9, 10 and 11.





Making Sensible Choices

- Don't panic!
- A successful combination
- It's about YOU, not your friends
- It's about the COURSE, not the teacher
- The 'reserve' is important
- Take your time – Friday 12 May 2023

