

# Preferences Process 2022-23

**Choosing the right subjects for next year and beyond to  
develop your child's Confidence, Character and  
Creativity to support them to be Contributing members  
of their Community**



# Purpose

- Understand the curriculum offered
- Understand the different routes and what they mean for subject choices
- Know the timeline for this year's process
- Know how the form should be completed



# Change in the curriculum

- We use Year 9 as the opportunity to increase the breadth and depth of the subjects that are available to be studied with the introduction of new subjects into the curriculum
- Student input vs. duty of care
- Types of qualification



# Qualifications

- GCSE exams are taken in May/June of Year 11
  - Some subjects contain an element of coursework or controlled assessment
- BTEC, VCert, Cambridge National
  - Vocational qualifications that are equivalent to GCSEs
  - More emphasis on coursework/controlled assessment
  - All have at least one exam
  - Some may have more than one examination window



# How are level 2 qualifications graded?

- All GCSEs are now graded 9 to 1, just like at PR points
- Broadly the same proportion of students get a 4 and above as used to get a C and above
- The same is true with grades 7 and A
- Most vocational qualifications use a Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* grading system

Vocational qualification grading

Vocational Qualification Grade	9-1 Grade equivalent
Level 2 Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	5.5
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1.25

GCSE qualification grading

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	D
3	E
2	F
1	G
U	U



# How well is my son or daughter is doing in Year 8? What does that mean in relation to Level 2 targets?

	Yr 9-11 Grades
	9
	8
Yr 8 Grades	7
6	6
5	5
4	4
3	3
2	2
1	1
N	U
M	

- Contact subject teachers for more detail if needed
- But the grades now should generally mean the same as they do as students go into next year
- A grade 3 now means that they are on a grade 3 at a GCSE standard



# Probable Flightpath from Year 8 to the end of Year 11

## Student A

Year 8 Spring PR 2-  
 Year 9 Summer PR 3-  
 Year 10 Summer PR 3+  
 Year 11 Exam result 4

## Student B

Year 8 Spring PR 3-  
 Year 9 Summer PR 4  
 Year 10 Summer PR 5  
 Year 11 Exam result 6

## Student C

Year 8 Spring PR 4  
 Year 9 Summer PR 5+  
 Year 10 Summer PR 7  
 Year 11 Exam result 8+/9

Y8			Y9			Y10			Y11			Equiv Grade
Aut	Spr	Sum	Aut	Spr	Sum	Aut	Spr	Sum	Aut	Spr	Sum	
									9	9	9	A*+
									9-	9-	9-	A*+
						8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	8+	A*
						8	8	8	8	8	8	A*
						8-	8-	8-	8	8-	8-	A*
			7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+	A
			7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	A
			7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	7-	A
6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	6+	B
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	B
6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	6-	B
5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	5+	B
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	B
5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	5-	C
4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	C
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	C
4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	4-	C
3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	D
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	D
3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	3-	D
2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	E
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	E
2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	E/F
1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	F
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	F/G
1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	G
N+	N+	N+	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
N	N	N	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
N-	N-	N-	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
M+	M+	M+	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
M	M	M	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
M-	M-	M-	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U



# The Wider Context

- National emphasis on the **English Baccalaureate**, studying the following subjects as part of a KS4 curriculum package:
  - **English / Maths / Science / History or Geography / MFL**
- Curriculum choices could have implications for future pathways and choices at Post-16 and beyond

COMMUNITY

Department for Education

## HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science  
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- History or Geography
- A language  
Ancient or modern



### WHAT IS THE EBACC?

EBacc is not a qualification in its own right, but a combination of GCSE subjects, including English, Maths, Science, History or Geography, and a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

### EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

If your child may not have decided on their career path yet, choosing the EBacc gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

Thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's top universities.

The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Learning and Performance Improvement





# The Core Curriculum

- English Language and Literature
  - 9 lessons a fortnight leading to 2 GCSEs
- Mathematics
  - 8 lessons a fortnight leading to 1 GCSE (Potential for Further Mathematics)
- Science
  - 9 lessons a fortnight studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to 2 GCSEs
  - There is the option for taking Separate Science as an option and gaining 3 GCSEs
  - This is strongly recommended if taking one or more at A level is a possibility
- PE
  - 4 lessons a fortnight in a range of activities
- Life Skills (including PSHE and RSE)
  - Regular Drop-Down Lessons that continue to address key developmental areas for students



# The Wider Curriculum

- In Year 9 they will study subjects in 5 option blocks that they study for four hours each. These are based on their route and the preferences selected
- In Year 10 one of these is no longer studied so that students have their remaining in subjects in 4 option blocks that they study for 5 hours each-route requirements remain in place
- Continued provision of a range of extra curricular opportunities



# The routes

- Red route
  - At least two Ebacc subjects
    - The language studied now; French or Spanish
    - History or geography (both could be potentially chosen)
    - Able to select Separate Sciences GCSEs and Computer Science GCSE
- Purple route
  - At least one Ebacc subject from Geography, History and their Language
  - But opportunity to take all as above
- Green Route
  - At least one Ebacc subject but the opportunity for two
  - A bespoke curriculum in one of the blocks linked to the Prince's Trust Personal Development Award, ASDAN and Cope qualifications



# Root of the routes

- We look at four main areas:
  - Year 6 information where available
  - PR1 core subject data
  - Our knowledge and experience as an Academy about what will lead to success and opportunity
  - What students may need in the future; even if they do not see it now



# Draft blocking model

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
Catering	Art	Aspiration Route	Art	Art
<i>DT-Resistant Materials</i>	Computer Science	Art	Business	Business
<i>DT-Textiles</i>	<i>DT-Resistant Materials</i>	Business	Child Development	Geography
French	French	Catering	Computer Science	History
Geography	Geography	French	Drama	IT
Health and Social Care	Music	Geography	IT	Media
History	Philosophy and Ethics	History	Media	Philosophy and Ethics
Separate Sciences	Psychology	Philosophy and Ethics	Psychology	Psychology
Spanish	Spanish	Sociology	Separate Sciences	
Sports Science		Spanish	Sports Science	

# Timeline

- You should have received the Preferences information booklets electronically.
- Routes and forms will be with you now-if you have not received one please contact [preferences@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:preferences@thehazeleyacademy.com).
- Subject Leaders for new subjects will present during lead lessons over the next few weeks to give students further information.
- Form completion deadline 24<sup>th</sup> of March at 10 pm.
- Subjects confirmed in the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> June.



# Forms

- These are now online and can be completed via desktop, laptop or mobile devices
- If a change of mind takes place, just complete the form again



# What to consider before submitting

- Talk through with your child which subjects they think they will enjoy the most
- As well as those that they are currently most successful in
- Talk with them about the direction they might want to go in
- But remember this might change so also talk through what employers may be looking for
- They may need to do independent work outside of lessons
- The most successful students begin revising from the first week in Year 9





# What else?

- Knowledge is power
  - Read the booklet
  - Encourage your child to talk to the teachers about the subjects
  - Understand what a course involves
  - Unifrog
- Take the time
  - Choosing the "easy" option is not necessarily the best in the long run
  - Keep an open mind



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