



*the* Hazeley  
ACADEMY

# Preference Process 2023-24

**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**

CHARACTER CONFIDENCE CREATIVITY CONTRIBUTING COMMUNITY



# Purpose

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1. Understand the **curriculum** offered.
2. Understand the **different routes** and what they mean for subject choices.
3. Know the **timeline** for this year's process.
4. Know how the **Preference form** should be completed.



# Change in the curriculum

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- We use Year 9 as the opportunity to increase the **breadth and depth** of subjects that are available by introducing new subjects into the curriculum.
- The curriculum changes in year 9, and again in year 10.

# The Core Curriculum

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- **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).
- **Life Skills** (including PSHE and RSE)
  - **1** lesson a fortnight to continue to address key developmental areas for students.
- **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.



# The Wider Curriculum

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- 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 subjects in **4 option blocks** that they study for **5 hours** each - route requirements remain in place.
- Continued provision of a range of extracurricular opportunities.



# Qualifications

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- **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?

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	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

- 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 previously got a **C and above**.
- The same is true with grades **7** and **A**.
- Most vocational qualifications use a **Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\*** grading system.

# Is my child's current progress in Year 8 related to Level 2 outcomes?

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- Our curriculum is designed to **stretch and challenge** all of our students.
- Our expected standard at A level is a grade **B** and at GCSE a grade **6**.
- Our Age-Related Expectations for the end of Year 8 are being aligned with these outcomes.







# The Wider Context

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?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

#### EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

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

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



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

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies, August 2017

- 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.



# 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 Science** 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.



# Root of the Routes

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We look at four main areas:

1. **Year 6** information where available.
2. **PR1** core subject data.
3. **Our knowledge and experience** as an Academy about what will lead to success and opportunity.
4. 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	Health and Social Care
History	Music	Geography	IT	IT
Separate Sciences	Philosophy and Ethics	History	Media	Media
Spanish	Psychology	Philosophy and Ethics	Psychology	Philosophy and Ethics
Sports Studies	Spanish	Sociology	Separate Sciences	Psychology
		Spanish	Sports Studies	

# Timeline

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- You will receive the Preferences information booklets electronically.
- This will include information as to which **route** your child has been placed on.
- Preference forms will be sent to students to access through their **school accounts only**, this enables us to track who has completed the forms and provide support.
- Subject Leaders will present during **lead lessons** over the next few weeks to give students further information.
- Form completion deadline is **22nd March**.
- Subjects confirmed in the week beginning **24th June**.



# Preference Forms

- These are now **online** and can be completed via desktop, laptop or mobile devices.
- Students will need to save their response to be able to amend the form.
- This will be demonstrated to them next week.

The image displays two screenshots of the online preference form interface. The left screenshot shows a section titled 'Block A Preferences' with a sub-header 'Block A: Please select the first choice preference from this block \*'. Below this is a list of subjects with radio buttons: Catering, Design Technology-Resistant, Design Technology-Textiles, French, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, Separate Sciences, Spanish, and Sports science. The right screenshot shows a similar section titled 'Block A: Please select a reserve choice from this block \*' with the same list of subjects and radio buttons.

# What to consider before submitting

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- 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.
- Consider the **balance** of GCSE exam based assessment versus coursework based Btecs.
- They may need to do **independent work** outside of lessons.



# What Else?

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- **Knowledge is power**

- Read the booklet.
- Encourage your child to talk to the teachers about the subjects.
- Understand what a course involves.
- Unifrog.

- **Take your time**

- Don't rush, there is plenty of time.
- Keep an open mind.





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Any Questions?

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