

# Preferences Process 2021

Choosing the right subjects for next year and beyond to  
develop your child's Confidence, Character and  
Creativity



# Tonight

- 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										
									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



# 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 and including a vocational qualification
- Life Skills (including PSHE)
  - 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
- 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 SATs
  - PR2 core subject data
  - Our knowledge and experience as an Academy about will lead to success and opportunity
  - What students may need in the future; even if they do not see it now



# Example of the blocking model

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
French	French	French	Geography	Art
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	History	Business Studies
Geography	Geography	Geography	Art	IT
History	History	History	IT	Computer Science
Catering	Music	Art	Psychology	Sports Science
Health and Social Care	Philosophy & Ethics	Business Studies	Business Studies	Media Studies
Design Technology (R)	Psychology	Philosophy & Ethics	Catering	Psychology
Separate Sciences	Media Studies	Separate Sciences	Sociology	Design Technology (R)
	Design Technology (T)		Music	Child Development



# Timeline

- Subject Leaders for new subjects will present during lead lessons this term and next
- Preferences information booklets will be distributed by mid-March at the latest
- Routes and forms will go out week of the 17<sup>th</sup> May
- Support sessions the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> May
- Form completion deadline 9<sup>th</sup> June
- Subjects confirmed in the week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> June



# Forms

- These are now online and can be completed via desktop, laptop or mobile devices
- Will be sent via school comms next week along with more detail about how to complete



# 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
- There will be a greater workload
- Expect regular, more challenging homework
- 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
  - Discuss the courses with the teaching staff in May
  - Understand what a course involves
- Take the time
  - Decisions have consequences
  - Choosing the "easy" option is not necessarily the best in the long run
  - Keep an open mind



[Preferences@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:Preferences@thehazeleyacademy.com)

