

Hornsea School

Year 9 Options Information & Guidance



This leaflet describes the elements of the curriculum which students who are currently in Year 9 will study during Years 10 and 11 (September 2021 to June 2023).

A large part of the curriculum is compulsory for all students, but there is also an element of choice which means that students can shape their own learning programme in KS4 according to their interests and future education and career aspirations. Please spend some time reading this information to help your child make the best choices.

The procedure for selecting option subjects is explained in brief here, however if you require any further information or guidance then you can contact a member of the curriculum team at curriculum@hslc.co.uk

Key Dates...

22 nd February	Year 9 Assembly to outline the options process
4 th March	Year 9 Parent's Evening
18 th March	Virtual Options Evening & Careers Information

16th April **Deadline for options returns (via Google Form)**

Students: Making the right choice...

For you, this year is a milestone. Until now you have taken the same subjects from year to year. Next year will be different. You will have to continue some subjects but will have a choice to select others.

Before you make your choices you should consider:

- Which subjects you enjoy and would be happy to study in-depth for the next three years
- Which subjects you are good at – talk with your teachers!
- Are there any subjects that you **need** to take? – depending on what you might want to do when you leave school or enter post-16 education

You should avoid:

- Picking a subject because your friends have chosen it. There are no guarantees that you will be in the same class, since most option subjects break into two or more groups.
- Picking a subject because of your like (or dislike) of a teacher. Again, it isn't possible at this stage to say who will be teaching you.

There are a number of compulsory subjects that you **must** study as part of the curriculum next year. These are listed in the box below, on the left.

Core Subjects (Compulsory)

English
Mathematics
Science
French

Core Physical Education (*timetabled as "Games"*)

Core Religious Education

Life Studies (*which encompasses careers education, sex and relationships education and work-related learning*)

Further advice and guidance...

In addition to your form tutor, the following staff are available to give guidance and help with options and career choices:

- Mr Lewchenko
- Mr Hardgrave
- Mr Atkinson
- Mr Compston
- Ms Richardson (Careers Co-ordinator)

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find out more about specific subjects?

There is a comprehensive 'Curriculum Guide' which is updated every year. This can be found on the school website: just click on the 'Student' menu at the top and follow the link named 'Curriculum'. Individual subjects can be viewed by clicking on their name on the contents page.

What if I make the wrong choice?

You can talk to Mr Lewchenko, Mr Hardgrave, Mr Atkinson, or your Progress Leader if you feel you have made the wrong choice. However, you need to be aware that once the options process is complete a change of subject is often impossible for a number of practical reasons.

Hopefully, if you make the most of all the help and guidance available now, this situation will not arise!

What's the difference between a GCSE, a BTEC and a NCFE?

Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum is usually assessed in terms of GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education). GCSEs are linear, which means that students are assessed through terminal examinations taken at the end of the course. National Council for Further Education (NCFE) and British Technology and Education Council (BTEC) qualifications are Level 2 qualifications, which means that they are equivalent to GCSEs at grade 4 or above, although they offer on-going assessment of academic achievement. NCFEs and BTECs tend to be more vocational in nature.

What is the "Ebacc"?

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) was introduced as a performance measure in the 2010 performance tables. *It is not a qualification in itself.* The measure recognises where students have secured a grade 5 or better across five core academic subject areas: English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences (*at least two required*) and a modern foreign language.

The Ebacc is designed to enable all students to have the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, ensuring that the widest range of future career and post-16 study choices remain open to them. These are the subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to certain degree courses at Russell Group universities.

How do I follow the Ebacc route?

To follow the Ebacc route you need to ensure that you select one of either Geography or History on the options form (please note that you can also select both geography and history if you want to).

As mentioned previously, two Science grades are needed to obtain the Ebacc. The vast majority of students will follow the 'Trilogy specification' (which covers all 3 disciplines of Science) throughout KS4 which is the equivalent to two GCSE grades in the sciences.

The vast majority of students will also study both English Language and English Literature. Either one of these English GCSEs will contribute towards the Ebacc.

Subjects that can be counted towards the Ebacc are: *English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Geography, History (both ancient and modern), Trilogy Science (equivalent to two GCSE's), Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Computing, French, and Spanish.*

Summary of Pathways...

The Free Elective Pathway	The Ebacc Pathway	The Personalised Pathway
Students are free to select from any of the subjects listed on the options form. Try to ensure that you pick a broad and balanced set of subjects so that you don't close off any post-16 pathways. Remember to choose your reserve choice carefully as this may be required.	As detailed above in the Frequently Asked Questions. Students must select at least one of: Geography History Other 'Ebacc' subjects include: French Spanish Italian Computing (<i>counts towards the "science" element</i>)	The personalised pathway delivery takes place in a small group and focuses on life skills and activities - as well as qualifications to help students in the future. Students will be advised if this is a pathway which would be suitable for them to follow. All of the NCFE and BTEC qualifications on this pathway are graded solely via controlled assessments and focus on the practical skills. For more information, please see the Curriculum Guide or speak to Mrs Parnaby.