



Year 9 Options



GCSE Grades

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

GCSE letters no longer exist

Pupils receive a number between 1 and 9

1 is the lowest and 9 is the highest

A grade 4 is the same as an old C grade (good pass)

A grade 5 is now the new benchmark (strong pass)

A grade 7 is the equivalent of an old A grade

A grade 8 can be roughly classed an old A* and a grade 9 is an A** (between 4% and 6% of pupil's nationally achieved a grade 9 in each subject)

If a pupil does a non GCSE course then grades are generally Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*. A Pass is the roughly the equivalent of a grade 5, a Merit is the equivalent of a Grade 6, a Distinction is the equivalent of a Grade 7 and a Distinction* is the equivalent of a grade 8/9



Target Setting

In Year 10 your child's report will contain an individual target for each subject.



Primary SATS

- Your child completed SAT tests in English and Maths in Year 6
- A Scaled Score of between 80 and 120 is given
- A pupil achieving 100 has made the expected progress at the end of Key Stage 2
- A number of 101 or more has made more than the expected progress
- A number of 99 or less has made less than the expected progress
- A score of less than 80 is a no score



FFTD (Fisher Family Trust Data)

- As a school we enter your child's SAT scores into a programme called FFTD.
- This looks at your child's SAT score and sets a target for each GCSE they will sit.
- In its most simplest terms, the higher your child's SAT score the higher your child's target grade will be.
- Our target grades are aspirational which means if a pupil achieves their target grade they would have performed better than most other pupils in the country with the same SAT score.



Options

- Your child will shortly choose their options for Year 10 and 11
- Before any choices are made a full option booklet which includes all information on each subject will be sent home



Individual Interviews

All pupils will meet with either their Head of Year or a member of the Senior Leadership Team at Priory commencing on the 23rd January.

During this interview we will discuss the options process and offer your child personalised advice and guidance.



Buckets

The government has divided subjects into groups (we call them buckets)

Bucket 1

English and Maths - All pupils have to study these (Maths and both English Literature and Language)

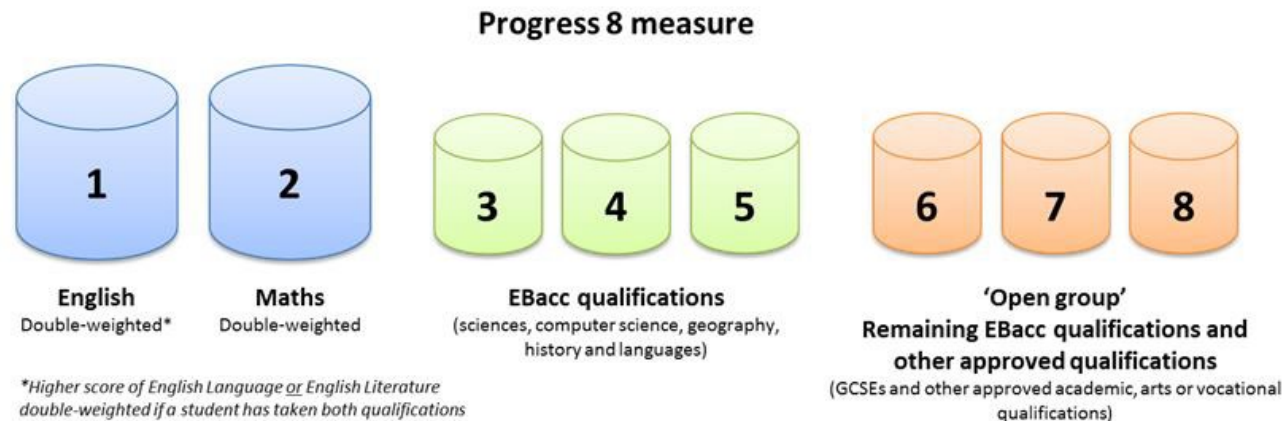
Bucket 2 – Ebacc Subjects

Trilogy/Combined Science - All pupils have to study this it is worth 2 GCSEs

Geography, History, French - Your child will choose 1 from here

Bucket 3

All remaining subjects plus all of the Ebacc subjects – Your child will choose 2 from here



EBacc

The government wants more pupils to study the Ebacc suite of qualifications (75% by 2022 and 90% by 2025.)

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects including a language.

This means the government wants children to study Maths, English Language and Literature and Trilogy/Combines Science (all pupils at Priory will do this).

In addition they also want your child to choose a Language (French) and a Humanities subject either Geography or History.

If you choose the Ebacc route under our proposed option choice this would leave your child to choose a further single option of their choice:

English, Maths and Science – compulsory

Option 1 – Geography or History

Option 2 – Language

Option 3 – Free choice



EBacc

Many schools make it compulsory for the top sets in a school to study the Ebacc but at Priory this isn't an approach we take. The Ebacc is open to all pupils irrespective of their ability but we at Priory believe that we should guide students and their parents/carers appropriately as to whether or not this pathway is the best option for them.

If your child is thinking of going to university, the EBacc is recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities (DfE) and the studying of a language in addition to History and Geography will help your child compete in the global climate.



Technical Awards

- Throughout the option booklet you will see a range of BTEC NCFE and V Cert qualifications. These qualifications are generally referred to as Technical Awards.
- Technical Awards are high-quality Level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. They focus on the applied study of an industry sector or occupational area, or the acquisition of practical and technical skills.
- Technical Awards will fulfil entry requirements for both academic and vocational study post-16, alongside GCSEs. All Technical Awards will count as equivalent to one GCSE in the Key Stage 4 performance tables.
- All Technical Awards will count as equivalent to one GCSE in the Key Stage 4 performance tables and are accepted by colleges in the same manner as a GCSE.



Careers Advice

- Mrs Khan is available for pupils every Thursday for a careers appointment if you want one. Email s.khan@priory.lancs.sch.uk or speak to the Head of Year 9.
- Mrs Khan offers professional, independent and impartial advice and guidance on a range of post-16 options including A-Levels, specialist vocational pathways, technical courses, employer apprenticeships, training and more.



Options

Compulsory

English Literature
English Language
Mathematics
Trilogy/Combined Science

Ebacc – Choose 1

Geography
History
French

Other – Choose 2

Geography **Ebacc** | History **Ebacc** | French **Ebacc**
Separate Science
Art and Design
Business & Enterprise
Child Development and Care
Computer Science
BTEC Drama
BTEC Dance
Design Technology - Graphics
Design Technology - Engineering
Food Preparation and Nutrition
ICT (Digital Information Technology)
Music
GCSE PE
Sport (Health and Fitness)
Religious Education



Combinations

There are 2 combinations that pupils cannot study

- **GCSE PE and Sport (Health and Fitness)***

Pupils cannot choose to study both GCSE PE and Sport (Health and Fitness), you can only choose one of these.

- **GCSE Art and NCFE Graphics***

Pupils cannot choose to study both GCSE Art and NCFE Graphics, you can only choose one of these.

(*These combinations of subjects have almost identical content and therefore it is not in a pupil's interest to study these courses together)

Your child can however choose a combination of the above, so for example they can choose GCSE Art and GCSE PE or GCSE Art and Sport (Health and fitness).

They can also choose these subjects and have the second one as a reserve choice eg, Art in Option Choice 2 or 3 and Graphic Design in Reserve Choice 1 or 2.



Choices

- Unfortunately it is highly unlikely that every pupil will get their first 3 choices (last year from 540 option choices we only had 6 pupils who did not get one of their choices)
- It is also unlikely that every option choice will run. We have a minimum number of pupils that are required to choose an option and if there are not enough pupils the course will not run.
- If any of the above two occur we will automatically go to your child's reserve choices, but we will always inform the pupil and their parents.



Things to remember

- Read through the Options booklet carefully.
- If in doubt, don't be afraid to ask the relevant members of staff for advice.
- Discuss your ideas
- Choose subjects your child is good at.
- Choose subjects you child enjoys.
- Choose subjects you need for your child's career (if they aren't sure what you want to go on to do yet, we recommend they study a balance of subjects.)

Things not to do!

- Don't just pick a subject because their friends are doing it.
- Don't just pick a subject because they like the teachers; we cannot guarantee which teacher will be teaching Year 10 subjects
- Don't choose a subject because it sounds easy. All subject are challenging.



What's Next

- Read through the options booklet with your child and discuss possible option choices.
- Attend the options evening on Weds, 1 February and speak to all of the staff whose options your child is interested in.
- Use the link below from Weds, 1 February at 12 noon to make your option choices (this is an online form).
- Forms must be completed by Wednesday, 22 February.

<https://forms.office.com/e/L9cNekfZRL>



Contact

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