

Year 9 OPTIONS Information Evening 2023

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YEAR 9 GCSE Options

Students will be making choices about what GCSEs they wish to study moving forward into year 10.

These are important choices that will directly impact on their futures.

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What you need to know about your GCSEs

GCSE Qualifications have changed a lot over the recent years....

- In 2019 all subjects graded 9-1 in place of A*-G.
- Most GCSE examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11 with greatly reduced or removal of Controlled Assessment along the way.
- Vocational qualifications might have more coursework content.

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Expected Standard

New GCSE Grades →

Old GCSE Grades

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

- A grade 4 is a 'standard pass' and a grade 5 a 'strong pass' at GCSE.
- Further education centres will ask for a grade 4 or better in English Language and Mathematics (with a requirement to resit if this is not achieved).
- Usually a grade 6 or higher is needed to study a subject at A Level

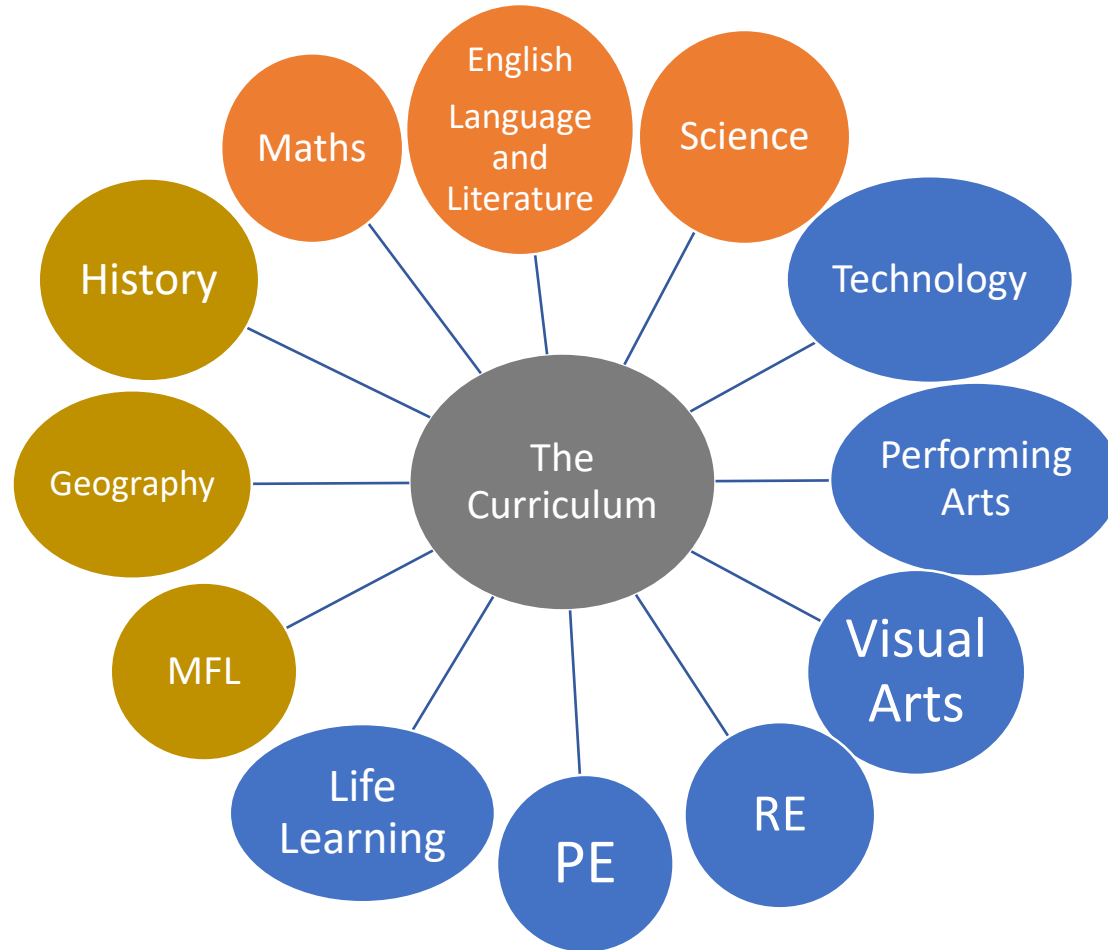
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This is what the KS3 curriculum looks like now.....



Alongside your Enrichment Subjects:

- Film
- Media
- Ethics
- Sports Science
- Spanish
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

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All students will study the CORE curriculum and then additional subjects will be selected from the option choices.

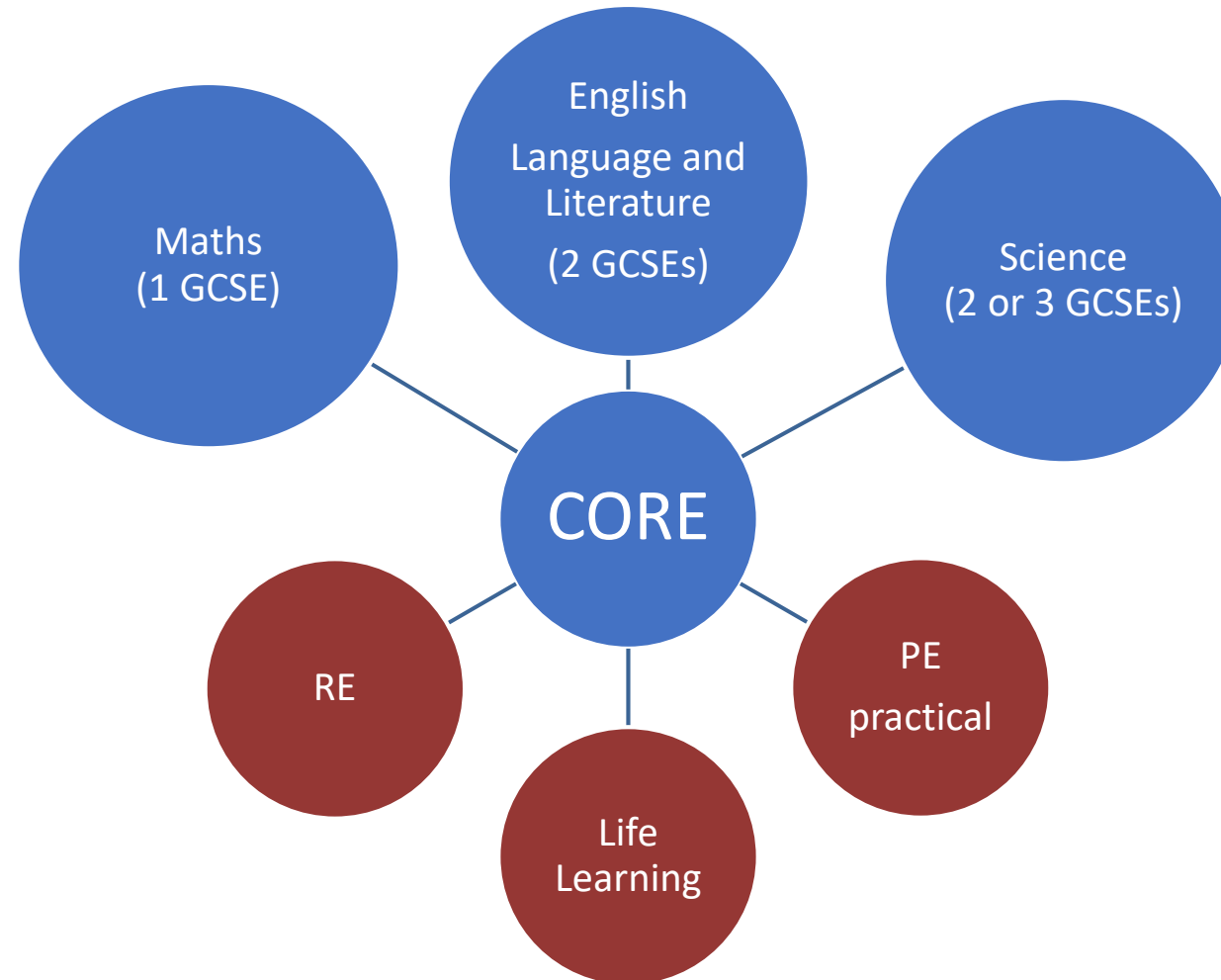
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The CORE curriculum: All students will continue to study



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Werneth Pathways

- Each student in year 9 has been placed on one of two pathways; The **Ebacc Pathway** or the **Open Pathway**. A Pathway means a combination of subjects, but you will still have lots of choice, regardless of the pathway that you are on.
- All subject teachers have been looking at the best pathway for you, based on what they know about your abilities and the performance data that we hold. We have selected the best pathway to meet your needs.
- We believe that the appropriate pathway will enable you to attain, achieve and maximise your potential, both in school and beyond.

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The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) pathway

- This pathway will be chosen for students who are achieving well in all core subjects, humanities and a Modern Foreign Language. This stands at about 30% of our current year 9 cohort.
- The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification but a group of carefully chosen subjects that are the most sought-after qualifications for university, college and for employers. It is a more academic route and is the best pathway for students who are considering A-Levels, University or to keep their options open for their future careers.

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The Open Pathway

- This pathway gives an equally wide choice of subjects. It is a slightly less academic route.
- The Open Pathway will allow for a broad and balanced selection of subjects, with a blend of academic and more practical/vocational options.
- One option choice on the open pathway will be from the Ebacc choice of subjects.

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What choice is there?

Students can select **4 subjects** as part of the Options process in year 9 to study in years 10 and 11.

These will include:

- At least one EBacc subject where students choose a Modern Foreign Language, History or Geography (or Computer Science on the Open pathway).
- At least two free choices. We encourage students to choose something that they enjoy or a practical / technical subject to balance the curriculum.

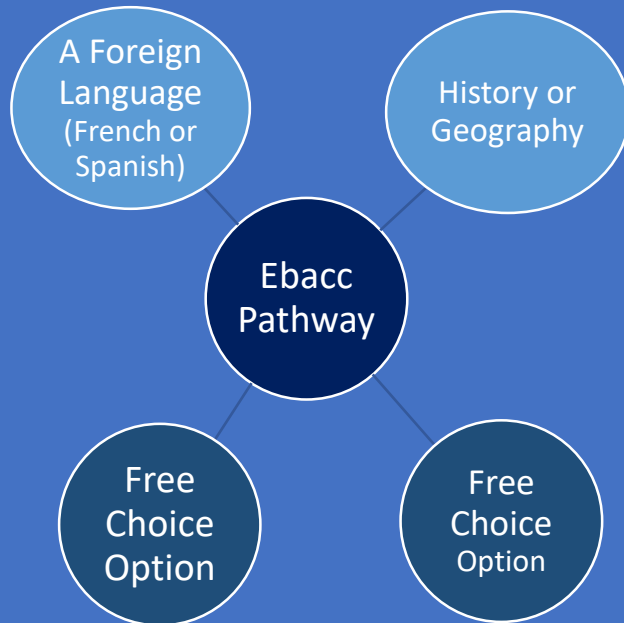
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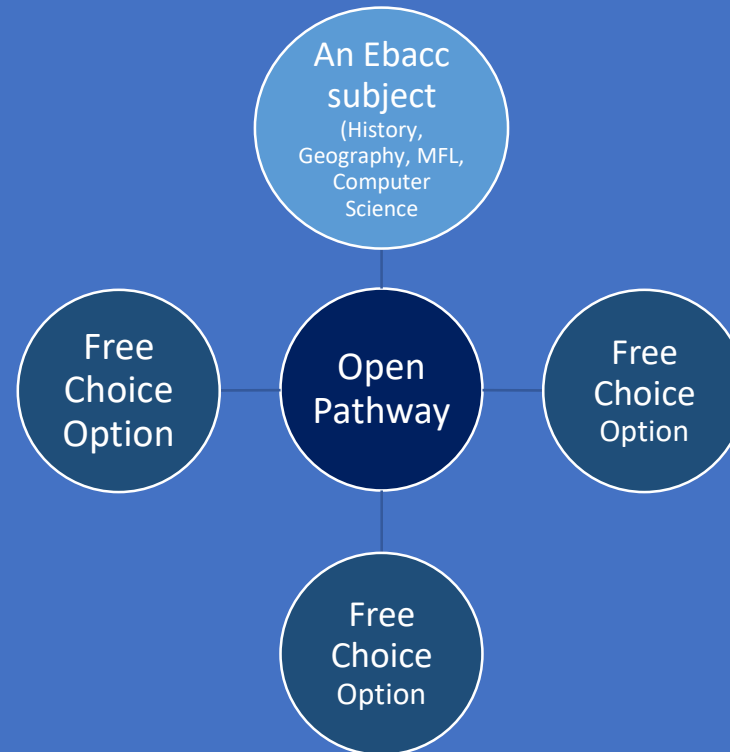
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The Ebacc pathway



The Open pathway



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For your free choices you may choose from a vast range of subjects:

Fine art	Geography	Film Studies
Graphics	History	Media
Photography	French	Music
3-D sculpture	Spanish	PE
	Computer Science	Drama
		Ethics
		Dance
		Creative IMedia
Fashion and Textiles	Childcare	
Technology	Construction	
Engineering	Hair and Beauty	
Catering	Business and Enterprise	
Food preparation and Nutrition	MPTC	

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TIMELINE:

- 9th March- Options Evening (Today!)
- Tomorrow- Options booklets, letters and completion forms will be sent home. This will tell you what pathway students have been placed on.
- Information Assemblies (Business Studies, Film, Media, Childcare, Hair and Beauty)
- 23rd March- Parents Evening
- **27th March -Options Form deadline for handing in.**

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Will I always get all of my choices?

- ❑ **No** – but we will do our best. It is very rare that we can not offer a chosen option.

Possible reasons that you may not get your option choices:

- Too many students may select a subject.
- Too few students may select a subject.
- It will not be possible to study every combination of subjects.

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DO

- Choose subjects that you enjoy, or that you think you will enjoy.
 - Choose subjects/courses where you will succeed.
 - Choose subjects where you will fully take part
 - PE -do you bring your kit?
 - Food Preparation & Nutrition– do you usually bring ingredients?

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DO NOT

- Choose a subject because your friend has chosen it!
- Choose a subject the because you like the teacher....you will not necessarily get that teacher next year!

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Before you make your choices make sure you:

- **READ** the options booklet carefully
- **TALK**
 - to subject teachers
 - to your form tutor
 - to pupils in Years 10 & 11
 - Careers staff, colleges etc
- **Find out** about post 16 courses and training that you might want to do
- **ASK** -everyone will try to help and advise you

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If you have any questions ask me or the year 9 team at any time.

Parents can contact me by emailing:

options@wernethschool.com

or via the usual email contact

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