



Year 9 Curriculum and Options Evening 2024

Programme for the evening

155

Welcome and introduction of key colleagues



The curriculum as a whole: Mrs Jenkins, Deputy Head teacher and Mr Sidell, Lead Practitioner



Explaining less familiar subjects

Factors in Making the Decisions



Overview of the process – what happens next?

Signpost tonight

Our aims are simple: "To develop the sharpest minds and the biggest hearts in our children through a traditional academic approach to education.

To meet these aims we:

- <u>Enable</u> our children to access the <u>broadest curriculum</u> possible enabling their learning needs and aspirations to be met.
- To <u>engage</u> our children and <u>enable</u> them to reach their <u>full potential</u>

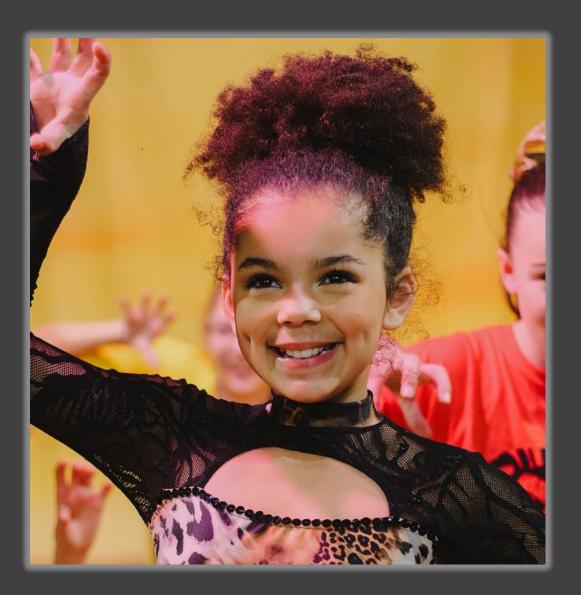


Pastoral Curriculum: including Life Lessons and Wellbeing Wednesday

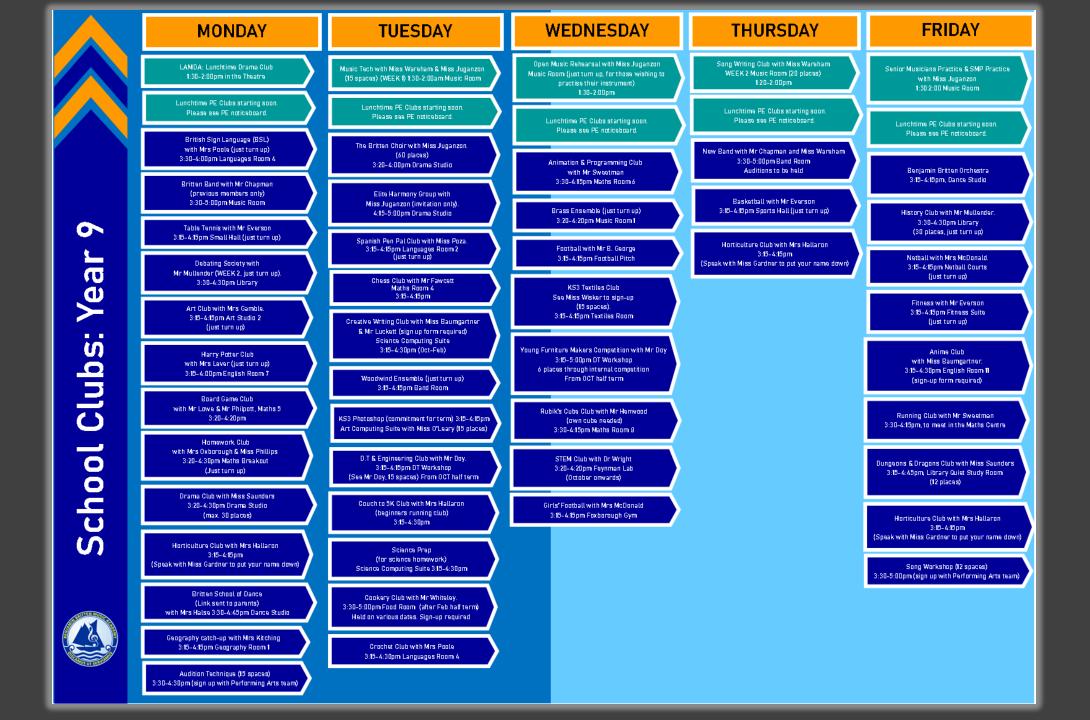


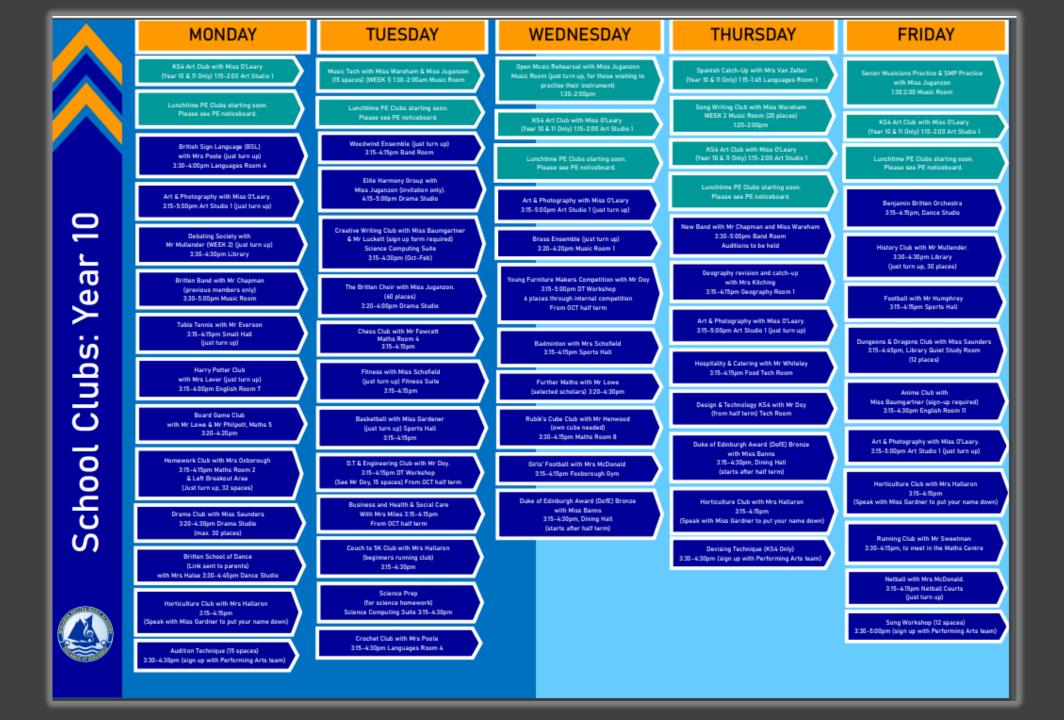


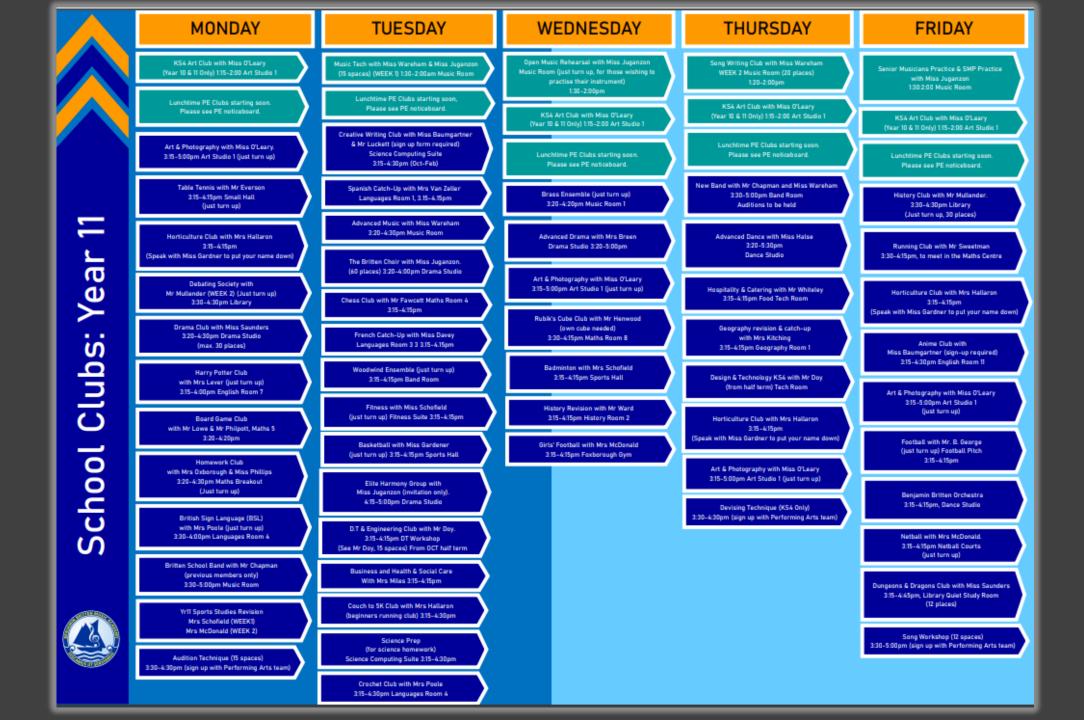
Enrichment and Extra-curricular











We have not, and will not ever, *"Game the system"*. The KS4 curriculum is set out as follows:

Compulsory Subjects

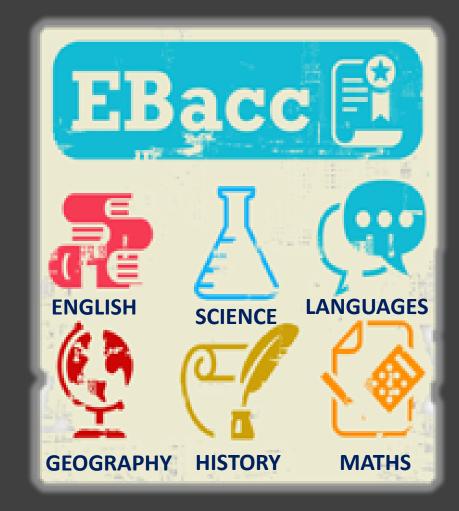
- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics and Financial Capability
- Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Citizenship
- One Ebacc Option from the following: History, Geography, French or Spanish Non-examined Subjects
- Core Physical Education
- Personal Development, Careers, Employability, Relationship and Sex Education.



The EBacc Subjects

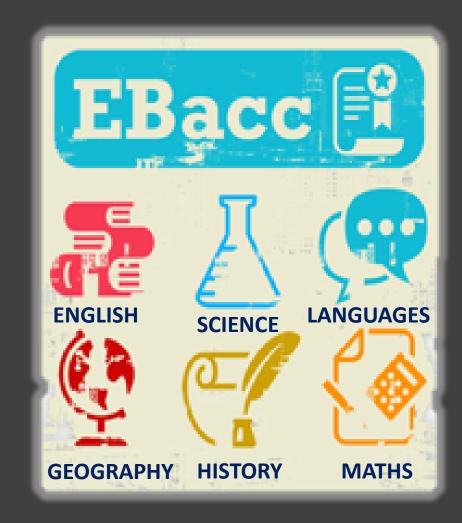
• All students have to choose one of the following

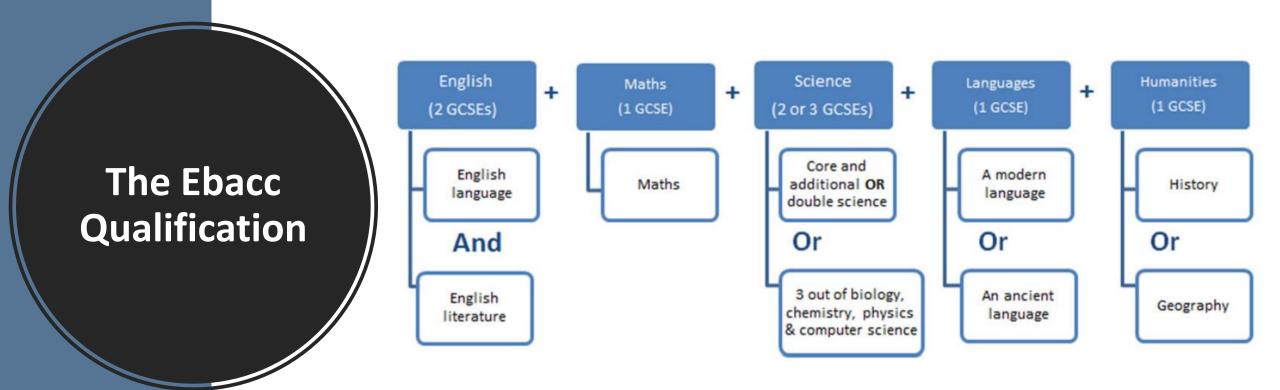
History
Geography
French
Spanish



The English Baccalaureate

- It is an important measure determined by the Department of Education.
- It is not a qualification in its own right and students do not receive any additional qualifications or a certificate
- It reflects the achievement of students over a range of key subjects.
- You will be considered to have a achieved the Ebacc if you have achieved grade 5 or above in English, Maths, Sciences, a language, History or Geography.





- The Government target for 2025 is 90% of students taking Ebacc
- Further information on the Ebacc can be found in your Options Booklet

WHY SHOULD KIDS LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?



The EBacc Pathway

- Our advice remains that if this combination of subjects is right for you, fits your strengths and interests, then you should study them.
- Otherwise choose the best combination of subjects for you.



The EBacc Pathway

Choose one of these subjects:

Geography History French (currently studying) Spanish (currently studying)

Choose three and rank them:

Art

Business Studies Child Development Computer Science (Maths projected 5+) Creative iMedia Dance Drama **Design and Technology Hospitality and Catering** French Geography **Health and Social Care History** Music **Physical Education** Photography **Spanish**

You will study two of these

Subject presentations are on the school website

Art
Business Studies
Child Development
Computer Science
Creative iMedia
Dance
Drama
Design and Technology
Hospitality and Catering
Health and Social Care
Music
Photography
Sports Studies



How do you choose?

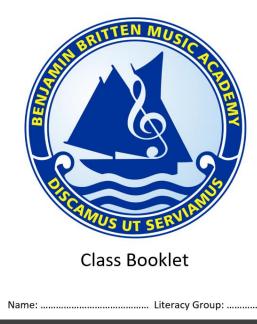
- Favourite subjects
- Good subjects
- Options booklet
- Research
- Talk to people
- Take advice
- Future career aspirations

Advice from our Careers Department

- During your careers lessons last term with Mr Mullender, you received lots of information and advice about choosing your GCSE options.
- You have also been provided with the Year 9 Careers Booklet and access to your Year 9 Careers Google Classroom. Both of these sources have lots and lots of useful information
- On our school website there are subject presentations and brief curriculum overviews under the Year 9 Options section.



Year 9 Careers



Within your Careers Google Classroom, there is a specific section called 'Options Advice'.

You can find these short videos from BBC Bitesize there:



GCSE Options: Everything you need to know about choosing your GCSE subjects



Myths about choosing your options: Busted!



What I wish I'd known before choosing my options



How to choose your exam subjects wisely for the future you want



GCSEs OCR Nationals AQA Technical Awards

- Some subjects have a vocational bias
- Higher proportion of project work
- Fewer exams





We have also asked some of our local further education providers for information and guidance which may help you to link GCSE option subjects with future college courses and other post-16 options

66 MUS SER

What shouldn't they do?

- Base your decisions on who is teaching them now
- Choose the same options as best friends
- Copy older siblings
- Pick 'easy' subjects



Please chat with some of our student representatives about their options and how they are finding the courses



Post 16 All students are required to be in full time education until the age of 18.

As a general guide:

- 5 GCSE or equivalent passes at a Grade 5 or above to progress to A level courses
- At least one grade 4 or above in English and/or Maths for some post 16 courses
- To study a subject at A level, students usually require at least a Grade 5 in that subject at GCSE.
- A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths and French require a Grade 6 at GCSE and typically an average point score.
- Most apprenticeships require a minimum grade 4 in English and Maths

	Options Timeline
Wednesday 27th March	Deadline for completed 'Options' form to be submitted via Google Forms. Processing will not commence until the deadline has passed.
15 – 17 April	Year 9 Assessments in English, Maths and Science These assessments are sat under exam conditions in the sports halls/study centre. These assessments are independent of the options process but help with the initial setting of Year 10 as the three bands of lower school moves to 2 bands in Key Stage 4, moving from 9 teaching groups to 10.
April - July	After receiving your form, we will be running a series of 'dry-runs' to see what the best combination of subjects will be.
Early July	Options confirmed

Dry Runs

- Following return of the initial choices, we try to write a model to best fit our children's options.
- This is often the point where disappointment sinks in as:
 - \circ There may be combinations that won't be possible
 - Where courses may be over-subscribed or options need to be re-thought

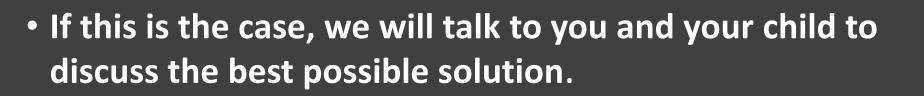
We may ask our children to choose from option blocks if we can't make their choices fit.



Dry Runs

• In the past three years we have been able to find an excellent fit based on open choices.

 The vast majority of students will be given their first choice of subjects, but because we have constraints on what we can offer there will be students for whom we are unable to offer the combination of subjects they requested.









Year 9 Core Assessments

15 - 17 April

N	Morning Exams (09:05)		15 - 17	Afternoon Exams (14:00)		
Exam	Board	Duration		Exam	Board	Duration
Maths Paper 1	AQA	1h	Monday	English Reading	AQA	1h
Non-calculator			15			
			Apr			

English Writing	AQA	1h	Tuesday	Science Paper 1	AQA	1h
			16			
			Apr			

Maths Paper 2	AQA	1h	Wednesday	Science Paper 2	AQA	1h
Calculator			17			
			Apr			

Mathematics Year 9 Core Assessment

You will complete **TWO 1 hour** mathematics papers.

Everyone completes the same papers.

<u>The questions on each paper will consist of:</u> The **first 25%** will be **basic numeracy skills** that you have learnt and practiced throughout KS3.

The **remaining 75%** will be a mixture of different skills that you have learnt in Year 9, building in difficulty from easiest to hardest.



Geometry – angles, constructions Algebra – coordinates, graphs, formulae Statistics – charts, averages adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, negative numbers, decimals, percentages, fractions, ratio & proportion, probability, basic algebra skills etc.

Paper 1 non-calculator 1 hour



Paper 2 calculator 1 hour



YEAR 9ASSESSMENT – ENGLISH WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO?

Paper One – Reading (one hour)

Read an extract from a story and:

- Q1 list four things about....
- Q2 explain how the writer has used language to describe.....
- Q3 write about the structure of the story
- Q4 respond to a statement about the story

Paper Two – Writing (one hour)

You will choose one of two creative writing tasks to complete.

No right or wrong answer – just show off your creative writing skills!



These are all skills that you have been practising since Year 7! This is your opportunity to show us how fabulous you are!



Science Assessment

How many papers will there be?

There are 2 papers, each 1 hour in length.

What will the papers include?

Paper 1 and 2 will include questions based on what students have studied throughout KS3 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons.

What type of questions will there be?

There will be a range of multiple choice, structured and closed short answer questions.

What is the best way to prepare for the science assessment?

Revision is important. Each student will be provided with a list of topics to revise, supported with online videos to assist, all of which will be found on the their google classroom.

Attendance Behaviour Coursework, classwork and of course homework



Attendance and Attainment

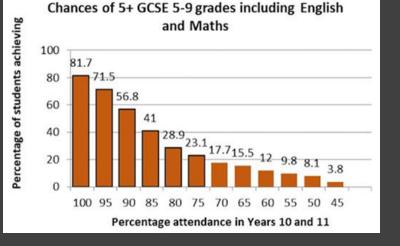
As a school we want to ensure you can make the most of your time here. We know that high attendance and the success of your future is linked.

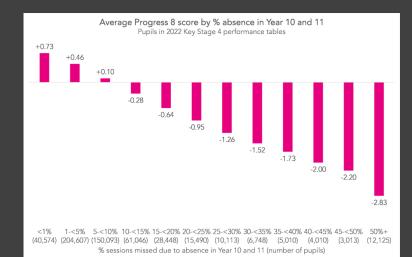
You are more likely to achieve success at GCSE level if you attend. The more you attend, the better your chances.

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
Excellent	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	85
	91%	173 days	17	
	90%	171 days	19	95
Unsatisfactory	89%	169 days	21	105
Unsatisfactory	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious cause for concern	86%	163 days	27	135
	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
Critical	83%	158 days	32	160
Critical	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

. .. .

Evidence from a Department for Education study shows a strong correlation between school attendance and GCSE success. The chart below illustrates this:





*Figures based on 190 (whole year) expected attendance

Contact details

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