



# Year 9 Guided Choices Evening

Monday, 02 February 2026

**'Prepare for the road ahead'**

# What is Guided Choices?

- This marks a key transition from KS3 to KS4.
- Students will encounter some new subjects and continue others from KS3.
- School and home play crucial roles in guiding students through this process.



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Responsibility

Resilience

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# The National Picture - GCSEs

- GCSEs now place greater emphasis on knowledge and follow a linear structure instead of modular.
- The grading system has shifted to a 9-1 scale, with grade 5 considered a strong pass.

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

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

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# The National Picture - EBacc

- The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps a student's options open for further study and future careers.
- It is not a qualification but a recognition of the curriculum that the student has studied.
- Many universities, including Russell Group institutions, favour students with EBacc qualifications, as they demonstrate a strong academic foundation.
- It contains:
  - English language and literature
  - maths
  - the sciences
  - geography or history
  - a language

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# Broad and Balanced Curriculum

- It is important that children have a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Most students will undertake a mix of GCSE and vocational subjects.
- Many vocational subjects have elements of NEA (coursework) for students to complete before the summer exams.
- This mix will support students with their workload.



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# Core offer

- All students will study these subjects:
  - GCSE English Language
  - GCSE English Literature
  - GCSE Mathematics
  - GCSE Science
  
- Core PE (non-examined)
- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education and Core RE (non-examined)

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# Guided Choices - Subjects

## Option 1

- All students will select **one** subject from the three listed below:
  - GCSE Spanish
  - GCSE Geography
  - GCSE History



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# Guided Choices - Subjects

## Option 2 and 3

All students will also study **two** subjects from:

- GCSE Art & Design
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Spanish
- BTEC Level 2 Construction and the Built Environment
- BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts
- BTEC Level 2 PA - Dance
- BTEC Health and Social
- BTEC Level 2 Travel and Tourism
- Cambridge National in Creative iMedia
- Business Studies and Enterprise and Marketing
- WJEC Engineering Level 2
- WJEC Level 2 Hospitality and Catering
- Cambridge National in Sports Science
- NCFE Level 2 in Music Technology

*You will also be asked for a reserve in case your options do not fit the timetable or if there is insufficient uptake.*

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# Making Informed Choices

## Good Reasons

I am good at the subject.

I really enjoy the subject.

I have researched this qualification.

I excel in the skills required for this subject.

The subject may help me when I am older.

This subject complements others I am doing.

## Bad Reasons

My friend is doing this subject.

My sibling studied this subject.

I like the teacher who currently teaches me.

This is a new subject to me so it must be good.

Other people want me to do this but I don't enjoy it.

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# Guided Choices - Subjects

## How does school support students through the process?

- Guided Choices Evening
- Students have already had further information in PDP time
- Speak to your subject teacher or form tutor
- Speak to the KS3 and KS4 Pastoral Leaders (Miss Page and Mrs Green)
- LINK/Star Centre/Validus
- Parents and Carers

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# Guided Choices - Subjects

## How can parents/carers help?

- Discuss subject choices and their reasons with your child.
- Discuss with them the careers pathways they are considering inc. university.
- Remind them of the benefits of studying a broad and balanced curriculum.
- For those in top set Spanish, discuss the EBacc.
- Please use the contact us section on the school website if you need further support.

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# Guided Choices Process - Timeline

<b>Thursday 22 January</b>	The Guided Choices evening for students and parents/carers to speak to the subject leaders about the different qualifications. Guided Choices booklet available at the Guided Choices Evening to inform students and parents/carers of the different options subjects they can choose from.
<b>9 February – 13 February</b>	Virtual Guided Choices meetings with Senior Leaders. <i>Please be mindful that this deadline may change. In this instance we will communicate this with parents/carers.</i>
<b>Monday 2 March</b>	Second interviews take place for any students not placed in chosen subjects.

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# Next steps

- Use this evening to speak to the subject leaders for the different courses.
- Speak to your son/daughter about the future.
- Support the school with your attendance for the 1:1 Virtual Guided Choices meetings.
- For further questions, use the 'Contact Us' section on the school website.



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