

# Welcome to Year 9 options evening 2023



# Where do you start?



It is important to have a selection of subjects which will keep all career paths open.

Universities and employers are looking to recruit people with a broad and balanced education.

Brownhills Ormiston Academy's aim is to ensure that you engage in subjects in which you can achieve; this is why you should seek advice from your

- parents/carers
- subject teachers
- your form tutor
- Head of Year and the Careers Department.

They can help you by giving impartial and specific careers advice.

# Things to think about when making your choices



1. Which subjects do you enjoy?
2. What are your learning strengths and skills, and which subjects do these go well with?
3. Which qualifications might you need for a career or courses in higher education that will interest you?
4. Does the content and style of learning interest you?
5. Does the balance between coursework and examinations suit you?

## **Do not choose a subject because**

- You like the teacher – they may not be teaching your class next year.
- Your friend is choosing it or wants you to choose it – you may end up in a different class to your friend.

# What is the Core Curriculum?



Everyone will study core National Curriculum subjects. These include some 'non-qualification subjects' that do not have any exams and do not lead to a certificate. However, it is important that you study these courses as they will help develop you as a person and prepare you for your future.

## The core subjects are:

- English GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Science GCSE
- Physical Education ('Core PE' is a non-qualification subject)
- PSHE (non-qualification subject; includes careers, sex and relationships education and key skills development)
- Religious Education



# What are the different types of qualifications?

## GCSE

- GCSEs involve studying the theory of a subject and usually include some investigation work. Some may also involve practical work.
- All GCSEs have examinations although some might have controlled assessments too; controlled assessments must be completed in class under the supervision of teaching staff.
- When you take your final exams in 2025 GCSEs, they will be graded 9-1. S
- Some qualifications have different examination papers for students working at different ability levels. These are called 'tiers': Higher and Foundation.



### Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
⑤ <b>STRONG PASS</b>	
④ <b>STANDARD PASS</b>	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

# What are the different types of qualifications?

## Vocational Qualifications

- BTEC (Business & Technology Education Council) qualifications are work-related or 'technical (vocational)' courses suitable for a wide range of learners.
- Like GCSEs these are nationally recognised have been designed to meet the needs of employers and allow progression to further study.
- They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning.
- BTECs are assessed through coursework and examinations.
- These courses are suitable for students who might not show their full potential in courses assessed through only examinations.
- Our BTECs are 'Level 2' qualifications and are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*.

# What is the E Bacc?



- The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open lots of doors. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.
- The government's ambition is to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.



# What subjects make up the Ebacc?



- An English GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Either History and/or Geography GCSE
- At least two Science GCSEs, Computer Science is counted as a science for the EBacc
- A modern foreign language (MFL) GCSE, at Brownhills Ormiston Academy, the MFL is French.

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which the Russell Group says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees. A recognised group of leading UK Universities,



# Why these subjects?



- A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education.
- Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Math's.
- It is important to study a broad and balanced curriculum; these subjects are included to give you the opportunity to study a core of diverse subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to you in terms of future progression.



# The transferable skills and attributes developed by Ebacc Subjects



The following skills and attributes that are developed through studying the EBacc subjects and gaining an 5-9 grades:

- An appreciation of the culture and attitudes of societies other than our own
- Evaluating critically
- Engaging directly with questions and presenting independent opinions
- Arguments that are well-written or verbally presented, that are clearly expressed, coherently organised and effectively supported by relevant evidence
- Gaining the confidence to undertake self-directed learning
- Making the most effective use of time and resources
- Develop qualities of perception and judgement

# Russell Group Universities



This group is comprised of 24 universities that are seen as being research intensive and world-class in its teaching.



## Attending University and salary



**Could Your  
University  
Choice Affect  
Your Future  
Salary?**



Figures published by the Department for Education show a continued rise, as working-age graduates aged 16-64 earned a median salary of £34,000 in 2018, a rise of £1,000 from the previous year, while their non-graduate peers who chose a different path earned a median salary of £24,000.

School leavers with A-levels but no degree will earn around £23,000 a year, and students with no qualifications will be around £16,000 a year.

When this is factored over a lifetime, £1,597,610 for Russell Group universities and £1,385,260 for other universities. Although these estimated wages don't take particular locations or individual sectors into account.

University may not be for everyone some students may wish to take an apprenticeship. Apprenticeships come in levels which are equivalent to different qualifications.

These are:

- Level 2 – GCSE
- Level 3 - AS and A Levels
- Level 4 – Certificate of higher education
- Level 5 – Foundation degree
- Level 6 – Bachelor's degree
- Level 7 – Master's degree
- Level 8 - PHD

## Important things that you need to know:

- Choices are not allocated to people who submit their choices first so please take your time to consider the options available. However, if you do not complete your submission by the deadline then it may be difficult to accommodate your preferences.
- Please consider your choices carefully as often it is not possible to change courses later as many courses will be full.
- Sometimes it is not possible to allocate all first choices. This is usually because courses are timetabled at the same time. Every effort will be made to try to give you your first choices; however, if this is not possible, then you will have a conversation with Mrs Best who will explain why and then look with you at the other choices available.

# Option choice deadline

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023:** Options can be made through the SIMS parent app

## Options choices

In years 10 and 11, students will study three options alongside their compulsory curriculum of English, Maths and Science.

By the end of the option process, you need to have selected three option subjects you would like to study next year. These should be ranked in order of preference.

### All students should pick one option from Pool A

The subjects in **Purple** below are the **English Baccalaureate**. The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open lots of doors. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

#### Pool A

- Geography (EBacc)
- History (EBacc)

The government's ambition is to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025. To achieve the full English Baccalaureate a language must be studied at GCSE. We offer French. If you would like to study French to achieve the full Ebacc please tick the box below.

- I would like to study French as to achieve the full English Baccalaureate

If you have selected French above you should pick a further **ONE** option and a **RESERVE** option from Pool B: Please indicate choice **1, R**

If you did not select French, you should pick a further **TWO** options and a **RESERVE** option from Pool B: Please indicate choices as **1, 2, R**.

**We will try to ensure that everyone gets their top two choices, but this is not always possible. For that reason, everyone needs to be happy with the prospect of studying all the subjects they choose.**

Compulsory GCSE's	GCSE qualifications	Pool B Vocational qualifications
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE Science	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Geography (EBacc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1/ 2 Technical Award Engineering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE Maths	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE History (EBacc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1/ 2 Technical Award Hospitality & Catering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE English	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Music	<input type="checkbox"/> OCR National Child Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GCSE English Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Religious Education	<input type="checkbox"/> BTEC: Level 1/ 2 Technical Award Health and Social Care
<b>Compulsory Non qualification</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSE Art & Design (Textiles maybe studied as a medium as part of this qualification)	<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1/2 Technical Award ICT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSHE		<input type="checkbox"/> BTEC: Level 1/ 2 Technical Award Sport
The above subjects have been preselected for you.		<input type="checkbox"/> BTEC: Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performing Arts
		<input type="checkbox"/> BTEC: Level1/ 2 Technical Award Animal care
		<input type="checkbox"/> OCR National Enterprise and Marketing