

# **YEAR 9 CURRICULUM BRIEFING 2018**

- **The changed national context – reformed GCSEs, new assessment & external Accountability.**
- **The English Baccalaureate**
- **Curriculum Choices & GCSE Subject Options**
  - **CATs & Target Setting**

# The changed National context

## **New examinations**

From 2015 all GCSE courses changed to the new more demanding GCSEs.

All GCSE courses are now linear with all exams sat at the end of Y11 (except a few practical subjects)

## **New grading structure**

A\*-E has been replaced with grades 9-1.

## **External accountability framework (Progress 8)**

Schools will be judged on how well their Y11 pupils perform in the Best 8 GCSEs – this Best 8 must include: English and Maths; at least two science subjects and at least 3 'Ebacc' subjects

# The English Baccalaureate

The government introduced the English Baccalaureate which is a measurement of individual school and student success. To qualify for the 'Ebacc' students have to gain a GCSE pass in:

**English Language or Literature**

**Mathematics**

**Science :** Either triple science- Biology/ Chemistry/Physics or in combined science/ computing (this will be chosen as an option).

**History or Geography**

**A Modern Foreign Language**

At The Crypt, our curriculum structure in Y10 enables those students, who wish to pursue the EBacc pathway, to do so. We encourage our students to do so.

The Russell group of leading research-led UK universities, have published information on GCSE and A-Level subjects which they felt would be good preparation for their undergraduate courses and the Ebacc subjects are in that list.

# The GCSE Curriculum

**Students will choose 1 of two different pathways to follow in Years 10 and 11.**

# Pathway 1

**If students choose this route they will study:**

English Literature and Language

Mathematics (top sets will also have the opportunity to sit GCSE Further Mathematics)

Combined Science

You should then choose 4 options.

To gain the Ebacc they will need to choose a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography for their options.

If students successfully complete this pathway, they will gain at least 9 GCSEs

# Pathway 2

**If students choose this route they will study:**

English Literature and Language

Mathematics (top sets will also have the opportunity to sit GCSE Further Mathematics)

Triple Science

**Students will also have to study:**

**3** further subjects of the student's own choice. To gain the Ebacc they will need to choose a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography

If students successfully complete this pathway, they will gain at least 9 GCSEs

## **The English Baccalaureate**

We encourage students studying either pathway to choose a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography, so they are studying the range of subjects which make up the 'English Baccalaureate': these are the so-called 'enabling' subjects which will help prepare students for study at the top UK universities.

# The Core Curriculum

- All Y9 students will continue to study Mathematics and top sets will have the option to study for GCSE Further Mathematics
- All Y9 students will study both English Language and English Literature

# SCIENCE

- Year 9 students have already started their GCSE studies in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Students may study the three separate sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics-Or combined science. We would recommend the triple if they are considering any A-Level in Science.



GCSE Option Form for 2018 Curriculum

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_ (Year 9 Options Form 2018 to be returned to the main school office by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March)

GCSE Curriculum Pathway	Please Tick ONE Pathway only	Science Choice	Additional 'Ebacc' subjects	Options – please list you optional subjects from the list below
Pathway One  9 GCSE's		You will study Combined Science (worth two GCSE's)	You will also need to study at least ONE additional 'Ebacc' subject Please tick which ONE you wish to study	Please write down the <b>THREE</b> Option subjects you wish to study at GCSE:  Option 1:  Option 2:  Option 3:
	German			
	French			
	Geography			
	History			
		Computing		
Pathway Two  9 GCSE's		You will study Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry & Physics		Please write down <b>3</b> Option subjects you wish to study at GCSE:  Option 1:  Option 2:  Option 3:

⊕ Option Subjects available for 2018 – pick your options from the subjects available below – but do not repeat any options already chosen in your pathway

Languages	Creative Arts/practical subjects	Humanities subjects	We strongly advise you to pick a subject from each area to ensure you maintain a broad and balanced education.	Reserve options
<b>French *</b> <b>German*</b> *= Ebacc subjects	Art, Business Studies, Design Technology, Drama Studies, Food, Music, Sports Science You are advised not to choose any more than 2 practical subjects (Art, Computing, DT, Drama)	Philosophy & Ethics <b>Geography*</b> <b>History*</b>		Please select <b>TWO</b> reserve options: Res 1:  Res 2:

# Modern Foreign Languages

- Year 9 students will currently be studying French and German.
- We expect that most students will choose to take at least one MFL at GCSE

# The 'Humanities'

- We would strongly encourage all Y9 students to continue with a 'humanities' based subject
- We expect that most students will choose to study either History or Geography (or both) at GCSE.

# OPTION SUBJECTS

- ART
  - BUSINESS STUDIES
  - DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
    - DRAMA STUDIES
      - FOOD
      - FRENCH
      - GEOGRAPHY
      - GERMAN
      - HISTORY
      - COMPUTING
      - MUSIC
- P&E - RELIGIOUS STUDIES (GCSE RE Short Course completed in Y9)
  - SPORTS STUDIES

Choosing  
your options

# Don't .....

**Base YOUR choice on the basis of  
what your friends are doing**

**Or**

**On the basis that a particular teacher  
is taking you at the moment**

# Do.....

- Think carefully about the type of subject which suits you
- Aim to get a balance of types of subject  
e.g. Practical, written & heavily coursework-based subjects (DT, Art)

# Balancing your choices

- We do not recommend that you do:
  - more than two practical subjects (DT, Food, Computing, Art, Drama) as the burden of controlled assessment/coursework for students undertaking more than two is significant



# Our Aim

- Our aim is to match the individual student preferences as fully as possible
- Where there are clashes we discuss reserve subjects & the next best combination, before completing allocation to classes

# Where to get information, help & guidance

- Form Tutors
- Subject specialists & Course booklet
- Miss Barnett – Head of Year 9
- Mrs Glock – Assistant Head (timetable)
- Mrs Sturge – Director of Studies
- Careers literature & websites
- Careers adviser- Mr LLOYD

# UNIVERSITY LEAGUE TABLES

## GOOD SITES TO SEE WHICH UNIVERSITIES ARE BEST FOR YOUR CHOSEN SUBJECTS

- GOOGLE :- Times Online University Guide

Click on subject to see the ranking of universities and then on the university you like

- OR Guardian University Guide 2018 – good for information on a range of careers

# Reminders

- Please take home and carefully read the options booklet
- All students must choose three or four options and two reserve subjects
- Please submit your options form to the School Office by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Y9 parents' evening is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March



# **GCSE Options**

**Where to find further  
advice and information**

# Content

- Where am I now?
- What do I need to do and when?
- Who can I talk to?
- What's left on my checklist?



# Where am I now?

Do I know which subjects:

- I must take?
- will motivate me & link to my hobbies?
- suit my personality?
- match my skills and learning style?
- will give me plenty of options after year 11?
- I need to study the A levels I am keen on?
- I need to enter a career path/apprenticeship I am excited about?





# Follow your favourite subject

- E-clips – school intranet  
(password: GL2 5AE)

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

Subject



Career choices



Job information



Qualifications



Tips







# Follow a career idea



- [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

- National Careers Service

- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

- [www.careerpilot.org.uk/](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/)

 LATYMER  
UPPER SCHOOL  
MANCHESTER & CHESHIRE

GCSE Choice Booklet

2015



I guess they may  
have mentioned  
something about  
that in the  
options booklet.

 BwEcon



# to suit your personality & skills

- [www.icould.com/buzz](http://www.icould.com/buzz)
- Links a personality quiz to career ideas.
- Which celebrity are you like?
- Large video library.

**iCould**

Explore career videos Buzz Quiz Articles News


Find out what you're like  
and what you could do

Take the Buzz Quiz

In under five minutes, discover:

- your strengths and what makes you tick

# Think and justify decisions

Subjects I must take	Subjects I like & <u>why</u>
Subjects I don't like & <u>why</u>	New subjects I'd like to try & <u>why</u>
Career ideas & interests	Subjects I need to do this
Subjects giving me plenty of choice after year 11	

# Who can I talk to?

- Current year 11s
- Sixth formers
- Teachers
- Family
- Friends' family members
- A Careers Adviser

National Careers Service



*Want to talk?*



0800 100 900



Chat online



# Checklist

<b>TO DO</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
	Read school's options information
	Attended options events
	Studied the options form
	Researched new subjects
	Matched my strengths/personality to subjects
	Linked subjects to career ideas
	Checked what GCSEs are needed for A levels/ apprenticeships I am interested in
	Asked people for advice
	Made & justified my choices
	Returned options form by the deadline



**Thanks for  
listening**

**Any questions?**

# How to contact the Careers Adviser

- Appointments made with Mrs James (E-Block)
- Drop-in – Crush Hall, Wednesday lunch times 1:30pm – 2:00pm
- E-Mail: [ALloyd@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ALloyd@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk)



# Cognitive Ability Tests : CAT4

- These are taken by the students at the start of Year 7, in September. If a student is away or does not start in September of Year 7, then they will take the test at a later date.
- Pupils get tested in 4 areas:
  - Verbal (reasoning with words)
  - Quantitative (reasoning with numbers)
  - Non-Verbal (reasoning with shapes and numbers)
  - Spatial reasoning (thinking with and mentally manipulating precise shapes)
- The document you have summarises the results.
- Using historical data, you have also been given a guide to what outcome is likely for each student for a variety of subjects at GCSE.

# The Profile

- Look at the second page of the report.
- This outlines your son's profile for each test.
- It suggests where his strongest area is and suggests how he might learn – this is useful when developing revision techniques for GCSE preparation.

## Profile

Below average  
(left of yellow zone)

Average  
(in yellow zone)

Above average  
(right of yellow zone)

Verbal	Below average
Quantitative	Above average
Non-verbal	Below average
Spatial	Below average

## Summary

Your profile of scores from *CAT4* is evenly balanced. This means that you can learn effectively in a number of different ways.

- You are likely to learn by reading, writing notes and essays and discussing topics as well as using a more hands-on approach across all subjects.
- This means you should be capable of doing well in many subjects.
- In time a clear preference may develop. For example, you may find you prefer science and technology to English and history; but for now your *CAT4* profile suggests you should do just as well across the whole range of subjects.
- You may enjoy working in a team or as one of a pair where you can try out and discuss ideas.
- Make sure you use a range of methods when learning and revising: reading, writing notes and using pictures, charts and diagrams (mind maps) to provide visual clues to help you remember key facts and information.
- Your good verbal skills can be developed further by reading widely.

# What does this mean?

- Verbal reasoning – this is needed in subjects like English, History, Languages or any subject where you need to read and write carefully.
- Quantitative reasoning – this is needed in subjects like Maths, Science, Geography, DT and any subjects where you need to use formulae, diagrams and graphs.
- Non-Verbal reasoning – this measures the student's general problem solving skills to solve problems in unfamiliar situations.
- Spatial awareness – comes naturally to most students. It is the ability to mentally manipulate images and perceive patterns between them.

# CAT4 : Indicators for GCSE

- The fourth page shows the likely outcomes at the end of GCSE in selected subjects for a student.
- These subjects are supplied by the testing company NFER National Foundation for Educational Research (some of the subjects we do not offer).
- The indicators give a statistical prediction, not a prophecy of the student's actual results.
- The student's outcomes will also be determined by the student's motivation and effort.



## Grading new GCSEs from 2017

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

# For further information

Google NFER CAT Testing or

[www.gl-assessment.co.uk](http://www.gl-assessment.co.uk)

## **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT**

1. The indicators give a statistical prediction, using historic data.
2. Subject teachers will set a Y11 TMT (target grade) for each student based on previous performance and knowledge of the student.
3. The student's motivation and effort play a HUGE part in the final exam outcomes.