





Year 9 Options December 2022

Welcome!

Students at The Buckingham School need and deserve a rich, challenging and broad curriculum that offers a wealth of knowledge and experience.



CONTROL OVER YOUR CURRICULUM	GREATER WORKLOAD	FOCUS ON FEWER SUBJECTS AND ACHIEVE THE BEST GRADES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spend more time learning subjects you enjoy• Choose the subjects you do well in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The expectation of increased levels of homework• Some subjects require independent work outside lesson time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows more options post-16





Qualification Types:

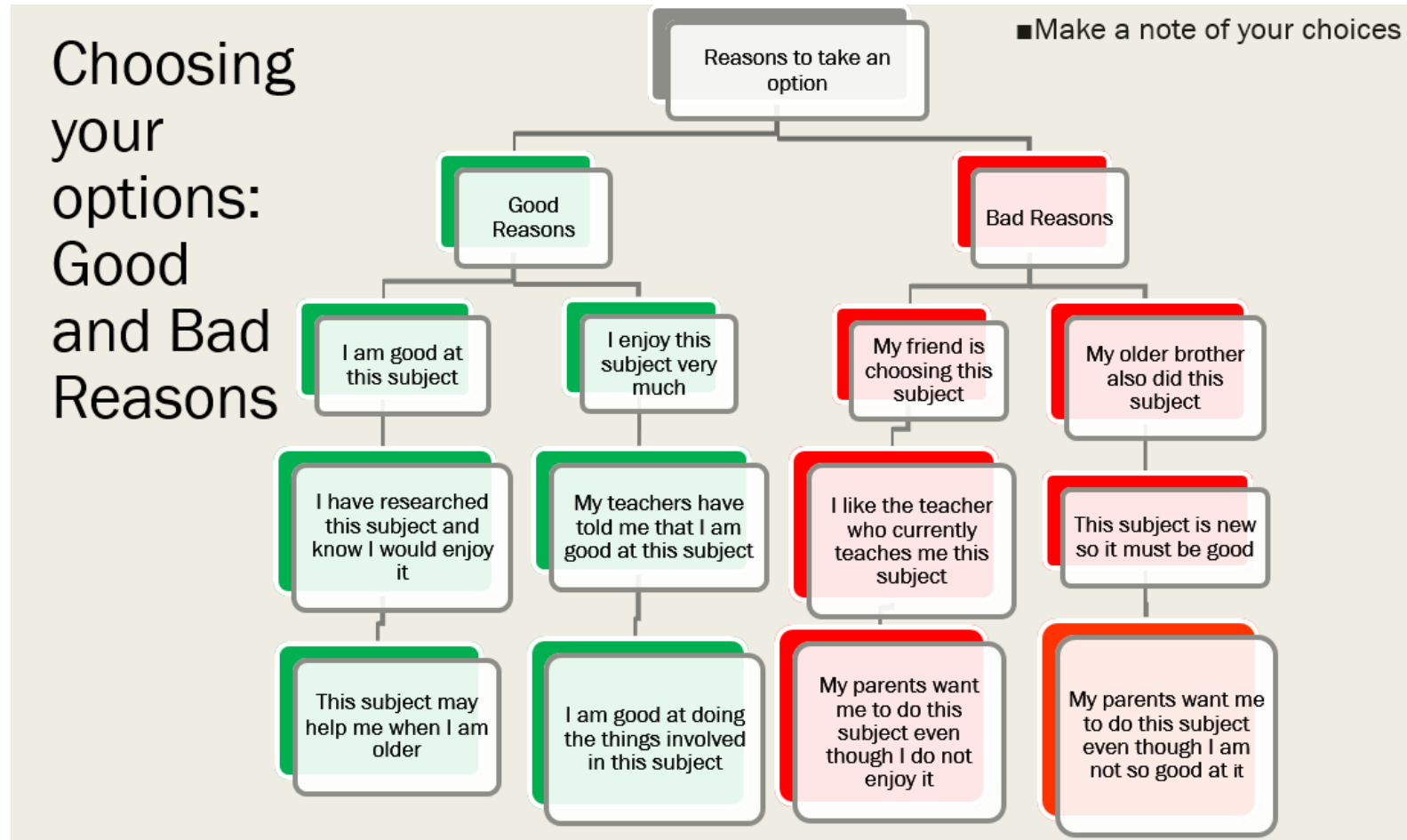
GCSE

- Exams are taken at the end of Year 11
- Most subjects are 100% assessed by exam
- Some practical subjects have controlled assessment/coursework

Level 2 Technical Qualifications

- BTEC, OCR Cambridge Nationals, WJEC
- At least one exam is usually taken before the end of Year 11
- Coursework based units

Making Good Choices





Head of Year and Form Tutor- Roles

- No question is a silly question
- Please email tutors as first port of call- my phone extension is 286
- Clagdon@buckinghamschool.org
- We know our students very well and will always suggest what we feel like is the best route for you
- Our aim is to get all students happy with their choices for the start of September 2023

Your Option Choices Matter





Your Option Choices Matter

Grades in these subjects will effect your choices and the range of options open to you at the end of Year 11:-

- **Higher level course at school or college**

Course entry requirements often specify grades in these subjects
(Usually grade 6 and above for most A-Levels)

- **Jobs or apprenticeships**

Many employers will look for students with 9-4 grades in these subjects

- **University**

The majority of universities require English and maths at grade 4 and above.



Subjects and Related Careers

Most jobs do not require specific GCSE subjects

You may change your mind about jobs in future

For a few jobs, however, you will need specific subjects, for example:-

- Art and design based jobs
- Engineering and technology
- Language based jobs
- Practical jobs
- Scientific jobs



Subjects and Related Careers

English: Journalism, Law, Politics, Media, Social Work, Teaching, etc.....

Maths: Accountancy, Business, Construction, Computer Programming, Engineering, Finance, Health, Science careers, Teaching, etc...

Science: Construction, Engineering, Environmental work, Health, Technology, Other science careers (eg. Psychology, Veterinary work, Astronomy)



Subjects and Related Careers

Geography: Travel & Tourism, Environmental Work, International Aid and Development, Landscape Architecture Planning, Surveying, Geology, Estate Management

History: Law, Politics, Journalism, Archaeology, Museums, Heritage, Costume Design, Conservation

Languages: Translation & Interpretation, Travel & Tourism, Teaching, Sales & Exports, Legal & Financial areas, Journalism

Computer Science: Useful for many jobs, Engineering, Computer Science, Games Design, Media, Marketing, Administration etc...

Art & Design: Design work in Publishing, Computer Games, Clothes/Textiles, Websites, Teaching, Film, Theatre or Arts, Exhibition/Retail Displays



Subjects and Related Careers

Business: Starting point for entry to different business areas including manufacturing, banking, retail, hotels & restaurants, public services. Careers include management, marketing, sales, human resources, law, administration

PE: Teaching, Leisure Centres/Gyms, Coaching, Outdoor work, Armed Forces, Sports Science

Music: Performance, Composer, Teacher, Media, Radio and TV, Gaming, Events Management, Theatre

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE											
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U		
						<div><div><div>4</div><div>=</div><div>C</div></div><div>and above</div><div>and above</div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.</div>					
A*			A		B	C	D	E	F	G	U
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE											

September 2014

Ofqual/14/5517

Options Pathways



- **Blue route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is either Geography or History; the second Option is either French or Spanish, giving students two further Options of their choice. This will lead to 10 Level 2 qualifications. These students will be working toward the EBacc pathway.
- **Purple route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is either Geography, History, French or Spanish. Students should then choose three further Options. This will lead to 10 Level 2 qualifications.
- **Green route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is ASDAN, another is either Construction, Sport BTEC, Health and Social Care BTEC or Business GCSE. Students should then choose two further Options. As ASDAN is not a Level 2 qualification, this will lead to 8 or 9 Level 2 qualifications (some students may take two GCSEs in Science, rather than three)



Subject	Hours Studied per Fortnight
Compulsory Subjects - taken by all students	
Mathematics	7
English and English Literature (2 GCSEs)	8
Science (Separate Sciences 3 GCSEs)	9
PE for Health and Fitness	4
Personal Development	1
Philosophy and Ethics	1

Blue	Hours	Purple	Hours	Green	Hours
Geography or History	5	Geography/ History/ French/ Spanish	5	ASDAN	5
French or Spanish	5	Option 2	5	Construction/ Sport BTEC/ BTEC Health and Social Care/ GCSE Business	5
Option 3	5	Option 3	5	Option 3	5
Option 4	5	Option 4	5	Option 4	5
Total curriculum time 50 hours					



Options Pathways



Subject	GCSE Art & Design
Course Content	<p>Throughout Year 10 and 11, students will learn a variety of skills and techniques to help them complete a portfolio of work , selection of further work (SOFW) and an externally set task, (10 hour exam in Year 11) covering a range of the skills listed below:</p> <p>Painting: Candidates should explore the use of tone, colour, composition, materials and context. Candidates can show this through the use of various processes and media, such as inks, acrylic, water colour or oil paints.</p> <p>Drawing: Candidates should be encouraged to work from direct observation to explore drawing using line and tone. They should also be encouraged to explore a wide variety of drawing materials using different surfaces. Drawing materials might include pastel, pencil, pen and ink, paint, charcoal or other materials.</p>



The top corner of each page tells you typical courses appropriate for each colour pathway

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

This is not a qualification but an optional pathway. Blue pathway students will be working towards the EBacc



The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc consists of:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- At least two sciences (Double Award, Separate Sciences, Computer Science)
- Geography or History
- Languages

Impact of studying the EBacc combination of subjects

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and opens up many more routes into higher and further education, whether this be undergraduate degree courses, apprenticeship degrees and apprenticeships or even the world of work.



Timeline

- Taster sessions were run the week of 12th -16th December 2022
- Options online portal opens 19th December for students to choose their subjects
- Options online portal closes **11th January 2023**
- Option blocks decided according to student choices
- Virtual Options Parents Evening will be held on **Thursday 19th January 2023**. This will involve virtual student interviews by senior members of staff
- Options online reopens for any potential changes on 19th January 2023
- Final Options choices need to be completed online by **Friday 3rd February 2023**.

Information to Help You Choose



Videos on each subject on school website

<https://www.buckinghamschool.org/optionsprocessforks4>

Please also refer to the options booklet. Email addresses of all Curriculum Leaders can be found in the booklet who will be happy to answer questions

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