

KS4 CHOICES – 2021-2023

Wednesday 24th February – A Virtual Options Evening

Presentation and options videos

The purpose of this evening is for parents and students to find out about the option process and the subjects available. You do not need to make any final decisions today, but please use it as an opportunity to be fully informed about the choices available.



Guidance so far....

Thursday 28th January – Students’ Options Assembly

A Guide to the options process

Thursday 11th February – New Subjects Assembly

Presentations by subject leads for those courses which are not studied at Key Stage 3

Wednesday 10th February - Parents Evening

A chance to have one-to-one conversations with subject teachers about students’ progress in a range of subjects.

This evening.....

Parental Presentation

Subject Videos

Appointments with SLT, Careers and SENDCO

Study at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

The subjects that students study in Years 10 and 11 will be a mixture of;

- **Five** core subjects (compulsory)
- **One** core plus subject
- **Three** further optional courses, chosen to reflect each individual's strengths and interests.

The Core consists of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science and Core PE. Core + is either a Humanity (Geography or History) or a Language (French or Spanish).

Why have a core+ option?

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

- Students and parents should consider curriculum choices with reference to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) which encourages students to study **both** a Humanity and a Language. Whilst these are not compulsory subjects, the government describes the Ebacc as *'a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers'*.

- In Key Stage 4, students continue to follow national curriculum expectations and have access to the entitlement areas of the arts, technology, humanities and modern foreign languages.
- We would encourage students to retain a broad, balanced curriculum path, allowing for a focus on their areas of interest.

In total, students will study nine GCSE
or vocational courses
(Science will be at least 2 GCSEs, core
PE is not examined)

Core					Core +	Options		
English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Science	Core PE	Humanity or Language	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3

Option Choices

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- BTEC Engineering
- BTEC Enterprise
- French
- Geography
- Graphics
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- History
- BTEC Hospitality and Catering
- BTEC ICT
- Media
- Music Performance
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science—Separate
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textiles

Additional Information

- If a student chooses Separate Sciences, this will take one of the three options.
- Students can only choose one from Art & Design, Textiles and Graphics (this is because they are all the same qualification).
- Students are able to study both History and Geography; it is not an either/or option

Example pathways 1 – A keen scientist

Core - English, English Literature, Maths, Science

Core Plus - Geography

Options - Triple Science, BTEC Engineering, Computer Science

Example pathways 2 – A keen artist

Core - English, English Literature, Maths, Science

Core Plus - Spanish

Options - Art and Design, Photography, Media

Example pathways 3 – Keen on design

Core - English, English Literature, Maths, Science

Core Plus - History

Options - Design Technology, BTEC ICT, Textiles

Example pathways 4 – keen on performance

Core - English, English Literature, Maths, Science

Core Plus - French

Options - Drama, Music Performance, PE

Frequently asked questions from students

Do I have to study a language?

No, but it could be useful in the future and is well respected

Will I get to study all my chosen subjects?

We hope so, but it may depend on uptake. Most students do, but please think about a reserve choice.

What happens if I don't like the subjects I have chosen?

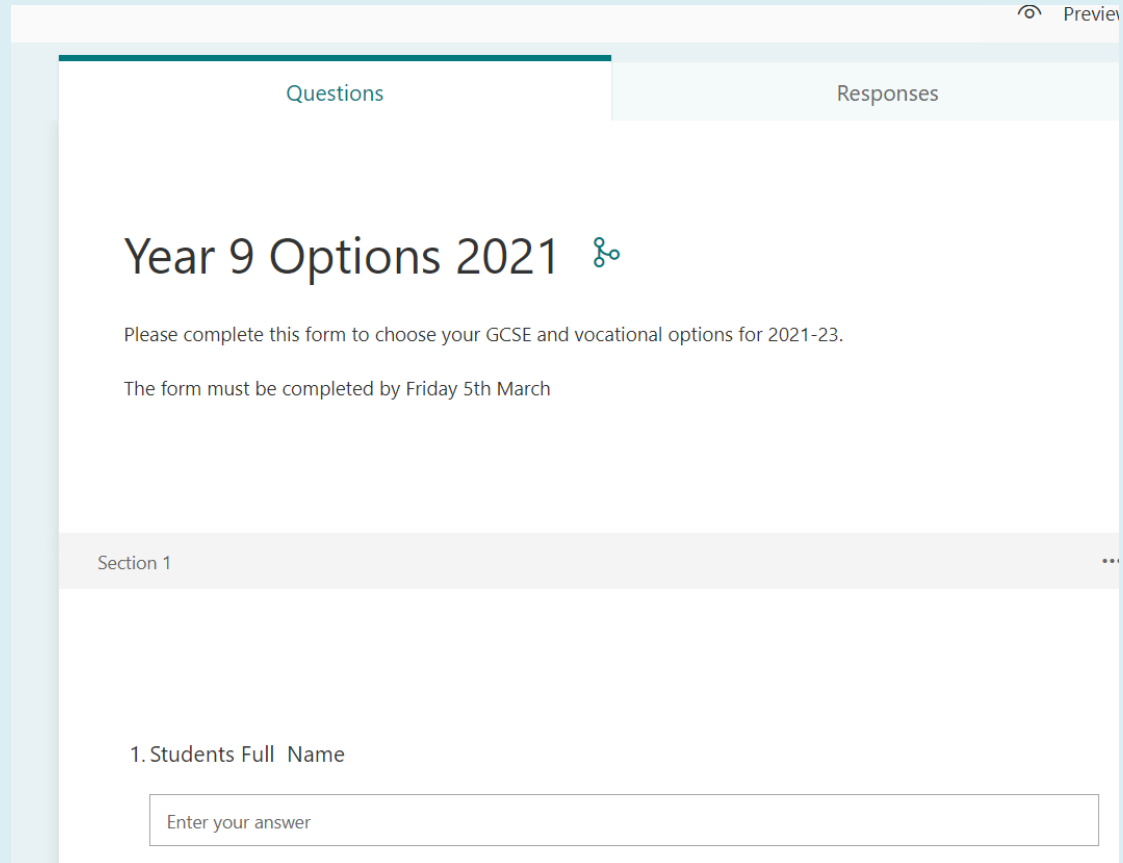
You will be able to discuss this with a member of SLT at the start of Y10.

If I don't know what I want to do when I leave school, how do I know what subjects to pick?

Most people are like this. Don't worry! Pick a broad and balanced range of subjects which close no doors – go with what you really enjoy.

Options Form

- Will be sent tomorrow to all Year 9 students via the Year 9 channel on Microsoft Teams.
- Should be completed by **Friday 5th March**.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Forms interface. At the top right, there is a 'Preview' button. Below it, there are two tabs: 'Questions' (selected) and 'Responses'. The main content area displays the title 'Year 9 Options 2021' with a share icon. Below the title, there are two lines of text: 'Please complete this form to choose your GCSE and vocational options for 2021-23.' and 'The form must be completed by Friday 5th March'. A section header 'Section 1' is visible. The first question is '1. Students Full Name', followed by a text input field with the placeholder text 'Enter your answer'.

Who can students talk to ?



- Any of their subject teachers. They will give advice on what a GCSE or BTEC course involves.
- Mr Hussain – your Head of Year for more general concerns.
- Our careers adviser, Mrs. Walker elaine.walker@ckcareers.org.uk,

Further information this evening:

- Go to [Year 9 Options Information - Calder High \(calderlearningtrust.com\)](http://calderlearningtrust.com) to view a video from each subject which details what each Key Stage 4 course involves.
- Appointments can still be made with
SLT – Mr. Gray, Mr. Washington and Mr. Bracewell
SEND – Mrs. Gregory
Careers – Mrs. Walker on the School cloud booking system for appointments between 6.30-7.30pm tonight.

Thank you for listening. Enjoy the rest of your evening.