

# Year 9 Options Evening

9th February 2023

Miss Fry and Miss Taylor

## Family

We support each other in everything that we do.

## Ambition

We are determined to achieve excellence.

## Integrity

We are always honest and do the right thing.

## Respect

We treat everyone and everything with care.



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# An exciting time...

Year 9 is an exciting year for our young people. It is the first time they get some choice in their education. I am sure they will be excited to drop the subjects they are less fond of and pick up some extra hours on the subjects they love.

At The Emmbrook School our pupils are lucky to have a lot of choice with their options.

However, it can also be a scary time as with any choice does come the fear of making a wrong decision. Therefore, we, as a school, are aiming to make the options choice process as smooth as possible by offering plenty of help and information to our Year 9 pupils.



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# What have we done in form time?

We have been talking a lot about options in form time. We have had designated mornings to discuss them. These have been in the form of...

- An introduction to choosing my GCSEs. Dos and Don'ts of choosing!
- Where could my GCSE subjects take me? Busting myths about certain GCSE options
- Careers advice - Adviza have been in to run sessions
- At the end of year 8 lots of work was completed on suitable careers based on personal interests
- Parents information evening from Adviza



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# What else are we doing to help?

- Tonight's options evening for parents and pupils will hopefully aid the making of this decision.
- Tomorrow in extended tutor time there will be an 'initial poll' where your child will be sent an email with a link to a Microsoft form. They will need to click on this and select the four options that they think they are most likely to choose.
  - Please note that this is NOT their final decision but will help us see if there are any pupils who need extra help in making the decision.



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# What else are we doing to help?

- In tutor time after half term, subjects that Year 9 are yet to study will be providing an overview of what the course entails.
- These include Business, Marketing and Enterprise, Hospitality and Catering, 3D Design, Media Studies, Creative Media Production and Classical Civilisation, Health and Social Care.
- Also in lessons after half term, current subjects will be putting some lesson time towards showcasing their subject and what this entails at GCSE.
- With the two initiatives above running side by side we are hoping that pupils will have a broad understanding of all the subjects from which they can choose.



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# What if my child needs more help?

- If your child needs any more help with making their decision or if you think of any questions that were not answered tonight, please do feel free to email myself ([Dtaylor@Emmbrook.Wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Dtaylor@Emmbrook.Wokingham.sch.uk)) or your child's tutor.
- Mr Baker is also a useful contact if your child falls under our SEN department ([Sbaker@Emmbrook.Wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Sbaker@Emmbrook.Wokingham.sch.uk)). Please do contact him if you have any questions in this regard.
- When will applications open? Pupils will be able to submit their final choices from the 24<sup>th</sup> February until the 6<sup>th</sup> March.



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# Overview of their Learning Journey

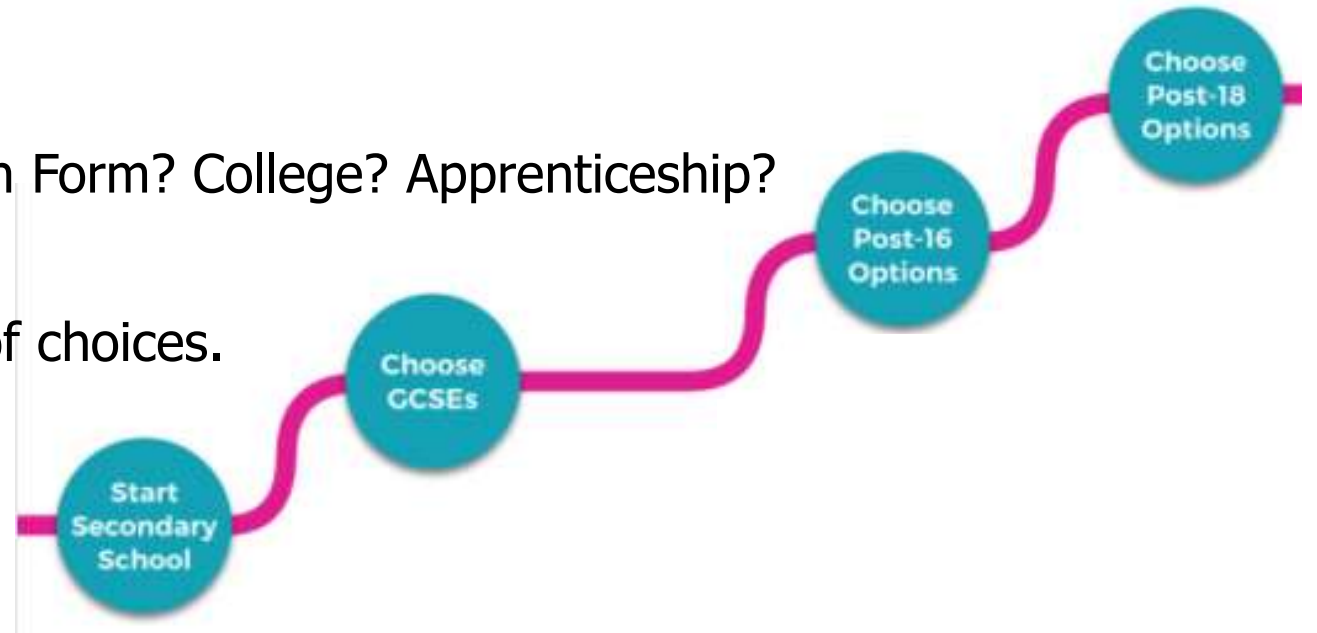
**Year 7** – Started Secondary School

**Year 9** – Picking their GCSE Options

**Year 11** – Picking their post-16 Options – Sixth Form? College? Apprenticeship?

**18** – This is where they will have a full range of choices.

- University?
- Apprenticeship?
- Employment?
- Combination?



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# Year 9 options – the first 'choice'

Their first '**moment of choice**' in their learning journey is approaching

**There are some subjects (the core) which are compulsory.**

**Students need to pick 4 options subjects**

**To do this, they need to make an informed decision!**

**Making an Informed Decision requires them:**

To read the information available to them regarding the option subjects (in booklet and on the website)

To speak to their teachers regarding possible choices and their suitability

To speak to their teachers regarding the transferable skills they can gain / jobs it helps lead into

To speak to other pupils who study the subject

To speak to you!!



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# Making good choices

## Preparing students for life after school

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# Top 10 skills of 2025



Analytical thinking and innovation



Active learning and learning strategies



Complex problem-solving



Critical thinking and analysis



Creativity, originality and initiative



Leadership and social influence



Technology use, monitoring and control



Technology design and programming



Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility



Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

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# Curriculum Principles

- Broad & balanced.
- Relevant and appropriate.
- Provide appropriate levels of challenge and enjoyment.
- Provide opportunities for progression.

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# Option choices:

Subject	Qualification
Computer Science	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
French	GCSE
3D Design	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Classical Civilisation	GCSE
Creative Media Production	BTEC
Design & Technology	GCSE
Drama	GCSE
Fine Art	GCSE
Health & Social Care	BTEC
Hospitality & Catering	L1/2 Vocational award
Marketing & Enterprise	CNAT
Media Studies	GCSE
Music	GCSE
Physical Education	GCSE
Religious Studies	GCSE



Students must choose **at least** one from these rows to ensure progression in the future.

In order to ensure the Ebacc, students must choose French and Geography and/or History and/or Computer Science

## Core qualifications:

Subject	Qualification
English Language	GCSE
English Literature	GCSE
Maths	GCSE
Science	GCSE

## The wider curriculum for all:

Subject
Core PE (non-examined)

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# Qualifications for Key Stage 4

## **GCSE**

- Assessed through examinations at the end of the course.
- Graded 9 to 1 for all subjects.

## **Vocational (BTEC, Cambridge National, Vocational award)**

- Continuous assessment with some external assessment.
- Graded Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit, Pass.

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# The Ebacc (English Baccalaureate)

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

The DfE say that:

*"EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS"*

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



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# Combinations of subjects

Do I have freedom of choice?

- Yes.

But....there are some rules.

1) Every student must choose at least one from the 'yellow' list – Computer Science, Geography, History and French. Having at least one of these keeps many more options available in the future.

2) There are certain subjects which are just 'too similar' and so cannot be picked together. These are:

- i) GCSE Media and Creative Media Production
- ii) GCSE Fine Art and GCSE 3D design
- iii) GCSE Business and CNAT Marketing and Enterprise

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# Online options form

## Final Options Selection

- A link will be sent to students on 24<sup>th</sup> February

## Help and support

- With options: Miss Taylor, tutor, teachers or any member of the leadership team
- With options process: Miss Fry or Miss Taylor

## Deadline:

- 6<sup>th</sup> March



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# Good luck

Do	Don't
Have an interest in the subject.	Base it on who teaches you right now.
Talk to the teachers, tutors, Miss Taylor, Miss Fry and your family.	Choose the subject just because your friends are doing it.
Choose subjects which will allow you to excel.	Choose a subject without fully investigating it.

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Do not worry – we are here to guide you through this.



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# Thank You



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# What Happens Next?

You now have the opportunity to go to different subject areas to discuss in further detail with curriculum leaders:

## Sixth Form

**Computer Science**

**French**

**Physical Education**

**Health & Social Care**

**Adviza (Careers)**

**Bracknell & Wokingham College**

## Classrooms

**Music – C13**

**Art & Design – C1**

**3D Design – C1**

**Drama – Studio 1**

## Library

**Geography**

**Classical Civilization**

**History**

**Business Studies**

**Marketing & Enterprise**

**Religious Education**

**Media**

**Creative Media**

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