

# Year 9 Options Evening

11th January 2024

Miss Fry and Mr Tichband

## 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.



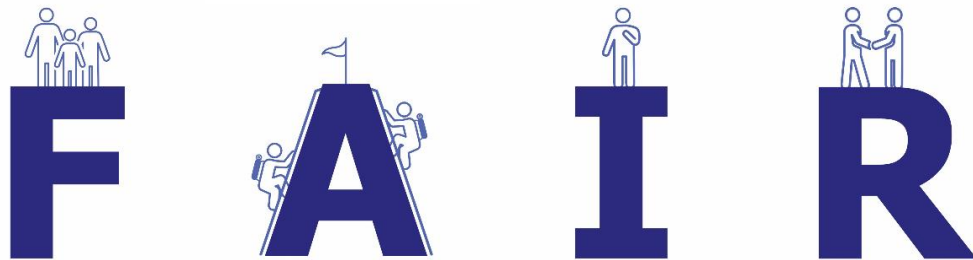
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# An exciting time...

Year 9 is an exciting year for our young people. It is the first time they can begin to tailor 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.

This can 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 support is planned?

- 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
- Parents information evening from Adviza

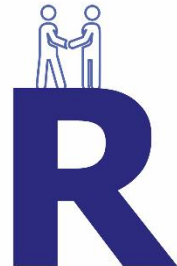


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# What else are we doing to help?

- In tutor time over the next few weeks, 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 over the next few weeks, current subjects will be putting some lesson time towards showcasing their subject and what this entails at GCSE.

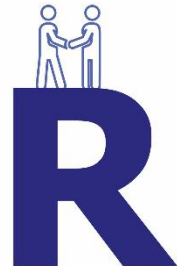


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# What if my child needs more help?

- 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 ([JTichband@Emmbrook.Wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:JTichband@Emmbrook.Wokingham.sch.uk)) or your child's tutor.
- Mr Baker is also a useful contact if your child works with 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.



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# Overview of their Learning Journey

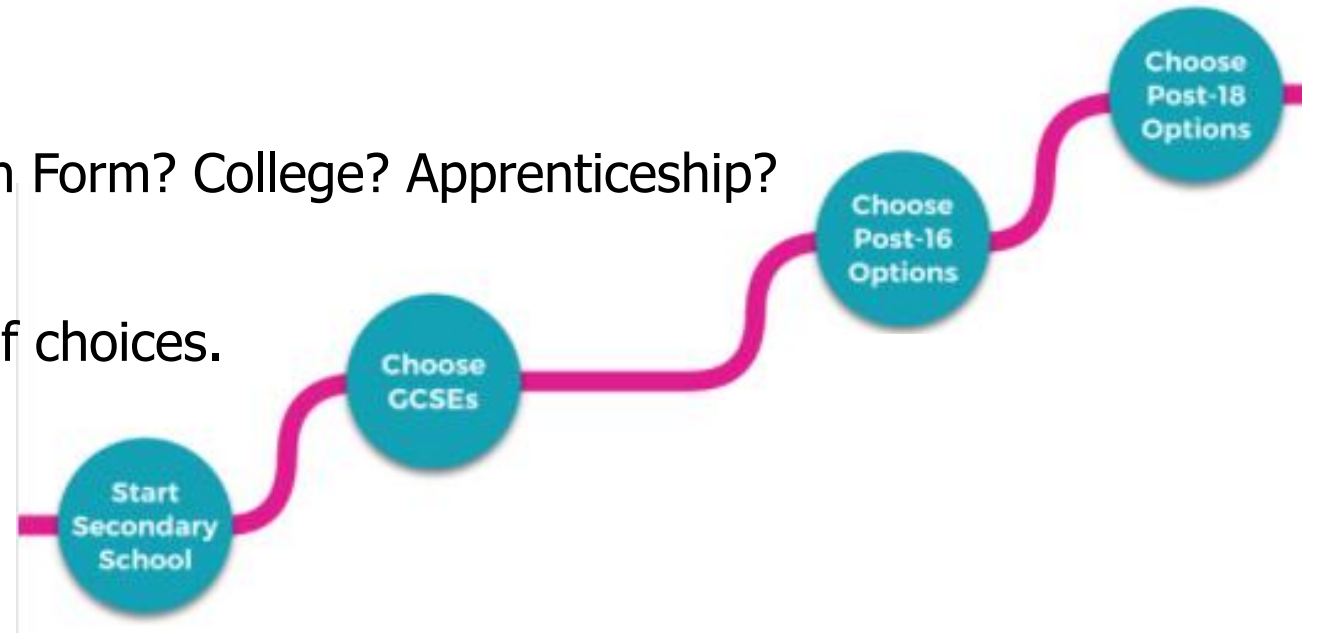
**Year 7** – Started Secondary School

**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
-  Leadership and social influence
-  Active learning and learning strategies
-  Technology use, monitoring and control
-  Complex problem-solving
-  Technology design and programming
-  Critical thinking and analysis
-  Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
-  Creativity, originality and initiative
-  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
Spanish	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.

## Core qualifications:

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

In order to ensure the Ebacc, students must choose a language and Geography and/or History

## The wider curriculum for all:

Subject
Core PE (non-examined)

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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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# 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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# 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, Spanish 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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# Alternative Pathways

Some students may require an alternative KS4 pathway to ensure that they have access to the most suitable options for them post-16. This may include one or both of the following:

- Functional Skills – an entry level course in maths and English, designed to boost attainment in these core GCSE subjects.
- ASDAN - a personal development programme covering topics such as independent living, health and wellbeing, and the world of work.

Each of these courses would could as one option.

You will be contacted directly if we recommend and alternative pathway for your child.

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# Application process

- Students will apply via an online portal
- Students will be provided unique login codes for the portal via their tutors
- Technical support will be provided if required
- Deadline for applications: 08/03/24

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# Careers Guidance

## Unifrog

Quizzes - The tools in the *Quizzes* section allow students to understand how their personality, skills, and aptitudes relate to possible future pathways in a fun and engaging way.

Exploring pathways - The tools in the *Exploring pathways* section allow your child to research the types of exciting options available to them after school.

Searching for opportunities - The tools in the *Searching for opportunities* section allow you to compare universities, degree options and special opportunities around the world.

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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, Mr Tichband, 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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# What Happens Next?

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

## Dining Room/Canteen

**Computer Science**  
**French/Spanish**  
**Physical Education**  
**Health & Social Care**  
**Geography**  
**Classical Civilization**  
**History**  
**Business Studies**  
**Marketing & Enterprise**

## **Religious Studies**

**Media**  
**Creative Media**  
**Adviza (Careers)**  
**The Emmbrook Sixth Form**  
**RSSI – STEM Employer**

## Classrooms

**Music – C13**  
**Art & Design – C1**  
**3D Design – C1**  
**Drama – Studio 1**



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