

Y9 Options – FAQs

How many options do students have to take?

Students will need to choose 4 option subjects.

Which subjects are compulsory?

English language, English literature, maths and science. Students must also choose at least one of the following (they can pick as many as they like from this list): Computer science, geography, history, French, Spanish.

What is the EBacc and is it compulsory?

The EBacc is a combination of subjects that offer a range of knowledge and skills to young people. The Department for Education states that choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives students access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. It is also recommended by many universities. Whilst the EBacc is not compulsory at The Emmbrook, we do recommend that this advice is taken into account when selecting options.

Will students be offered taster sessions for options subjects?

Yes, taster sessions for subjects that are not studied at KS3 will be offered during tutor time. All other option subjects will offer taster sessions during lesson time.

What is the difference between GCSEs and vocational courses?

The main difference is the way that these courses are assessed. GCSEs are primarily assessed through examinations at the end of the course, whereas vocational courses consist of continuous assessment (also known as coursework) with some external assessment.

Are there any combinations of subjects that are not allowed?

Due to the similarity of some content, the subjects below cannot be picked together:

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

Is there an alternative pathway for some students?

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 Functional Skills and ASDAN. Students and parents/carers will be contacted directly if this is considered an appropriate option.

What guidance is available to students?

In addition to careers guidance from Adviza, students and parents/carers can also access Unifrog – a platform which provides advice about destinations. Details of how to access this service will be circulated to students and parents/carers.

How do students apply?

Students will be given a unique login to an online platform where they can make their options selection. The deadline for applications is 08/03/24.

Who can we contact for support?

Tutors, teachers, Curriculum Leaders, Mr Tichband or Miss Fry.

