



STATIONERS'  
CROWN WOODS ACADEMY

# Key Stage 4 Options

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*Vice Principal*

# Key Stage 4 Options

- This is an exciting and important moment for your educational journey where you will make informed decisions about the subjects you wish to continue studying to support you to achieve your future educational goals and career aspirations
- This presentation will talk you through the process and explain:
  - Qualifications all pupils must study
  - The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
  - GCSE and vocational qualifications on offer
  - Opportunities to find out more about different qualifications
  - Next steps





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# Core & EBacc Subjects

# Core Subjects

- All pupils will work towards attaining 9 qualifications.
- All pupils will study the following qualifications:
  - GCSE English Language
  - GCSE English Literature
  - GCSE Mathematics
  - GCSE Combined Science (two GCSEs)



# Core Subjects

- Pupils will also have access to:
  - One period a week of core PE with a focus on physical health and exercise (not a qualification)
  - The SCWA personal development programme during tutor time, which covers core aspects such as:
    - Careers
    - Study skills
    - Sex and relationships education (SRE)
    - Religious studies
    - Personal, social & health education (PSHE)



# The English Baccalaureate

- The government's ambition is to see 90% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2025.
- A study by the UCL Institute of Education showed that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.
- Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.
- Russell Group Universities have previously published a list of what they call 'facilitating subjects' which are deemed to be the most prestigious. These are largely the Ebacc subjects.



# The English Baccalaureate

- We equally have exceptionally high aspirations for our pupils and so the vast majority will study the EBacc subject combination in line with government expectations.
- Pupils will therefore study:
  - GCSE **Geography** or GCSE **History**
  - GCSE **French** or GCSE **Spanish**
- Parents & carers of the few pupils who will not be mandated to study the English Baccalaureate will be informed when the KS4 preferences form is released.
- No pupil will be stopped from studying the EBacc if they wish to.



# EBacc Qualifications

- All pupils, regardless of whether they complete the EBacc, must complete a minimum of 3 EBacc qualifications.
- The compulsory GCSE Combined Science qualification counts as two of these.
- A third one must therefore be selected from the following list:
  - GCSE Computer Science
  - GCSE Geography
  - GCSE History
  - GCSE in a language
  - Separate sciences (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics)





# Curriculum Time

- The table outlines how many lessons each week pupils will receive for their subjects.
- EBacc subjects will be studied in option blocks A, B and C.
- Pupils will select from a smaller range of subjects in option block D.
- All option blocks will offer a range of GCSE and vocational subjects.
- All subjects are offered subject to availability depending on numbers of pupils.

Subject	Allocation
English	4
Maths	4
Science	4
Core PE	1
Option A	3
Option B	3
Option C	3
Option D	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>





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# Option Subjects

# Curriculum Offer: GCSE Options

- GCSE Art & Design (Fine art)
- GCSE Art & Design (Photography)
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Religious Studies
- Separate Sciences: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Statistics



# Curriculum Offer: Vocational Options

- Our expanded vocational offer provides pupils with the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills required to succeed in various industries. They have practical elements and include a larger portion of non-examination assessment than GCSEs.
- We now offer the following vocational courses:
  - BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Creative Media Production**
  - WJEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Retail Business**
  - V Cert Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Health and Fitness**
  - BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Health and Social Care**
  - BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Performing Arts (Acting)**
  - BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Performing Arts (Dance)**
  - BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Digital Information Technology**



# Block D

- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Statistics
- Separate Sciences: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics
- V Cert Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Health and Fitness**
- BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Health and Social Care**
- BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Creative Media Production**
  
- **We will consider other subject areas depending on viability and pupil preferences**



# Prohibited Subject Combinations

- To ensure that pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum offer at Key Stage 4, they will not be able to study the following combinations as there is too much overlap in content:
  - GCSE Business Studies and WJEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Retail Business
  - GCSE Computer Science and BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology
  - GCSE Physical Education and V Cert Level 1/2 Tech Award in Health and Fitness



# GCSEs in Heritage Languages

- We are exceptionally proud of our diverse community and the range of languages spoken - we therefore offer the opportunity for speakers of a second language to sit a GCSE where possible.
- Pupils will complete these in Year 10.
- The weighting is typically as follows:
  - 25% listening
  - 25% reading
  - 25% speaking
  - 25% writing

- GCSE Arabic
- GCSE Bengali
- GCSE Chinese (Cantonese)
- GCSE Chinese (Mandarin)
- GCSE German
- GCSE Greek
- GCSE Italian
- GCSE Japanese
- GCSE Panjabi
- GCSE Persian
- GCSE Polish
- GCSE Portuguese
- GCSE Russian
- GCSE Turkish
- GCSE Urdu





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# Making Informed Choices



# Options Taster Lessons

- To support pupils to better understand the demands of the various qualifications at Key Stage 4, each subject area will dedicate one lesson across a week aimed at providing a 'taster' experience of the qualifications they offer
- This will take place from **Thursday, 21 March** to **Wednesday, 27 March**
- Sessions will include:
  - Some background information regarding the course content
  - An explanation of how they will be assessed in the qualification (weighting of examinations vs non-examination assessment)
  - An experience of the course



# “Options Experience Day”

- Pupils will have the exciting opportunity to experience 5 new subjects on **Thursday, 28 March**
- The purpose of this day is to help pupils to make informed decisions about subjects they’ve not previously experienced
- The subjects on offer will be:
  - GCSE **Business Studies** & vocational **Retail Business**
  - GCSE **Computer Science**
  - V Cert **Health & Fitness**
  - BTEC **Health & Social Care**
  - GCSE Art (**Photography**)
  - BTEC **Performing Arts (Dance)** during tutor time - *optional*



# Further Information & Support

- All of the information shared today and more will be made available via our dedicated Key Stage 4 Options website
- All parents & carers who would like to have a discussion with a leader regarding the process will be invited to book a consultation appointment
- Pupils should seek advice from their teachers, form tutors and the pastoral teams in their small schools
- The contact details for the lead teacher of each qualification are shared on our dedicated website - please don't hesitate to reach out to them with any questions



# Considering Careers

- It's important that pupils make informed decisions and consider their future career aspirations when selecting their options.
- There are many external sources of information and advice available to pupils, such as:
  - [Advice on selecting options from BBC Bitesize](#)
  - [Advice on considering future careers from BBC Bitesize](#)
- Pupils can also take quizzes regarding potential careers, such as:
  - [National Careers Service: Discover your skills and careers quiz](#)
  - [UCAS careers quiz](#)



# Arden

- Your child may wish to start considering options at Arden in the future. They can find more information about Arden [here](#).



# Top Tips for Pupils

- **DO NOT** be influenced by your friends as to what you choose. It **MUST** be your choice.
- **DO NOT** choose subjects because you may like or dislike your present teacher.
- **DO NOT** select a subject because you think it's an easy option. All qualifications are challenging and rigorous.
- **DO NOT** choose a subject because it is 'new' and it must be 'better' than what you know. Make sure you check it out!
- **DO NOT** be totally influenced by any one perspective — take a range of views when you make your choice.



# Top Tips

- **DO** read about all the subjects & qualifications on offer. Many courses are different or new. Find out whether they will suit your interests & passions.
- **DO** ask questions and discuss the choices with teachers, parents and pastoral support staff.
- **DO** aim for a balanced range of choices to keep your career and future course options open.
- **DO** consider subjects you enjoy and that you excel in.
- **DO** reflect honestly about your interests, abilities, knowledge and skills when reaching a decision.
- Above all, **DO** make a well-informed decision!





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# Next Steps



# Preferences Form

- You will be sent a “KS4 Preferences Form” to fill out with your child.
- They will be asked:
  - To select between Geography and History
  - To select between French and Spanish
  - To rank order preferences for other options
  - To rank order preferences for option block D
  - To add information regarding heritage languages



# Key Dates

- **Monday, 18 March** - Launch events with pupils, parents & carers
- **Thursday, 21 March** - Week of taster lessons begins
- **Thursday, 28 March** - “Options Experience Day”
- **Thursday, 28 March** - KS4 preferences form sent out
- **Monday, 15 April** - Parent/carers consultation appointments
- **Monday, 22 April** - Deadline for submitting KS4 preferences form
- **Module 6** - Confirmation of options





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Q&A

<https://forms.gle/vXFLWEsmZMm2Uhib8>