

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING
YOUR CURRICULUM CHOICES FOR
SEPTEMBER

Thursday 25th January 2024

INTRODUCTION

Dr Morrison

INTRODUCTION

Nicole, Year 10

Welcome to the 2024 Year 9 subject information evening

- ▶ Find out how the options process works.
- ▶ Explore different pathways for students.
- ▶ Visit different subjects and talk to teachers and students about what it is like to study different GCSE and technical qualifications.

The qualifications your child takes in 2024

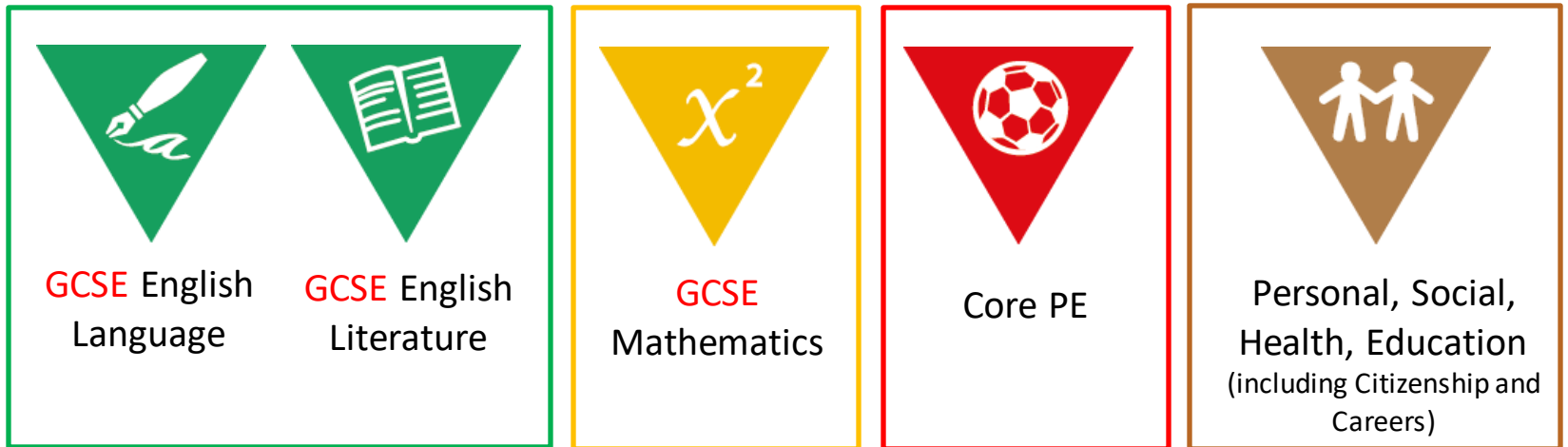
- ▶ Studied in Year 10 and 11.
- ▶ Wide range of subjects to choose from including traditional academic subjects and vocational technical qualifications.
- ▶ GCSEs graded from 9 (top) to 1 (bottom).
- ▶ Vocational qualifications graded Distinction, Merit, Pass.

GCSE grade comparison

Legacy GCSEs	New GCSE Grades	Vocational Qualifications	
A+	9	Distinction * 8.5	Level 2
	8		
A	7	Distinction 7	
B	6	Merit 5.5	
	5		
C	4	Pass 4	
D	3	Distinction * 3	Level 1
E	2	Distinction 2	
F		Merit 1.5	
G	1	Pass 1	
U	U	Not Yet Achieved (NYA)	

The Shape of the Year 9 Curriculum

1 Core Subjects



2 Science

3 Options Subjects x 4

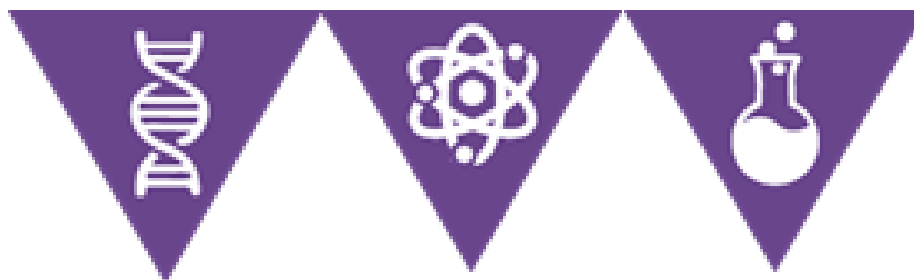
What will you be studying?

Science Options



Combined Science
Pathway

OR



GCSE
Biology

GCSE
Physics

GCSE
Chemistry

Separate Science Pathway

▶ Combined Science Pathway

Combined Science – 2 GCSEs with lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In addition, students will have Maths Practice and Literacy.

▶ Separate Science Pathway

3 separate Sciences – GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, Physics.

Choosing your Science Pathway – questions for you to consider

- ▶ Which pathway will help you get the highest grades?
- ▶ Are you are looking forward to more independent learning?
- ▶ Do you think you will thrive on the increased demands of taking three Sciences in Years 10 and 11?
- ▶ Remember you are only expressing a preference at the moment, the final decision will be made in collaboration with your science teachers and based upon your progress in all three sciences. The combined and separate science pathways will start in Year 10.

The English Baccalaureate

1. English Language and Literature
2. Maths
3. Combined Science or Separate Sciences (or Computer Science)
4. History or Geography
5. A Modern Foreign Language

This combination of subjects increases students' understanding of the modern world, and opens more doors to careers and university courses.

Humanities (EBacc)

Choose between History or Geography (or both)

- They help students understand modern Britain – its culture, politics and economy
- They help students understand Europe and the world
- They develop students' thinking skills
- They develop students' literacy skills
- These subjects are an excellent basis for sixth form study
- Both are highly regarded by universities and employers
- Studying one is an essential part of the English Baccalaureate



GCSE Geography



GCSE History

Languages (EBacc)



GCSE French



GCSE German

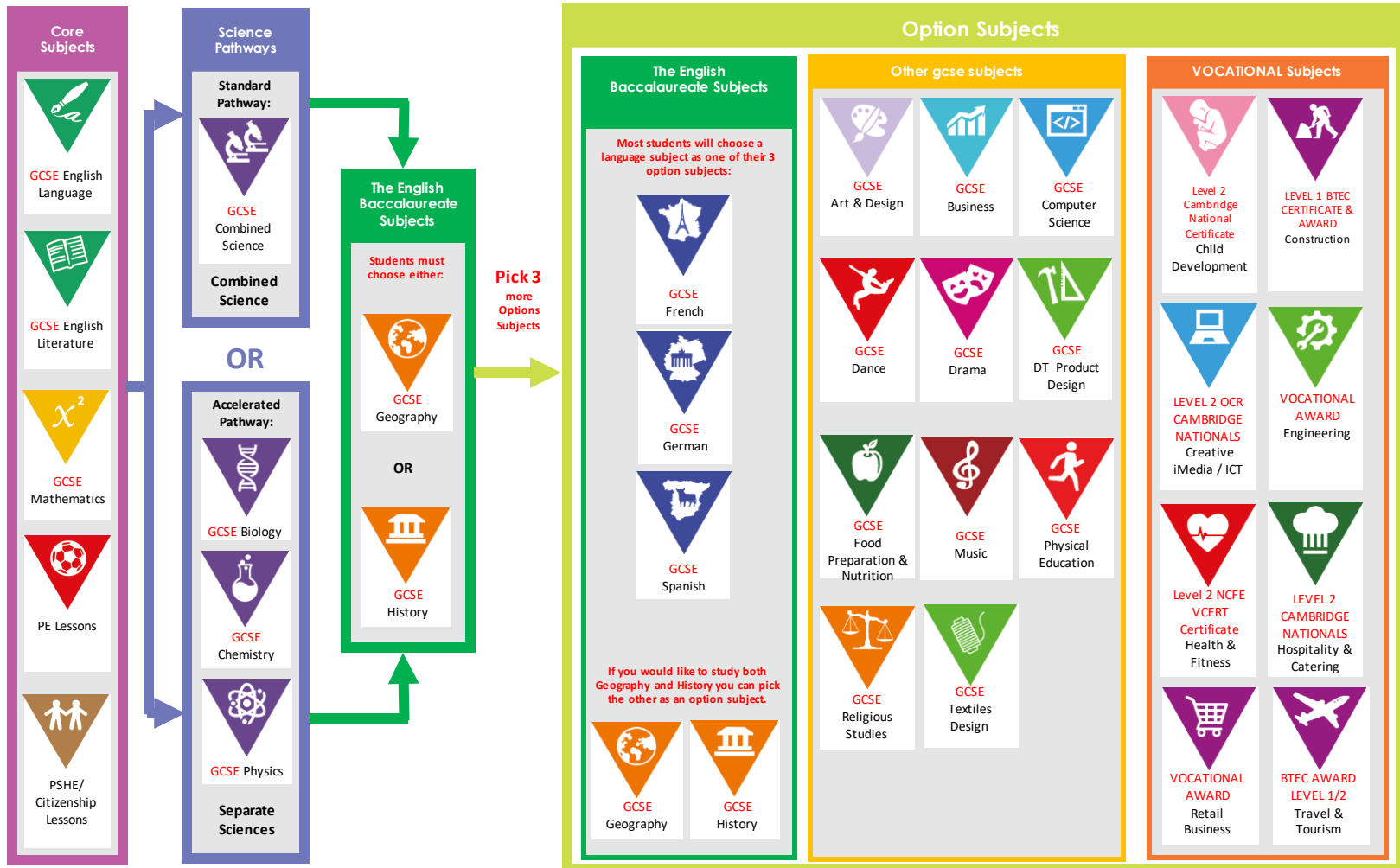


GCSE Spanish

We strongly recommend choosing a language

- French, German and Spanish are spoken by hundreds of millions of people globally
- Speaking a foreign language helps us understand other countries and cultures
- Speaking a foreign language increases job prospects **especially in Berkshire and the south east**
- Speaking a foreign language makes foreign holidays more enjoyable and memorable
- Studying one is an essential part of the English Baccalaureate

Option Choices



GCSE and Vocational Subjects

GCSEs – They are largely classroom based. Most or almost all the assessment is via exams at the end of Year 11. They are the ideal foundation for A-Level and university study.

Vocational subjects – although some of the work will be in classrooms, there will be more fieldwork and practical activities. Most of the assessment is via controlled assessment through Years 10-11, with some exams in Year 11. They are the ideal foundation for applied or vocational courses in the sixth form or at college.

Students can mix and match between GCSEs and vocational subjects.

Do think if some combinations may be too similar and narrow.

Choosing Your Option Subjects

James
Year 11

Durusah
Year 10

Choosing Your Option Subjects

You have **four** choices in all. One must be History or Geography and three are completely free choices. We strongly advise students to choose a language however these choices are free.

Consider:

- ▶ Which subjects do you enjoy most and work hard in?
- ▶ Which subjects are you best at?
- ▶ What are your possible sixth form or career plans and what subjects do you need?
- ▶ How are the subjects assessed? Some have fewer exams and some have long multi day exams.

Choosing your options: further advice

- ▶ Avoid choosing a subject just because your friends are choosing it or because you like the teacher.
- ▶ Check out your ideas with people who know you well - your parents/carers, older siblings, older students, our careers adviser, form tutors and Head of Progress.
- ▶ Be prepared to be flexible – you may not be able to do all your chosen subjects so choose your reserve subjects carefully.

Next Steps

1

Complete the online options form by Monday 19th February (students must be signed in to their school email account to access it).

2

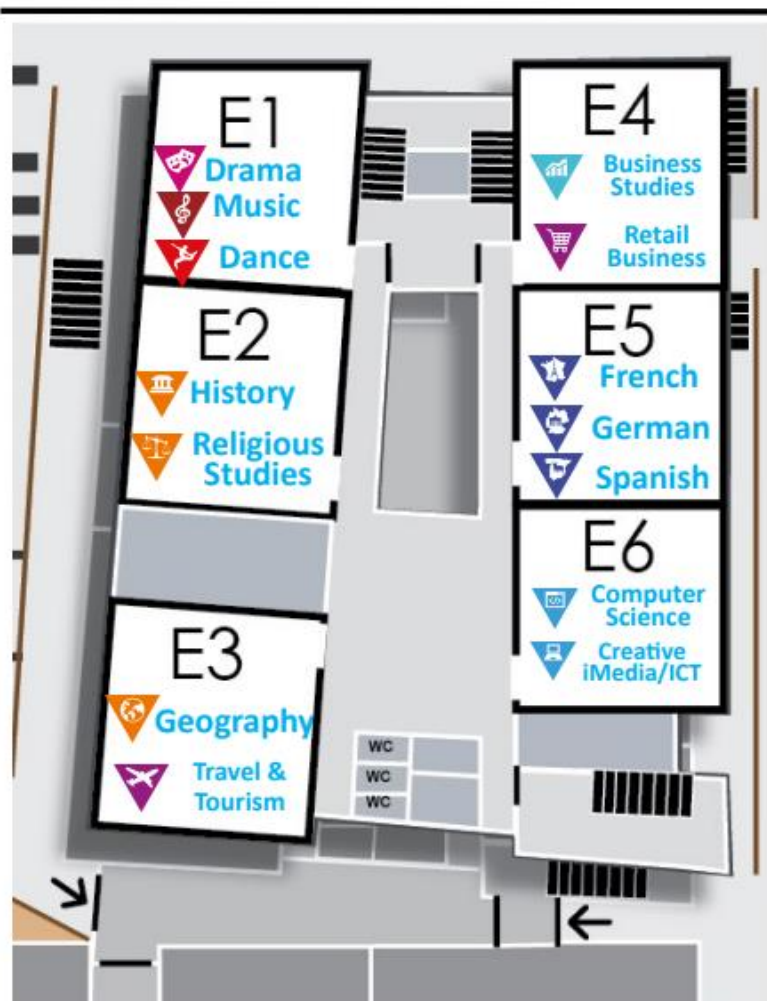
Your tutor, HoP, or Miss Stirling will have an individual discussion with you about your choices after half term.

3

We cannot guarantee to accommodate everyone's choices. In the unlikely event that you do not get the subject you want, we will discuss this with students and keep parents informed.

The Options Fair

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

