

Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 30th January 2025

Options and their place in the KS4 curriculum

Mr Davis – Vice Principal

Mr Perrins – Assistant Principal



Exciting Decisions

Tonight sees the next step of a journey taking you to July 2027 and beyond, and the impact of the choices you make over the next few months are important ones.

This is your first real opportunity to shape your educational pathway and is a stepping stone to the next 3 stages:

- What does post-16 look like for me? 6th Form/College.
- What does post-18 look like for me? Employment/University/HE Training.
- What career do I want to pursue?



Introduction to GCSEs

GCSEs are graded from 1-9, with 9 being the best. The only grade below this is a U, or Ungraded, meaning not enough marks were scored for the paper to receive a grade.

Most students at HEA will gain 9 GCSE grades, with triple scientists gaining 10. Some students might gain more if they are studying an additional language, or additional Maths courses.

This is what the grades mean when compared to the old grading system.

How the new grades compare with old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 Strong Pass 4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

Source: Ofqual



GCSE Government Measures

Attainment 8 and Progress 8

A8 = The total of a students' best 8 grades, divided by 10.

P8 = A student's A8, compared with other students in the UK.

Pupils may be on a GCSE or a Level 2 qualification

English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

- ✓ English
- ✓ Maths
- ✓ Sciences
- ✓ History or Geography
- ✓ Spanish, French or German



Attainment Eight (A8) measure

A student's best English grade, plus their Maths grade.

This bucket is doubled.



The best 3 grades a student achieves in EBacc subjects.

Outside of English and Maths.



The best grades of a student's remaining GCSE quals.

Can include any subject.



These 3 buckets are then added together and divided by 10, giving all students a score similar to a Grade Point Average.



Progress Eight (P8) measure



Attainment 8 scores for students are then compared across the country, students are matched up with individuals with the same KS2 score as them.

That comparison with peers, then gives each student a 'Progress' score and determines whether they have made more or less progress than their peers in their time at Secondary school.



HEA's KS4 Curriculum

At HEA, we offer a curriculum with traditional values, whilst blending together both academic and vocational qualifications.

We have a strong set of Core subjects, developing a wide array of transferable skills, and have a clear focus on mastery of knowledge – securing the basics.

Alongside this, we provide a variety of Option subjects, allowing students to tailor their education to their passions and start the journey to being experts in their field.

We unapologetically want students at HEA to leave with the best outcomes possible, offering each individual greater choice in future endeavours.



GCSE curriculum overview

Core Curriculum	Option 1 (choose one of)	Option 2	Option 3
English	Geography	Free choice	Free choice
Maths	History		
Science	French		
PE	German		
RE	Spanish		
Character Development	Computer Science		

There are opportunities for students to gain additional qualifications, with access to Triple Science, Higher Statistics and Further Maths.



RE at HEA

Ever more frequently, UK schools are including RE in their compulsory examined curriculum – just as we do at HEA.

RE is a compulsory part of the national curriculum at KS4 – why not secure a qualification from it?

The Eduqas GCSE RE curriculum is broad, 50% focuses on Philosophical and Ethical studies, and 50% focuses on specific religions.

Last year in the UK, RE was the highest performing GCSE qualification. 31% of students secured a G7 or above.



Options

- Subjects on offer include:
 - Art & Design
 - Business Studies
 - Computer Science
 - DT Product Design
 - DT Textiles
 - Drama
 - Film Studies
 - Food Preparation and Nutrition
 - Geography
 - Health & Social Care BTEC
 - History
 - French
 - German
 - Spanish
 - Music BTEC
 - Music GCSE
 - PE BTEC
 - PE GCSE
 - Psychology
 - Statistics (Foundation)



BTEC

- A BTEC is a practical-based, vocational qualification.
- They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory
- BTECs provide the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a field or subject.
- BTECs are assessed predominantly through coursework throughout Years 10 and 11, potentially also with an examined component at the end of the course



Timeline

Options Evening

- Thursday 30th January

Deadline for initial choices

- Wednesday 12th February

Deadline for final choices

- Friday 21st March

Options confirmed

- June 2025



Options Evening

- Visit all the subjects you are considering taking this evening
- All our core subjects are here too if you have any questions for them
- Find out about the course:
 - What will you study?
 - How is it assessed? (Coursework vs Exams)
 - What makes a successful student in Music/German/DT...?
 - What extra-curricular opportunities can you look forward to?
 - How does the course link to subjects in the 6th Form?
 - What careers will it help you with? (Ma10 – Mrs Higman)



Initial Choices

- We are giving students additional time to make their choices this year.
- The deadline for initial choices is Wednesday 12th February.
- Students will be able to change their mind, but it gives us an indication of numbers to help with planning for the school timetable / staffing requirements.
- Students will receive an email to their school email address with a username and password.
- Once logged in they choose 3 options and 1 reserve option.



Initial Choices

T.O.O.L.S

TimeTabler Options On-Line System



Collecting Student Choices On-line

Please enter your details:

Username:

Password:



[version 7.1]



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Initial Choices

Step 1 of 3

[Start](#) > Choice 1 > Free choice (with reserve) > Confirmation

Choose ONE of the following Subjects:

- German (De)
- French (Fr)
- Geography (Gg)
- History (Hi)
- Computer Sci (It)
- Spanish (Sp)

Any subject not chosen in this section, can be chosen later if you wish.

Next



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Initial Choices

Step 2 of 3

[Start](#) > [Choice: German](#) > Free choice (with reserve) > Confirmation

Please enter your 2 choices by entering 2, 3 in the box by your chosen subjects.

To mark your Reserve choice, put 'R' by that subject.

Subject	Choice
Art (Ar)	<input type="text"/>
Business Study (Bs)	<input type="text"/>
BTEC PE (CN)	<input type="text"/>
German (De)	Already selected
Drama (Dr)	<input type="text"/>
Product Design (Dt)	<input type="text"/>
Food Tech (DtF)	<input type="text"/>
Textiles (DtT)	<input type="text"/>
French (Fr)	<input type="text"/>
Film Studies (Fs)	<input type="text"/>
Geography (Gg)	<input type="text"/>
History (Hi)	<input type="text"/>
Health & Social (Hs)	<input type="text"/>
Computer Sci (It)	<input type="text"/>
BTEC Music (Mb)	<input type="text"/>
GCSE Music (Mu)	<input type="text"/>
GCSE PE (PE)	<input type="text"/>
Psychology (Ps)	<input type="text"/>
Spanish (Sp)	<input type="text"/>
Statistics (F) (St)	<input type="text"/>



Initial Choices

T.O.O.L.S

TimeTabler Options On-Line System



Please check your Subjects and if they are correct, click 'Confirm Choices'

Name: Test Test

Class: 9 CR

Username: TTEST

Choice No.	Subject chosen
1	German
2	Drama
3	Computer Sci
R	Film Studies



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Initial Choices

- The online platform we use will stop you accidentally choosing the same subject twice. Except...
- DT (Product Design) and DT (Textiles) are two pathways on the same qualification, so you cannot do both. Please don't choose both when completing your form.
- If relevant to you, please choose only one of PE (GCSE) or PE (BTEC), not both. If you are unsure which is the best course for you, do have that conversation this evening.
- Similarly for Music (GCSE) and Music (BTEC).



Initial Choices

- If you submit your initial choices before Wednesday 12th February and then change your mind you can log back in and alter them.
- The window for initial choices to be made will close on Wednesday 12th February for review.
- Please choose your reserve option with care. There were students who were given two first choice options + a reserve last year. Make sure it is also something you would enjoy studying.



Final Choices

- We will review students' initial choices and consider these alongside the wider school timetable / staffing.
- We will also compare students' initial choices to their latest reports and offer additional support and guidance should any concerns be raised.
- Should it become clear that certain options are unable to run due to low uptake or staffing constraints we will communicate this to students so they have time to consider alternatives.



Final Choices

- Students will be sent a new email with a link and password for their final choices + reserve which will be completed in the same way as before.
- The deadline for completion is Friday 21st March.



Confirmation

- Students' final options will be fed into the whole school timetable and students/parents will receive final confirmation in the second half of the Summer Term.
- Once final options are issued, there will be a 72-hour window for any immediate concerns to be raised and discussed.

