



Year 9:

Key Stage 4

Options

Booklet

March 2023

Introduction:

This booklet contains essential information about the Key Stage 4 Curriculum for students beginning Year 10 in September 2023.

Certain Key Stage 4 subjects are studied by all students and these are referred to as the 'core' subjects. These subjects are:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- Science (Trilogy or Triple)
- PSHE and Core RE
- Core Physical Education

More information on what you will study in these subjects can be found in this booklet. As well as studying the core subjects, all students must choose **three** 'option' preferences. These subjects enable the curriculum to be personalised in response to individual student interests or needs. This allows students to start to specialise in subjects which they are particularly interested in, which they enjoy and which will allow them lots of choices in their next steps at Post-16 level.

It is important to note that:

- Students are asked to give their top choices for their options, ranked from 1 to 6. These options choices are then used to design our 3 option blocks, once all the option forms are submitted by students. Our aim is to give the maximum number of students their top choices.
- We aim to give as much choice as possible, however, it is not possible to offer every combination of subjects within the option blocks.
- Our option blocks will be designed to allow all our students to access a combination of academic, enterprise-related, vocational, creative and performance-based subjects.
- All students will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their choices.
- All subjects are offered dependent upon there being sufficient interest from our students. We will confirm final options choices in July 2023. If your son/daughter has chosen a subject which does not run, they will be given the opportunity to reselect a subject from the list of those courses that will be part of the 2023-25 Key Stage Four curriculum. Any changes will be discussed with parents and carers.

Choosing Subjects:

When thinking about which subjects to choose to study in their individual Key Stage 4 curriculum, students and their parents/carers should consider the following questions:

- Which subjects will I enjoy studying for the next two years?
- What are my strengths?
- What are my plans for my post-16 education and training? Are there subjects that I need to study now in preparation?
- What kind of careers might I want to follow in the future?
- Do the courses I am interested in provide me with a broad range of experience that will not close doors to me in the future?

EBACC Subjects:

All students must choose at least one EBACC (English Baccalaureate) subject to study. These are:

- GCSE French
- GCSE German
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Triple Science.

The English Baccalaureate is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open, and which are considered the best foundation to studying for degrees at university level. While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, studying a range of EBACC subjects at GCSE level gives them access to a full range of education and employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers, colleges and universities are looking for. Students can study more than one EBACC qualification.

To gain the full English Baccalaureate, students must achieve GCSE qualifications in:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- GCSE combined science or 3 single sciences at GCSE level (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- A modern foreign language
- Geography or History

Whilst it is not compulsory to study the full English Baccalaureate qualification at OIEA, all students are given the opportunity to do so.

Vocational subjects:

Students are encouraged to choose at least one vocational subject to study. Vocational subjects are practical qualifications that relate to a specific job or career sector. They are partly assessed by coursework and partly by examinations. A great advantage of these qualifications is that they often have exams outside of the main exam period. This reduces the number of exams being taken, and therefore pressure, during mock exams and during the main GCSE examinations period in June 2025.

The vocational subjects that we offer are:

- OCR Creative iMedia (IT)
- BTEC Enterprise (Business Studies)
- WJEC Hospitality and Catering
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts (Drama specialism)
- BTEC Performing Arts (Dance specialism)
- OCR Cambridge National in Sport

Other GCSE subjects that we offer:

- GCSE Art Music
- GCSE Design and Technology
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Religious Education

Frequently Asked Questions

Our Senior Leadership team, Heads of House and Subject Leaders are all happy to talk to you at any point through the options process to offer guidance and support.

Hopefully the following FAQs will answer some of the more common queries:

1. *When does my child's options choices form need to be returned by?*

Forms will need to be submitted by Tuesday 18th April (after the Easter holiday).

2. *Should my child study for the full English Baccalaureate?*

To gain the full English Baccalaureate, students must achieve GCSE qualifications in:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- GCSE combined science or 3 single sciences at GCSE level (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- A modern foreign language
- Geography or History

Gaining the full English Baccalaureate is a great basis for students to go on to student Level 3 courses (e.g. A Levels) and then to progress onto study at a higher level (E.g. University). Whilst no University insists on the full English Baccalaureate, a broad set of academic GCSEs – which is what the EBACC is – is to the advantage of students applying for this route.

3. *What are Vocational subjects and why do most students study them?*

Vocational qualifications are qualifications that relate extensively to a specific job or career sector, and which allow students to develop entrepreneurial skills. At Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy, we are committed to offering student the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of the world of work, through their studies. These courses all have a mixture of examinations, coursework, and practical elements, unlike most GCSEs which are fully assessed through examinations.

Many courses at Post-16 level, including A levels, and University courses, have coursework and practical components. Through studying at least one vocational qualification in Key Stage 4, our students are given the opportunity to develop their practical, entrepreneurial and organisational skills. They also develop the self-management needed to succeed once they leave OIEA. Students can study up to two vocational qualifications.

Some top tips for making good choices for students:

1. Speak to your family and teachers who know your strengths and aspirations, to help you decide what is best for you.
2. Choose subjects that you will enjoy.
3. Choose subjects that you are good at.
4. Choose subjects that will support your career plans, if you already know what you are aiming to do.
5. If you are not sure of what career plans you want to follow, do not panic. You can study many courses at 16 without having studied them before.

6. Even if you are very certain what you want to do when you are older, you might change your mind. Many people do! Keep your options open by picking a range of different subjects where you can develop different skills.
7. Choose a combination of subjects that give you a broad experience of learning. This will help you to decide what type of learning suits you when you go onto the next stage of your education and training.
8. Do not choose subjects because you want to be with your friends. You might not end up in the same class as them anyway!
9. Do not choose subjects because you like the teacher. They might not be teaching the class that you are in.

Here is a good plan to follow:

Step 1

- Read the subject information in the booklet carefully.
- Watch the subject videos that are on the OIEA website.

Step 2

- Put the options subjects in order from your first choice to your last. Talk to your family about this. Being able to explain why you want to study a subject, is a good sign that you really do!

Step 3

- Look at your previous Progress Checks from school. If you have made good progress in a subject in Year 9, then that is also a good sign that you will put in the effort to do the same at Key Stage 4.

Step 4

- If you need more guidance, contact subject leaders or your Head of Year for advice. Their email addresses are all at the end of this booklet.

Step 5

- Send in your options form and don't worry! Remember that you will have a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, to talk through your choices.

Option Blocks:

- Students will apply for their options choices online
- Students will pick their top 3 subject choices in order of preference. They will then pick 3 reserve choices in order of preference.
- They will do this by putting a number 1 by their first choice, a number 2 by their second choice, and so on.
- Students **must** pick at least one EBACC subject in their first 3 choices. Students can pick more than one EBACC subject. These have (EBACC) next to them.

If a subject is oversubscribed, then we will look to put on an additional group if staffing allows. Occasionally, if a subject is not chosen by many students, then it may not run. In this case students and parents will be informed, and an alternative subject selected.

All qualifications are available at Level 1 and Level 2. Level 1 is equivalent to GCSE grades 1 to 3. Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE grades 4 to 9.

The choices of subjects for students are:

EBACC Subjects	Non-EBacc Subjects
GCSE Geography (EBACC) GCSE History (EBACC) GCSE Triple Science (EBACC) GCSE French GCSE German	GCSE Art OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia GCSE Design and Technology BTEC Enterprise BTEC Health and Social Care WJEC Hospitality and Catering GCSE Music BTEC Performing Arts: Dance BTEC Performing Arts: Drama GCSE RE OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Timeline for the Options Process:

Monday 27 th Feb to Friday 17 th March	Students will have taster sessions in lessons, to give them an experience of what a typical lesson is like in that subject in Key Stage 4. Opt-in taster sessions will also be run for subject that are not taught in Key stage 4 such as Health and Social Care and Enterprise.
Thursday 16 th March:	Options Evening
Monday 13 th March to Friday 31 st March	All students will have a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their preferred options.
Tuesday 18 th April	Final date for submission of Options Form. Forms can be submitted:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via email: year9options@oiea.co.uk • By post. Please put 'Y9 Options' at the top of the address. • To their form tutor • To their Head of Year (Mrs Clarke) <p>Please note that there is no advantage to putting in a form early. All options choices are considered equally, after 18th April. However, if an options form is submitted late, or a student requests a change of option choice after the 18th April, then students who submitted their forms on time will get priority.</p>
Monday 24 th April to Friday 19 th May	Where it is needed, students will have a further meeting with Mr Forster, Mrs Pape or Mr Lockhart to consider if any changes need to be considered for options (e.g. where a student has opted for a subject that they have previously not enjoyed and they have put in low levels of effort into it). If any changes are being considered to options subjects, parents and carers will be contacted and consulted.
Friday 7 th July	A letter confirming options choices will be sent to parents and carers. Please note that whilst, we cannot guarantee that students will get all their first choices for options, we aim to give as many as possible, and to be fair to all students.
By Friday 29 th September	<p>Most students are very happy with their choices; however, we know that some students will change their minds about their choices in September. Students can make changes where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have discussed the reasons for the change with Mr Forster. They must give a POSITIVE reason for wanting to opt for a different subject. • There is a place available in the subject. • The change has been discussed with parents/carers and agreed. • They agree to catch up work missed, even if this requires attendance at extra sessions after school to do so. <p>Changes can only be made up to Friday 29th September. After this date, we do not allow changes, as there is too much missed work to catch up. Also, we expect students to positively commit to their choices over the two years that they will be studying their courses.</p>

Information on each subject:

Information of each of the subjects can be found in the following ways:

1. You can read through the subject pages in the options booklet.
2. You can watch the videos about each subject that are on the OIEA website.
<https://www.oiea.co.uk/curriculum/gcse-options>
3. Students can talk to their class teachers.

4. Parents and Carers can contact subject leaders and subject specialists if they have any specific queries. Contact information is on the next page.

Contact Information:

Mr Forster	Vice Principal – Responsible for options process.	oforster@oiea.co.uk
Mr Lockhart	Assistant Principal - Responsible for Vocational Education. (<i>All queries for BTEC Health and Social Care should be directed to him.</i>)	jlockart@oiea.co.uk
Mrs Marriott	Assistant Principal and SENCO	tmarriott@oiea.co.uk
Miss Hughes	Associate Assistant Principal – Key Stage 4	khughes@oiea.co.uk
Mrs Clarke	Head of Year 9	sclarke@oiea.co.uk
Mr Cotton	Head of Mathematics (for GCSE Mathematics)	ocotton@oiea.co.uk
Mrs Spalding	Head of English (for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature)	kspalding@oiea.co.uk
Mr Cross	Head of Science (for GCSE Science and Triple Science)	scross@oiea.co.uk
Mr Bamford	Head of PE (for OCR Cambridge National in Sport Studies)	ibamford@oiea.co.uk
Mr Siddons	Head of Humanities (for GCSE Geography and GCSE Religious Education)	rsiddons@oiea.co.uk
Mr Fotheringham	Second in Humanities (for GCSE History)	jfotheringham@oiea.co.uk
Mr Wyke	Head of Religious Education	pwyke@oiea.co.uk
Mr Thorold	Head of Modern Foreign Languages (for GCSE French)	ethorold@oiea.co.uk
Mr Tomlinson	Head of Enterprise (for BTEC Enterprise)	ptomlinson@oiea.co.uk
Mr Underhill	Head of Art and DT (for GCSE Art and WJEC Hospitality and Catering)	bunderhill@oiea.co.uk
Miss Harrington	Second in Art and DT (for GCSE Design and Technology)	mharrington@oiea.co.uk
Mr Cliffman	Head of IT (for OCR Creative iMedia)	mcliffman@oiea.co.uk
Mrs Selby	Teacher of Music- (for Music)	kselby@oiea.co.uk
Mrs Lowe	Head of Performing Arts – (for BTEC Performing Arts: Drama)	llowe@oiea.co.uk
Miss Hill	Teacher of Performing Arts – (for BTEC Performing Arts: Dance)	ghill@oiea.co.uk
Mrs Pape	Assistant Principal - Responsible for Career Information, Advice and Guidance	apape@oiea.co.uk