

# KEY STAGE 4: GUIDED SELECTIONS

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you as we approach one of the most exciting and important milestones in your child's school career to date. Next September, your child will be starting their GCSE courses and moving from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. All students at the academy follow the National Curriculum and, as they move into Year 10, have some choice in the subjects that they would like to study further at Key Stage 4. Students will be able to express their preferences for the 4 option subjects they want to choose in addition to continuing to study all core subjects.

In order to move forward with the appropriate curriculum for your child we are now looking at the 'guided selection' process for the courses we offer. We will work with you towards ensuring the correct balance and breadth in the curriculum for every student.

In Year 10 and 11 all students will study a core curriculum of:-

English language, English literature, mathematics, combined science, world views and physical education.

There will be four further subject areas to select from, adding appropriate rigour, balance and some choice to the students' curriculum. Students may wish to follow one of the vocational subjects alongside their GCSEs as part of their curriculum. These consist of:

## At least 1 choice from these GCSE's:

- French
- Geography
- History
- Separate Science

## Possible choices from these GCSE's:

- Art
- Drama
- Graphics
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Music

## One choice from:

- Engineering
- Design and Technology
- Hospitality & Catering
- Health & Social Care
- Information Technology  
*(cannot be chosen if GCSE Computer Science has been chosen)*
- Sports Studies
- Enterprise Business BTEC  
*(cannot be chosen if GCSE Business Studies has been chosen)*

If, at this stage, your child has a career or further education ambition please let us know to help with this and any careers guidance we may offer. To ensure the correct selections there will be more information provided at parents evening, on **Thursday 24th November**, where you can speak to subject teachers and with myself.

*Continued overleaf...*

## EBACC ROUTE

While we give pupils choice in most of their options, we would like to strongly recommend that families consider the EBacc route when choosing the courses pupils will study at KS4. EBacc (or English Baccalaureate) is a combination of GCSEs that may help your child get onto certain courses at both colleges and universities. Some courses, for example (Law and Medicine) prefer applications from students who have a wide range of academic GCSEs. EBacc can help to secure this. EBacc consists of: GCSE Maths, Science, English Language and Literature with either GCSE Geography or History and French. This would still leave pupils with 2 other choices from our wide selection of subjects and could give your child more options after their GCSEs in regards to the courses they go on to study at college and beyond.

We do envisage that a very small number of students will require a more personalised curriculum which may allow for the study of extra English and mathematics and this will be brokered on an individual basis.

There will be a further letter in December with a link to the form where you can enter the guided selections for your child. This will be sent following the information received at parents evening and after discussions your child and teachers.

Kind regards

Mrs Hickin  
Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum and Quality Assurance)