

OPTIONS

- Website

Parents

Options 2020-2022

<https://www.corsham.wilts.sch.uk/page/?title=Options+Information&pid=113>

All qualifications except for GCSE equivalents – Sport Science – Business, Music, Graphics

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Rationale

- More choice and broader balanced curriculum for all
- Better outcomes as appropriate time allocated
- Firmer guidance into ebacc through pathways (perhaps 30/35%) to comply with national requirements

The Y10 Curriculum

Subject	English	Maths	Science	RE/PSHE	PE	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Total
Hours/2 weeks	8	7	10	1	4	5	5	5	5	50
Notes	Language and Literature		Combined (Double)			Triple Sciences				
No of GCSEs	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	9

Compulsory

- English and English Literature (8 hours),
- Maths (7 hours),
- Science (double 10 hours),
- Double Science is called “combined” or “trilogy” 2 GCSEs

- NB Separate Sciences are called “single sciences” or “triple science” 3 GCSEs – you will need to select this in the options to do 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

- Non exam PE (4 hours),
- RE/PSHE (1 hour)
- Compulsory curriculum is 30 out of 50 hours on a 2 week cycle
- Options are a total 20 out of 50 hours

Pathways

Pathway Title	Profile of student	Choices
Pathway 3	May have a history of high academic scores from tests going back to primary school, achieves well with academic challenges, may have very high (6+) GCSE target grades, may be aspiring to go to a top university, will probably be thinking about facilitating (academic) A levels post 16	Have to choose one foreign language in one block, then one of either History or Geography in another then 2 further free choices but should strongly consider triple sciences
Example		Spanish, Geography, Art, Drama
Pathway 2	Aiming for 5 and above in English, maths, sciences and in a range of other GCSEs. May have high target grades (5+). Will probably be thinking about A levels and or Level 3 Tech qualifications/Apprenticeships post 16	Must do at least one of either History, Geography, Computing, Foreign Languages, 3 further free choices
		Photography, DS, Business, History
Pathway 1	May do best when more practical and “hands-on” subjects are mixed with academic. May be more successful in project work and unit tests rather than everything based on a final exam at the end of 2 years, may be considering Level 3 Tech qualifications, Apprenticeships or vocational courses post 16	Should seriously consider one of History, Geography, Computing, Foreign Languages alongside GCSE equivalents such as IT Cambridge Techs, Graphics, Business and Sport Science Cambridge Techs but 4 free choices
		Graphics, Geography, French, Sport Science

Ebacc – not an award in itself

- Means a GCSE grade 5 or higher in
 - English
 - English Literature
 - Maths
 - At least 2 Sciences or Computer Science
 - History or Geography
 - MFL
-
- National Target 75%
 - National Average 35%
 - School 22%



HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- History or Geography
- A language
Ancient or modern



WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right - it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.
The Centre for Longitudinal Studies, August 2017

- All students may choose ebacc.
- Pathway 1 and 2 can choose the same as pathway 3

Another rationale for ebacc -option choices – keeping A Level doors open

- *Many universities favour “Facilitating” A levels (and an EPQ).*
- *Express choice of High Performing Universities*

- *These are the subjects you can’t do at A level without having done the GCSE first*

- *A natural science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)*
- *A modern or ancient language*
- *English Literature (not Language)*
- *History*
- *Geography*
- *Maths and Further Maths*

Myth Buster – Informed Choices Guide

The image shows a screenshot of a PDF document titled "rg informed choices p20 20 gcse 2018.pdf" displayed in a web browser. The browser's address bar shows the file path: "file:///H:/Admin%20Work/OPTIONS/2019/rg%20informed%20choices%20p20%2020%20gcse%202018.pdf". The document's table of contents on the left includes sections such as "Preface", "Post-16 qualifications and how they are organised", "Pre-16 qualifications and university entry", "General entrance requirements", "Making your post-16 subject choices", "Subjects required for different degree courses", "How subject choices can affect your future career options", "The five-point plan for making your post-16 choices", "Abbreviations", and "Links". A large yellow arrow is drawn over the page, pointing from the "Pre-16 qualifications and university entry" section in the table of contents to the corresponding text on the right. The text on the right is titled "Pre-16 qualifications and university entry" and discusses requirements for competitive universities, general entrance requirements, and specific requirements for University College London (UCL).

Pre-16 qualifications and university entry

When applying to a competitive university and especially for a very competitive course at a competitive university, it is important that you consider all the aspects of the entry requirements, including the qualifications typically taken before you are 16.

General entrance requirements

Universities may ask for a specific number of GCSEs (or their equivalent) with specific minimum grades. GCSE requirements may vary by course. For example, a number of medical courses ask for five (sometimes more) grades at the top of the range. Universities often require a minimum of a pass (at least a grade 4 or 5) in GCSE English or another standard level equivalent. A minimum of a pass (at least a 4 or 5) is also often required for Mathematics for some or all courses. Science GCSEs not also be required for certain subjects, such as psychology.

Currently University College London (UCL) is the only Russell Group university to require a pass in a Modern Foreign Language GCSE for all of its programmes. However, if you did not take a Modern Foreign Language GCSE, or if you fall short of the requirement, you can still apply to any UCL degree programme, and it won't negatively affect your application. You will not be rejected just because you don't have it but you will need to complete a short course certificate in a Modern Foreign Language or undertake a half course unit during your studies at UCL.

Please see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduate/application> for more details.

Although only UCL has a formal requirement in place, Modern Foreign Language qualifications are valued by admissions tutors across the Russell Group. For example, some admissions tutors look for a GCSE language qualifications in applications to their Classics courses. You should check individual university websites for more details.

A number of universities ask that grades and number of subjects are achieved at one sitting. Some do not accept 're-sits' at GCSE or standard level qualifications. If you think this might affect you and a university's published admissions policy is not clear, it is sensible to check with Admissions staff before applying.

Help Given

- Subject information booklet
- Option book emailed last week
- Assemblies
- Year 9 Taster Sessions in class (IOP/DFE Researcher student voice)
- Tutors
- Teachers
- Y9 Parents' Evening
- PHSE lessons
- STEM day
- This evening!

Restrictions

- You are only allowed to choose one of Art OR Graphics (it counts as the same qualification)
- The survey had some very low number subjects which will not run.
- German
- Religious Studies
- Btec DIT
- Textiles
- You must pick a reserve!

Options: 4 lots of 5 hours, 4 From

- Art,
- Business,
- Drama,
- Dance
- Food,
- French,
- GCSE PE/CAMNAT Sport Science (PE staff guidance)
- Geography,
- History,
- Computing
- Media,
- Music,
- Photography,
- Graphics,
- Design Technology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Triple Sciences (separate GCSEs in Biology Chemistry Physics-Science staff will advise)

The Form

- The configuration of subjects in blocks comes from the survey, so it should fit the vast majority of combinations. Students do however change their minds
- We have a “problem box” in case your combination or choice of subjects is not possible
- Enough people with similar problems can result in a solution, so we need to know

What you fill in and hand to Tutors by beginning of January 31

Block Q	Block X	Block Y	Block Z
Drama	Food	Business	Art
Design Technology	French	French	Business
French	Geography	Geography	Dance
History	History	History	Graphics
PE GCSE or Sport Science Cambridge Nationals	Computer Science	Media Studies	History
Photography	Sociology	Music	Triple Science
	Spanish	Photography	Sociology

Choices				
Reserve				

Problems?

Caution:-Difficult Factors

- No Guarantees
- Low Numbers –subject will not run
- Inappropriate Choices – evidence of interest!
- Sometimes only one class possible – 35 for Business
- Reserve choice is a helpful process, try and select one further subject
- Don't choose by teacher!
- Don't copy friends!

By January 31

- Hand in form to Tutor – Reception - email
- Confident about highly successful courses
- New courses are now established, teachers now have that experience
- Very well equipped to deal with the challenges
- Choose well and carefully from the huge range of possible combinations