

Y9 Options Information Evening

**Thursday 3rd
February
2022**



Welcome to Options evening

Mr Spence & Mrs Wilcox

(Student Achievement Leaders)

Mrs Cowley

(Assistant Vice Principal)

Microphones and cameras should already be disabled. If not, please turn them off.



Sir Thomas Wharton
Academy

Our commitment is to:

‘Ensure young people are **fully invested** in learning through the **world class teaching** of an **inspiring curriculum** which secures **excellent outcomes** and **positive progression routes**’



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‘Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives’



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Aims of the evening:

- To share an overview of national guidance around the Key Stage 4 curriculum.
- To share the **Key Stage 4 curriculum at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.**
- To ensure that parents/carer's and students can have **informed and considered conversations about the choices available.**
- To explain how to access the remote '**Options booklet**' and process of selecting Option choices.
- **To provide guidance** about further education, higher education, training and employment.



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National Curriculum:

What is the statutory core curriculum?

All students in KS4 must study; English, Mathematics, Science, PE, RS and Citizenship (Life Skills)

What is English Baccalaureate?

A suite of subjects that include; English, Mathematics, Science from the core curriculum along with History, Geography, Languages and Computer Science.

How many subjects do students need to do?

As a minimum, students will follow 8 subjects

What is the difference between GCSEs and Technical Awards?

They offer different assessment processes. Most GCSEs are assessed through terminal exams after 2 years. Technical Awards are assessed with a combination examinations and ongoing coursework. Furthermore, Technical Awards are tailored towards industry and specific vocations. There is no 'gold standard' and both are level 2 qualifications.



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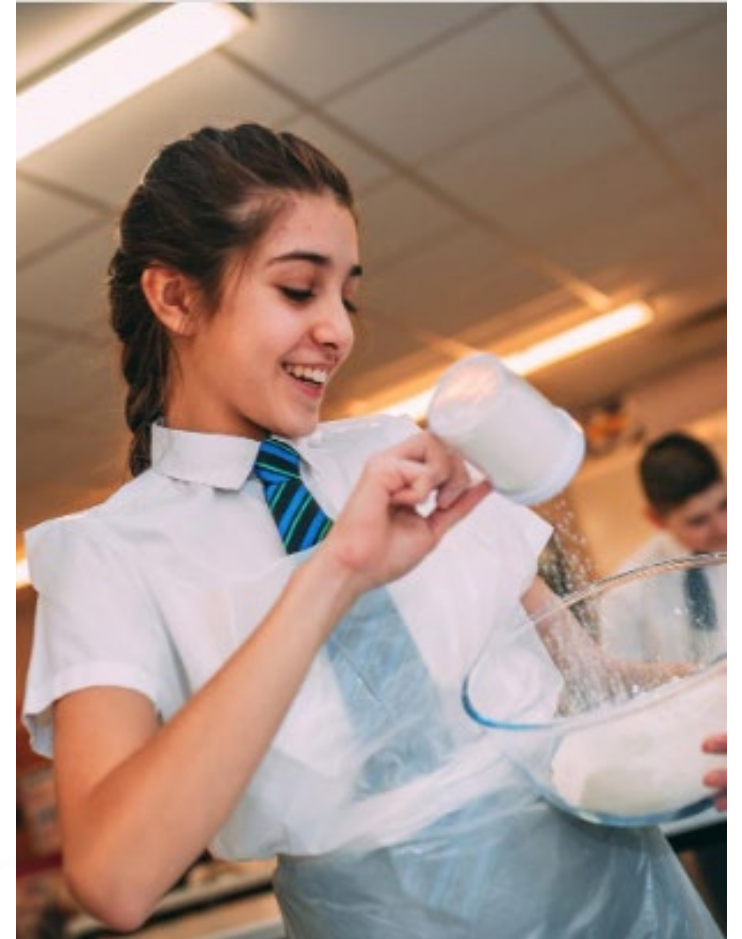
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Sir Thomas Wharton Curriculum:

- **Inspire imagination** and develop interests, specialisms and key skills
- Provide appropriate **challenge** through access to complex material and concepts
- **Provide equality** and **promote aspiration** for all learners irrespective of starting point, learning needs, background and disposition
- **Facilitate positive progression routes** into sustainable further and higher education, training and employment
- Provide relevance to context and community to **enable social and economic mobility**
- Prepare young people to be **successful learners, responsible citizens** and **confident individuals**



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Option choices 2022:

Option 1 - EBACC

GCSE Computer Science	GCSE French	GCSE Geography	GCSE History
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Students will select one choice from option 1 and a different choice from option 2, 3 & 4 and TWO reserve choices.

Option 2, 3 and 4 (plus two reserves)

GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Fine Art	GCSE Geography	GCSE History	BTEC Health and Social Care
GCSE 3D Design	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Food and Nutrition	GCSE Business Studies	BTEC Sport
BTEC Digital Information & Communications Technology	BTEC Performing Arts Theatre Studies	Music	GCSE French	BTEC Performing Arts Dance

The offer at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy includes a variety of **GCSEs** and **Technical Awards**. Furthermore, some subject areas will make the appropriate **choice of award type** once the students have selected.



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Example: Good range

Option 1 - EBACC

GCSE Computer Science	GCSE French	GCSE Geography	GCSE History
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Students cannot select an option twice. Students will also need to select 2 reserve subjects in case their first choices aren't available/ appropriate.

Option 2, 3 and 4 (plus two reserves)

GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Fine Art	GCSE Geography	GCSE History	BTEC Health and Social Care
GCSE 3D Design	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Food and Nutrition	GCSE Business Studies	BTEC Sport
BTEC Digital Information & Communications Technology	BTEC Performing Arts Theatre Studies	Music	GCSE French	BTEC Performing Arts Dance

Subject leaders/ teachers will also be able to guide students on their option choices, based on their current investment and attainment in that subject.



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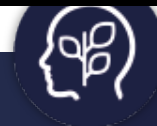
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Example: Limited range

Option 1

GCSE Computer Science	GCSE French	GCSE Geography	GCSE History
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Students need to consider their options and how they are going to broaden their skills/ shape their future pathways.

Option 2, 3 and 4 (plus two reserves)

GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Fine Art	GCSE Geography	GCSE History	BTEC Health and Social Care
GCSE 3D Design	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Food and Nutrition	GCSE Business Studies	BTEC Sport
BTEC Digital Information & Communications Technology	BTEC Performing Arts Theatre Studies	Music	GCSE French	BTEC Performing Arts Dance

In this example, the student is selecting subjects that is quite narrowing as they are focused on ICT/ Computer Science. This is not an option as students need to select subjects that are of a variety and not 'duplicating' the skills and knowledge that they will learn.



Example: Fine balance

Option 1

GCSE Computer Science	GCSE French	GCSE Geography	GCSE History
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Students need to consider their options and how they are going to broaden their skills/ shape their future pathways.

Option 2, 3 and 4 (plus two reserves)

GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Fine Art	GCSE Geography	GCSE History	BTEC Health and Social Care
GCSE 3D Design	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Food and Nutrition	GCSE Business Studies	BTEC Sport
BTEC Digital Information & Communications Technology	BTEC Performing Arts Theatre Studies	Music	GCSE French	BTEC Performing Arts Dance

These options are fine; however, they don't include any creative subjects. Students need to select wisely and consider how their choices could limit them in the future. Is this route specific to their desired career path?



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Routes to 'Russell Group Universities':

'Russell Group' universities are a group of prestigious universities with a pedigree of producing **academic success** and scholastic excellence.

Some of the universities that make up this group include Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, Durham, Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds, Belfast and Birmingham.

The **English Baccalaureate** is a suite of subjects that are 'favorably' looked upon by Russell Group universities. Students following English Baccalaureate study, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities (Geography or History) and Languages (French)

Research suggests that students who study the English Baccalaureate experience greater socio-economic mobility.

Furthermore, English Baccalaureate students are more likely to experience international travel and are exposed to cultural variety that increases employability.

Students who aspire to Russel Group universities should give serious consideration to selecting French as part of the option process.



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Higher Education, Training and Careers guidance:



- Careers Education (CEIAG) & Tutor Programme
- Start Programme www.startprofile.com
- Careers advisor appointments
- Career guidance in Life Skills lessons
- Personalised interviews with senior leaders, sharing career guidance and support for making the right Option choices.



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Further support:

- Options booklet – course content, assessment modules and career links.
- Option videos – one for every subject, providing an overview of the course.
- Subject leaders/ teachers – informal conversations with teachers to provide support.
- <https://www.stwcc.co.uk/y9-options>



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Option choices:

First choice for each option plus 2
reserve subjects



Choose carefully



Discuss with parent/carer



Discuss with teachers at the end of
lessons or over email



Final decision



1. Enter your name

2. EBACC Subject

- French
- Computer Science
- History
- Geography



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Options deadline:

• **Life skills Lessons Introducing the Options Subjects**
Launched January 2022

• **Start Website Launched: www.track.startprofile.com**
January 2022

• **Options Booklet** shared online w/c 7th February

• **Provisional Option Choices**
Tutor time – 27th January

• **SLT Interviews**
February 2022 – Week 1/2 of HT4

• **Final Choices Confirmed and Letters Sent Out**
Week Commencing 21st March (two weeks window of opportunity for parents/ students to review final choices)

3. Option Subject 1

- GCSE Triple Science
- GCSE Fine Art
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- Music
- GCSE 3D Design
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Business Studies
- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Information & Communications Technology
- BTEC Performing Arts (Specialism: Theatre Studies)
- BTEC Performing Arts (Specialism: Dance)



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Frequently asked questions:

- **When and how do I submit my Options?**

Final choices will be made via Microsoft forms (a link sent to your email address) week commencing 21st March.

- **Can I change my mind once I've submitted my Options form?**

You have plenty of time and opportunity to seek further guidance and support. Please use this time to explore your choices in order to make the right choice.

- **What if I don't get my first-choice subject/s?**

We aim to have all students studying their first-choice subjects, however, you do have to select 2 reserve subjects in case we cannot accommodate.

- **What further support is available to help me decide?**

Subject leaders/ teachers, SLT interviews, Year team support, parents/carers, Mrs Brooke (Career guidance).

- **When will I find out what subjects I've been allocated?**

Half-term 5



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Option enquiries:

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HOME ABOUT US PARENTS AND STUDENTS NEWS & EVENTS POST 16 VACANCIES CONTACT US Q

HOME > PARENTS AND STUDENTS > OUR CURRICULUM > Y9 OPTIONS >

OPTION ENQUIRIES

Your Name *

Your Email Address *

Please let us know what you would like to discuss *

SUBMIT

OPTION ENQUIRIES

Please submit any Option enquires via the form online.

<https://www.stwcc.co.uk/form/?pid=238&form=26>

Parents & Students --> Our Curriculum --> Y9 Options



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Questions:

If you have any questions from this evening's presentation, please submit your questions in the chat function.

Thank you for your continued support and attendance to our Options evening.



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Highest Standards

Never Give Up

Everyone is Valued

No Excuses

Invest to Achieve

Cultivate your Character