



The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School



Options Evening 2024

Mr Collingbourne

GCSE choices

- This is the **NOT** the most important decision you will make in your life.
- However, the choices you make will play a large part in your chosen career.

Our INTENT

- Provide a curriculum with breadth and opportunities for all.
- We believe in offering as much choice as we can.
- GCSE's, Cambridge National, Level 1 and 2 courses.
- Ebacc. – Grade 5 in English, Maths, Science x2, a language, History or Geography.

EBACC – Recognised by many Universities and employers as a more academic route.

- English - X
- Maths - X
- Science - X
- History or Geography
- Language

Subjects in A8/P8 measure

Bucket 1 (2 subjects)	Bucket 2 (3 Ebacc subjects)	Bucket 3 (3 other subjects)
English – language or literature Maths (Both double weighted. English only double if student has also taken English Literature)	Science's Computer Science Geography History Languages	Other Ebacc subjects Other 'high value' arts, academic, or vocational qualification

Currently with 4 options we give students 9 GCSE's

- 1 – English Language
- 2 – English Literature
- 3 – Maths
- 4 – Combined Science
- 5 – Combined Science
- 6 – Option 1
- 7 – Option 2
- 8 – Option 3
- 9 – Option 4

This curriculum is under review this year. As a school we are looking at potentially only having 3 options. This will reduce workload / exams but will reduce the breadth of study.

The decision will be made after the trial run based on the student's choices.

Key Features of GCSE's

- ✓ Increase level of challenge and proper preparation for A Level or further study.
 - ✓ Focus on knowledge based curriculum.
 - ✓ Extended writing; fewer bite-sized questions.
 - ✓ No higher and foundation tier papers, except in Maths, Science and Languages.
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- Grading scale 9 - 1 and U

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
					CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE				
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U

Who decides?

- Students...
- Parents/carers.....
- Teachers.....
- Other staff
- You have time to research and ask questions before committing to your choices.

Key Dates

- **Friday 19th January** – trial run opens for one week
- February / March – Discussions with form teachers
- **Thursday 15th March** – Consultation Evening
- **Friday 16th March** – Pathways form open on Student App
- **Friday 23rd March** – Final deadline for options form to be completed using the app.

Instructions for the trial run:

- Using the Student Sims app, students must choose 4 options in order of preference. **THIS IS NOT THEIR FINAL CHOICE.**
- Students **MUST** select at least one from: Geography, History, Triple Science, Computer Science or a Language as part of their 4 choices.
- If you would like to be considered to be selected for Triple Science you **MUST** choose it in your trial run.

Every student will do

- English
 - Maths
 - Science
 - Core PE
 - Religious Studies (short course)
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- You will then have 3 or 4 option choices.

Choose 4 options for the trial run – in order

- Geography
- History
- Design technology
- Food preparation and nutrition
- Music
- Triple Science
- French
- Spanish
- Art and design
- Computer science
- Drama
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Business Studies
- Hospitality and catering (CNAT)
- Creative I media (CNAT)
- Health and Social care (CNAT)



Other factors to consider

The importance of a good attendance.

- 90% attendance means your child misses one lesson a fortnight over the year.
- This will have a significant impact on their GCSE grade but especially their NEA (coursework)

Other Factors

- **COST** –
 - Technology - a contribution to buying materials and paying for ingredients for Food.
 - Art - Kit and sketch book
 - Languages – all students will need to buy a dictionary and a grammar book.
- **TRIPS** – In some subjects there are compulsory trips – e.g. in Drama you will have to go to the theatre and write about it. There is also an offsite visit in Geography and History. We do ask for a contribution.
- **EXTRA – CURRICULAR** – In all subjects there will be clubs that will have an impact on their grades. Especially the NEA element of a course.

Year 9 students: Starting year 10 Options |

All students will do English Literature, English Language, Maths, Combined Science, Core PE, and Religion and Life so they do not feature in the list.

Instruction:

Students MUST select at least one from: Geography, History, Triple Science, Computer Science or a Language.

Students must not select more than one technology subject from: Materials and Manufacturing, Product Design or Graphical Communication.

Option A (single lessons)	Option B (single lessons)	Option C (double lessons)	Option D (double lessons)
GCSE History	GCSE History	GCSE History	GCSE History
GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography	GCSE PE
GCSE Triple Science**	GCSE French	GCSE German	GCSE Spanish
GCSE Religious Studies	GCSE Music	GCSE Computing	GCSE Product Design
GCSE Art	GCSE Art	GCSE Graphical communication	GCSE Art
GCSE Drama	CNAT Health and Social Care Technical Award	CNAT Health and Social Care Technical Award	WJEC Vocational GCSE in Hospitality and Catering
Cambridge National in Creative I Media	GCSE Drama	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Springboard**		GCSE Materials and Manufacturing	

** Only selected students can opt for Triple Science and Springboard.

Big decision

- After the 23rd March these option choices are final.
- Students will only be able to change if there is a safeguarding or medical reason.
- Students will find out their option choices in June.

Tips for this evening

- Speak to the relevant Heads of department this evening to get an overview of the course
- Watch the subject specific videos for any subject you have an interest in.
- Look at the assessment criteria for each course. Percentage of exam, NEA (coursework), how many exams.
- This is a fact finding evening. Individual conversations will take place at the Consultation Evening.
- **DO NOT** – choose a subject based on your friends choices.
- **DO NOT** – choose a subject because you like the teacher.

Questions

- Any questions about the process please email ocollingbourne@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk
- Any subject specific questions please contact the Head of Department.
- Student specific advice, please contact your form teacher, Head of House or Pastoral Mentor.

Subject	Venue
Religious Studies	Room 53
Health and Social Care	Room 53
Business Studies	Room 53
Triple Science	Room 52
French	Room 7
Spanish	Room 7
PE	Hub 1
Computer Science	Hub 2
Creative I Media	Hub 2
Art	Room 56
Drama	Drama Studio
Music	Drama Studio
Geography	Humanities atrium
History	Humanities atrium
All Design & Technology and Food subjects	Conservatory