



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

- **Feb 4th** Assembly to Year 9
- **Feb 5th** Parents' Evening
- **Feb 24th - Mar 6th** Options Taster / Information Sessions
- **Mar 9th** Form emailed
- **Mar 20th** Form deadline
- **April 13th - 24th** Review
- **May 22nd** Finalised options shared

What are Options?

	Eng	Maths	Sci	Geog	Hist	MFL	Art	Drama	RSE	Music	DT	RS	CSc	PE	Total
Year 7	8	8	6	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	4	50
Year 8	8	8	6	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	4	50
Year 9	8	8	6	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	4	50

Options are the subjects students choose in Year 9 as they move into Years 10 and 11. Instead of studying a wide range of subjects, students focus on **three option subjects**, alongside core subjects, allowing them to specialise and work towards their GCSE or vocational qualifications.

	English ⁽²⁾	Maths	Science ⁽²⁾	Option A	Option B	Option C	PS	RE	PE	Total
Year 10	9	9	9	6	6	6	1	1	3	50
Year 11	9	9	9	6	6	6	1	1	3	50

Core GCSE

Statutory Non-GCSE

Option Blocks

Option A	Option B	Option C
Art Business Studies Child Development Drama Engineering Health & Fitness History Hospitality & Catering Music Technology	Creative iMedia Dance Engineering Health & Fitness Hospitality & Catering Health & Social Music Religious Education Separate Sciences	History Geography Computer Science French Spanish

Progress 8 The option blocks have been designed in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance to ensure a broad and balanced Key Stage 4 curriculum. They offer a mix of EBacc, creative and vocational subjects, supporting different strengths, interests and future pathways, while also ensuring students can achieve strong outcomes across the Progress 8 measure.

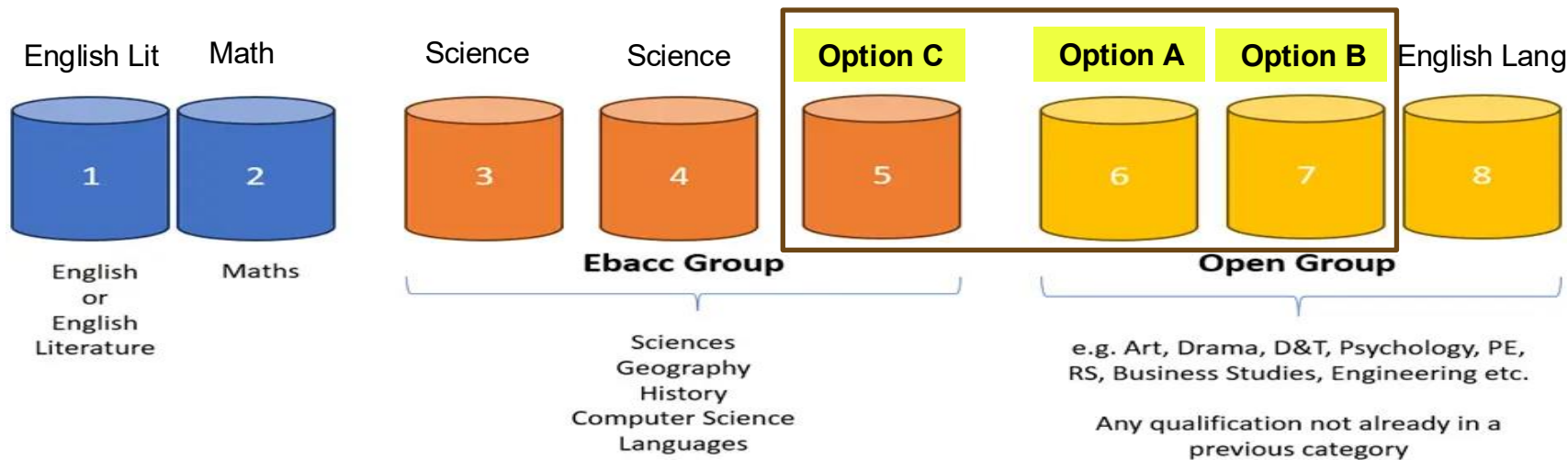
Why?

Subject pathways are allocated carefully, taking account of timetabling constraints, **staffing capacity** and **rooming availability**, to ensure all courses can be delivered to a high standard.

Our option subjects reflect areas of **strong expertise** within the Academy, and we are confident they will give students the best possible start in life while enabling them to pursue and develop their interests and passions.

Progress 8

National measure used in all secondary schools to show how well pupils progress across a range of subjects at GCSE, compared with other pupils nationally who started from similar points.



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Proviso & Subject Allocation

We will do our best to meet students' subject preferences; however,

- Timetabling
- Staffing
- Rooming constraints

mean not all combinations are possible. Some courses may be oversubscribed or not run.

Every student will be allocated a suitable subject pathway. Allocations are made carefully using

- Preference order
- Course viability (bullet points above)
- Achievement / success data
- Behaviour data
- Consultation with Heads of Department.

We recognise that there may be some disappointment, but selecting three preferences is important, as any of the three subjects may be allocated.

Proviso & Subject Allocation

Making the Right Choice

I have discussed my options carefully with my parents/carers and teachers.

I enjoy the subject and am motivated to study it over the next two years.

I have used Go4schools and see I am achieving well in the subject or have the potential to succeed with effort.

I understand the skills, assessment methods, and expectations of the course.

I have researched the subject using lessons, taster sessions, and subject information.

I am prepared to work consistently and meet the demands of the course.

Making the Wrong Choice

Choosing a subject simply because friends are taking it.

Choosing or avoiding a subject based on a particular teacher.

Assuming one subject will be easier or require less effort than others.

Selecting a subject without understanding how it is assessed or what it involves.

Believing a subject can be easily changed later.

Choosing without discussing options with parents/carers or teachers.

Allowing others to influence my decision instead of choosing what is right for me.

GCSE vs Vocational

GCSE subjects are mainly academic courses, assessed mostly through written exams, and are graded on a 1–9 scale, with 9 being the highest.

Vocational subjects (such as NCFE) are more practical, career-focused courses assessed through coursework and exams, and are graded from Level 1 Pass up to Level 2 Distinction.

You will be able to find out whether a subject is a GCSE or a vocational qualification in the subject description later in this booklet.

Old GCSE grading structure	New GCSE grading structure	V Cert grading structure	
A*	9	Level 2	D* 8.5
A	8		D 7
B	7		M 5.5
C	6		P 4
D	5	Level 1	D* 3
E	4		D 2
F	3		M 1.5
G	2		P 1
U	1	NYA (Not Yet Achieved)	
U	U		

The Form - [Link](#)

Practice form included in booklet designed to help students prepare for completing the official Microsoft Form P7 of booklet.

The live options form will be emailed directly to students' Ormiston Rivers Academy email accounts.

To support informed decision-making, the student's Unique Pupil Number (UPN) will be emailed to parents and carers to ensure there is meaningful discussion and agreement at home before the final submission is complete

Emailed out March 9th

Timeline

- **Feb 4th - Presentation to Year 9** students during assembly
- **Feb 5th - Parents' Evening** with 20 minute talk to parents regarding options.
- **Feb 24th - March 6th Options Taster / Information Sessions**
 - During curriculum time, Year 9 students will take part in Options Taster and Information sessions, where subject specialists will explain what it is like to study each course. Teachers will share examples of coursework, outline course content and exam expectations, and give students time to ask questions before making their choices.
- **March 9th - Options Form emailed.** The Options Form emailed to students. UPN emailed to parents and carers
- **March 20th - Options Form deadline.** The Options Form must be submitted by Friday 20 March. Please note that failure to meet this deadline may affect the availability of preferred subject choices.
- **April 13th – 24th – Options Review.** Senior Leaders responsible for timetable design, alongside Heads of Department, will carefully review all option choices to ensure courses are viable and that students are placed on appropriate and supportive pathways.
- **May 22nd – Finalised options shared.** Finalised option allocations will be confirmed and sent home to students and families on Thursday 22 May.