

# **Welcome to Year 8 Parents & Options Evening**

**8th May 2024**

## Core Subjects

Whilst students will have much greater flexibility to choose which subjects they would like to study in Key Stage 4, there are **Core Subjects** that must be studied, they are:

- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science** - most students will study **Combined Science** - which counts as 2 GCSEs. However, students who wish to take **Triple Science** may choose this in the options.
- **Core PE** - all students have to continue with PE to keep fit and healthy.
- **PSHE** – these are key elements of personal, social and health education.
- **The Best of Big Ideas!** – these are the greatest elements of all option subjects which we feel students should still learn about and will enhance their knowledge of the world!

## The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The government has introduced new progress measures, which emphasise the importance of gaining qualifications in a broad range of subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Languages, Humanities, Arts and Technology. There has been a shift away from students taking more and more qualifications to each student gaining the best grades they can in a suite of **eight subjects – five of these must be EBacc subjects**.

All students will, therefore, be required to **choose *at least one*** further humanity subject from the list below, in addition to their core subjects:

**Geography**

**History**

## Further Options

You will study THREE further options from:

Art (GCSE)	Design & Technology (GCSE)	Media Studies (GCSE)	Religious Studies (GCSE)
Art Textiles (GCSE)	Food & Nutrition (GCSE)	Music (BTEC)	Spanish (GCSE)
Business Studies (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)	Performing Arts (BTEC)	Sports Studies (OCR National)
Computer Science (GCSE)	Health & Social Care (OCR National)	Photography (GCSE)	Triple Science (GCSE)
	History (GCSE)	Psychology (GCSE)	

## Timeline

**May 8th** - Options launched at Year 8 Parents and Options Evening, to find out about the process and sources of information. Presentations at 4pm and 5pm.

**May 13th to 17th** - in assembly and form time students will:

- read the Options Booklet

- view subject videos

- speak to teachers during lesson time

**Week beginning May 20th** - students indicate their preferences by completing an online form during form time.

**Summer 2 term** - Two whole school timetables for 2024/25 will be created (one starting in September and the other in February) which will incorporate the Year 9 GCSE options that will commence after February half term.

**January 2025 onwards** - Once 6th January arrives, the option blocks will be locked. Changes may be requested after this, BUT will be subject to fitting in with option blocks.

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## What is the process for choosing options?

Students use the online form to:

- Choose either Geography or History
- Indicate five further options in order of preference
- Confirm that they are happy with the subjects they have chosen

Looking at the preferences indicated by all students, the school timetable will make four groups of subjects to allow as many students as possible to be given their preferred subjects.

If any subjects do not attract enough interest to run, students who chose the affected subjects will be informed so they can re-select their preferences.

## How are students selected for subjects?

Once the four groups of subjects (known as option blocks A, B, C and D) have been set-up students will be allocated in order of their preference.

For example, the available spaces in Art will be first filled with those who chose Art as their first preference. If spaces remain, spaces will be filled from those students who chose it as their second preference.

This continues until all spaces in the subject are filled. If a subject has been filled, the students next preference will be given instead, assuming it is not full.

Students will be able to change their mind anytime up until 6th January 2025. At this time, all students will be allocated to their final option blocks. If it is not possible to give students a subject from their choices, a follow up discussion will be had.

Parents and students will be notified of final options before the February half term holiday.



## Guidance for choosing option subjects

Choosing the right options is vitally important. We suggest therefore that students follow these steps:

- **Think carefully about what they want to do after Year 11.**
- If they have a particular career in mind, **find out about the qualifications needed** to follow it. Further information on possibilities is available from the Careers team.
- Think about subjects they already do which:
  - they are good at, they enjoy, they are interested in, they think will be useful in future studies or careers.
- **Find out about the new subjects** so they know what's included.
- **Talk their plans over** with relatives and teachers
- **Attend guided sessions** in school

*It is important for students to think about order of preference and should put their favourite choice first!*

For more information on the options available, timeline and process -

Please pick up a flyer and scan the QR code to visit our website and digital options booklet.



If you require a printed or translated version of the options booklet please ask.

For any questions about the options process please contact Mr Woods

[s.woods@sewellpark.org](mailto:s.woods@sewellpark.org)

If your query is subject or curriculum based please speak to the Head of Department or teachers.

# Year 8 Team



**Mr Neave**  
**Head of Year 8**



**Mr Merry**  
**Year 8 SLT Link**



**Miss Waller**  
**Year 8 Leader**

**Thank you for joining us this evening.**