



Year 9 Options

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Deputy Headteacher



KING EDWARD VI
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

Key Dates

- 26th Jan – 6th Feb - Options information shared in lessons
 - This is their time to ask the questions and find out more
- 19th Jan – 6th Feb – Options discussions with tutors
- 26th and 27th Jan – Parents evening appointments
- 2nd March – Deadline for preference forms



What are Students Aiming for?

- National performance will be measured on Progress 8 (GCSE or approved qualifications) including English & Maths, providing a broad and balanced education in line with our curriculum intent.
- To access a programme of three A-level/Level 3 courses in Year 12, students will need to gain a minimum of 33 points from their 7 best GCSE results including English and Maths at grade 4 or above.
- English (Language & Literature)
- Maths
- Combined/Triple Science
- Religious Studies GCSE
- A Modern Foreign Language
- Personal, Health & Social Education
- Physical Education
- Plus 2 further option subjects



Assessment

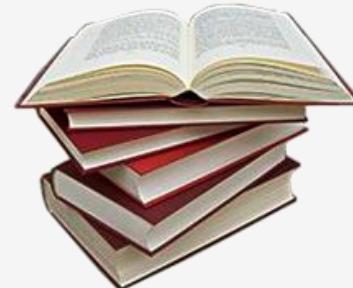
- Examinations at the end of the course
- No re-sits during the course
- Retakes only possible in Maths and English in November following the Summer GCSEs
- All subjects using performance rating of 9 to 1
- Specific marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Some courses have Non-Examination Assessment or Controlled Assessment



Coursework, Controlled Assessment, NEA?

Controlled/Non-Examination Assessment

- Formal assessment in lesson time
- From 0%– 60% of the final marks
- Preparation
- Attendance
- Subjects with Controlled Assessment/NEA:
 - Food Preparation and Nutrition
 - Design and Technology
 - Health and Social Care
 - Child Development
 - Engineering
 - PE
 - Music
 - Performing Arts



There are also Controlled Assessments / NEA for:

- English
- Geography
- History
- Computer Science

however, the work completed does not contribute to overall grade.

What Qualification?

Entry Level

Level 1

GCSE

BTEC Tech award

Cambridge Nationals

NCFE CACHE

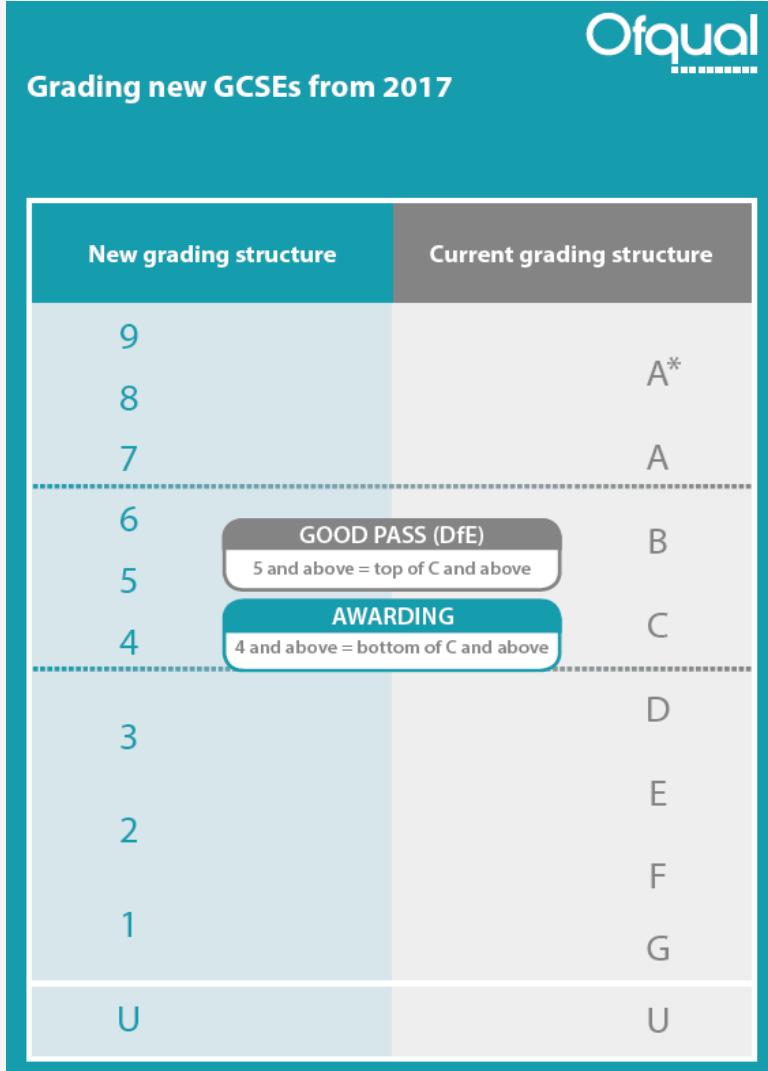
Level 2

A-Level

Level 3

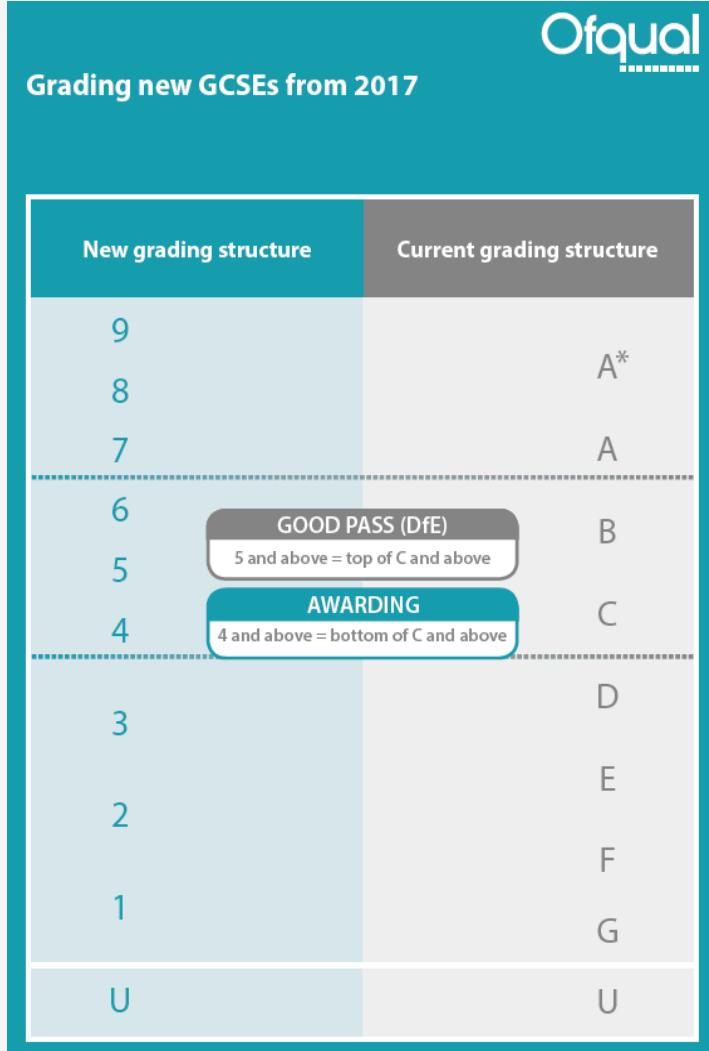


What are the Points?



- ❑ The 1 to 9 scale is not an exact conversion from old GCSE grades A* to G
- ❑ A Grade 4 is considered to be a standard pass with a Grade 5 being a good pass

Sixth Form Entry Requirements



- 33 points across their 7 best GCSE results
 - This equates to an average of grade 5 (5 grade 5's and 2 grade 4's would give 33 points)
- This will be required for a programme of three A Level or Level 3 courses in Year 12

Students **SHOULD** Choose a Course...

- They are good at it and think they will enjoy the subject
- It links to a career idea
- It will go well with their other choices
- It will help them develop knowledge and skills that interest them
- They think that they might want to continue studying it after Year 11
- Their research shows that it will interest and motivate them



Students SHOULD NOT Choose a Course...

- Their friends have chosen it
- Someone else thinks it's a good idea
- They like the teacher they have now
- It sounds good (but they don't know much about it)



Pathways

There are 4 Curriculum Pathways

Students will be allocated a pathway in the next few weeks based on prior attainment and application at KS3.

K – Accelerated Pathway

E – Core Pathway 1

V – Core Pathway 2

I – Core Pathway 3

Students on the Accelerated Pathway have increased time for studying single Sciences and a slight reduction in the time for English, Maths and RS.



How Many Lessons Will There Be?

Per fortnight:

- 8 or 9 English
- 7 or 8 Maths
- 5 French or German
- 4 for PE
- 3 or 4 RS
- 9 for Combined Science or 12 for Triple Science
- 1 Tutor period

**Plus 5 lessons for
each of their options**



K – Accelerated Pathway

Core/Option	Subject
Core	English Language
Core	English Literature
Core	Mathematics
Core	Religious Studies GCSE
Core	Biology
Core	Chemistry
Core	Physics
Core	French or German GCSE
Option 1	See options table
Option 2	See options table



E – Core Pathway 1

Core/Option	Subject
Core	English Language
Core	English Literature
Core	Mathematics
Core	Religious Studies GCSE
Core	Combined Science (2 GCSE's)
Core	French or German GCSE
Option 1	See options table
Option 2	See options table



V – Core Pathway 2

Core/Option	Subject
Core	English Language
Core	English Literature
Core	Mathematics
Core	Religious Studies GCSE
Core	Combined Science (2 GCSE's)
Fixed Option	French or German GCSE
	History GCSE
	Geography GCSE
Option 1	See options table
Option 2	See options table



I – Core Pathway 3

Core/Option	Subject
Core	English Language
Core	English Literature
Core	Mathematics
Core	Religious Studies GCSE
Core	Combined Science (2 GCSE's)
Option 1	See options table
Option 2	See options table
Option 3	See options table



Languages

Languages are compulsory

Languages are chosen in Year 8

Dual linguists can choose to continue with two languages:

- GCSE French (Level 2)
- GCSE German (Level 2)



Science

Pathway K: Triple Science (AQA)

- 3 GCSE's in Physics, Chemistry & Biology
- 2 Exam papers in each discipline

Pathway E,V & I : Combined Science (AQA)

- 2 GCSE's in Combined Science
- 6 papers in total and the format is as the triple only the content is slimmed down



Both Triple and Combined Science can lead to A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Medical Science

Religious Studies

All students complete the full GCSE course for RS

- GCSE Religious Studies, Philosophy and Applied Ethics
- *Those on the accelerated pathway K will cover the content over 3 lessons a fortnight, those on the other pathways over 4 lessons a fortnight*

ETHICS Determinism Utilitarianism Deontology Conscience Evil Ontology Theodicy Life after Death Teleology Miracles Freewill Morality Philosophy



Choices

They have two further choices from a wide range of subjects

Things to note:

- On the options preference form students should make sure they list their choices **in order of preference**
- They must also choose two reserves as we cannot guarantee places on courses
- Courses are not filled on a first come first serve basis*



Additional Level 2 Choices

- Art and Design
- Business
- Child Development
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Engineering*
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education

All Options classes are mixed ability and students across the pathways are mixed in these classes they are not kept within their pathways.



Further Information

- The website contains information on each of the options courses:
<https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/home/curriculum/year-9-gcse-options>
- There are videos on the website giving more details as to why they might or might not want to choose a course
- During the parents evening appointments, you will get chance to speak to your child's teachers and ask further questions



Not All Courses are GCSE's

BTEC

- BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care
- BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

Cambridge Nationals

- Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture

NCFE CACHE

- Technical Award in Child Development and Care

These are all Level 2 courses and equivalent to a GCSE

- Microsoft Office Specialist Certification



The EBacc

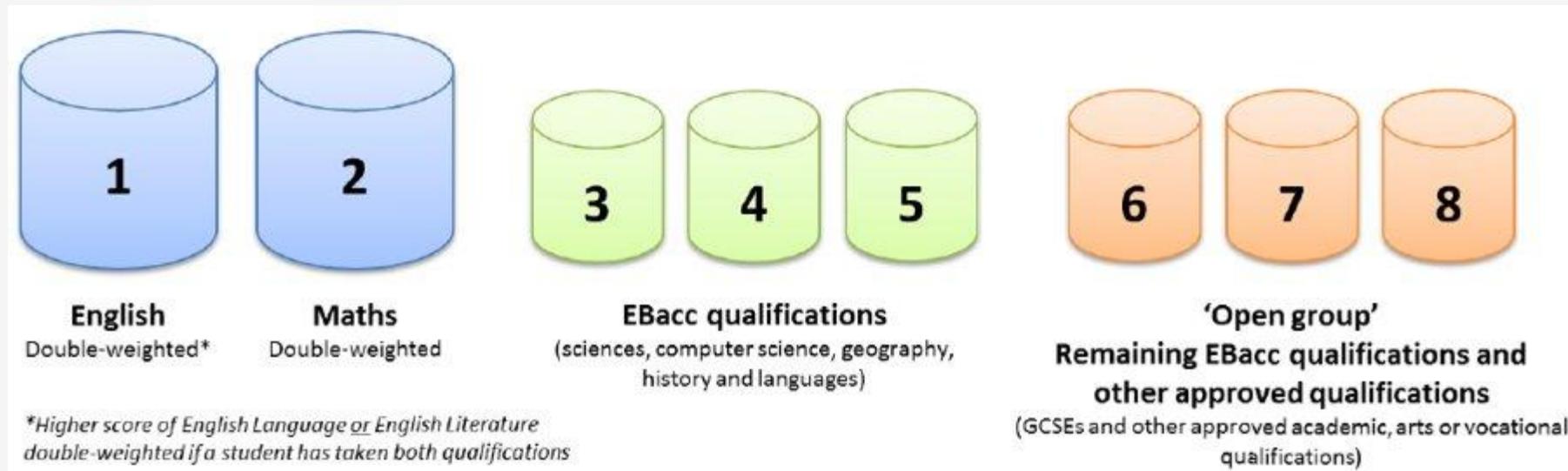
English Baccalaureate

- Not an overarching qualification
- Does not currently lead to a certificate
- Students need to obtain GCSE 9 - 5 passes in:
 - English (and be entered for English Literature)
 - Mathematics
 - Two Sciences
 - History or Geography
 - A Modern Foreign Language



Attainment / Progress 8

Progress 8 is a measure of school performance:



The floor standard for schools is based on schools' results for the Progress 8 measure.

Age of Participation

The Education and Skills Act 2008 means that students must continue in education or training until their 18th birthday.

Following on from compulsory education up to age of 16. Young people will be able to choose one of the following:

- Full-time education, such as school, college or home education work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week



What is the Process?

- ❑ Complete preferences online by Monday 3rd March 2025
- ❑ The option blocks will be drawn up in response to their choices
- ❑ Consultation with students and parents
- ❑ Any changes to preferences confirmed in writing
- ❑ June 2025 – Final groups lists created

We recommend they get their choices right first time.

There will be no changes in September.



What do students need to be successful?

- Make the right choice for them
- A desire to want to do well
- Excellent attendance
- Regular and consistent effort in:
 - Non-Examination Assessments
 - Coursework
 - Examinations



Careers Advice

- Careers Adviser – Mrs Baker
- Decision-making skills
- Which Way Now
- Fast Tomato
- Kudos



Who to Talk to?

Speak to:

- Form tutor
- Subject teacher
- Mr Tizard (Year 9 Achievement Leader)
- Mrs Baker (Careers Adviser)
- Mr Cotton (Deputy Headteacher)

- The courses information is available on the school website
- The options preference form is completed online



Useful Websites

My World of Work

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/choosing-my-subjects>

Advice on choosing subjects at GCSE with a view to pursuing a particular career in the future

Career Pilot

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors>

Gives case studies and information about entry requirements for a range of jobs in different sectors

Careers Wales

<http://www.careerswales.com/en/tools-and-resources/games-and-activities/subjects-and-jobs/>

Click on the icons which represent subjects to find a list of the types of jobs that they could do with qualifications in that subject.



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New QR code needs
to go here!

