

Y8 KS4 Options 2021 – Guidance Notes

The Compulsory Core Curriculum

- **Mathematics (GCSE)**
- **English Language (GCSE)**
- **English Literature (GCSE)**
- **Science – Combined or Separate (GCSE)**
- **Citizenship & PSHE**
(Personal, Social & Health Education + Careers)
- **VBE** (Values, Beliefs & Ethics)
- **Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle** (Core PE programme)

DT & Sport: GCSE & OCR courses

Each of these two subject areas offers **two** separate courses at KS4. One is a more theoretical and exam-based GCSE course, the other is a more practical and coursework-based OCR course.

- *On the options form, students need first of all to select the broad subject area (DT or Sport)*
- *They must then state a preference for one of the two courses in that subject. Please tick the preference*
- *We will allocate students to the most appropriate course, after taking account of student preferences, the student's academic profile, the assessment style of each course, and the overall balance and demands of their KS4 curriculum*
- *These decisions will be discussed with parents and students during the post-options advice and guidance phase*

Limited Places

- *There may have to be a limit to the number of students who can take particular subjects, because of available staffing and/or specialist rooms*

The Optional Curriculum

Hazelwick's Optional Curriculum is very flexible, allowing students to **personalise** their curriculum by combining GCSE and non-GCSE courses in a variety of ways. There are, however, a few constraints.

The timetable requires ALL students to choose AT LEAST ONE of:

- Geography, History, French, German, Spanish

All students aiming for the 'EBacc' (see below) will be choosing at least two subjects from this group anyway, and many other students routinely choose two or more of these subjects too.

The timetable will NOT allow students to:

- choose **both** IT **and** Computer Science
- choose **both** Art: Art & Design **and** Art: Photography
- choose **both** Pe **and** Sport Studies
- study a language that they are **not** already studying at Key Stage 3

The "English Baccalaureate"

The government introduced the "**English Baccalaureate**" to recognise broad academic achievement. The "EBacc" is awarded to those students gaining Grades 9-5 in **all** of the following six subjects:

1. GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature
2. GCSE Maths
3. GCSE Sciences
(*either* Combined Science *or* any two of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
4. GCSE History or Geography
5. A GCSE Foreign Language

Hazelwick strongly recommends that all students of appropriate academic ability should include BOTH a Language AND History or Geography within their option combination, in order to meet the requirements of the "English Baccalaureate".