



# Guide to Year 9 Options Choices 2023

## Why you should read this information carefully, and why it is important ...

Over the coming weeks you will be asked to choose the subjects which you will study from the beginning of year 10. You should make this decision with advice from adults, such as a parent or carer, and your teachers.

You need to understand:

- what your options for year 10 are
- what limitations there may be
- what your options are once you leave Maria Fidelis

Once you have made your options and started year 10 you will study fewer subjects than you do now. There are all sorts of reasons why you may choose to study a subject in greater depth, or indeed not to study a subject anymore.

Some good reasons for choosing to continue to study a subject are...

- it plays to your strengths, or which you have a natural ability in
- it makes your learning more enjoyable because it relevant to your interests.
- It prepares pupils for your future aspirations, such as college, 6th form, university, or a specific career.

Some poor reasons for choosing to study or not to study a subject are...

- what your friends are planning to do
- what you think will be easiest
- who you think the teacher will be

Some things you should think about are ...

- Do you like the subject?
- Do you find it interesting?
- Does it fit into your future plans?
- What could it lead to?
- How is it assessed?
- How many exams are there?
- Do you have the skills required?



# Guide to Year 9 Options Choices 2023

## What your choices are ...

Most pupils will follow a curriculum that will lead to a suite of GCSE examinations and qualifications.

We would encourage as many pupils as possible to follow the E-Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) suite of qualifications both as a basis for a solid academic suite of GCSEs, and to facilitate their application to top quality universities in the future. This suite of qualifications, if achieved to GCSE grade 6 or higher, will also ensure a smooth transition into Sixth Form or college.

An E-Bacc consists of English, Maths, 2 sciences, a humanity and a language. The options form highlights which subjects you need to choose in order to achieve an E-Bacc.

It is equally important to consider the Arts, Performing Arts, and Technology subjects. We have devised our curriculum to allow all pupils to study these subjects in addition to an EBacc should they wish to.

Not every pupil will feel that a curriculum leading to GCSE examinations and qualifications is suitable for their particular strengths or needs. This will often be because the pupil has a special educational need or disability which requires a more individual curriculum approach. It is our intention that every pupil enjoys a curriculum which provides them with success and challenge appropriate to them. Alternative curriculum options are shown in blue below.

## Core subjects:

Every pupil will follow a course in the following subjects...

GCSE English language and GCSE English literature or [Entry level English](#)  
GCSE Mathematics or [Entry level Mathematics](#)  
GCSE Combined Science, or GCSE Triple Science, or [Entry level Science](#)  
GCSE Religious Education or [Entry level Humanities](#)

Physical education (not examined)  
Personal, Health and Social education (not examined)  
Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (not examined)  
British values, citizenship, finance and moral education (not examined)



# Guide to Year 9 Options Choices 2023

## Optional subjects:

You will be asked to select 4 subjects from the list below, 3 of which you will go on to study. We ask you to choose one more subject than you will study to enable us to produce viable timetables. Full details about each subject may be found in the accompanying Options Booklet.

GCSE Art and Design  
GCSE Business  
GCSE Classical Civilisation  
GCSE Computer Science  
GCSE Design and Technology  
GCSE Drama  
GCSE Food and Nutrition  
GCSE French  
GCSE Geography  
GCSE History  
GCSE ICT  
GCSE Latin  
GCSE Music  
GCSE Physical Education  
GCSE Sociology  
GCSE Spanish

BTEC Award in Digital ICT (L2)  
BTEC Home Cooking Skills (L1)  
Certificate of Personal Effectiveness  
Tech. Award Health & Social Care

## What you should do next ...

1. Read the options booklet to get a full understanding of what each subject offers and what your commitment to it is likely to be.
2. Speak to an adult about your choices.
3. Speak to, or email, one of teachers below if you need more advice.
4. Complete the online options form by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023



# Guide to Year 9 Options Choices 2023

## Completing your options form ...

Click on the link ...

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfC6HlkiFs2Z9-uBkaiOXjFDAiG45O5ZZyFDkCVCzjIA1mZZA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfC6HlkiFs2Z9-uBkaiOXjFDAiG45O5ZZyFDkCVCzjIA1mZZA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

and complete the online form.

## What happens next ...

After all the options forms have been received each pupil in year 9 will have a brief interview with a member of senior staff to discuss their choices and ensure that they are the most appropriate for their ability and future aspirations.

After this option blocks will be created to assist with timetabling. At this stage we will know which 3 options (of the 4 you have chosen) you are able to continue with and you will be informed of what these are. The vast majority of pupils (>90%) will get the subjects they have chosen.

Assuming nothing changes the options you are advised of will be those you start studying in year 10. It is possible, **subject to discussion and group sizes**, to change your mind until you start studying your subjects in year 10.

## Frequently asked questions ...

**Q. Why am I being asked to choose 4 subjects when only 3 will be studied?**

A. We ask pupils to indicate their top 4 choices on the basis that they will get 3 of these. In the majority of cases pupils will receive their top 3 choices, but it is never possible to timetable all of these, so the 4<sup>th</sup> choice is used as a reserve.

**Q. Do options get full up?**

A. Sometimes they do, however we are aware of which the most popular subjects are and are able to run more than one class of these. Should there be a particular problem we will advise you of this directly.

**Q. What if I change my mind?**

A. If you change your mind before the end of year 9, please speak to Ms Sattar, Mr Anthony or Mr Coombes as soon as possible. Once you have started your subjects in year 10 it is sometimes possible to change your mind, however this is not recommended, and will be done in consultation with subject teachers. We do understand that pupils' expectation and experience may be two different things.



# Guide to Year 9 Options Choices 2023

Q. How can I speak to someone about option choices, subject information, or something else?

A. Please email one of the people shown below with your question.

Alternative curriculum	Ms Matthews ( <a href="mailto:imatthews@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">imatthews@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Art	Mr Aldridge ( <a href="mailto:taldridge@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">taldridge@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Business	Mr Salmon ( <a href="mailto:jsalmon@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">jsalmon@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Drama	Mr Ebose ( <a href="mailto:cebose@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">cebose@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
English	Ms Valvis ( <a href="mailto:nvalvis@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">nvalvis@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Geography	Ms Richardson ( <a href="mailto:erichardson@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">erichardson@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
History	Mr O'Dowd ( <a href="mailto:bodowd@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">bodowd@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
ICT/Comp Sc	Ms Hammond ( <a href="mailto:chammond@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">chammond@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Languages	Ms Henderson ( <a href="mailto:khenderson@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">khenderson@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Latin/Classics	Ms Sowden ( <a href="mailto:csowden@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">csowden@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Maths	Ms Chow ( <a href="mailto:lchow@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">lchow@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Music	Ms Bagnall ( <a href="mailto:cbagnall@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">cbagnall@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
PE	Ms Cranny ( <a href="mailto:ecranny@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">ecranny@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
RE	Ms Whelan ( <a href="mailto:swhelan@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">swhelan@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Science	Ms Gamble ( <a href="mailto:cgamble@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">cgamble@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Sociology	Ms Murphy ( <a href="mailto:dmurphy@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">dmurphy@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )
Technology	Ms Hylton ( <a href="mailto:bhylton@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk">bhylton@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk</a> )

Q. When will I find out what my options are?

A. Early in the summer term.

Q. Can I go on to study A level sciences if I choose the GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) course?

A. Yes, provided that you meet the entry criteria for A level sciences. Currently these are a minimum of G6 in GCSE Combined Science, and G6 in GCSE English **and** GCSE Mathematics