



**Welcome to the Year 9
Options Assembly
12th March 2025**

Support Information for 2025



- Options Booklet – *on website*
- FAQ – *on website*
- Tutorial guidance
- Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Example Option Forms
- Options Form



Types of Qualification

- GCSEs (9-1)
- Cambridge Nationals (*Graded Pass, Merit, Distinction*)

Exams sat at end of Year 11



GCSE Information

- No coursework for most subjects
- Foundation/higher papers in Maths, Science, French and German only
- Less coursework in some practical subjects
- Emphasis on Literacy
- More content and more challenge



“Gold Standard” since 2016

- **The Old “Gold Standard”:**
5 A*-C GCSE including English and Mathematics

- **The New “Gold Standard”: Ebacc**
Students must achieve at least 8 GCSEs (grade 5 and above) divided into **groups** as below:
 1. ***GCSEs in English and Mathematics***
 2. ***3 English Baccalaureate GCSEs***
(Science, Computer Science, MFL, History, Geography)
 3. ***3 other GCSEs or equivalents***



The Curriculum at The Gilberd

- All subjects studied Y7 & Y8
- Mini Options chosen in Y8
- Transition to GCSE Y9
- GCSE courses studied Y10 & Y11

4 options over 2 years to retain choice and to continue to support a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Curriculum at The Gilberd



- A fair balance that allows students to meet the government's requirements **AND** have a reasonable amount of choice in the subjects studied.

Compulsory Subjects

All students will study:



Broad and Balanced Curriculum

English

English Literature

Maths

Combined Sciences (2 GCSEs)

Core PE (non exam)

RE (short course GCSE sat in Y10)

Personal Development(non exam)

Compulsory Humanities Subject with some choice



Broad and Balanced Curriculum

Humanities	Choice
History	
Geography	



KS4 Option Subjects 2025-27

GCSE Subjects:

Art

Business

Computer Science

Design Technology

Dance

Drama

Food Preparation &

Nutrition

Science

French

Geography

German

History

Music

Textiles

PE

Religious Beliefs in Action

Technical Award:

Health & Social Care Cambridge Nationals

Broad and Balanced Curriculum

KS4 Option Subjects 2025-27



Students can not study the following combinations:

- Art AND Textiles

How many Qualifications will students study?



The vast majority of students will study **9 qualifications** at KS4:

- 5 GCSEs in the core subjects - English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (2 GCSEs)
- 4 GCSEs/Technical Awards in their 4 option subjects

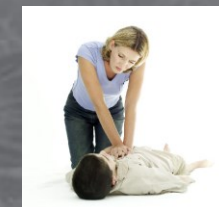
STEPS Course

(Supportive Training & Education Pathways Scheme)

Students who would benefit from studying a reduced number of options are advised by our SENCO (Miss Parker) to take the STEPs Course.

Students study **two option** subjects of their choice and the core subjects.

They also work towards an accredited Level 1 COPE qualification that post-16 providers recognise.



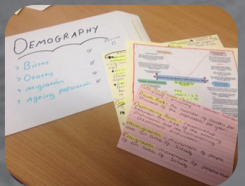
PACE Course

(Practical Assistance for Curriculum Enhancement)

Students who would benefit from studying **one** less option will be advised by their tutor or our SENCO (Miss Parker) to take the PACE Course.

Students study **three option** subjects and the core subjects. *One of their choices must be either History or Geography.*

They will then spend 5 lessons a fortnight working on their study skills to support their other GCSE subjects. They may also work towards an accredited Level 1 COPE qualification that post-16 providers recognise.



“Open doors to the future ...”



Broad and Balanced Curriculum

- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Art



“Open doors to the future ...”



Broad and Balanced Curriculum

A Consideration?

- To study ‘A’ Levels that require extensive essay writing skills, such as **Economics** or **Philosophy**, students will need to have 2 GCSEs at grade 5 in English Literature, English Language, History or (full course) Religious Studies.



Separate Science or Core?



- Separate Sciences option – “core” science time, 9 lessons – plus the 5 lessons of option time
- Study Chemistry, Physics and Biology and get 3 GCSEs at the end of Year 11
- Combined Sciences – study Chemistry, Physics and Biology and get 2 GCSEs
- To study Science ‘A’ Level you do not need to have studied Separate Sciences. You need grades 6 and above. You also need to have at least a grade 6 in maths

Dos and Don'ts



Do choose a subject because:

- you enjoy it
- your teacher thinks you will do well at GCSE
- you know it will help you in the future
- you like the sound of the lessons/type of activities
- you are willing to fulfil what is expected

Don't choose a subject because:

- a friend is doing it
- a sibling did it
- you like the teacher
- you think you might get away with less work!



**The priority order you
choose is crucial.**



The Process

Processing the Option Forms

- The order of **subjects is important** because we try to build the blocks around students' choices
- Students must be prepared to study **any** of the 6 choices they make.
- It is not usually possible to allow more than 2 Arts or Technology subjects per student – the staffing doesn't work!



Finding out your options:

- Timetable is finalised - usually mid-June
- Options are published to students
- If there are any students who need to re-choose, they will be spoken to first
- If a student is unhappy with their options, they will need to come and talk to Mr Ratcliffe or Mrs Percival to see if they can help



School Copy—Standard Form

Return to your tutor by 4th April 2025

ALL students MUST choose either History or Geography as their number 1 choice of subject from Box A.

**** Remember to meet the full ebacc criteria, you must study a Language, as well as a Humanities subject and a Science.**

Do not choose this subject again from the blocks below.

BOX A	Choice
History	
Geography	

- All students need to select **5** further subjects from the blocks below, so their choices total 6 subjects.
- Please **number** these in ***order of preference***. *If you are unsure how to fill this in, please refer to the example form attached.*
- **NB:** *If you do not make 6 choices you may be allocated to a subject where there is space, rather than one of your choices.*
- You can choose **ANY** combination of subjects from the blocks below but ***please read the notes comments below, where there are a few exceptions.***
- All students will be **allocated 4** subjects from the 6 chosen.

Technology	Choice
Food Preparation & Nutrition	
Design Technology	
Textiles (Art & Design Textiles) *	

The Arts	Choice
Art & Design: Fine Art *	
Dance	
Drama	
Music	

Science	Choice
Separate Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Physics**	
** Note: Students need to be achieving highly to study this science course.	

Modern Foreign Languages	Choice
French	
German	

Humanities	Choice
History	
Geography	

Other Subjects	Choice
Business GCSE	
Health and Social Care Cambridge Nationals	
Computer Science GCSE	
Physical Education GCSE	
Religious Studies Full Course GCSE	

* **Note:** Students cannot study:

- both **Art & Design: Fine Art** and **Textiles (Art & Design Textiles)**

Please note:

The school cannot guarantee that courses will run, or that there will be space for all students who wish to study a particular course. Please also note that some courses may alter, depending on any decisions made by the government regarding curriculum changes.

Student's Name: Form Group:

Parent's Signature: Student's Signature:

Checked by Form Tutor: Date:



School Copy—Standard Form

Return to your tutor by 4th April 2025

ALL students **MUST** choose either History or Geography as their number 1 choice of subject from Box A.

**** Remember to meet the full ebacc criteria, you must study a Language, as well as a Humanities subject and a Science.**

Do not choose this subject again from the blocks below.

BOX A	Choice
History	
Geography	1

- All students need to select **5** further subjects from the blocks below, so their choices total 6 subjects.
- Please **number** these in **order of preference**. *If you are unsure how to fill this in, please refer to the example form attached.*
NB: If you do not make 6 choices you may be allocated to a subject where there is space, rather than one of your choices.
- You can choose **ANY** combination of subjects from the blocks below but **please read the notes comments below, where there are a few exceptions.**
- All students will be **allocated 4** subjects from the 6 chosen.

Technology	Choice
Food Preparation & Nutrition	
Design Technology	
Textiles (Art & Design Textiles) *	

The Arts	Choice
Art & Design: Fine Art *	2
Dance	
Drama	
Music	3

Science	Choice
Separate Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Physics**	
** Note: Students need to be achieving highly to study this science course.	

Modern Foreign Languages	Choice
French	6
German	

Humanities	Choice
History	5
Geography	

Other Subjects	Choice
Business GCSE	
Health and Social Care Cambridge Nationals	
Computer Science GCSE	4
Physical Education GCSE	
Religious Studies Full Course GCSE	



What Next?

- Read the Options Booklet
- Contact the relevant Subject Leader if you have a subject query
- Check Post-16 requirements
- Check FAQ
- See subject teacher at Parents' Evenings – X Pop 26th March; Y Pop 2nd April
- Submit forms to your form tutor by 4th April

Friday 4th April



Deadline for your form tutor to
hand your completed forms to
me.