



**Welcome to the Year 9  
Parent/Carer Options Evening  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

# Support Information for 2024



- Options Booklet – *on website*
- FAQ – *on website*
- Tutorial guidance
- Remote 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
- Single tier of entry in most subjects (no foundation/higher)
- Less coursework in some practical subjects
- Greater 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 & 8
- Mini Options chosen in Y8
- Transition to GCSE Y9
- GCSE courses studied Y10 & 11

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	

# MFL Subject for the Gold Standard of Ebacc



**Broad and Balanced Curriculum**

<b>MFL</b>	<b>Choice</b>
French	
German	



# KS4 Option Subjects 2024-26

## GCSE Subjects:

Art

Business

Computer Science

Design Technology

Dance

Drama

Food Preparation &

Nutrition

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 2024-26



Students can not study the following combinations:

**Broad and Balanced Curriculum**

- Dance AND Drama
- 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.



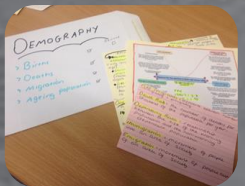
# PACE Course

(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 (old B grade) 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 for students

## 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 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 their 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 Mrs Burman or Mrs Percival to see if they can help



# Typical Post-16 Routes

- The Grammar Schools
- Sixth Form Colleges
- Colchester Institute
- Post 16 Colleges beyond Colchester
- Apprenticeships
- Employment (with training)



# What Next?

- Read the Options Booklet
- Contact relevant Subject Leader if you have a subject query
- Check Post-16 requirements
- Check FAQ
- See subject teacher at Parents' Evenings – X Pop 13<sup>th</sup> March; Y Pop 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Submit forms to your form tutor by 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

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