



Options 2024-2025



Year 8

Mr N Turner
Deputy Headteacher



Objectives of the Presentation

- To review the timeline for the options process.
- To think about how you can support your child in the options process.
- To understand what the curriculum offer looks like in Year 9.
- To understand about the difference between GCSEs and Vocational qualification in terms of grades and assessment.
- To have an idea of what your child's options form may look like based on last year's form and what the potential options are for this year.

The Options timeline – your guide to the options process

- **Wednesday 29th January:** Our Options booklet will be emailed to parents and made available online. Other information will be available on the school website as well.
- **Wednesday 29th January:** Launch assembly for students on Options process.
- **Wednesday 29th January 5.00pm:** Options Presentation to Parents in school. It will last for approximately 45 minutes. It will give you an opportunity to ask questions about the process. Please complete and return the reply slip, if you intend on coming on the above evening. If you are unable to attend, an online version of the presentation will be made available.
- **Monday 3rd February to Friday 7th February:** In certain subjects, subject teachers/leaders will give information about their subjects in lessons (where applicable).
- **Monday 3rd February:** Options booklet launched on school website
- **Monday 10th February 2.10pm:** Options Subjects assembly. Certain subject leaders will present to students information about their subjects.
- **From Tuesday 11th February:** Students will complete an initial options form online via Microsoft Forms. This will influence what subjects are offered on the final timeline.
- **Week beginning Monday 24th February:** Students will be given FINAL options forms to be completed and returned to school by **Friday 7th March** for initial checking.
- **Thursday 20th March:** Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00 – 6.30pm. Parents will need to speak to Senior Staff to check and approve final options choices.
- **April – May:** Student re-opting where there are clashes and final options choices sent to parents.

What should my child consider when they are choosing their options?

- What subjects do they enjoy?
- What subjects are they good at?
- What subjects do they need for any future careers?
- What subjects are they interested in and want to study further?

STUDENTS MUST STUDY MATHS, SCIENCE AND ENGLISH – BUT THEY CAN UPTO 4 OTHER SUBJECTS

ALL DIFFERENT · ALL EQUAL · ALL ACHIEVING

DO:

Advice

- **Choose something that you enjoy** – you're going to be studying these subjects for the next 2 years (at least) – and if you enjoy it, you're more likely to do well.
- **Choose something that you're good at** – if you're good at something, you're more likely to enjoy it, and keep yourself motivated.
- **Talk to others about your decisions** – you have people around you that are there to support your decision making, and it's really useful to talk to them about your options (teachers, careers advisors, parents, carers, siblings, friends) – they shouldn't make your decision for you, but can be a great source of advice and alternative perspectives.
- **Research into your goals and ambitions** – if you know vaguely what you want to do as a career, what you want to study at university, or even what you want to do at A-Level, then you should research into this course/profession and ensure that you are taking the relevant GCSE subjects.
- **Keep your options open** – if you aren't sure about what you want to do after your GCSEs, then choose subjects that will open doors for you, whatever you decide to do after school. A good balance of different subjects will keep future options open, give you a good overview, and will help you realise what you are best at for decisions later in your education.

DON'T:

Advice

- **Choose something because your friends are** – although this may make your lessons more fun, having your friends around won't help you when you have to sit an exam in that subject. It's therefore important not to choose something simply because others around you are. It also means that when you see your friends outside of lessons, you'll have more to talk about, and you may even make new friends!
- **Choose something because you like the teacher** – you may not have the same teacher next year, and without that teacher, will you still enjoy the subject? Teachers will leave schools, or may not teach you when you change year groups, so you should never base your decisions on the teacher.
- **Choose something you don't like, because someone told you to** – it's great to get advice and support from other people, but it's also important that you are the one to make the final decision, as you're the one that will be studying the subject!
- **Choose a subject because you think it'll be easy** – no subjects are easy, so don't pick a subject for this reason!

Succeeding in KS4

To be successful you need to...

- **Work hard and display our AMA Character and Culture attributes**- this is easy to do in subjects you enjoy and are interested in. You have developed so many 'soft' skills that you can apply to your learning.
- **Home learning** – this is an important part of KS4; are there subjects you find easier to work on at home?
- **Exams** – Exam technique will be very important. Many subjects now are exam based and you will have a lot of information to remember. You need to be able to revise and apply this in exams.
- **Controlled assessment / coursework** – Some subjects have less exams, more coursework. Meeting deadlines and working independently is key.

Your child's Curriculum

Everyone studies

**Core GCSEs Maths, English Literature, English Language,
Combined Science (2xGCSEs)**

Core Non-GCSE subjects RSHE, PE

GCSEs

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| French | History |
| Geography | DT Textiles |
| Food & Nutrition | DT RM |
| DT Graphics | Drama |
| RE | Business |
| Art | Triple Science |

Vocational/other

Business – course TBC
BTEC IT
BTEC Sport
OCR Child Development
BTEC Music
Functional skills
Asdan
Hospitality

ASTON MANOR ACADEMY

Your child's Year 9 timetable

Every child has the same number of learning hours

Every fortnight your child will have:

8 hours Maths

8 hours English

8 hours Science

4 hours Core PE

2 hours RSHE

5 hours Option A

5 hours Option B

5 hours Option C

5 hours Option D

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Our Options Pathways

We have 3 different pathways

EBACC – this is our most **academic route** where students will choose a minimum of 2 GCSEs (humanity and language) and then have a choice of 2 other subjects GCSE or vocational.

Mixed – Students have a lot of variety in this pathway. They will have to choose a minimum of 1 GCSE (humanity or language) and then have a choice of 3 other subjects GCSE or vocational.

Vocational – Students study functional skills (numeracy & literacy), Asdan, Hospitality and then have a choice of 1 other subject.

What is the EBACC pathway?

- Some students, based on Primary Teacher assessments and for the **EBACC route**. This is the most academic route we offer.
- To do this you must study French and 1 Humanities subject (Geography or History).
- A lot of good universities expect this and the Government are driving for a lot of students to study this.
- **However, your child does not have to do this route if you do not want them to.**

GCSE vs Vocational

- **GCSE** – Majority of GCSEs are now linear – 100% exams, with little coursework except practical subjects.
- **Vocational** - Mainly coursework/controlled assessment based but also have an exam element.

All qualifications are equal

Distinction* = 8/9

Merit = 5/6

Distinction = 7

Pass = 4

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GCSE vs Vocational What about after KS4?


- Both GCSE's and BTEC/OCR nationals (vocational subjects) will lead onto courses at Sixth Form.
- All our GCSEs and VOCATIONAL courses are accepted by Colleges and Sixth Forms, majority can lead to A levels as well as other courses.
- YOU MUST A MINIMUM ACHIEVE GRADE 5s in ENGLISH AND MATHS for A levels, GRADE 4S for other college courses.

Your options form

- Based on the pathway, will have a different form.
- Students select 4 subjects:
 - 1 subject in Option 1
 - 1 subject in Option 2 ***with 1 reserve***
 - 1 subject in Option 3 ***with 1 reserve***
 - 1 subject in Option 4 ***with 1 reserve***


THIS FORM WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY FRIDAY
7TH MARCH

How will their option blocks be decided?


2. EBACC subjects: Which of these subjects do you currently have as your first choice? * 

- ☐ History
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ French


This question is required.

3. Do you want to study a second EBACC subject (i.e. study 2 out of French, Geography and History) * 


- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

3. Do you want to study a second EBACC subject (i.e. study 2 out of French, Geography and History) * 


- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

4. In Option 2, which other EBACC subject would you want to do? * 

- ☐ History
- ☐ French
- ☐ Geography

3. Do you want to study a second EBACC subject (i.e. study 2 out of French, Geography and History) * 

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

4. Option 2 subjects - which of these subjects would you be interested in studying? * 

- ☐ DT Food
- ☐ DT Graphics
- ☐ DT Textiles
- ☐ RE
- ☐ DT RM

5. Option 3/4: You will need to choose three of the following subjects. Which do you think you most want to do? FIRST CHOICE *



- ☐ Art
- ☐ Business Studies
- ☐ Child Development
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ BTEC IT
- ☐ Music
- ☐ RE
- ☐ Separate Science (3 GCSES Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- ☐ Sport (all students still do core PE)

6. Option 3/4: You will need to choose three of the following subjects. Which do you think you most want to do? SECOND CHOICE



- ☐ Art
- ☐ Business Studies
- ☐ Child Development
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ BTEC IT
- ☐ Music
- ☐ RE
- ☐ Separate Science (3 GCSES Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- ☐ Sport (all students still do core PE)

7. Option 3/4: You will need to choose three of the following subjects. Which do you think you most want to do? THIRD CHOICE *



- ☐ Art
- ☐ Business Studies
- ☐ Child Development
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ BTEC IT
- ☐ Music
- ☐ RE
- ☐ Separate Science (3 GCSES Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- ☐ Sport (all students still do core PE)

IMPORTANT!

THE EXAMPLES YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE ARE
FOR LAST YEAR.

YOUR FORM WILL BE DESIGNED
SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU



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Aston Manor Academy Options Pathways 2023 – 2024



| Full legal name: | Form: | Tutor's name: | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Option 1 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below) | Option 2 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below and one reserve) | Option 3 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below and one RESERVE) | Option 4 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below and one RESERVE) |
| GCSE French | GCSE Geography GCSE History | OCR National IT (iMedia) GCSE RE OCR National Sport OCR National Child Development GCSE Art GCSE Business | OCR National IT (iMedia) GCSE RE OCR National Sport OCR National Child Development GCSE Triple Science BTEC Music |

| Your Choices | |
|---|----------------|
| Option 1 | French |
| Option 2 <u>1st choice</u> : | Geography |
| Option 2 Reserve: | History |
| Option 3 <u>1st choice</u> : | Art |
| Option 3 Reserve: | RE |
| Option 4 <u>1st choice</u> : | Triple Science |
| Option 4 Reserve: | iMedia |

EBACC Pathway

Options/e/Feb2024

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Aston Manor Academy Options Pathways 2023-24



| Full legal name: | Form: | Tutor's name: | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Option 1 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below) | Option 2 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below) | Option 3 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below and one RESERVE) | Option 4 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below and one RESERVE) |
| <div></div> <p>GCSE French GCSE Geography GCSE History</p> | <p>GCSE French GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE Food GCSE DT Graphics GCSE RE GCSE DT Textiles GCSE DT RM</p> | <div>OCR National IT (iMedia)</div> <p>GCSE RE GCSE PE / OCR National Sport OCR National Child Development</p> <div>GCSE Art</div> <p>GCSE Business</p> | <p>OCR National IT (iMedia) GCSE RE GCSE PE / OCR National Sport OCR National Child Development</p> <p>GCSE Triple Science BTEC Music GCSE Drama</p> |

| Your Choices | |
|---|-------------|
| Option 1 | French |
| Option 2 <u>1st choice</u> : | Food |
| Option 2 Reserve: | DT Textiles |
| Option 3 <u>1st choice</u> : | Business |
| Option 3 Reserve: | iMedia |
| Option 4 <u>1st choice</u> : | PE/Sport |
| Option 4 Reserve: | Music |

Mixed Pathway



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Aston Manor Academy Options Pathways 2023 – 2024



| Full legal name: | Form: | Tutor's name: | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Option 1 (choose one subject from below) | Option 2 (choose one subject from below) | Option 3 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below and one RESERVE) | Option 4 (choose <u>one</u> subject from below and one RESERVE) |
| Literacy and numeracy – Functional Skills | Asdan / Life skills | OCR National IT (iMedia) GCSE Art OCR National Child Development GCSE RE GCSE Business | BTEC Hospitality |

| Your Choices | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Option 1 | Literacy and numeracy – Functional Skills |
| Option 2 | Asdan |
| Option 3 <u>1st choice</u> : | OCR Child Development |
| Option 3 Reserve: | RE |
| Option 4 | BTEC Hospitality |

Vocational Pathway

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Any questions...?