





Year 9 Options January 2024

Mr Peel – Deputy Headteacher

Welcome!

Students at The Buckingham School need and deserve a rich, challenging and broad curriculum that offers a wealth of knowledge and experience.



CONTROL OVER YOUR CURRICULUM

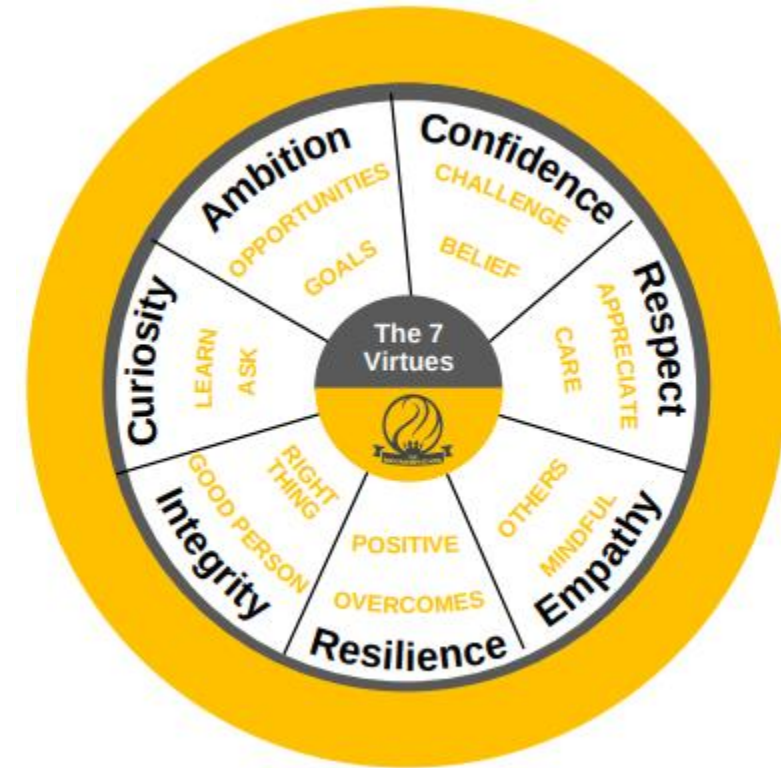
- Spend more time learning subjects you enjoy
- Choose the subjects you do well in

GREATER WORKLOAD

- The expectation of increased levels of homework
- Most subjects require independent work outside lesson time

FOCUS ON FEWER SUBJECTS AND ACHIEVE THE BEST GRADES

- Allows more options post-16





Qualification Types:

GCSE

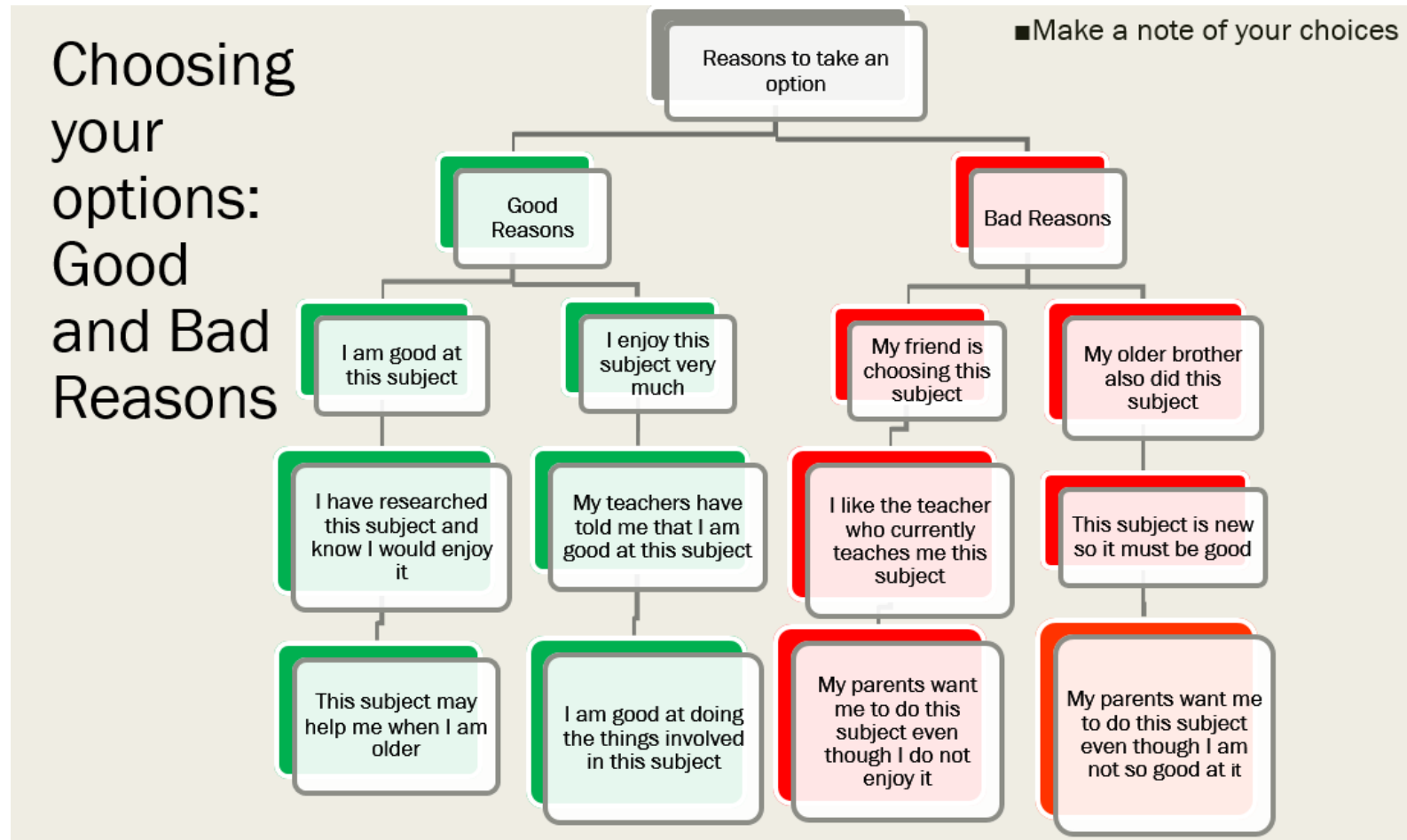
- Exams are taken at the end of Year 11
- Most subjects are 100% assessed by exam
- Some practical subjects have controlled assessment/coursework

Level 2 Technical Qualifications

- BTEC, OCR Cambridge Nationals, WJEC
- At least one exam is usually taken before the end of Year 11
- Coursework based units

Students should not opt for more than 2 BTEC qualifications

Making Good Choices





Head of Year and Form Tutor- Roles

- No question is a silly question
- Please email tutors as first port of call- my phone extension is 326
- dribbans@buckinghamschool.org
- We know our students very well and will always suggest what we feel like is the best route for you

- Our aim is to get all students happy with their choices for the start of September 2024

Your Option Choices Matter





Your Option Choices Matter

Grades in these subjects will effect your choices and the range of options open to you at the end of Year 11:-

- **Higher level course at school or college**
Course entry requirements often specify grades in these subjects (Usually grade 6 and above for most A-Levels)
- **Jobs or apprenticeships**
Many employers will look for students with 9-4 grades in these subjects
- **University**
The majority of universities require English and maths at grade 4 and above.



Subjects and Related Careers

Most jobs do not require specific GCSE subjects

You may change your mind about jobs in future

For a few jobs, however, you will need specific subjects, for example:-

- Art and design based jobs
- Engineering and technology
- Language based jobs
- Practical jobs
- Scientific jobs

Subjects and Related Careers

English: Journalism, Law, Politics, Media, Social Work, Teaching, etc.....

Maths: Accountancy, Business, Construction, Computer Programming, Engineering, Finance, Health, Science careers, Teaching, etc...

Science: Construction, Engineering, Environmental work, Health, Technology, Other science careers (eg. Psychology, Veterinary work, Astronomy)





Subjects and Related Careers

Geography: Travel & Tourism, Environmental Work, International Aid and Development, Landscape Architecture Planning, Surveying, Geology, Estate Management

History: Law, Politics, Journalism, Archaeology, Museums, Heritage, Costume Design, Conservation

Languages: Translation & Interpretation, Travel & Tourism, Teaching, Sales & Exports, Legal & Financial areas, Journalism

Computer Science: Useful for many jobs, Engineering, Computer Science, Games Design, Media, Marketing, Administration etc...

Art & Design: Design work in Publishing, Computer Games, Clothes/Textiles, Websites, Teaching, Film, Theatre or Arts, Exhibition/Retail Displays

Subjects and Related Careers

Business: Starting point for entry to different business areas including manufacturing, banking, retail, hotels & restaurants, public services. Careers include management, marketing, sales, human resources, law, administration

PE: Teaching, Leisure Centres/Gyms, Coaching, Outdoor work, Armed Forces, Sports Science

Music: Performance, Composer, Teacher, Media, Radio and TV, Gaming, Events Management, Theatre



Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="text-align: left;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above. ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above. ■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G. </div> </div>										
A*		A	B	C		D	E	F	G	U
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										

September 2014

Ofqual/14/5517

Options Pathways



- **Blue route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is either Geography or History; the second Option is either French or Spanish, giving students two further Options of their choice. This will lead to 10 Level 2 qualifications. These students will be working toward the EBacc pathway.
- **Purple route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is either Geography, History, French or Spanish. Students should then choose three further Options. This will lead to 10 Level 2 qualifications.
- **Green route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is ASDAN, another is either Construction, Sport BTEC, Health and Social Care BTEC or Business GCSE. Students should then choose two further Options. As ASDAN is not a Level 2 qualification, this will lead to 8 or 9 Level 2 qualifications (some students may take two GCSEs in Science, rather than three)



Subject	Hours Studied per Fortnight
Compulsory Subjects - taken by all students	
Mathematics	7
English and English Literature (2 GCSEs)	8
Science (Separate Sciences 3 GCSEs)	9
PE for Health and Fitness	4
Personal Development	1
Philosophy and Ethics	1



Blue	Hours	Purple	Hours	Green	Hours
Geography or History	5	Geography/ History/ French/ Spanish	5	ASDAN	5
French or Spanish	5	Option 2	5	Construction/ Sport BTEC/ BTEC Health and Social Care/ GCSE Business	5
Option 3	5	Option 3	5	Option 3	5
Option 4	5	Option 4	5	Option 4	5
Total curriculum time 50 hours					

Options Pathways



Subject

GCSE Art & Design



The top corner of each page tells you typical courses appropriate for each colour pathway

Course Content

Throughout Year 10 and 11, students will learn a variety of skills and techniques to help them complete a portfolio of work , selection of further work (SOFW) and an externally set task, (10 hour exam in Year 11) covering a range of the skills listed below:

Painting: Candidates should explore the use of tone, colour, composition, materials and context. Candidates can show this through the use of various processes and media, such as inks, acrylic, water colour or oil paints.

Drawing: Candidates should be encouraged to work from direct observation to explore drawing using line and tone. They should also be encouraged to explore a wide variety of drawing materials using different surfaces. Drawing materials might include pastel, pencil, pen and ink, paint, charcoal or other materials.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

This is not a qualification but an optional pathway. Blue pathway students will be working towards the EBacc



The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc consists of:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- At least two sciences (Double Award, Separate Sciences, Computer Science)
- Geography or History
- Languages

Impact of studying the EBacc combination of subjects

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and opens up many more routes into higher and further education, whether this be undergraduate degree courses, apprenticeship degrees and apprenticeships or even the world of work.



Timeline

- Taster sessions will run the week of 8th-12th January 2024
- Thursday 11th January - Year 9 Options Information Evening
- Information about pathways, Option Booklets and videos emailed to parents on 11th January following the Information Evening
- Options online portal opens **Thursday 11th January** for students to choose their subjects
- Options online portal closes **30th January 2024**
- Option blocks decided according to student choices
- Virtual Options Parents Evening will be held on **Wednesday 7th February**.
This will involve virtual student interviews by senior members of staff



Making Your Option Choices

Find the email - noreply@sims.co.uk

(This was sent to students today – Don't delete!)



Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

Accept Invitation

If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<https://registration.sims.co.uk>

Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is:

Sent on behalf of,

Buckingham School The

Press the Button to Register with an External Account



Activate Your Account

So that we can confirm your identity, please enter your email address and personal invitation code.

Username

Invitation Code

Alternatively you may complete the registration using an External Account.

Secured by SIMS ID

ESS Hosted Services: [Check Service Status](#)



Click the Google Button

Register your account for SIMS products

Username

This is usually an email address

Password

Password

Show Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

Sign in

OR




ESS | **SIMS**

[ESS: Check Service Status](#)

 Secured by SIMS ID



Select your School Email account

 Sign in with Google

Choose an account

to continue to sims.co.uk



[Redacted]

[Redacted]@buckinghamschool.org



Use another account

To continue, Google will share your name, email address, language preference and profile picture with sims.co.uk.



Enter the
Invitation
Code
from your
email

Registration

You will have received a new service invite code from either SIMS or from your school administrator.

Please enter the code below and tap or click Register.

Name

Jonathan Brearley

[\(not you?\)](#)

Signed in with

Google

Invitation Code

Please enter your Invite code

Register

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Answer the Security Question



Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.

What is your date of birth? (dd/mm/yyyy)

Verify

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Make your Option Choices



Save Show Notes Hide Notes

Free Choice list

You should choose **4** Choices from this list and **2** reserve choices.

The following combinations are not permitted:
Sport and GCSE PE - you may only choose 1 of these

You have chosen **4 of 4** courses and **2 of 2** reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	ASDAN NQF Level 1	Reserve	Business S GCSE Full Course choice	Reserve
Computer science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Construct BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course reserve	Reserve
Film GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course choice	Reserve	Food Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Choice	Reserve
Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Health & S BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Music BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 reserve	Reserve	Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course choice	Reserve	Sport BTEC BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Sociology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

My Choices in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Business S**
GCSE Full Course Free Choice list
- 2 Photography**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Free Choice list
- 3 French**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Free Choice list
- 4 Food Technology**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Free Choice list

My Reserves in Order of Preference

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Music**
BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Free Choice list
- 2 Drama**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Free Choice list

To change your choices

- Go to sims-options.co.uk
- Click the Google Button to Log In
- Change your choices
- Click the Cloud Icon to Save
- Click by your name on the down arrow to log out



Information to Help You Choose



Videos on each subject on school website

<https://www.buckinghamschool.org/optionsprocessforks4>

Please also refer to the options booklet. Email addresses of all Curriculum Leaders can be found in the booklet who will be happy to answer questions

rpeel@buckinghamschool.org

Deputy Headteacher

dribbans@buckinghamschool.org

Head of Year 9



Thank You!

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, or speak to us afterwards.