

# Taverham High School

## Key Stage 4 Options Evening 2024

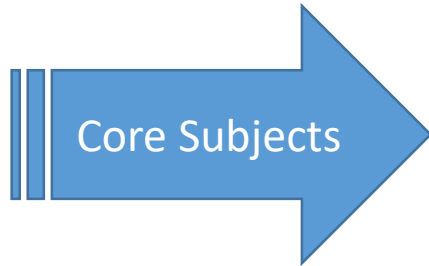
# Mr Yassin

# Head of School

# Key points:

- GCSE scale of 9-1 (as opposed to A\*-G) in all GCSE subjects taken in school.
- No more controlled assessment – although internal assessment will still exist in a number of subjects – e.g. Art
- Tiered exams – Maths, Science and MFL only

# The Importance of GCSEs



These are subjects which all students must study.

English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science at GCSE level.  
Students also study Personal Development, PE and Religious Studies,  
although these don't lead to a qualification.

+ 4 options

# The Importance of our qualifications

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- A range of qualifications will give you a greater variety of possible career pathways.
- Studying in a familiar environment.
- Strong teaching by our own staff who know you (best ever p8, among the top schools for attainment in the county).
- Wide variety of qualifications to choose from – details in the option booklet available on the website and on our YouTube channel.

# **Guiding your choices and how to complete the forms**

# What information is available?



Choices Dreams Aspirations

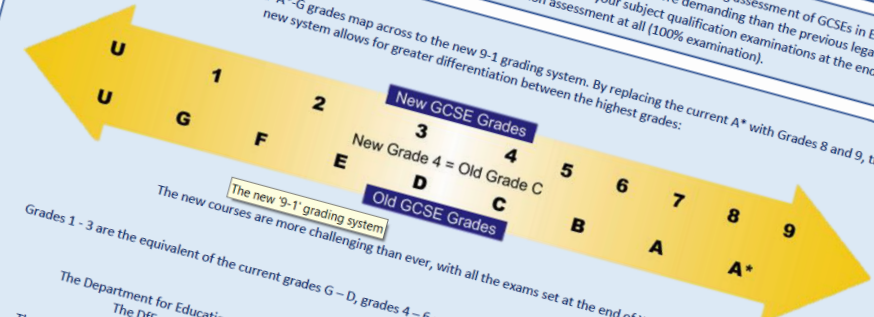
Year 9 Next Steps Event Thursday 4th February



## Reformed GCSEs

As I am sure you are aware, the past few years have seen significant changes both to the content and rules governing assessment of GCSEs in England. Current Year 9 students will be taking reformed GCSEs for all of their subjects. The reformed GCSEs are more demanding than the previous legacy GCSE courses that older siblings may have taken. They are generally 'linear', meaning you take all of your subject qualification examinations at the end of the course and either have a reduced non-examination assessment or no non-examination assessment at all (100% examination).

The chart below shows how the 'old' A\*-G grades map across to the new 9-1 grading system. By replacing the current A\* with Grades 8 and 9, the new system allows for greater differentiation between the highest grades:



The new 9-1 grading system

The new courses are more challenging than ever, with all the exams set at the end of Year 11.

Grades 1 - 3 are the equivalent of the current grades G - D, grades 4 - 6 equivalent to C and B and grades 7 - 9 equivalent to A and above.

The Department for Education (DfE) consider a good pass to be a 5 and above (equivalent to the top of a C and above).  
The DfE consider an awarding pass to be a 4 and above (equivalent to the bottom of C and above)

The remainder of this booklet will outline the options process and give detailed information about the range of subjects on offer.

## English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The Government's intention is that as many students as possible have the opportunity to study the suite of qualifications which lead to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). This is a performance measure for schools which assures our learners receive a broad and balanced education and keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc consists of:-

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- A Humanity (Geography or History at THS)
- A Language (French, German or Spanish at THS)

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Mathematics.

### Raising the Participation Age (RPA):

The Government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training. As a result, you will be required to continue in education or training until your 18th birthday.

# What information is available?



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**Youtube Channel**

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# What information is available?

French

German

Spanish

Geography

History

6. Would you like a meeting with a member of staff to discuss your options? \*

Yes

No

# What are the key points?

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Business	Art	Art	Business
Child Development	Child Development	Business	Computer Science
Construction L1	—Classics—	DT	Creative iMedia
Drama	Computer Science	Engineering	Dance
DT	French	French	Geography
Engineering	German	Geography	History
Geography	History	German	HUB
History	Media Studies	History	Music
Hospitality	PE	Hospitality	Philosophy and Ethics
Separate Sciences	Spanish	PE	Separate Sciences
		Spanish	

# What are the key points?

## Notes for selecting option choices:

- Students must choose **four** options.
- Students must not assume that choosing the same options as a friend will result in being placed in the same class. Several subjects have more than one group.
- All option subjects are taught to mixed ability groups, and we aspire for all students to aim for the highest grade possible. We will challenge and support all students to achieve, regardless of their target grade.
- Subjects such as engineering and computer science have a significant amount of mathematical content, and students must ensure they are confident in their ability to access the course material.
- In order to be successful in GCSE PE, you must regularly participate in organised sports activities outside of school. Similarly, to access GCSE music, you must already be able to play an instrument to a good level.
- In September students will have **fifteen school days** within which to change courses. After this point no further course changes will be permitted.
- The school reserves the right to alter the courses on offer subject to number of applications.
- When filling in the form, students will need to make **four** first choices, then **three** reserve choices.
- Reserve choices must be given in order of preference, and students must ensure the conditions of the pathway will still be met.

### Block 1:

Students **must** choose at least one option from this block

Geography, History, Computer Science, Separate Sciences,  
French, German, Spanish

# What form do I need to submit?

- Found here <https://forms.office.com/e/xAnAQ5cW36>
- On our website under curriculum (in this presentation)
- Emailed home in January to all Year 9 families
- Option from tomorrow

If you are unable to access technology to submit this form electronically, please either contact reception to pick up a paper copy or contact Student Support where your form can be submitted for you.



# What form do I need to submit?

Immersive Reader

## Year 9 Options Form 2024-2026

Please find below the Year 9 options form, to be read in conjunction with the Options Booklet which can be found on the school website under Curriculum > Options. I will also make available on the school website my presentation from the 1st February for any parents unable to join us.

Please complete this form by clicking on the relevant boxes and ensure you have completed and submitted it by 5pm on Wednesday 28th February 2024.

**Late submissions will be considered after the allocation of those that were received on time.**

You are required to choose one subject in each of questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. These will be your four first choice option subjects. If you are expecting to achieve a grade 5 or above in English GCSE, you are advised to study a language subject at KS4.

All students must select at least one from French, German, Spanish, Separate Science, Geography, History or

# What form do I need to submit?

\* Required

1. Name \*

2. Form \*

- T
- A
- V
- E
- R
- H
- M
- S

# What form do I need to submit?

3. Which subject would you like to study in option block 1? \*

- Engineering
- Hospitality and Catering
- Drama
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- Business (Enterprise and Marketing)
- Construction Level 1
- History
- Child Development
- Separate Science (triple award)

4. Which subject would you like to study in option block 2? \*

- German
- Computer Science

# What form do I need to submit?

7. Now choose below your **1st reserve subject** (the subject you would like to study if your first choices are unavailable). \*

- Engineering
- Drama
- Construction Level 1
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Creative iMedia
- Physical Education
- History
- Dance
- Spanish
- Music
- Business (Enterprise and Marketing)

# What form do I need to submit?

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10. Would you like a meeting with a member of staff to discuss your options? \*

Yes

No

11. Add any other information that you wish to below.

Enter your answer

Submit

Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)

# Important Points...

- English and Mathematics remain essential in terms of accessing further education, training and employment.
- Some post-16 or post-18 providers may only accept candidates with a '5' grade or better in a Modern Foreign Language.
- Most young people don't know exactly what they want as a career, and the majority will have several careers in their life. Breadth is key!
- The vast majority of people are most successful in subjects they enjoy
- None of our courses in school have specific entry requirements – although when selecting subjects to study at KS4 you should consider whether anything will hinder your ability to achieve well.
- Remember, these are your choices, for your future. It shouldn't matter what your friends, siblings or parents are doing or have done. Nor does it matter which teachers you like. Think only about your future!

# FAQ...

*“Why are students aiming for a grade 5 in English recommended to take a language as one of their GCSE choices?”*

Most students don't know what their future careers paths may be.

The combination of subjects this forces creates breadth and makes up the combination of subjects that are considered essential to many degrees and future employment opportunities.

Research shows that students with this combination of subjects have greater opportunities in further education and are more likely to stay on in full-time education. They also compliment attainment in English and Maths.

The Government aimed for 75% of pupils to study this combination by 2022 and 90% by 2025.

However, unlike other schools, we don't believe there is value in forcing young people to take qualifications that they are unlikely to pass where they could gain passes in other qualifications – hence students have the opportunity to, but are not required to study a language.

# FAQ...

*“Does my child need to keep up their learning in subjects that they don’t intend to study at GCSE?”*

Colleagues have planned lots of cross curricular links to make all learning valid.

It is a requirement for all students to take the subjects until the end of KS3.

Option choices are not guaranteed.

*“Clarify the advantages/disadvantages between taking separate sciences or combined please?”*

Really dependent on level of interest, but will support post-16 routes.



# FAQ...

*“Do subjects such as A-level Psychology have specific GCSE requirements?”*

Generally no for ‘new’ subjects.

Some subjects such as Maths at A-level have entry requirements.

*“How can we find out about subjects that are new at GCSE e.g. Business, Child Development, Media Studies etc.?”*

Options booklet

This evening

Taverham High YouTube channel.

*“Why are reserve choices necessary?”*

# FAQ...

*“My child has SEND requirements, how will they be supported through the process?”*

A member of the learning support team will be in touch to arrange a meeting.  
SEND team are here this evening.

*“Can my child study any of the three languages offered?”*

No. Only the one they’ve been studying at KS3

# The next steps.....

To support students with making their choices we will be providing the following:

## Key Dates

**Thursday 1 February 2024:** KS4 'Next Steps' Evening 5:30pm-7:30pm

**January / February 2024:** 'Next Steps' interviews completed by Spring half term (on request only)

**Wednesday 28 February 2024:** 'Next Steps' deadline – 5:00pm

**May 2024:** 'Next Steps' outcomes confirmed to students and families