



YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET 2024

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Contents

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET	2
THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM	3
COMPLETING THE OPTION FORM.....	4
KEY DATES	4

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This Year 9 Options booklet contains information about the courses which will be available for students during their next two years at Mayflower High School. It is hoped that it will help each student to make the most appropriate choices for their future.

The curriculum in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) has been the subject of government focus over the last decade. The government has signalled its ambition for students to have access to a rich curriculum with a commitment to a strong academic core.

The Government introduced the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as an additional measure since 2011. To achieve the EBacc measure, students should gain a good GCSE pass in English, Mathematics, a language, History or Geography and two Sciences. The Government's announcement of this measure of success may have an impact on future progression at both post-16 and post-18 level. These are the subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most options open.

It is very important that students' choices give them a balanced curriculum to ensure they develop a wide range of skills and knowledge. They will need a range of subjects with a strong academic core that leave the way open to as many career and further educational routes as possible as their ideas change and develop.

It is important to establish at the outset, however, that whilst every effort will be made to satisfy each individual's requirements, there is a limit to the resources available. Option courses offered may have to be withdrawn, if the numbers choosing them are too small.

There may also be circumstances where a particular option course becomes oversubscribed. In this instance, the selection process will be based upon the Year 9 reports. We would, if required, then operate a random selection process, to be as fair as possible to all students concerned. At this point, the student's reserve option choice will be selected.

Once the completed form has been handed in, it will not be possible to make any alterations to the options chosen.

There may be a need in exceptional circumstances to discuss a student's option choices with their parents after selection, mainly due to timetable issues. In this instance, we would attempt to identify a replacement option choice and their course will not be finalised without parental agreement.

THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

The Key Stage 4 curriculum, followed by students in Years 10 and 11, include a combination of core, compulsory subjects, alongside an element of guided choice in terms of which EBacc subjects to select and also an opportunity for free choice. The Key Stage 4 curriculum allows for the study of subjects in greater depth in preparation for public examinations.

The compulsory subjects in the Key Stage 4 Curriculum are as follows:

Subject	Level
English All students will study English Language and English Literature. This will lead to 2 GCSEs.	GCSE
Mathematics Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
Science This will be available as a Combined Award, equivalent to 2 GCSEs. Students have started this course in Year 9.	GCSE
EBacc Option Students will need to choose one from the following courses: Computer Science, French, Geography, History or Spanish	

Option Choices

Students may choose **three** additional subjects to study from the following courses:

Art & Design GCSE	History GCSE
Business GCSE	Music GCSE
Cambridge National Technical Certificate in Enterprise & Marketing	Physical Education GCSE
Classical Civilisation GCSE	Psychology GCSE
Computer Science GCSE	Religious Studies GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	NCFE Technical Award in Music Technology
Drama GCSE	Separate Sciences GCSE*
Film Studies GCSE	<i>*(if currently in a Set 1 or Set 2 for Science)</i>
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	Spanish GCSE
French GCSE	Statistics GCSE*
Geography GCSE	<i>*(if currently in a Set 1 or Set 2 for Mathematics)</i>

The students will also follow **Personal Development (Lifeskills)** and **Physical Education** as part of the statutory curriculum in line with the school's obligations.

For some selected students, there is a more bespoke curriculum, designed to provide a balanced curriculum which will enable all students to work towards achieving their expected progress at Key Stage 4 in a range of GCSE qualifications and alternative courses. These students will take one less option choice and use the time to work on curriculum content. For further information, please speak to Mr R Griffiths, Assistant Headteacher: Student Welfare or Mrs C Thorogood, Head of Dyslexia Centre.

COMPLETING THE OPTION FORM

You have been given an option form on which you will need to record your selections.

This form should be completed and then signed by the parent. The form will not be accepted without one reserve option choice.

This form **must be completed in black pen** to ensure that there are no changes made on the form after the decision has been agreed. If you require a replacement form, these will be available from Student Reception.

The school does **not** operate a first come, first served policy with the Year 9 Options process. There is nothing to gain by handing your form in first.

Exceptions

Students cannot:

1. Select to study both GCSE Music and NCFE Technical Award in Music Technology. You can **ONLY** select one of these.
2. Select to study both GCSE Business and Cambridge National Technical Certificate in Enterprise & Marketing. You can **ONLY** select one of these.

KEY DATES

Thursday 7 March 2024	Year 9 Options Evening (6pm – 8pm) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Presentations outlining the Year 9 Options process in the Main Hall at 6:30pm and 7:30pm2. Year 9 Options booklet issued by email and published to the school website under the tab for 'Curriculum'.3. Individual subject details also published to this area of the website.4. Subject presentations for option subjects 6pm – 8pm.
Thursday 21 March 2024	Year 9 Progress Evening (4.30pm – 8.00pm)
Monday 25 March 2024	The opening for the Option Choice Form to be handed in to your child's form tutor
Thursday 28 March 2023	The absolute deadline for the Option Choice Form to be handed in