

Year 9 Options Evening



St Gregory the Great School
14th March 2019

Key Stage Four

- This is a springboard to academic and vocational courses in further education, as well as employment and training post 16.
- Core examination subjects: English, Maths, Science and RE which equate to six or seven GCSEs.
- Core non-examination: PE.
- Students can choose **three** further optional subjects. At least one of these should be either a language, geography or history.
- Academic and vocational courses can be taken together with no paths closed.

Qualification Types and Levels: Examples

Level	General (“Academic”) Qualifications	Work related (“Vocational”) Qualifications
3	AS/A2 <i>(eg Further Maths, Economics)</i>	BTEC Nationals <i>(eg Applied Science, Creative Media)</i>
2	GCSE 9-5 <i>(eg History, Geography)</i>	Technical Awards <i>Distinction-Pass at L2</i> <i>(eg BTECs in Business Studies, PE)</i>
1	GCSE 4-1	Technical Awards <i>Distinction-Pass at L1</i>
Entry	Entry Level Certificates E1/E2/E3	Skills for Working Life/Life Skills

Learning Pathways

- **GCSEs only:** Wide range of options across Languages, Humanities, Arts, Design and Technology and PE.

Options below mix GCSEs with:

- **Technical Awards in a single GCSE timeslot:** BTEC courses with a greater focus on applied knowledge and technical skills than GCSE, 75% of assessment through coursework.
- **Applied Learning:** Whole-day learning of Technical Award subjects (Childcare or BTEC Sport – Football) with a greater focus on practical and technical skills, could lead towards Apprenticeships at 16.
- **Extended curriculum:** Triple Science.

Which courses should I choose?

Good reasons for choosing a course:

- You know you can do well in it.
- You like the subject because it reflects your interests.
- The type of learning and assessment suits you.
- It will help you keep your options open in the future.

Bad reasons for choosing a course:

- You like/don't like the teacher – they will probably be different next year anyway.
- Your friends are choosing it – they are different from you and have different strengths and interests.
- It's new, sounds exciting, but you don't really know what it is about (yet!).

Deciding on subjects and courses

What type of learner are you?

- Understand the learning style and assessment methods as well as the course content – especially for the non-GCSE courses i.e. Technical Awards (mostly BTECs).

No idea what job/career you are interested in yet?

- Choose a broad range of courses. Get help from our Careers advisor to help develop your ideas.

After GCSEs?

- If you have specific A levels or other post-16 courses in mind, check whether the options you are choosing narrow your future choices or not.
- Remember it is possible to take certain A-levels or other qualifications *without* having taken a GCSE course in the same subject.

The Options Selection Process

- You have until Friday 29th March to hand in your application form so take your time if needs be (all forms completed by the deadline will be given the same priority).
- Ask for expert help if you need it; choose the right people to ask.
- Make your first choice from a language, geography or history and then your next two most wanted subjects. Finally, pick two “reserve” subjects too.
- Please use the reverse of the form for any queries or comments that you may have.
- Please hand the completed forms to your tutors no later than Friday 29th March 2019.

OPTIONS FORM 2019-20: Example

	Choose one subject in each column below in order of preference			Reserve choices	
	1	2	3	1	2
Art & Design GCSE			✓		
Business Studies BTEC					
Hospitality and Catering (Level 1/2)					
French GCSE					
Geography GCSE				✓	
German GCSE	✓				
History GCSE		✓			
ICT BTEC					
Media Studies GCSE					
Music GCSE					
Design Technology GCSE					✓
Sport BTEC					
Fashion and textiles (Level 1/2)					
Applied Learning:					
Childcare CACHE					
Sport BTEC (Football)					

Who to speak to now?

- Subject teachers: BTECs and GCSEs
- Mrs Pallier: Deputy Head Teacher- Director of Assessment and Progress
- Terry Biancini: Careers Advisor
- Mr O'Hanlon: Head of Year 9
- Miss Newell: Senco