

Year 8 Options Evening 2025 Welcome



Have a glance at the front of your Options booklet. It may give some guidance about Pathways to consider

Key Stage 4 starts in Year 9

Benefits:

- 3 years to specialise in the examined subjects
- 3 years to get to know individual needs
- 3 years to work on the very best outcomes possible

88.1% of current parents either agree, or strongly agree with this system

7.35% had no preference (95.4%)

Students 'should' continue to pursue/explore areas that they don't select as options through clubs, trips and extra-curricular activities

Website updates - 'Quality of Education'

Long term plans for each subject. These will shortly be turning into our curriculum palettes.

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
A*	A		B		C	D	E	F	G	U

GCSE courses

Almost all are examined i.e. no coursework

Grades are given as numbers

Grade 4 is a 'standard pass', grade 5 is a 'strong pass'

Grade 9 is reserved for the top 3% of entries nationally



What is a Btec/Cambridge National/Vocational Award?

It is an alternative to GCSE

Generally assessed over coursework portfolio(s) and an exam

The exam **must** be passed

Awarded as Pass (4), Merit (5.5), Distinction (7), Distinction* (8.5)

IMedia, PE, Performing Arts, Music

Ofqual have accredited these courses as having 'equal weighting' to GCSEs

What is the Ebacc?

A recognition that a student has
PASSED a GCSE in:

English

Maths

Science

A Modern Foreign Language

A Humanity

It is not a qualification

Can be recognised by some Post 16/18
providers



The curriculum - core

English (Literature and Language)

Maths

Science (Trilogy or Separates)

Statutory RE (Religious Studies)

PE (Non-examined)

2 GCSEs

1 GCSE

2/3 GCSEs

1 GCSE

Total = 6-7 GCSEs



The options

You can pick 4 subjects

We offer guidance:

Gold: Pick at least two Ebacc subjects, preferably 1 humanity and 1 language

Green: Pick two Ebacc subjects, preferably 2 humanities



Total 9-11 GCSEs or equivalent

Option Blocks 2025

	<u>BLOCK A</u>		<u>BLOCK B</u>		<u>BLOCK C</u>		<u>BLOCK D</u>
	*Geography		*Geography		*Geography		*Geography
	*History		*History		*History		*History
	Art		+Food Preparation and Nutrition		Sport		ICT Imedia
	Photography		Art		+Product Design Textiles		BTEC Performing Arts
	*German		BTEC Music		ICT Imedia		+Food Preparation and Nutrition
	+Product Design Wood		Further Ma/Stats		*French		*French
	Extra Eng/ma		*French				Media Studies

Please choose 1 option and a reserve from each block.

Please do not choose a subject more than once unless it is a reserve.

*These Subjects are within the EBACC, please select 2 minimum including a language

+ Please do not pick more than one from DT Res Mats, DT Textiles and Food Preparation and Nutrition

Please do not pick both Art and Photography

Only pick Further Maths/Stats if you are in sets 1 or 2 in Maths, or speak to a member of staff.



**Alcester
Academy**

TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

Student Feedback...

What to choose?



Frequently Asked Questions...

Will I definitely get my first choice?

Will I definitely get my second choice if I don't get my first choice?

What if I change my mind?

What if the blocks don't allow me to study what I want?

Do I have to get my choices in quickly?

Taster lessons – have happened

Return deadline – 14th May (to tutor then to Mr Hollis)

How should I make my choices?

Pick what you're good at

Pick what you enjoy

Don't pick based on friends' choices

Don't pick because of who you think your teacher will be



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Task...

Talk to staff tonight

Course and subject leaders

Core subjects

SENCo

Careers Advisor

RE (Religious Studies)

Do not miss new subjects:

Media

Photography

Further maths/stats

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	*History		*History		*History		*History
	Art		+Food Preparation and Nutrition		Sport		ICT Imedia
	Photography		Art		+Product Design Textiles		BTEC Performing Arts
	*German		BTEC Music		ICT Imedia		+Food Preparation and Nutrition
	+Product Design Wood		Further Ma/Stats		*French		*French
	Extra Eng/ma		*French				Media Studies