



YEAR 9 OPTION SUBJECT REFINEMENT

**PARENT / CARER INFORMATION
2019**



5 Needs to Become 4

So subtract one!

At this present time **your child** has a decision to make!

He/she **needs to remove one** of their chosen option subjects that they have presently been studying during Year 9.

The remaining subjects they will continue with alongside the statutory subjects through to the **conclusion of Years 10 & 11**.

Throughout Years 10 & 11 students will have **two periods each week** for **each Option Subject**.



Statutory Courses

English Language & Literature

Mathematics & Statistics

Trilogy Science

Physical Education (PE)

Physical, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

Careers, Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG)

Ebacc Information

The Government has moved the goalposts and changed their mind.

We endeavour to meet the needs of all students and our local community, by providing a broad and balanced curriculum with a wealth of subjects on offer.

HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science.
- History or Geography
- A language
Ancient or modern

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017

Further Information
Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

You should also get in touch with your child's school directly – they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.

While the full Ebacc is not compulsory, there is a large value in studying at least one of these options. It is about students **not limiting their future options.**



Types of Courses.

Traditional GCSEs versus Vocational Qualifications

What's the difference?

What are the benefits of each? Pitfalls of each?

Which one is more valuable?



Conditions to follow

The choice as to which of option is removed is entirely up to them. There are a few conditions.

Every student must continue to study **at least one of** the following subjects:

History

Geography

French

Spanish

Conditions to follow continued



If they are **presently studying Sociology & Psychology**, these now become separate options.

They can either:

1. **Choose to continue with one** of them, however they need to still **remove one** other option course.
2. **Choose to continue with both** of them, however this means they need to **remove two** of their option choices.

However, **they must continue to study at least one** of the following subjects:
History, Geography, French or Spanish

3. Choose to remove both from their options and no others.

Conditions to follow continued



Would they like to commence studying **Single Science**?

This is the only course they can choose to start at this point in time.

In other words they cannot select a subject they presently do not take in Year 9.

Would they like to take Single Science?

- 1. If the answer is no, they **still need to remove one** of their option choices.**
- 2. If the answer is yes, they need to **remove two** of their option choices.**

However, they **must** continue to study **at least one** of the following subjects:
History, Geography, French or Spanish

Student Examples



Student A

History
French

Resistant Materials
Music
Drama

Student A could remove any of the listed subjects.

If wishing to take Single Science then two need to be removed. However, History and/or French must remain.

Student B

History
Geography
Spanish

Sport
Child Development

Student B could remove any of the listed subjects.

If Single Science is wanted to be taken, then any two subjects need to be removed. This would still leave at least one Humanity or Language.

Student C

Geography
Spanish

Dance
Art

Sociology/Psychology

Student C can remove Sociology and Psychology and keep the others.

OR

Keep one only from Sociology or Psychology requiring one other subject to be removed.

OR

Keep both Sociology or Psychology and therefore removing two other subjects. The two removed cannot be both Geography and Spanish.

If Single Science is wanted then two subjects need to be removed and this would also depend on what the decision is with Sociology & Psychology. However, both Geography and Spanish cannot be removed.

Think carefully ...

1 Think about - YOU

Which subjects...

These are good reasons for choosing (or not choosing) a subject

...are you **interested** in?

...do you **enjoy**?

...do you feel **enthusiastic** about?

...are you **good** at?

...do you **not enjoy**?

...and do you prefer **academic** or **practical** (hands-on) learning?

2 Think about - THE FUTURE

Find out...

...whether you need **specific qualifications or subjects** for careers you're interested in

...whether you need a **specific GCSE to do your next course**

Research

1 + 2 + 3

Put all this together

Prioritise what's most important to you

Make your choice!

3

Ask other people

Talk to...

- ◆ Parents ◆ Carers ◆ Relatives ◆
- ◆ Friends ◆ Teachers ◆ Form tutors ◆
- ◆ Careers co-ordinators ◆ Mentors ◆
- ◆ Students already studying the course ◆



Guidance ...

We recommend that students ...

- Carefully think of which subjects will see them make the most amount of progress
- Consider taking at least one subject that contains a practical element and not solely based on final written exams
- Make an informed decision ... speak to teachers, Heads of Faculty, Mr Onions, Mrs Tolland, tutors and yourselves.
- The upcoming Parents Evening on 7th March 2019

Final note ...




When a subject is now removed. This **does not mean** that this immediately takes place!

- Classes need to be adjusted in preparation for Year 10 based on all student choices.
- In a **worst case scenario students have to keep** this subject because there are not enough students that have chosen one that they selected to keep!
Unlikely, but a possibility.

Student decisions are final and upon starting Year 10 there is no turning back time! **Think carefully!**

Course Information



 **The Magna Carta School**
A community school at the heart of Runnymede

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Options Information

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All students at The Magna Carta School are encouraged to follow a broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by a strong PSHCE and Careers Education and Guidance programme to help develop each student to their fullest potential.

In Years 7 and 8 students follow an extensive curriculum incorporating Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, ICT and Computer Science, Physical Education, MFL, Art Music, Drama and Design Technology – Food, Textiles, Graphics and Resistant Materials.

Numeracy and Literacy are important points of focus for all at The Magna Carta School and particular emphasis is placed on developing students' ability to be numerate and literate.

The curriculum in Years 9, 10 and 11 is designed to ensure that all students are prepared for the next phase of their lives. Students are encouraged to follow a broad and balanced curriculum supplemented by a strong PSHCE and Careers programme.

Current Year 9 (2018-19) students

[Year 9 Refinement of Option Choices](#)

[Year 9 Course Descriptions](#)



This booklet should **ONLY** be used by students presently in Year 9 this 2018-19 Academic Year.

The Magna Carta School

Year 9 Option Choice Refinement 2019



Online Options Completion

Deadline: Thursday 13th March 2019