



Year 9 Options Information

Our Impact

- Highest NOR for over ten years.
- The number of students following the Ebacc pathway has increased from 14% in 20/21 to 39% in Year 11 and 30% in Year 10 as a result of a new Options Pathway
- In the Parent Survey, a significant majority of parents believe that their child feels safe at school (over 90% when omitting don't know)
- PASS survey in 2023 showed that overall there is a significant high satisfaction amongst the student body and no themes were judged to be low moderate or low satisfaction (6 of the 9 PASS factors were in the high satisfaction percentile)
- The % of students who stated they feel they are currently being bullied has reduced from 7% (Autumn 2020) to 3% (June 2023) and 3% in October 2023
- The Student Success Centre shows significant impact on targeted interventions across all year groups
- Only one student left school in 2022 without an employment, education or training route post-16.



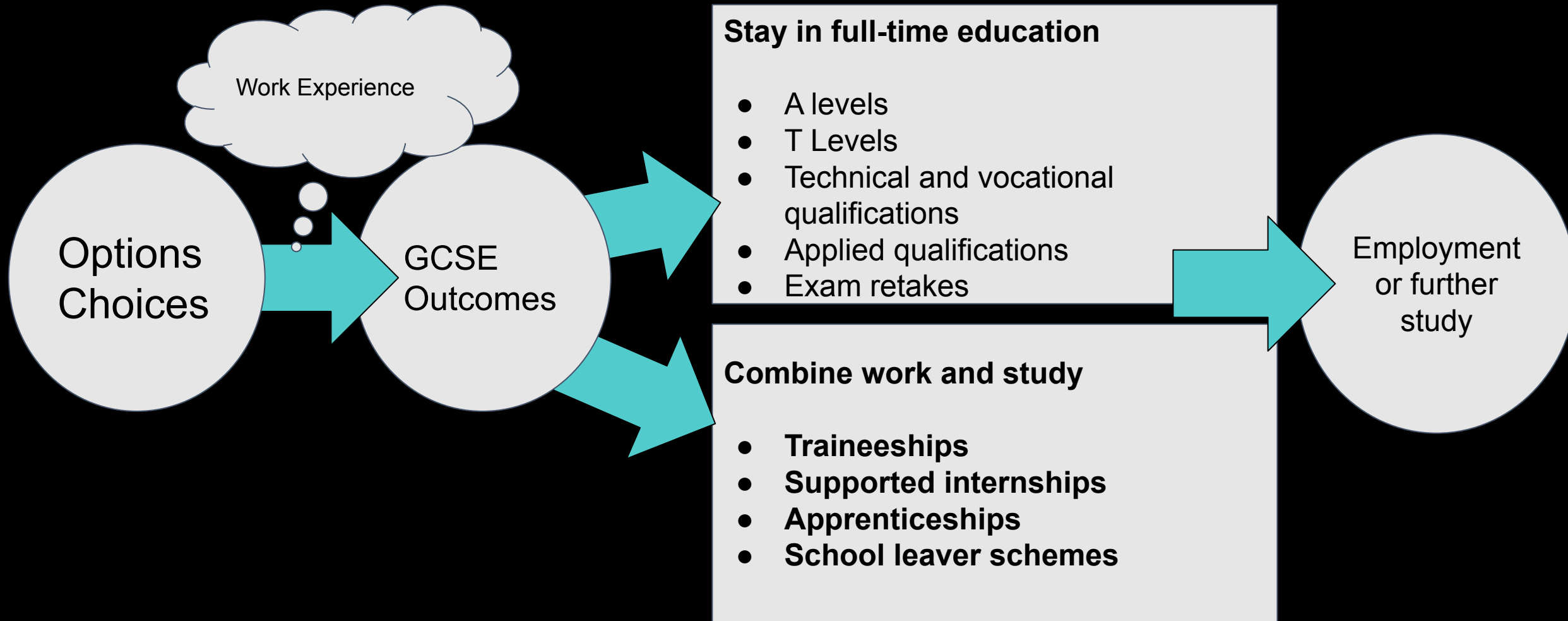
“A broad and balanced curriculum...”

By the time you reach the end of Year 9, you will have studied, learnt about, and developed your skills and knowledge in 17 different subjects.

At Holbrook, we steadfastly hold on to the practice of a three year KS3 to best prepare our students in a wide range of subjects, allowing them to make informed choices during Year 9 for their future pathway of studies.

By giving students every possible chance to succeed in KS3, might they make the choices which enable them to enjoy further success at KS4 and beyond.

Many ways to the same goal, starting here



Pathways



- **The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc):** Students complete the compulsory core subjects, plus a humanities subject (History or Geography) and a Language (Spanish). This then leaves them with two additional subjects to choose. It is strongly recommended that the majority of students take this pathway.
- **The Non-Ebacc Pathway:** Students complete the compulsory core subjects, plus any four chosen subjects from the options blocks.
- **The Support Pathway:** This route will be offered to students who may find it difficult to complete a full range of subjects, with some time being given instead to interventions and Alternative Curriculum opportunities.

The Core...

All students will sit GCSEs in:

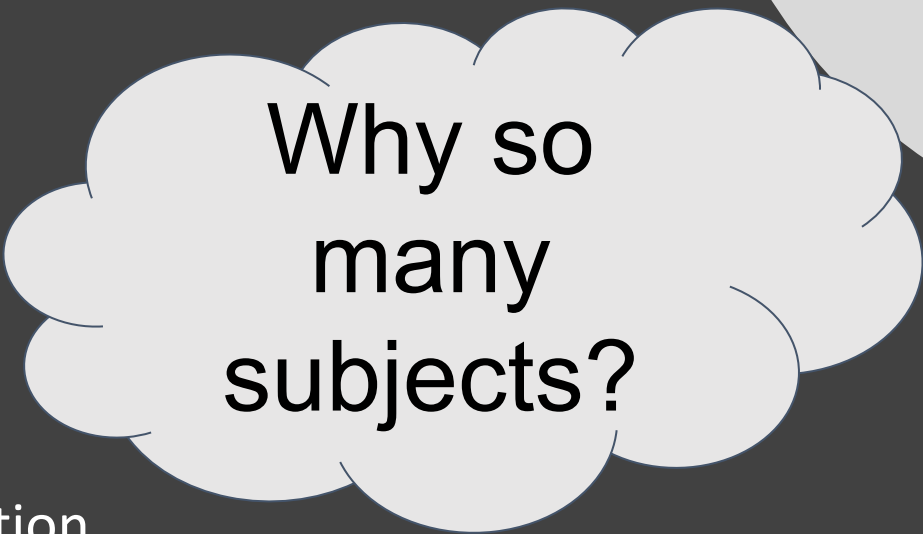
- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science Double Award or Triple*
- Core PE – promoting healthy, active lifestyles.

*Students taking triple science will have additional science lessons on top of the core provision, and will sit different exams.

Options Subjects

Subject to interest and availability:

- Spanish
- History
- Geography
- Triple Science
- Art
- Business
- Health and Social Care
- Sociology
- GCSE PE
- Product Design
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Drama
- Music
- Computer Science



Why so
many
subjects?

Why study the Ebacc?

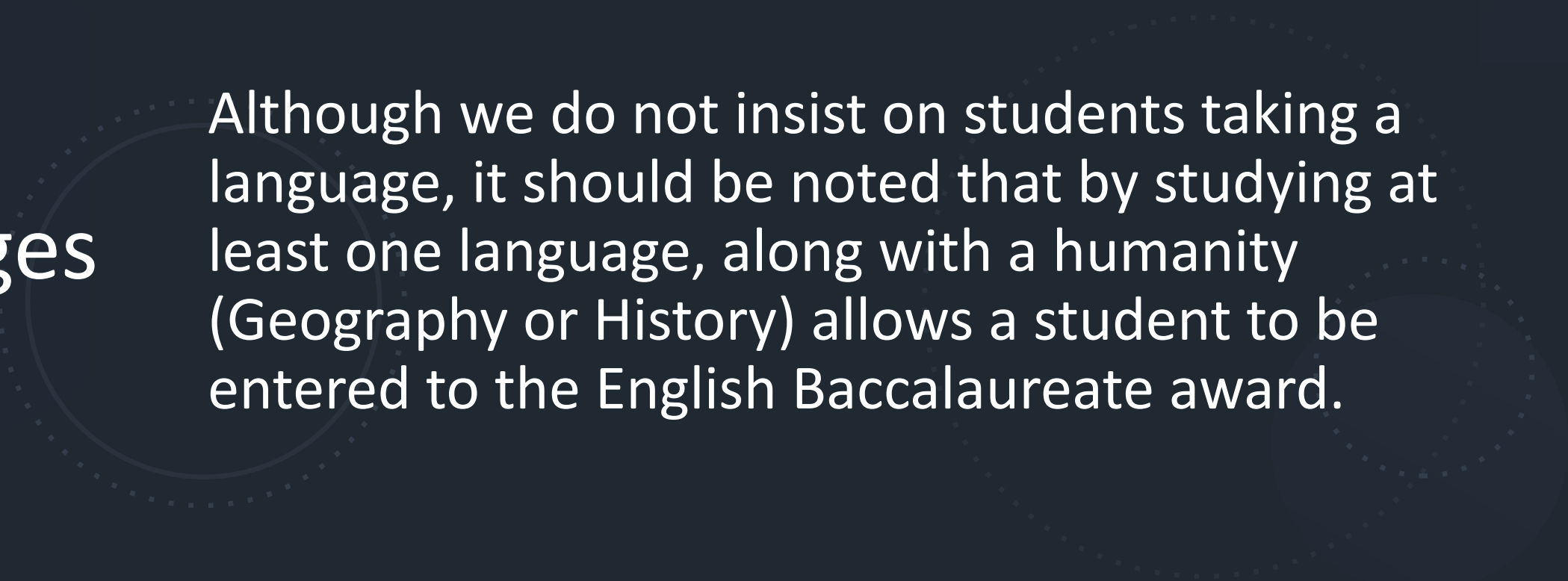
- The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.
- Research shows that a pupil's socio-economic background impacts the subjects they choose at GCSE, and that this determines their opportunities beyond school.
- A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included 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 maths.



Modern Foreign Languages




Although we do not insist on students taking a language, it should be noted that by studying at least one language, along with a humanity (Geography or History) allows a student to be entered to the English Baccalaureate award.



Timeline

- Options information evening in December
- Year 9 Progress Evening 23rd January
- Options week in registration time w/c 29th January
- Blocks and Options Booklet home in February; meetings with students, SLT and careers advisors start.
- Initial options choices window opens via Google Forms 26th February - 1st March
- Initial Option choices confirmed during April.
- Final options choices confirmed in June 2024



What support is there for
students making their
Post-14 choices?

What support is there for students making their Post-14 choices?



- Videos from options subjects shown in form time.
- Students will receive a paper-based options form so that they can start to think about blocking, but may not yet pick their options.
- Core lessons to include some content on the KS4 curriculum, and give students time to ask questions of their teachers.
- Teachers of subjects without KS3 lessons (Business, Health and Social Care, Sociology) will deliver a 25 minute carousel lesson on a rotation.
- All Year 9 students will be offered a five minute slot with a member of the careers team or senior staff to discuss their choices.
- Only once students have had all the information will they be invited to choose their options online.

What if I regret my choices?



- It happens.
- Up until the end of Year 9, you can make changes to your options relatively easily.
- During the first two weeks of Year 10, you can change your options with your form tutor's support.
- During the third week of year 10, you may still change your options if you have the support of a parent, your head of year and the subject teacher.
- Beyond the third week of Year 10, options cannot be changed unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Your Options, your pathway

Most students will select one option from each of the option blocks.

Students on the support pathway select options from 3 of the four blocks.

Remember: to gain the Ebacc, you need to choose a humanities subject and a language subject. You choose these from any block.

Some things to consider...

What are the subjects I have enjoyed through KS3?

What subjects am I good at?

How can I make sure that I achieve the right balance of subjects?

What subjects might I need for my future Post 16, or even career, choices?

Am I using Go4Schools to inform my decision making?

Don't choose
subjects based
on...

....what your friends are choosing.

....who your favourite teachers are.

....because you think it'll be easy.

...because your brother or sister took it.

....just because you've never done it
before.

Instead, you
should
consider...

- Your interests
- Your current progress
- Your future options - what A-level/further education courses might this GCSE lead to?
- How each class fits in with your other choices
- The exam specification - how is it assessed? What is covered?

Lastly...

Do not rush your options! It is not the case that the first come get first served and, therefore, get their option choices first!

Take on board everything that everyone tells you; absorb as much information as you can about the subjects and do not be afraid to ask questions. All of us are here to help you choose the right path and the one that is best suited to you.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What do you do if a course has very few students show an interest?
- Am I guaranteed to get the options that I pick?
- Can I change my options at any point?
- How can I get careers advice?
- How do I know that I'll enjoy subjects that I've never studied before? (e.g. Sociology)
- What can I do if a subject I want to take clashed with another subject?
- Will I be forced onto a specific pathway?

