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# **GCSE OPTIONS 2019**

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**INFORMATION AND  
OPTIONS FORM**

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**RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL**

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## Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

We want students to be able to pursue a broad and balanced programme of study at Key Stage 4. Some years ago, the government introduced the English Baccalaureate or E Bacc as a measure of how well schools are performing and to encourage students to study a broad range of subjects at KS4. Students are said to have obtained the E Bacc if they gain A\*-C GCSE passes in English, Maths, two sciences (including computer studies), a language (including Latin) or a humanity (either History or Geography).

At Rugby High School we decided not to make the E Bacc compulsory as we felt that our curriculum model offered students a broad choice of subjects and that it was important to preserve the element of student choice. At the moment universities and employers don't require students to have the E Bacc. However, this may change in the future so you should bear this in mind when making your choices.

### GCSE reforms

In February 2013 the Education Secretary announced proposals for the complete reform of GCSEs to make the qualifications more rigorous and a stronger foundation for future academic and vocational study. These proposals have now been adopted and your daughter will study the new reformed GCSEs in all subjects.

The key structural features of the new GCSEs include:

- A new grading system comprising of numbers from 1-9 (where 9 is the top level) rather than grades.
- Untiered papers in English Language and English Literature
- Revised tiering in Maths with a foundation tier covering grades 1-5 and a higher tier covering grades 4-9.
- Linear assessment by external examinations only where all the examinations are taken at the end of the two year course. In English Language a Speaking assessment will be carried out and reported separately.

In terms of the individual subjects the differences between the old specifications and the new ones include:

- [English language GCSE](#) requires better reading skills and good written English
- [English literature GCSE](#) encourages students to read, write and think critically; it assesses students on challenging and substantial whole texts and on shorter unseen texts
- [Mathematics GCSE](#) provides greater coverage of areas such as ratio, proportion and rates of change; it requires all students to master the basics, and is more challenging for those aiming to achieve top grades

## The Year 10 Curriculum will be as follows:

Core Curriculum (Compulsory for all students)	Qualification
English	1 GCSE
English Literature	1 GCSE
Mathematics	1 GCSE
Language: Spanish or French or Latin	1 GCSE
Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics	3 GCSEs
<b>OR</b> Combined Science	2 GCSEs
GCSE P.E. or non - examined P.E.	

## Options

Students choosing to study **separate sciences** should **choose two options** from the list below. Students choosing **Combined Science** should **choose three options**:

Art and Design <b>OR</b> Textiles	Geography
Business	History
Computer Science	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Drama	Music
French or Spanish or Latin (the language not chosen as part of the core curriculum)	PRS

## **Entitlement Curriculum (Compulsory for all students)**

- Philosophy & Religious Studies (PRS)\*
- Physical Education
- Personal Health and Social Education  
(includes Careers Education and Guidance, Sex Education, Work-Related Learning, Enterprise Education, Citizenship, Economic Well-Being and Financial Capability)

These are non examination subjects.

In PE students may opt for either a GCSE course or non-examined PE.

PSHE will be delivered through a series of collapsed timetable days rather than as a timetabled lesson.

**\*PRS can be studied in one of two ways:**

1. Compulsory single lesson a week (non-examined)
2. Taken as an option = GCSE full course

Please note: if you choose non-examined PRS you do not need to specify this on your options form.

## **Making Your Choice**

### **Do**

- Choose subjects that you enjoy
- Choose subjects that you are good at
- Choose subjects that you may need to follow a particular career or educational path
- Talk to your parents and teachers about your choices

### **Don't**

- Choose a subject because your friends have chosen it
- Choose a subject simply because you like the teacher (you may get a different teacher next year)

**Please note that all choices are subject to staffing and timetable constraints, some subjects have a number restriction on the size of the group, e.g. Drama. Some optional subjects (including GCSE PE) may not run if insufficient numbers opt for them. Please also note you will have to obtain a subject teacher recommendation for your optional subjects.**

## 2019 OPTION CHOICES FOR GCSE COURSES IN YEAR 10

You should **NOT** complete this form without:

- reading the information in the GCSE subject information booklet carefully
- discussing your choices with your parents
- consulting the teachers of the subjects you wish to choose

You may consult teachers either in normal school time, the Year 9 Options Evening on Tuesday 29 January or at Parents' Evening which is on Wednesday 6 February and Monday 11 February.

**Please indicate below your option choices for Year 10 courses, and return this form to your Form Tutor by Friday 15 February at the very latest.**

Core LANGUAGE (French or Spanish or Latin)

COMBINED SCIENCE or SEPARATE SCIENCE

GCSE PE or NON-EXAMINED PE

All the subjects you choose below require a teacher's signature here ↓

OPTION SUBJECT 1



OPTION SUBJECT 2



OPTION SUBJECT 3

(Do not complete this box if you have opted for Separate Science)



RESERVE CHOICE



This box **MUST** be completed or you will be allocated a subject

PRS SHORT COURSE (additional lunchtime)

<b>Name:</b> (Capital letters)	<b>Form:</b>
<b>Parent Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>