



# Moving from Year 9 into Key Stage 4... Options

*Information for parents and students, regarding making choices for study in Key Stage 4.*

Mr J Cannon (**Deputy Headteacher**)

Mrs R Billingham (**Head of Year 9**)

Miss Broadhead (**TT and Options Lead**)



Park Road West, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 3NQ

Tel: 01384 818445

Web: [www.ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk)



# Moving from Year 9 into Key Stage 4...

At Ridgewood, we believe that...

- Students should have as much choice as possible, when it comes to making their choices.
- Students should receive quality support and guidance to help them make choices that will ensure they can maximise their potential.
- Students should dream big, aim high, and aspire to leave Ridgewood ready for the next stage in their educational journey. Options is a route to this success.



# What will the curriculum look like in KS4?

English Literature and English Language (8)	Mathematics (7)	Science (8)
Option 1 (6)		
Option 2 (6)		
Option 3 (6)		
Option 4 (6)		
PSHCE (Staggered at various points)	Core PE (3)	

(Numbers in brackets denote the number of lessons per fortnight).

# What is the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)?



The English Baccalaureate is a suite of qualifications that includes...

- English, Maths, Science (can include Triple Science or Computer Science)
- A foreign language (French)
- History or Geography

At Ridgewood, we recognise that this group of qualifications is not suitable for everyone. However, if your ability suggests so, staff will advise you to take these qualifications. This is because they are recognised by top colleges, universities, and employers, and having the Ebacc will place students in an advantageous position.



# Next steps for Year 9 students...

- Ask lots of questions tonight at Options Evening – this is really important!
- Use the page in the Options Booklet to think about which subjects you would like more information about.
- Make sure you have Parents Evening appointments booked (Thursday 22 February). This is chance to talk to teachers about whether their subject might be a good choice! *Think about your reserve choices (two subjects, from any block)*
- Speak with your teachers; they know students well and will offer thoughtful advice about the next steps.
- Once you have chosen your subjects...
- **Selection goes live on Friday 23 February 2024...**



# The classic “Do Not’s” of Options...

- Do not pick a subject because you like the teacher. We have lots of teachers who teach similar subjects so there is no guarantee you will get a particular teacher.
- Do not pick a subject because your friends are. We run lots of classes in the same subject so it is likely you would end up in a different group!
- Do not pick Music, Dance or Drama if you do not like performing in front of others.
- You must pick one of History, Geography, French, Computer Science or Triple Science. You can select more than one of these subjects if you feel this is appropriate.

# ... and finally



Year 9 have been an absolute pleasure to have as part of our school community, since they joined us in 2021. They are polite, courteous, hardworking and resilient. We know they will make great choices and go on to achieve huge success.

Good luck, and please ask us any questions that you might have!