



Barnsley Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

**Year 9 Options & Pathways
Guidance Booklet
2023-2025**

YEAR 9



Ambition | Determination | Respect



Barnsley Academy

The best in everyone™

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Dear Parent/Carer,

In September 2023, your child will be starting Key Stage 4 (KS4) and will begin a two-year programme of study which will lead to a range of nationally recognised qualifications.

This booklet will give you information about the subjects that will make up this two-year programme of study. The separate subject booklet contains information about the different types of qualification that are on offer and the core subjects that all students must study.

Parents/carers, students and Academy staff all play a part in choosing options. We advise parents and carers to take time to sit and discuss the information in this booklet and the subject information booklet with your child to make sure that the most appropriate choices are made.

We offer students in-depth information to help them make the best choices for their KS4 qualifications. All information can also be found in the *Curriculum* section of the Academy website under *Year 9 Options*.

The key dates and deadlines for the Options process are as follows:

Monday, 6th February	Options Process Introduced to Students
Tuesday, 7th February – Tuesday, 21st February (Options Week)	Options videos shown in form-time
Tuesday, 21st February	- Options & Pathways Guidance and Subject Information booklets issued - Year 9 Options Evening (3.30-7.30pm)
Monday, 27th February – Friday, 17th March	Options advice interviews
Monday, 20th March	Deadline to return Option Choice Form

All students must return their completed Option Choice Form (page 11 of this booklet) by **Monday, 20th March**.

We undertake to do our best to ensure that each student is allocated their choice of options but this depends on the numbers opting for each subject and the availability of teaching staff. ***Please note, we may be unable to accommodate all students where groups are too large or run groups that are too small to be viable.***

Should any problems arise with the choices made by your child, we will contact you to discuss this and suggest possible solutions. If at any time you have questions about Key Stage 4 courses, or the options process, please contact school. We will always do our best to help you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Gillen

Assistant Vice Principal

Good information is the key to making successful choices:

- You need to think very carefully about which subjects you enjoy and which ones you are good at.
- You need to get as much information as you can and ask for advice from your parents, teachers and friends.
- You need to think about your future career and your longer-term plans. Use the Careers links on the school website to help research which subjects are best for your chosen career.
- We hope that everyone will be able to take his or her chosen courses though we cannot, of course, guarantee this.

Please choose subjects because:

- You have thought clearly about everything.
- You have done your research, especially about new subjects and qualifications.
- You know what the subject and assessment process involves.
- You are good at the subject; you like it or have a talent for it.
- You have considered your preferred way of working. Some students prefer practical work or work-related learning, some prefer end of course exams, and others prefer regular continuous assessments.

Please do not choose or reject subjects because:

- You like or dislike a teacher.
- Your friends are choosing certain subjects.
- You think that a subject will be easy or difficult.

If in doubt, ask for help and support from your subject teachers or Head of Year.

During the Options process you may receive a personal interview with a senior member of staff. Here you will have an opportunity to discuss your future plans and to look at what your current results predict about your future chances in certain subjects.

Disclaimer: please note that all courses, particularly those included in the GCSE, Vocational and Tech Awards Options sections are subject to changes as a direct result of governmental reforms. In addition, all courses are subject to a minimum number for viability.

Compulsory Core Subjects

All students are required to study the following compulsory core subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education (Core PE)

Option Subjects

Barnsley Academy offers a wide range of option choices available for students in addition to the compulsory core subjects. These include:

- Art & Design (GCSE)
- Business (GCSE)
- Computer Science (GCSE)
- Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)
- Enterprise & Marketing (Cambridge National)
- Spanish (GCSE)
- Geography (GCSE)
- Health & Social Care (Tech Award)
- History (GCSE)
- Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Vocational Award)
- Music (GCSE)
- Photography (GCSE)
- Sport Studies (Cambridge National)
- 3D Design (GCSE)
- Travel & Tourism (Tech Award)
- Triple Science (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics)
- Religious Studies (GCSE)
- Statistics (GCSE)

Option Pathways

Year 9 students will be allocated to follow one of two pathways:

- Yellow Pathway
- Green Pathway

From their allocated pathway, they should pick ONE choice from Block 1, ONE from Block 2, ONE from Block 3 and ONE from block 4.

Yellow Pathway

This pathway will ensure students study for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc):

Choose 1 from Block 1:	Choose 1 from Block 2:	Choose 1 from Block 3:	Choose 1 from Block 4:
<u>GCSEs:</u> Geography History	<u>GCSEs:</u> Spanish	<u>GCSEs:</u> Art & Design ¹ Photography ¹ 3D Design ¹ Business ² Computer Science ³ History Geography RE Music Statistics ⁴	<u>GCSEs:</u> Art & Design ¹ Photography ¹ 3D Design ¹ Business ² Computer Science ³ History Geography RE Music Statistics ⁴ Triple Science ⁵
		<u>Vocational/Tech Awards</u> Creative iMedia Enterprise & Marketing ² Health & Social Care Hospitality & Catering Sport Studies Travel & Tourism	<u>Vocational/Tech Awards</u> Creative iMedia Enterprise & Marketing ² Health & Social Care Hospitality & Catering Sport Studies Travel & Tourism

1. Unfortunately, students cannot pick more than one of GCSE Art & Design, GCSE Photography or GCSE 3D Design as these are from the same group of subjects.
2. Unfortunately, students cannot pick more than one of GCSE Business or Enterprise & Marketing as these are from the same group of subjects.
3. A minimum predicted GCSE maths grade 7 will be needed to take Computer Science.
4. A minimum predicted GCSE maths grade 5 will be needed to take Statistics.
5. The list of students wishing to study Triple Science will be reviewed by the Science staff for suitability.

Green Pathway

This pathway will allow students to study for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) if they wish but non-EBacc combinations are also available:

Choose 1 from Block 1:	Choose 1 from Block 2:	Choose 1 from Block 3:	Choose 1 from Block 4:
<p>GCSEs: Geography History</p>	<p>GCSEs: Art & Design¹ Photography¹ 3D Design¹ Business² Computer Science³ History Geography RE Music Statistics⁴ Spanish</p> <p>Vocational/Tech Awards Creative iMedia Enterprise & Marketing² Health & Social Care Hospitality & Catering Sport Studies Travel & Tourism</p>	<p>GCSEs: Art & Design¹ Photography¹ 3D Design¹ Business² Computer Science³ History Geography RE Music Statistics⁴ Spanish Triple Science⁵</p> <p>Vocational/Tech Awards Creative iMedia Enterprise & Marketing² Health & Social Care Hospitality & Catering Sport Studies Travel & Tourism</p>	<p>Vocational/Tech Awards Creative iMedia Enterprise & Marketing² Health & Social Care Hospitality & Catering Sport Studies Travel & Tourism</p>

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2. Unfortunately, students cannot pick more than one of GCSE Business or Enterprise & Marketing as these are from the same group of subjects.
3. A minimum predicted GCSE maths grade 7 will be needed to take Computer Science.
4. A minimum predicted GCSE maths grade 5 will be needed to take Statistics.
5. The list of students wishing to study Triple Science will be reviewed by the Science staff for suitability.

Once you have read the information in the Subject Information Booklet and made your choices, please complete the Options Choices Form on page 11 and return your form to your form tutor by Monday, 20th March 2023.

The qualifications offered at Key Stage 4 will give all young people the opportunity to choose a mix of learning which motivates and challenges them, and which gives them the knowledge, skills and experience they need to succeed in education, work, and life. To achieve this, a variety of qualifications are offered which have different demands in terms of how things are learned and how they are assessed. All qualifications fit into a national framework understood by colleges and employers.

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

GCSEs generally involve studying subject theory and are usually assessed through one or more examinations at the end of Year 11. GCSEs are graded 9-1. This has been the case for a number years now but, for clarity, the grid below explains the broad equivalencies of these grades to the old A*-G grades.

<u>Old A*-G GCSE Grades</u>	<u>Equivalent 9-1 GCSE Grades</u>
A*	9
	8
A	7
B	6
	5
C	4
	3
D	2
E	1
F	1
G	

Vocational and Tech Awards

Vocational and BTEC Tech Awards have been developed to equip learners with the practical, transferable skills and the core knowledge they will need to progress to further general or vocational study, including level 3 qualifications, employment or apprenticeships. Whilst all of these qualifications do have one externally-assessed examination unit, the majority of these courses are assessed through coursework units, which are completed and submitted over the duration of the course.

The grids below explain the broad equivalencies of the Level 1 and Level 2 Tech Award grades to existing 9-1 and old A*-G GCSE grades:

Level 1 Tech Award qualifications are equivalent to 1 GCSE at grades D-G:

	New GCSE Grade Equivalent	Old GCSE Grade Equivalent
Pass	1	F/G
Merit	2	E
Distinction	3	D

Level 2 Tech Award qualifications are equivalent to 1 GCSE at grade A*-C:

	New GCSE Grade Equivalent	Old GCSE Grade Equivalent
Pass	4	C
Merit	6	B
Distinction	7	A
Distinction*	8/9	A*

Who Can Help Me With My Choices?

There are lots of people who can help you with the decisions you need to make. Your aim at the end of this process is to have chosen a programme of study that includes a variety of subjects relevant to your future aims and aspirations.

Remember to look at subjects that you will enjoy and have the potential to do well in. If you have strong career interests at this stage you will need to research which subjects you will need to enter that career. If you have not yet considered careers, you will need to select options that do not limit your choices later on.

Subject Teachers

Once you have read through this booklet, you could talk to the teachers of the subjects you are interested in. They will be able to give you more specific information about the courses. You could also use the internet to research subjects and related careers. You will find presentations from subject staff on the school website.

Careers Advisor

The Careers Lead in school, Ms Bell, can give you more details about Post-16 pathways that you may be interested in and advise you on appropriate option choices.

If you have any further questions about the options process, please speak to Mr Gillen.

Year 9 KS4 Option Choices 2023/25

Student Name:								
Form: <i>(please circle)</i>	9B	9G	9I	9O	9R	9V	9Y	ANC
Allocated Pathway: <i>(please circle)</i>	Yellow				Green			

Option Block	Subject Choice
Option Block 1	
Option Block 2	
Option Block 3	
Option Block 4	
Reserve Subject 1	
Reserve Subject 2	

- Please use the choices from your allocated Pathway selecting one subject from each block.
- Remember, you cannot choose the same subject more than once.
- Please check the additional information when choosing any subjects marked with ¹, ², ³, ⁴, or ⁵.
- Remember that your reserve choices are important, so please consider these carefully. These will be used in the event where one or more first choice subjects cannot be offered.
- Please detach, complete and return this form to your form tutor (Deadline: Monday, 20th March).

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Mr Gillen: michael.gillen@barnsley-academy.org