



February 2022

Dear Year 9 students and families,

During this half term we would usually welcome you all into the academy for a Pathways Evening, giving Year 9 students and their families the opportunity to speak with staff about their subject areas before making their option choices for Years 10 and 11.

Whilst it is currently not possible to host a Pathways evening face to face, we will ensure that you have comprehensive information about the options process before having to make any decisions. With this letter you will find the options booklet and in addition to this we have dedicated a page on our website <https://newhouseacademy.co.uk/year-9-options-2/> where you will find an electronic version of the booklet, alongside videos from many of the subject areas to inform you about course content, how the examination process works and which courses and career pathways each subject could lead to.

Year 9 students have had a series of assemblies and form times dedicated to the options process, with staff speaking to them about their subject areas and what they should be considering when making their choices. Students have the opportunity over the coming weeks to speak to staff in school with any questions they might have; it is essential they are confident in the choices they make and have all of the necessary information available to them.

We have stressed to students that they should base their choices on what they enjoy, the career paths they want to follow and where they believe they can succeed. Choices should not be made based on what their friends want to study, or on a teacher they like. Most subjects have more than one class so there is no guarantee which teacher they will get or which other students will be in their group.

Please also be aware that none of the courses are guaranteed and whilst we endeavour to meet the needs and choices of all students, it is not always possible. There can be changes in the offer due to staffing, or not enough students opt to take a particular subject. For this reason, all students must choose spare choices from the option blocks – this will be clear when the form comes through on Edulink.

You will be able to use information from the Year 9 Families Evening last half term, alongside the attitude to learning scores reported home at Christmas to have an idea of how your child is doing in each subject. However, please do not hesitate to contact subject staff directly, via Edulink, with any questions you may have about their area and please contact me with any questions you have about the options process itself.

Students will have access to the options form on Wednesday 9th February, when they will receive a link via Edulink. The deadline for completion is **Thursday 17th February 2022**. Students and families should take the time to read and watch all available information before making this important decision. Students must consider what they will want to do when they leave the academy – what is their chosen career path and which subjects will support this. Karen Hodgson our Careers' Advisor is available for 1-1 support meetings at the academy and students can make appointments to see her via Mr Walmsley. Any students who have SEND can also seek additional support and advice from Mrs Bracken and Miss McNee.

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All students will study English Literature, English Language, Maths and Science. This will give a total of 5 GCSE qualifications as Science is worth 2 GCSEs. In addition, students have a further 4 option choices. They must choose one option from each block listed below. If students opt for separate Sciences, they will then gain three GCSEs – Biology, Chemistry and Physics rather than two Science GCSEs. If students opt for separate Sciences this will take up their option block one choice, and leave them with three remaining options. Any student who is not sure about this should speak with Miss Cullen, Mrs Creber or Miss Shaw in the Science department for further advice.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Geography	Art	Art	Art
History	Business Studies	Electronics	iMedia
Dance	Further Maths	Food	Computing
Music	RE	Engineering	Geography
French	History	Construction	History
Separate Science	Pe GCSE	Geography	RE
Photography	Sport	History	Spanish
Business Studies	Photography	French	Spanish (Beginners)
Pe GCSE	Perf Arts	RE	Construction
	IT		

Please choose one option from each block

The Department for Education reports how many students in each school or academy achieve the Ebacc each year. This is the number of students who have GCSEs in English, Maths and Science plus a language and either Geography, History or Computer Science. Many schools and academies insist that all students fulfil these choices but we do not. At Newhouse Academy we value all of our KS4 subjects equally and recognise that whilst the Ebacc may be preferable for some students, it is not the case for all. We do however stress to all students and families that it is a recommendation of the Department for Education that all students leave Year 11 having completed the Ebacc. If you wish to have any further information on this, or have any questions about it, please contact me at the academy.

The only limits we place on subjects are that students cannot pick both PE and Sports Science. This is because the content of these courses is too similar.

Please note that since printing the handbook, we have had to remove Graphics as an option – this is due to changes in the course content and the way it is examined. Graphics will therefore not appear in the four option blocks, and has been replaced by Construction. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you have prior to your child making their options choices.

Best Wishes,



Mrs H Gregory-Harris
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment