

# Year 9 Options Process 2020-2021



## **Which subjects will every student study?**

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- Physical Education
- Option 1 (Geography/History)
- Option 2, 3, and 4

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## Pathways Explained:

- Students on the **Green Pathway** have four options choices and are expected to study the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).
- The EBacc is not a qualification in itself, but a group of particular GCSEs which are looked upon favourably by universities.
- The subjects in this category are: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (core subjects), History or Geography, and French.
- Students who have a GCSE mix steered towards the Ebacc will be in a better position to keep options open for their further education choices.
- All students will study the compulsory Core subjects: English Language, English Literature, Maths, and science (double or triple award), and core PE.
- Students on the **Green Pathway** have four options choices, one of which must be History or Geography.
- Any students considering a career in the medical sector are encouraged to study Triple Science.

## Pathways Explained:

- Students on the **Yellow Pathway** have four options choices and can study the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).
- All students will study the compulsory Core subjects: English Language, English Literature, Maths, and science (double or triple award), and core PE.
- Students on the **Yellow Pathway** have four options choices, one of which must be History or Geography.
- It is suggested students on the **Yellow Pathway** also take French in addition to this to qualify for EBacc.

## Pathways Explained:

- Students on the **Blue Pathway** have three options choices and their additional GCSE will be **Functional Skills English**.
- Functional Skills English will give students additional skills to enable them to succeed in all their GCSE subjects.
- In addition to Functional Skills English students will study the compulsory Core subjects: English Language, English Literature, Maths, and science (double or triple award), and core PE.
- Students on the **Blue Pathway** may pick three options choices, one of which must be History or Geography.



## Qualifications Available – GCSEs

- GCSEs are the main qualifications that young people work towards at Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11).
- GCSEs are the most prestigious qualification available.
- Most of the GCSEs available at Harborne Academy are most exam base, while a few of them have a coursework component. Please see the options booklet for further information regarding the subjects you're considering.
- Whatever you are planning to do in the future, it is now a requirement for you to retake both maths and English GCSEs until you obtain a Grade 4 or above.



## How GCSEs are assessed:

- Grade 9: Top A\* performers each year (top 2%)
- Grade 8: Remaining students who obtained an A\*
- Grade 7: Equivalent to an old A
- Grade 6: Top two thirds of students graded at a B
- Grade 5: 50-66% of grade above current C
- Grade 4: Equivalent C
- Grade 3: Equivalent D
- Grade 2: Equivalent E
- Grade 1: Equivalent F and G



## Qualifications Available – BTEC/OCR Nationals

- BTECs and OCR Cambridge Nationals are vocational qualifications designed to give students the skills they need to move on to higher education or to go straight into employment.
- By applying learning to real-life situations, these qualifications offer a more practical approach than traditional courses. They will have a combination of coursework (60%) and exams (40%).
- Students have to undertake a number of units for which they present evidence based on real-life work and studies. This allows them to demonstrate their skills and knowledge in practical situations. If you think you would succeed better working in this way, the BTEC or OCR Cambridge National route may be the one to investigate.



## How BTEC and OCR Nationals are assessed:

- BTEC/OCRNs First learners receive a grade for each individual unit (Distinction, Merit, Pass, or Unclassified). Next generation BTEC Firsts also include a Level 1 pass at unit and qualification level, and a Distinction\* grade (at qualification level only).
- All internally assessed unit grades are subject to quality assurance. This ensures that learners get the grades they deserve and all centres assess every BTEC/OCRNs assignment to a fair and high standard.
- The final grade for a BTEC/OCRNs First is judged by looking at performance across each unit in the qualification using a points-based scale. Each individual specification contains details of how to grade each unit and calculate the overall qualification grade.

## How BTECs are graded and the GCSE equivalent: BTEC Tech Award Grading

Level / Qualification Grade	Grade Equivalent
Level 2 / Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 / Distinction	7
Level 2 / Merit	5.5
Level 2 / Pass	4
Level 1 / Distinction	3
Level 1 / Merit	2
Level 1 / Pass	1.25

## How OCR Nationals are graded:

Qualification	Raw scores /240	P8 Grade
L1 Pass	72	1.5
L1 Merit	96	2.25
L1 Distinction	120	3
L2 Pass	>144	4
L2 Merit	>168	5.5
L2 Distinction	>192	7
L2 Distinction*	>216	8.5

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## Subjects Available:

GCSEs	Vocational Courses
Art History Geography Triple Science Drama French Product Design Music Religious Education	Business Food Health and Social Care iMedia Sports Studies

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## **Subjects and Related Careers:**

Most jobs do not require specific GCSE subjects and you may change your mind about jobs in future.

For a few jobs, however, you will need specific subjects, for example:

- Art and design based jobs
- Engineering and technology
- Language based jobs
- Practical jobs
- Scientific jobs

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## **Subjects and Related Careers:**

- English: Journalism, Law, Politics, Media, Social Work, Teaching etc.
- Maths: Accountancy, Business, Construction, Computer Programming, Engineering, Finance, Health, Science careers, Teaching etc.
- Science: Construction, Engineering, Environmental work, Health, Technology, Other science careers (Psychology, Veterinary work, Astronomy) etc.
- Health and Social Care: Social Work, Social Care, Nursing, Counselling, Youth Work, Community Work, Law or Politics etc.

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## **Subjects and Related Careers:**

- Geography: Travel and Tourism, Environmental Work, Transport and Logistics, Landscape Architecture Planning, Surveying, Geology, Estate Management etc.
- History: Law, Politics, Journalism, Archaeology, Museum Curator, Heritage, Costume Design, Conservation etc.
- French: Translation and Interpretation, Travel and Tourism, Teaching, Sales and Exports, Legal and Financial areas, Journalism etc.
- Art & Design: Design work in Publishing, Computer Games, Clothes/Textiles, Websites, Teaching, Film, Theatre or Arts, Exhibition/Retail Displays etc.



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## **Subjects and Related Careers:**

- **Business:** starting point for entry to different business areas including Manufacturing, Banking, Retail, Hotel and Restaurant, Public services, Management, Marketing, Sales, Human Resources, Law, Administration etc.
- **iMedia:** useful for many jobs, Engineering, Computer Science, Games Design, Media, Marketing, Administration etc.
- **Product Design:** Construction, Manufacturing, Engineering, Motor Mechanics, ICT etc.
- **Sports Studies:** Physiotherapist, Teaching, Leisure Centre/Gym Coach, Coaching, Outdoor work, Armed Forces, Sports Science, Personal Trainer etc.

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## **Subjects and Related Careers:**

- Drama: Actor, Arts Administrator, Broadcast Journalist, Choreographer, Cinematographer, Copy Writer, Set Designer, Producer etc.
- Music: Musician, DJ, Music Producer, Writer, Score Writer, Teacher, Arts Administrator, Radio Producer, Broadcast Journalist, Music Critic etc.
- Food: Baker, Barista, Catering Mgr, Chef, Food Manufacturer, Food Inspector, Restaurateur, Restaurant Critic, Food Scientist, Nutritionist etc.
- Religious Education: Aid Worker, Hypnotherapist, Museum Curator, Youth/Community Worker, Librarian, Police Officer, Religious Leader etc.

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## How do I fill in my form?

In each option block, please select a first choice (1) and a second choice (2).

Humanity (Choose 1 only)	Option A (Use a 1 and 2 to indicate first and alternate choice)	Option B (Use a 1 and 2 to indicate first and alternate choice)	Option C (Use a 1 and 2 to indicate first and alternate choice)
Geography GCSE	1 Triple Science GCSE	Triple Science GCSE	Triple Science GCSE
History GCSE	Art GCSE	Art GCSE	Art GCSE
<p>All students at Harborne Academy are required to take either Geography or History. Students who wish to take both Geography and History may choose. Please indicate your Options choices with a 1 for your first choice and a 2 for your alternate choice under each Option column.</p>	2 Business BTEC	Business BTEC	Business BTEC
	Drama GCSE	Drama GCSE	Drama GCSE
	Food BTEC	Food BTEC	Food BTEC
	French GCSE	French GCSE	French GCSE
	Geography GCSE	Geography GCSE	Geography GCSE
	Health & Social Care BTEC	Health & Social Care BTEC	Health & Social Care BTEC
	History GCSE	History GCSE	History GCSE
	iMedia CNAT	iMedia CNAT	iMedia CNAT
	Product Design GCSE	Product Design GCSE	Product Design GCSE
	Music GCSE	Music GCSE	Music GCSE
	Religious Education GCSE	Religious Education GCSE	Religious Education GCSE
	Sport BTEC	Sport BTEC	Sport BTEC

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**How else can I make my decision?**

- **Use your KUDOS Careers log-in to assess which subjects you're best suited to for your future careers. [www.cascaid.co.uk/kudos](http://www.cascaid.co.uk/kudos)**
- <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>
- [www.theuniguide.co.uk](http://www.theuniguide.co.uk)
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

**Further information and links regarding careers are available via the Harborne Academy website:**

<http://www.harborneacademy.co.uk/2484/careers>

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## DO:

- Choose courses you are interested in and that you enjoy;
- Choose a range of different courses, so that you have a broad base from which to choose your post-16 courses;
- Read the subject information;
- Ask the advice of your subject teachers, your tutor, your Pastoral Team and discuss it with your parents;
- **THINK VERY CAREFULLY** about the subjects you choose. It is very difficult to change course once you have started.

## DON'T:

- Pick a subject you have not studied at KS3 unless a new subject at KS4;
- Choose a course simply because your friends have;
- Make your decision hastily;
- Drop any subject you may want to study after Year 11;
- Drop any subject you may require for entry to a particular occupation or course of further study.

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## Further Information:

- Further information regarding the subjects and their course details are available in the Options Booklet which has been uploaded to Teams Assignments.
- An appointment based information day is available for parents and students to discuss the options process and their options with Mrs Dhansey and Mr Challender. Please email us ([samera.dhansey@harborneacademy.co.uk](mailto:samera.dhansey@harborneacademy.co.uk) and [dale.challender@harborneacademy.co.uk](mailto:dale.challender@harborneacademy.co.uk)) to arrange a time.
- If you would like to speak to teachers from a specific subject area, please email Mrs Dhansey or Mr Challender and we will arrange a contact date/time.
- If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- **Options deadline: Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2021.**