

# Sandwell Academy Key Stage 4 Options February 2024



# **Presentation Outline**

- To understand our curriculum offer
- To understand the options process and how to support
- To know the next steps in order to make the right choices in the options process



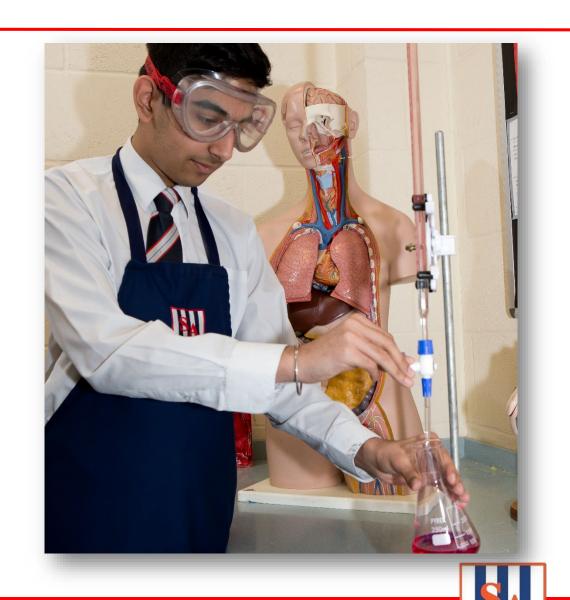


# What does Ofsted say?

'Students make outstanding progress.... This is because of the good quality support they receive in lessons and the carefully tailored curriculum they experience.'

'The exceptional curriculum offered to students...provides a flexible set of pathways for students, including high quality and very successful vocational routes, means that individual needs are met very well.'

Ofsted report: 2017



# Our Curriculum Offer

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

Students study a broad range of subjects and an in-depth curriculum to prepare them for future studies and beyond.



Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

Students study a combination of compulsory subjects and options which will lead to 8-9 qualifications, depending on their pathway.



Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form)



# **Qualification Information**

## **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)**

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers and university.

The EBacc is:

- English language and literature
- Maths
- Science
- Geography or History
- A foreign language

#### **GCSE**

Mostly examined at the end of the course

## **BTEC** (vocational)

Assessment is a combination of internal units and exams. One Level 2 qualification is equivalent to a GCSE

Most jobs, places of training or further education require at least five GCSEs at grade 9 - 5 or the vocational equivalent.

# **Qualification Information**

Implementing the English Baccalaureate

**Government consultation response** 



'It is our ambition that 75% of year 10 pupils in state-funded mainstream schools should be starting to study EBacc GCSE courses nationally by 2022 (taking their exams in 2024), rising to 90% by 2025 (taking their exams in 2027)'

DfE consultation response template (publishing.service.gov.uk)



# Our Curriculum Offer

The policy of the Academy is to 'provide courses that will give students the best opportunities to succeed.'

Four bespoke pathways: Orange, Blue, Yellow, Red

Each pathway provides a broad range of choices, so no student is disadvantaged.

Full details of options for the bespoke pathways are in the options booklet and the process is fully explained on the options form.



# Key Stage 4: Wider Curriculum

- Religious Education
- Citizenship
- PSHE
- PE

## Additional opportunities:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award and Cadets
- Careers Guidance / Work Experience
- Leadership roles (e.g. student council, fundraising)
- Drama / Music School /Academy Productions
- Enhanced Session 3 programme







# Sandwell Academy

Option Choices 2024



# Subject Choices

## **Everyone** will study:

GCSE English Language

**GCSE English Literature** 

**GCSE Maths** 

GCSE Science (double award: biology, chemistry and physics)

**Everyone** will study either GCSE Geography or History, and will have the opportunity to select a preference.

Just over half of the year group will continue to take Spanish (Ebacc qualification). It will remain as an option for those not on this pathway.

## **Everyone** will:

Complete at least 1.5 hours of practical PE

Study core modules of RE

Continue with the wider curriculum for PSHE/citizenship BTEC Performing Arts

## Other potential options

include:

GCSE Spanish

**GCSE Triple Science** 

GCSE Art

**GCSE** or BTEC Business

**GCSE** Food

GCSE DT

**GCSE** Religious Education

**GCSE Computer Science** 

GCSE or BTEC PE/ Sport

BTEC Music

BTEC Media

BTEC Health and Social Care

BTEC ICT/ Cambridge

**I-Media** 



# Advice for students on choosing options

## Do:

- pick a subject if you are interested in it and you have enjoyed it in the past
- pick a subject which suits your ability and that you think you will succeed in
- pick a subject that might be linked to possible career intentions or plans for Sixth Form
- research the content of new courses and career pathways related to your options

### Do not:

- pick a subject because your friends are taking it
- pick a subject because you like the teacher





# How can parents/guardians support?

- Spend time with your child reading through the options booklet. They can annotate their own version and make notes on it.
- Encourage your child to plan questions to ask their teachers.
- Use the support available from the Academy: inclusion (for SEND), careers and sixth form guidance.
- Encourage conversations regarding the 'end goal'. Start with the end point and work backwards to inform decisions.

Free Career Quiz (sacu-student.com)

• Ensure that you view and discuss the options form together. It will require a parent/guardian signature before submission.



# Next steps

- Options consultation week: there will be a unique PT programme taking place next week to explore options in more detail. Students are recommended to keep their booklets with them for these sessions.
- Students are encouraged to talk to Personal Tutors, subject teachers,
   family members and other students and listen to their views
- Read through the bespoke options form and booklet.
- Refer to the FAQs page in the booklet.



# **Key Dates**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February: Year 9 Options launch



Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> March: Year 9 options, careers and consultation programme commences (taking place during PT time)



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March: Forms can be handed into student reception (they will not be collected prior to this date to ensure that students have completed the options activities beforehand)



Monday 18th March: Deadline for all options forms to be received



May 2024: Options confirmed

**Important:** No changes can be made to choices during the Key Stage 4 programme of study.

Students will receive one copy of the options form to complete by hand and submit to student reception. This is so that students use the full week to consider their options. **Forms will not be accepted prior to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.** 





**Key Contacts:** 

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