



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



Department
for Education

‘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 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://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

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

BTEC Performing Arts



Key Stage 4 Options

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

[Free Career Quiz \(sacu-student.com\)](https://sacu-student.com)



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 29th February: Year 9 Options launch



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



Monday 11th 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 11th March.**



Thank You



Key Contacts:

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