



# Year 9 Preference process

## Frequently Asked questions

### 1. How many GCSE subjects do students study in Year 10 and Year 11?

Students will study **nine** GCSEs. **Five** core subjects (English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science (worth two GCSEs) and **four** additional subjects which they will choose. They will also study Core PE and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education).

### 2. How much curriculum time is allocated for each subject?

Core subjects have **five lessons** a week. Additional (option) subjects have **three** lessons a week.

### 3. What are EBACC subjects?

EBACC stands for English Baccalaureate and is an accountability measure used by the government to assess students' performance in English, Maths, Science, a humanity and a modern foreign language.

Students must select **at least one subject** from the EBACC 'bucket' from the list of: geography, history, separate science, French, Spanish and computer science. Students can study more than one EBACC subject.

### 4. What are vocational subjects?

Vocational subjects offer students the chance to start preparing for further training and the world of work in a specific area. As a result, they are designed to give students practical and hands-on opportunities to learn. Vocational courses have fewer written exams compared to GCSEs and will consist of one formal exam with the majority of assessment made up of coursework. Vocational subjects are also awarded different grading (Pass, Merit and Distinction). We offer the following vocational courses: BTEC Drama, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering and Sport Studies.

**5. Is there a possibility that certain advertised courses won't run in September?**

Yes. If there is insufficient staffing or student interest a course will not run. Students will then be offered their reserve choice. This is why the reserve choice is important.

**6. Are students guaranteed to receive all four subject preferences?**

No. There is a possibility that a course will not run due to student interest or staffing. However, there is a commitment to ensuring students receive four of their five preferences (including their reserve choice).

**7. Is it possible to change courses once they have started?**

Yes. If students decide to change a course they will need to do so before 30 September to ensure a smooth transition to the new course. October half-term is the absolute hard deadline after which point it will not be possible to change courses. Any changes must be discussed with curriculum leads first and are subject to class sizes and EBACC compliance. These conditions do not apply to students joining later in the year.

**8. What help is provided to help students make their preferences?**

Students will benefit from a range of opportunities to help them make informed choices regarding their GCSE preferences. The Year 9 Preference evening provides students and parents/careers with the chance to visit different subject stalls to find out about the courses on offer. Students will also receive support in tutor time as well as attend 'taster lessons' later in the year to provide them with an insight into the GCSE courses they will study. Finally, we will arrange face to face meetings with students who require further support.

**For any further questions please contact: [parents@broadoakacademy.clf.uk](mailto:parents@broadoakacademy.clf.uk)**