

**Year 9 preference  
process**

**... stepping up to**

**KS4**



**BROADOAK  
ACADEMY**

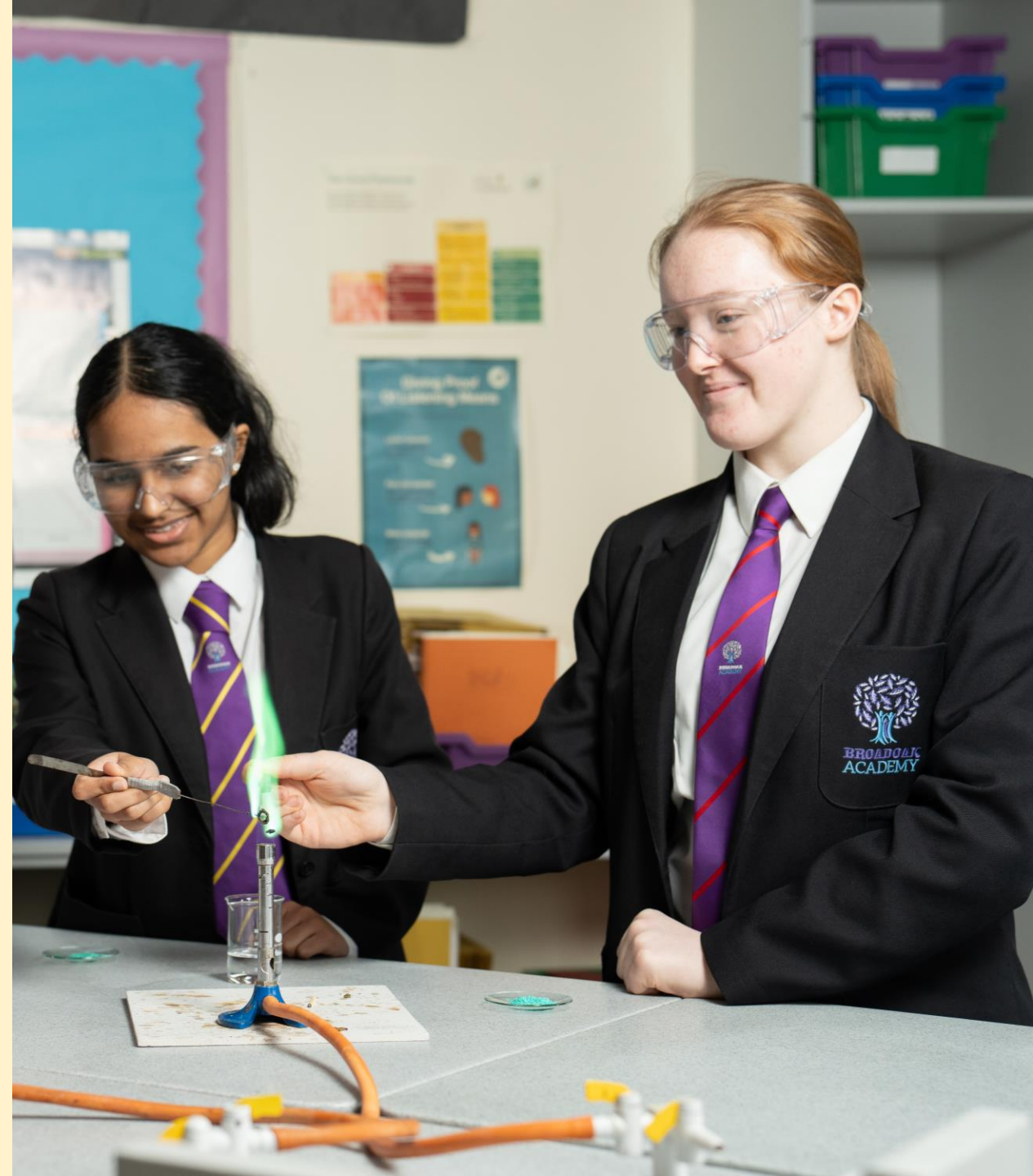


## What happens in Year 10?

Students study fewer subjects than they do now and undertake national qualifications.

- There are some which remain compulsory:
  - English (Language and Literature)
  - Maths
  - Science (Combined or Separate)
  - PE – core non-examined
  - PSHE – non-examined

Students then choose **four** additional subjects from two blocks or 'buckets'.



# Students study **nine GCSEs** from **three** different subject blocks:

## Core subjects x5 lessons per week

All students will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science (combined or separate)

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Not assessed by a formal qualification:

- Core PE
- PSHE

## EBACC subjects x3 lessons per week

All students will study **at least one** of the following:

- Geography
- History
- French or Spanish
- Separate science
- Computer Science

## Reserve choice

All students will select **one** subject as a reserve. You may be given your reserve.

## Open subjects x3 lessons per week

Students then choose up to **three** of the following:

- Art
- DT: Design Technology
- DT: Textiles
- Drama
- Citizenship
- Ethics & Philosophy (RE)
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality and Catering
- IT
- Music
- Photography
- Sports Studies

# How are different subjects assessed?

There are three different ways you could be assessed for your GCSE qualifications.

- Most subjects are assessed by two or three exams in the summer of Year 11.
- Some subjects like Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering, Sports Studies are vocational courses and are assessed by one exam and a significant body of coursework.
- A few subjects like Art, Photography and Drama are assessed through a portfolio of work and a performance based exam.



# What is the difference between GCSEs and vocational GCSEs?

If you have a good idea of what job or employment sector you want to go into and want to start preparing for the world of work or further training, then you may wish to select a vocational GCSE course.

Vocational courses suit those who enjoy a hands-on approach and who want to reduce the number of exams they sit. All vocational courses will have one exam, but the majority of assessment will be made up of coursework. We offer the following vocational courses at Broadoak:

**BTEC Drama**

**Health and  
Social care**

**Hospitality  
and Catering**

**Sports  
Studies**

# How are different subjects assessed?

GCSE Grading	Vocational Grading
9 8 7	Level 2 Distinction
6 5	Level 2 Merit
4	Level 2 Pass
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# What does the GCSE grading system mean?



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## New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

# How do I decide what subjects to study?

Make sure you do your research properly and find out what you will study on each course and how you will be assessed. Make the most of the evening tonight. Gather as much information as you can.

- Choose subjects you enjoy and find interesting
- Choose subjects that will help you for the next stage of study or employment (both the knowledge and the skills it will provide)
- Choose subjects that compliment each other and give you a variety of different experiences and opportunities.
- Choose a reserve subject you would be happy to study if needed



## This evening

- All subjects are represented.
- Staff are available to talk to.
- Examples of work and courses are available to explore.
- Forms of assessment explained.
- Make informed choices.



# What help is available?

The Year 9 Preferences handbook has information about all the subjects on offer at GCSE.

You will be sent details of how to register your preferences in the coming weeks.

You will then have the following support to help you select your choices:

- **Year 9 Preference evening – Wednesday 07 February**
- **Taster sessions of classes in Term 5/6**
- **1:1 Interviews with members of staff**
- **Support from tutors and teaching staff**



# Year 9 Preferences Roadmap



## Wednesday 31st January

Students given information in tutorial time  
Preferences Booklet with choices available sent home and published on website



## Wednesday 7th February

Preferences Evening  
4pm-6pm



## Friday 16th February

Preferences unique codes and software instructions published on website and sent home  
Students can login and choose their preferences



## Friday 1st March

Deadline for choosing GCSE preferences



*Throughout the process students will be supported by their Tutor, Assistant Head of House, Head of House and the wider team. Scan the QR code above for further advice and guidance.*