

Welcome to our Year 9 Options Presentation



Aims of the presentation:

- To have a better understanding of the Options process for your child
- To be aware of the different qualifications on offer to your child
- To have the opportunity to ask further questions if needed about the process
- To know when the deadlines are and how to complete the options form

Key dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 28th February	Options information evening
Tuesday 20th February-Monday 4th March	Options Assemblies
Monday 26th February- Friday 1st March	KS4 taster sessions
Wednesday 6th March	Year 9 options/parents evening
Friday 15th March	Options deadline

Core subjects - These are compulsory subjects

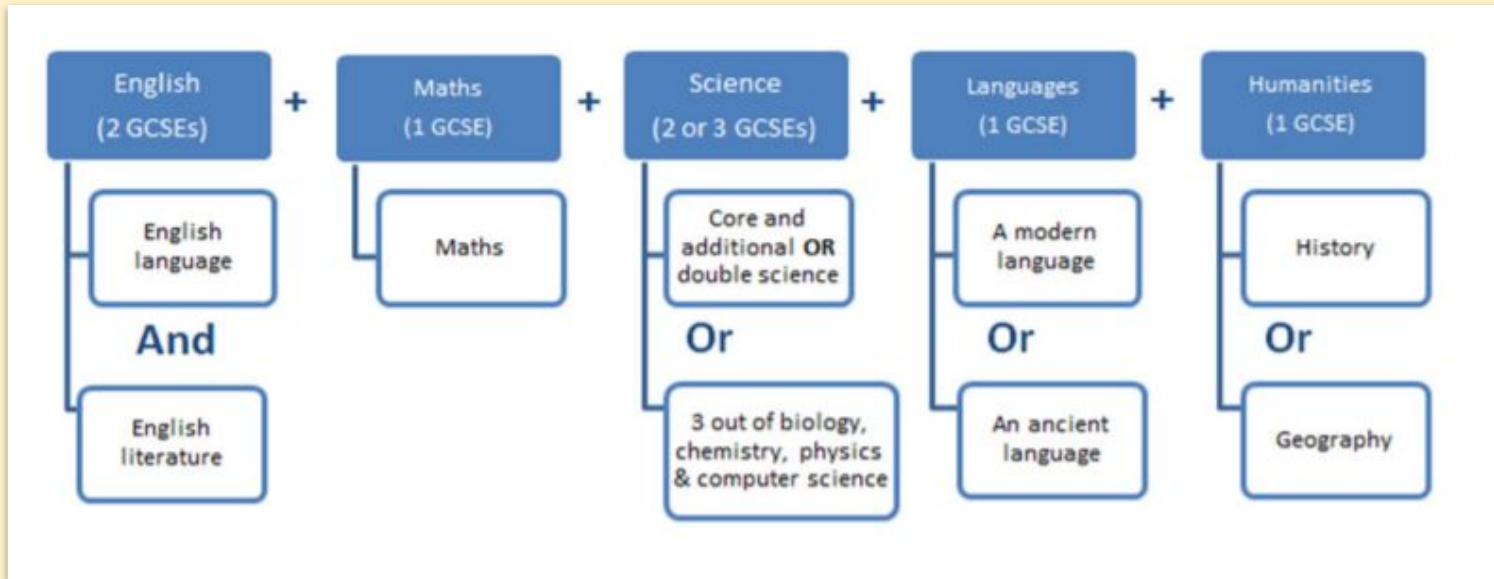
All students will work for GCSE's in **English Language, English Literature, Maths** and **Sciences**. This will give them 5 qualifications.

All students will also study practical P.E, PSHE and Religious Education. These subjects are not examined.

The English Baccalaureate

What is the Ebacc?

The current English Baccalaureate is not a qualification itself, but a particular group of GCSE subjects that are looked on favourably by universities.



Why study the EBacc?

- Your CATS scores show us that you have the potential to be successful studying these subjects.
- A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.
- Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.
- The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and opens up lots of opportunities.

Humanities:

You would choose either History or Geography

Modern Foreign Language:

You would choose either French or Spanish

Free Choice:

Students may choose one option from the list below.

GCSE Subjects

Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design)
Art and Design (Photography)
Computer Science
Dance
Design and Technology - Timber based materials
Drama
French
Geography
History
Sociology
Spanish
Further Maths and Statistics
Triple Science

GCSE Equivalent Subjects

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness (PE)
BTEC Music: Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Music Practice
BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
Level 1/2 in Creative iMedia
Level 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

Quality rather than Quantity

The majority of options courses result in a GCSE or equivalent. Most students will study for 8 or 9 qualifications. Gaining eight or nine qualifications with higher grades is more useful than having a large number of low grade qualifications.

A Balanced Curriculum

Make sure your choices are broad and balanced- even if you have a specific career path in mind. It is normal to change your mind about what career you want so it is worth keeping as many doors open as possible. A broad and balanced curriculum will allow you flexibility in your career choices once you have finished your education and it will also show that you are well rounded. Take subjects you enjoy or make good progress in even if it is not something you think will help you in your career.

Choosing options

How to pick	How not to pick
<p>DO make sure you are well informed, especially about new courses you have not studied before.</p>	<p>DON'T just choose what your friends are doing, these are <u>your</u> choices, not theirs.</p>
<p>DO think about your likes and dislikes – these courses will be studied for the rest of your time at Peacehaven Community School.</p>	<p>DON'T make choices based on teachers that you like – they may not teach you next year.</p>
<p>DO think about your future aspirations – don't close the doors by picking courses that are all very similar.</p>	<p>DON'T choose what you ought to do rather than what you want to do – make sure you choose subjects that you will enjoy and be successful at.</p>
<p>DO think about your chances of success. The better the grades, the greater the opportunities post-16.</p>	<p>DON'T follow family traditions if they are not right for you. Choose a course because you want to and feel you will be successful at it.</p>

Reserve Choice

- All students must make one reserve choices on the options form. This can be from any of the subjects offered.
- We will always try our best to ensure that you get the choices you have made; however there are times when this proves impossible. There are several reasons for this. For example, some courses may not run if there is not enough demand or some subjects may clash on the timetable.
- We will always let you know if this happens. It is therefore really important that you really think as carefully about your reserve choices as you do for your first choices.

Students will submit their options electronically.

Students will be sent an email with a link, to their school email address.

They need to click on the link and enter their school email address to generate a one time password (OTP) which is sent to the same email address.

Enter the OPT and the click “Open form”

Complete you three choices and your reserve.

Please make sure you have discussed your children's options and you are happy with them before they submit their choices. They will need your support.

If as a family you need support to complete the form, please contact the school office.

The form will need to be submitted by **Friday 15th March**

College websites provide excellent insights into what subjects and grades you need to be achieving. The prospectuses from colleges should be used as a guide to their individual requirements.

Below is a rough guide: To study three A Levels, you will need to have six GCSEs at grade 4 including English and Maths. Some colleges will need more.

The majority of students will study **three A Levels**, some students study **four A Levels**. Check the college website for requirements especially if choosing double Maths.

To study the **International Baccalaureate** you will need at least **seven GCSEs at grade 4** or equivalent, including English or Maths and Science.

To study a **vocational level 3** course, you will need **five GCSEs at grade 4** or equivalent including English or Maths depending on the college.

To study a **vocational level 2** course, you will need **five GCSEs at grade 3** or equivalent including English depending on the college. Many courses need specific grades at GCSE. You must check this information yourself.

Where to find help?

For more information on specific options, you can talk to the following teachers:

Art/Photography	Charlotte Parr
Computer Science	Sam Hamblin
Dance	Emily Hulatt or Olivia L'etang (maternity cover)
Drama	Emily Stephens
Design Technology	Phillip Cornish
English	Lauren Haywood
Food Technology	Gavin Desborough
Geography	Basil Loggenberg
History	Lucy Olding

Mathematics	Ezra Leonce
Modern Foreign Languages	Kate Hayhurst
Music	Thomas Himsworth
PHSE	Olivia L'etang
Physical Education	James Clarke
Science	Lisa Murray
Sociology	Anna Wharfe
SCLN Teacher	Susie Scotting
SENCO	Ashley Curcio

Full contact details can be found on the PCS website

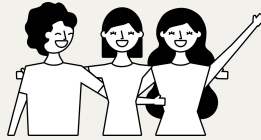
WHY STUDY ANOTHER LANGUAGE?



Easier travel



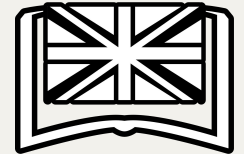
Cultural awareness



International friends



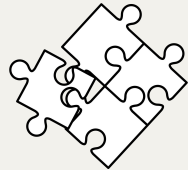
Better Maths skills



Improves your English



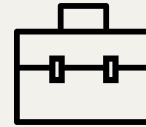
Better memory



Improved logic



Better communication



Better career prospects



Opportunities for combined degrees