



**SIR THOMAS
BOTELER**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL
THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

HIGH EXPECTATIONS
HIGH ASPIRATIONS
HIGH STANDARDS
YOU WILL SUCCEED

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YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2024





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WELCOME

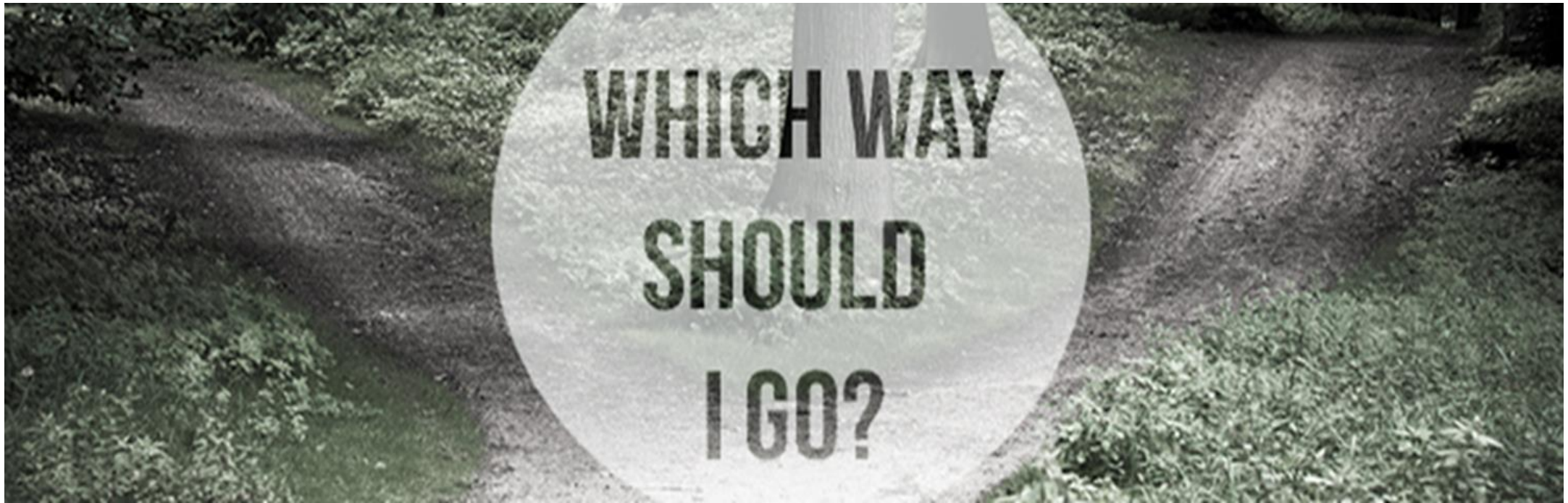
MRS SCOTT-HERRON (HEADTEACHER)



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- A very important transition in education
- Not something that Year 9 have just started thinking about – well informed
- The choices and decisions your son/daughter makes now will affect their future and career paths
- This needs to be taken very seriously. Continue researching potential subjects and careers



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KEY DATES

- **Wednesday 24th January** – 6pm Options Evening Presentation and Subject Marketplace
- **Thursday 25th January** – Priestley College – The benefits of studying a language
- **Each Wednesday** – Head of Department Subject Assemblies
- **Monday 29th January** – Year 9 Parents' Evening in School 3:30pm – 7pm
- **Wednesday 7th February** – Year 9 Options Assembly (Mr Koltan)
- **Monday 26th February** – Option forms completed and submitted to Form Tutors directly
- **W/B Monday 5th February – Friday 1st March** – CEIAG Student Interviews with SLT/HOY/SENCO
- **Friday 22nd March** – Option choices confirmed by letter
- **Wednesday 4th September** – Year 10 GCSE lessons begin (GCSE Exams 2026!)
- **Ongoing careers interviews – Career Connect**



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CORE SUBJECTS

The core curriculum subjects are:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- GCSE Combined Science (Triple award for some students)
- Religious Studies GCSE
- Core PE (Not examined)



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GCSE GRADING SYSTEM (1-9)

- **Grade 9:** Top 6.8 per cent who would have got A*s
- **Grade 8:** The remaining A* students that did not qualify for a 9
- **Grade 7:** Equivalent to an A grade pass
- **Grade 6:** Equivalent to a top of a B grade
- **Grade 5:** Equivalent to the top of a C grade pass to a secure B grade
(Strong Pass)
- **Grade 4:** Equivalent to the lower two thirds of a C grade (Standard Pass)
- **Grade 3:** Equivalent to a D grade
- **Grade 2:** Equivalent to an E grade
- **Grade 1:** Equivalent to grade F and G



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WHAT ARE BTECS?

- BTECs are work related qualifications providing a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background
- Students complete units of work which are internally assessed and verified
- You will also be required to complete an external exam component
- Students are graded with a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.
- **Each of our BTEC courses are equivalent to one GCSE.**



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BENEFITS OF BTECS?

- Perceived by employers as essential
- Significant wage return for most vocational qualifications
- Increasing evidence that young people are entering higher education with a combination of academic and vocational qualifications
- Removes the length of terminal exams in the summer of Year 11
- External assessments in Year 10



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BTECS FOR 2023-2025

- BTEC Acting
- BTEC Dance
- BTEC Enterprise
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- WJEC Hospitality and Catering
- Cambridge National in Sport Science



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FACILITATING SUBJECTS

- Some **A-level** subjects are more frequently required for entry to degree courses than others
- We call these subjects '**facilitating**' because choosing them at advanced level leaves open a wide range of options for university study
- These facilitating subjects are: Biology, Chemistry, English, Geography, History, Languages, Physics, Maths
- **Studying a language at GCSE will be looked on favourably by universities and employers**



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TRIPLE SCIENCE AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Very demanding courses
- Significant terminal exams
- Large volume of curriculum content
- We want our students to enjoy their subjects but also be **successful** in them
- Not for everybody
- Access assessments for students to demonstrate the suitability of the qualification to support students decisions
- Take place W.B 4th March



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WHAT IS THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)?

Not a qualification in it's own right

The EBacc is:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- The Sciences
- Geography or History
- A Language (Spanish/French)

The EBacc keeps young peoples' options open for further study and future careers



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WHY STUDY THE EBACC?

- EBacc subjects are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors - full-time education
- **We have high aspirations for student achievement ensuring students are guided and supported to enjoy vast opportunities beyond school**
- Research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths
- The government expects 90% of students to be studying the EBacc by 2025
- EBacc provides a strong academic core. Blended with other GCSE/Vocational qualifications provides a broad curriculum and an excellent platform to build on post-16



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WHY STUDY THE EBACC?

- Choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives students access to a **full range of employment options** when they leave secondary school
- Gives students the **broad knowledge** that **employers** are looking for
- The EBacc is also recommended by **universities**
- Duty of care for **all** our students to succeed
- Designed option choices to guide and support **all** students
- Students need to be able to manage the demands of external exams and volume of material to revise



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OPTIONS 2024 — TO — 2026

Name: _____

Form: _____

Subject Group	Subjects Included	Compulsory Subjects	
Core Subjects	English Language	All subjects listed here are compulsory at KS4	
	English Literature		
	Maths		
	Religious Studies		
	Science		
	Core PE (not examined)		
Option A		1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
All Students to choose either History or Geography	History or Geography		
Option B		1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
All Students to choose one first choice subject and one second choice subject. Please write these in the boxes on the right.	French Spanish Music Sport Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Graphic Design Hospitality Enterprise Art		
Option C		1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
All Students to choose one first choice subject and one second choice subject. Please write these in the boxes on the right.	French Triple Science Design & Technology Drama Music Sport Hospitality Health & Social Care Art		

Students will need to have completed the option form and submitted it to their form tutor by Monday 26th February at the latest.





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POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS.....

Student 1 – Geography (A), French (B), Triple Science (C)

Student 2 – History (A), Spanish (B), Music (C)

Student 3 – Geography (A), French (B), Design and Technology (C)

Student 4 – Geography (A), Computer Science (B), Triple Science (C)

Student 5 – History (A), Sport (B), Art (C)

Student 6 – History (A), Enterprise (B), DT (C)

Student 7 – Geography (A), Dance (B), Sport (C)

Student 8 – French (A), Design and Technology (B), Triple Science (C)



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WILL I GET MY OPTION CHOICES?

- We will do our best to give students the option subjects they have chosen
- We ask students to also select a reserve option choice
- Where groups have very low numbers of students opting for them, we may not be able to run the subject
- Both student and parents will be consulted about reserve/alternative choices
- **What if I can't pick the combination of subjects I wanted to do?**
- **Friday 22nd March – Option choices confirmed by letter**



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GUIDANCE FROM PAST STUDENTS

- Do something you enjoy – 5 hours fortnightly
- Don't choose something just because your friends are
- Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher
- Think about picking a subject with a practical element - variety in learning that is not just theoretical
- Choose subjects you are good at – stepping stones



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WHAT IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT A FUTURE CAREER OR FURTHER STUDY?

- Options section on the **school website** – link text tomorrow
- Options booklet (Hard copy tonight) – Read the information
- University of Chester – Option choices explained
- Subject Assemblies
- Year 9 Options Assembly
- Subject Experts here tonight
- Subject teacher questions – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Kim Dickson Careers Connect
- Sixth Form College
- **Question or Queries** handout this evening



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ENJOY IT!

- Enjoy continuing to investigate and research your option choices – Websites in the Options booklet
- Review all the information on the Options section of the school website
- Discuss Option choices with teachers on Parents' Evening on Monday 29th January
- Speak to your teachers in school
- Ask for an additional careers interview – email Kim Dixon





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QUESTIONS OR QUERIES

If you have a question or query regarding the options process, please write it below and we will be more than happy to assist. All the questions or queries raised on the evening will be collated with responses emailed out collectively by the end of the day on Monday 29th January.

QUESTION/QUERY:





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SUBJECT MARKETPLACE

ROOM 19

Art – Miss Guttridge

Drama – Ms Armstrong

Dance – Mrs Hughes

Music – Mrs Clarke (Head of Department)

SENDCO – Miss Power

CANTEEN

Design and Technology – Mr Robison (Head of Department)

Hospitality – Mrs Callaway

Graphics – Ms Perkins

Sport – Mr Burbidge (Head of Department)

Enterprise – Mr Sutcliffe

Computer Science – Mr Gorman (Head of Department)

LIBRARY

History – Mrs Hodgson (Head of Department)

Geography – Mr Heath (Head of Department)

Health and Social Care – Mr Heath

Modern Foreign Languages – Mrs Ward (Head of Department)

Triple Science – Mr Davies (Head of Department)