



Year 9 Options Presentation January 2023

Please come in and take a seat,
the presentation will begin shortly



Compulsory Examined Subjects

English Language	English Literature
Mathematics	
Science	
A Modern Foreign Language	



GCSEs

- GCSEs changed between 2015-2018
- Grading system 1-9
- Rigorous curriculum focusing on core skills (numeracy & literacy)
 - English: SPaG moved from 5% - 20%
 - Maths: Learning formulas
 - Science: 20% of questions require maths skills

9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	E
1	F G



Science Information

Set 1: Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
(Students are awarded **3 GCSE qualifications**)

Sets 2-6: Combined Science – Trilogy

(This is equivalent to **2 GCSE qualifications** covering content from all 3 sciences)

The current link between maths and science sets will cease at the end of year 9 and will have no impact on GCSE maths or science setting.

Combined Science can access A level sciences if they meet the MER.



Year 9 Science Exams

All students in Year 9 will sit Science Exams in the Summer Term.

The results of these exams will determine the Science Set that students will be placed into for GCSE.

They will also, therefore, determine the exam pathway that they will follow at KS4; Separate Sciences or Combined Science.

These exams are **extremely important** and students must revise thoroughly in preparation for them.

The dates of these exams in the summer term are to be confirmed depending on the GCSE and A Level arrangements.

Any questions about KS4 Science, please speak with Miss Copeman.



Why is a Modern Foreign Language compulsory at Gordon's?

- Academically valued
- Proven to help develop literacy skills
- Careers
- Part of the English Baccalaureate



The 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.

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open many doors in the future. To achieve the EBacc, students must take the following combination of subjects:

Mathematics

English Language

Separate or Combined Science

A Modern Foreign Language

A Humanity – History or
Geography
(both can still be taken)

Studies show that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with:

- Greater opportunities in further education
- Increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in fulltime education
- Improves performance in English and Maths.

We therefore encourage all students to consider following an EBacc pathway to ensure they keep their options open for further study and future careers.



Student Pathways

Typically, EBacc and non-EBacc subject combinations may look like this, although other subject combinations are obviously available:

EBACC EXAMPLE

English Literature
 English Language
 Maths
 Combined Science
 French
 PE*
 PSHE*
 History
 Business GCSE
 Drama

NON-EBACC EXAMPLE

English Literature
 English Language
 Maths
 Combined Science
 French
 PE*
 PSHE*
 Business GCSE
 Photography
 Physical Education GCSE

ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM

English Literature
 English Language
 Maths
 Combined Science
 Extra Core
 PE*
 PSHE*
 Enterprise BTEC (Business)
 Travel and Tourism BTEC
 Construction (College)**

* Public Examinations are not taken in these subjects

** By prior arrangement only



What are the option subjects?

Art and Design	German
Business Studies	History
Business Enterprise (BTEC)	Mandarin
Computer Science	Music
Design and Technology	Physical Education (GCSE)
Drama	Photography
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Religious Education (Full Course)
French	Spanish
Geography	Travel and Tourism (BTEC)



Business GCSE or Business BTEC?

GCSE Business	BTEC Enterprise (Business)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More academic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More vocational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% Externally marked exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% Externally marked exam • 60% Internally assessed work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better preparation for AS & A levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better preparation for vocational post-16 qualifications

Please discuss any questions you may have with the course leader, Mr Hamilton.



Travel and Tourism BTEC

A vocational qualification

Good preparation for post-16 vocational qualifications

- 40% Externally marked exam
- 60% Internally assessed work

Please discuss any questions you may have with
the course leader, Mr Mellor.



Sixth Form Subject Entry Criteria

- Please pay attention to the subject entry criteria for Gordon's Sixth Form.
- This is to ensure student options are not limited higher up the school.
- These are all found in the Key Stage 4 Options and Academic Guide.



Please note

A subject will 'run' based on:

- Student demand
- Staff availability

Students must select 3 option choices and a **reserve** choice.

They **will not** be able to change their selections once they have been made, so please encourage your son/daughter to select carefully and thoughtfully!



What happens now?

- Read the Options Booklet.
- Students should advice from their teaching staff and parents over the next few weeks.
- Return options e-form by

Wednesday 1st February