



# Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019

6pm & 7pm

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



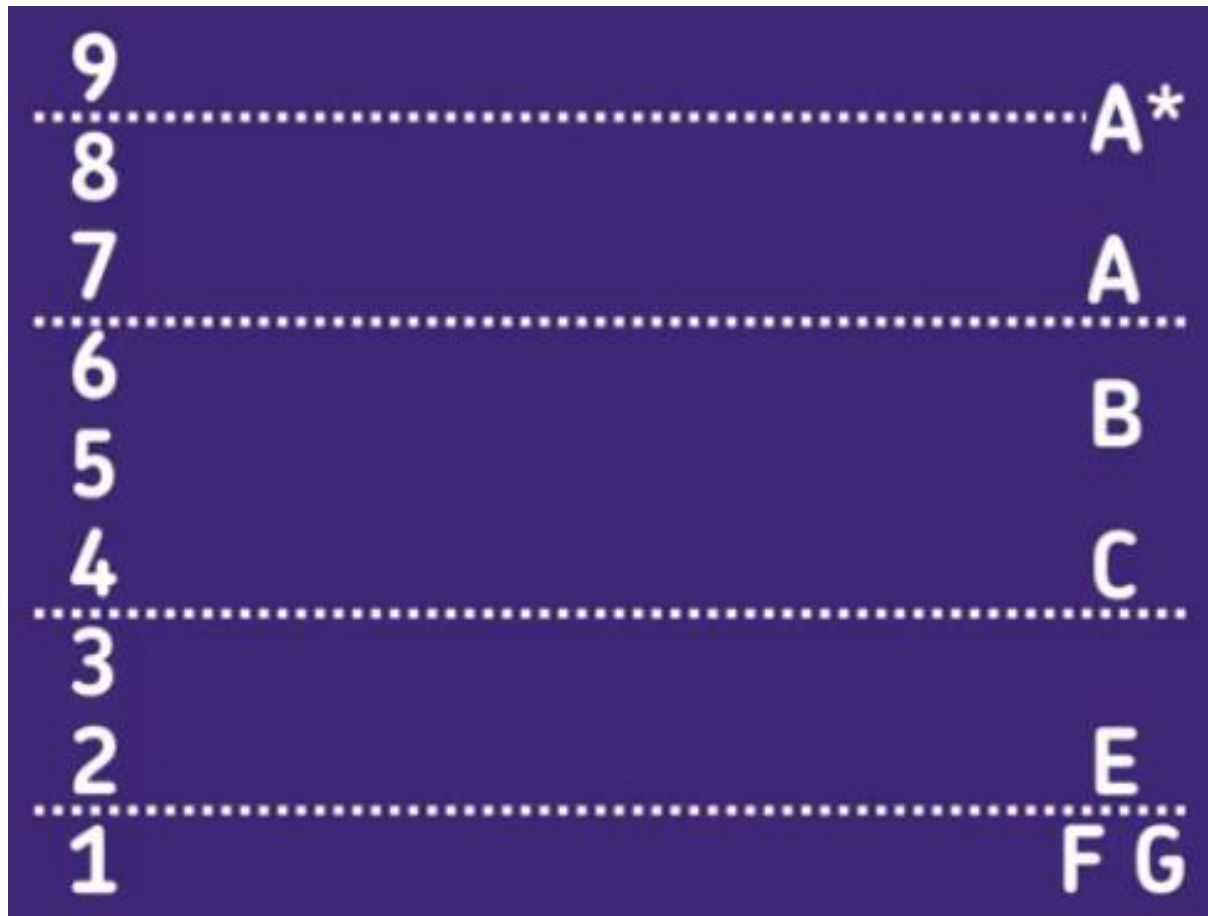
## Compulsory Examined Subjects

English Language	English Literature
Mathematics	Science
A Modern Foreign Language	Religious Education (Short Course)



## Reformed GCSEs

- GCSEs changed between 2015-2018
- All subjects now 'reformed'
- More rigorous curriculum focusing on core skills (numeracy & literacy)
  - English: SPaG moved from 5% - 20%
  - Maths: Learning formulas
  - Science: 20% of questions require maths skills
- New grading system 1-9



The expectation has been that students would find the new exams 'too hard' but that grade boundaries would be adjusted as necessary to ensure parity of performance with previous years.

Same proportion of students will receive 7, 8, 9 as previously received A\* and A





## 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)

There is no longer a single GCSE Core Science option

- Year 10 Science is, therefore, taught across 6 Sets.
- These Sets will be determined by the results of the End of KS3 Science exams (Details to follow)
- Until the end of Y9, students will continue to be taught in 5 Sets.
- However, Set 1 will begin their Separate Science courses following the End of KS3 Science exams.
- This will require a small reduction in the class size so there will be a marginal increase in the size of Sets 2-5 in the summer term of Y9 before the extra Set is created in Y10.



## Year 9 End of KS3 Science Exams

All students in Year 9 will sit two end of KS3 Science Exams in the week beginning **25<sup>th</sup> February 2019**.

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.



## Year 9 End of KS3 Science Exams

- Revision material will be give out, if it hasn't already, to help students prepare. Teachers will also do some revision in class to assist students with preparation for these exams.
- The exams will cover Year 7, 8 and 9 topics.

Any questions about Science, please speak with Mr Matthews





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

- Academically valued
- Proven to help develop literacy skills
- The world is getting smaller!
- Part of the English Baccalaureate



## The English Baccalaureate (EBacc.)

- First 'awarded' in 2011
- Made up of GCSE passes (A\*-C) in:

Mathematics
English Language
Double or Triple Science
A Modern Foreign Language
A Humanity – History or Geography

The EBacc is not certified, in much the same way that the 5x 9-4 grades (including Maths & English) are not certified, but are 'real'.



## How is the English Baccalaureate measured?

EBacc now has two measures:

**1. Students who achieved the EBacc (Standard Pass)**

This is the % achieving Ebacc at grade 4

**2. Students who achieved the EBacc (Strong Pass)**

This is the % achieving Ebacc at grade 5

Should I choose a humanities subject just to achieve the English Baccalaureate?

**'No'** is the simple answer



## What are the option subjects?

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



## Business GCSE or Business BTEC?

Business	Enterprise (Business) First BTEC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More academic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More vocational</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Externally marked exam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40% Externally marked exam</li> <li>• 60% Coursework (Internal)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better preparation for AS &amp; A levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better preparation for vocational post-16 qualifications</li> </ul>

Mr Grace, Head of Business Studies, and Miss Tarsey, Head of Careers, are available to discuss these options should you wish.





## Travel and Tourism BTEC

A vocational qualification

Good preparation for post - 16 vocational qualifications

75% Assessed by coursework

25% Assessed by external examination

Please discuss any questions you may have with  
the course leader, Miss Suarez



# SHAPE

Surrey Heath Area Partnership for Education

Unfortunately, many of the Level 1 courses such as Motor Mechanics and Animal Care that have previously been offered by SHAPE are no longer available.

We will, therefore, be recommending BTEC courses to some of our students and strongly advise you to take our recommendations seriously.

Whilst there are details about Enterprise (Business) and Travel and Tourism in your Options Booklet, should the interest be there, we may be able to offer other subjects at BTEC level as well.

*Please speak with me if you are interested.*



## 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!





## Gordon's Sixth Form A Level Subject Entry Criteria

Subject	Notes	<u>Minimum</u> Entry Requirements: Five GCSE grades 9 – 4 including Grade 4 in English Language & Mathematics.  The expected entry criteria for each subject is shown below:
Art *	If destination is Architecture, Art typically is taken with Maths and/or Physics.	GCSE grade 6 in Art or Photography.
Biology	Needed for some Sports Science subjects at University. Highly recommended for medicine. Strongly recommended that students have a GCSE Mathematics grade 6.	GCSE grade 7-7 in Combined Science, or grade 7 in Biology and grade 6 in Chemistry if separate sciences studied.
Business *		GCSE grade 6 in Business or BTEC Business level 2 Distinction if studied, or GCSE grade 5 in English Language & Mathematics as required.
Chemistry	Required for Medicine. Complements A Level Biology. Strongly recommended that students have a strong foundation in Mathematics with a grade 6 at GCSE.	GCSE grade 7 in Chemistry or 7-7 in Combined Sciences.
Computer Science	Strongly recommended to be taken with Mathematics.	GCSE grade 6 in Computer Science (studied) or a GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required.
Drama & Theatre Studies *	If no GCSE in Drama, previous drama experience strongly recommended.	GCSE grade 6 in Drama (studied), or GCSE grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
Design & Technology *	Strongly advisable to those wishing to study Engineering, Architecture, Product Graphic Design and all goes well with Arts or STEM subjects. Some Architecture degrees require Maths, others favour arts. Strongly recommended that students have a strong foundation in Mathematics with a grade 6 at GCSE.	GCSE grade 6 in Technology if studied, or GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics is required.
Economics		GCSE grade 6 in Economics or GCSE Grade 6 in Business if studied, or GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 5 in English Language.
English Language		GCSE grade 6 in English Language.
English Literature		GCSE grade 6 in English Literature and grade 6 English Language.
French	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in French.
German	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in German.
Geography	Biology usually needed if planning to study Geology at University.	GCSE grade 6 in Geography.
History		GCSE grade 6 in History.
Mathematics	Mathematics is required for Physics or Engineering. Further Mathematics also needed if Mathematics to be studied at a Russell Group University.	GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics and 'bridging assessment' success required in September 2019.
Further Mathematics	A level Mathematics will be studied in Year 12 and Further Mathematics will be studied in Year 13.	GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics & must study A Level Mathematics in Year 12.
Media Studies *		GCSE grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
Music	Mathematics needed to study Music Technology at some Universities.	GCSE grade 6 in Music or minimum grade 5 instrument and grade 5 Theory.
Physical Education *	30% of the final AS/A Level grade is practical. Students should be regularly competing at school 1st team standard.	GCSE grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education (studied) or a grade 5 in Biology GCSE, or 5-5 in Combined Science GCSE.
Physics	Both Mathematics & Physics needed for Physics or Engineering at most Universities.	GCSE grade 7 in Physics or 7-7 in Combined Science and must take A Level Mathematics in Year 12.
Photography		GCSE grade 6 in Art or Photography.
Psychology	Strongly recommended to be taken with other science subject(s) as some Psychology degrees ask for 4Ns. It is also strongly recommended that students have a strong foundation in Mathematics with a grade 6 at GCSE.	GCSE grade 6 in Psychology (studied), or a GCSE grade 6-6 in Combined Science, or grade 6 in Biology if separate sciences studied, and a grade 5 in English Language.
Spanish	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.
Other Level 3 courses on offer		
Information Technology (BTEC)	Double BTEC course. Should be combined with two AS subjects.	GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics as required.
Physical Education – Level 3 Diploma in Sport (BTEC)	Double BTEC course. Should be combined with two AS subjects.	GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics as required.
Business (BTEC)	Single BTEC course. Where a student has taken BTEC Business or Enterprise level 2 it is strongly recommended that they have achieved a Merit grade.	GCSE grade 4 in English Language & Mathematics are required.
<b>Supporting Information:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the sciences, IGCSE Single Award Science (or CIE IGCSE Cambridge Combined Science) is not part of the minimum entry requirement.</li> <li>In terms of access to AS Level courses, IGCSE qualifications are considered equal to ordinary GCSE qualifications. Students taking IGCSE Double Award Science require a grade AA or 7-7 to access any of the three sciences and who require a grade BB to access Psychology.</li> <li>Russell Group facilitating subjects are: Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, History, Geography, Modern and Classical Languages and English Literature. Students are advised to research this area before selecting A Level courses.</li> </ol> <p>* Consider accompanying these subjects with facilitating subjects when applying to Russell Group Universities.</p>		



## What happens now?

- Read the Options Booklet.
- Students should advice from their teaching staff and parents over the next few weeks.
- Return the options form to Mrs Dibbens in the School Office by **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**