

*‘Students think hard, work hard and take pride in their work’*

# Year 9 Options Information

## Agenda

1. Qualifications and Grading.
2. Subjects on Offer.
3. Making the Correct Choice.
4. Further Advice.
5. English Baccalaureate (EBACC).
6. Duke of Edinburgh
7. Option Blocks 25-27.
8. How to select your options.
9. Options Timeline.
10. Academy Website.
11. Questions.



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BECAUSE THERE IS EXCELLENCE IN ALL



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# Grading Structure

## Number grades (GCSEs)

All GCSE exams will be awarded using number grades, where 9 is the highest grade and 1 is the lowest.

## Vocational Qualifications (BTEC/NCFE)

In vocational qualifications, a Level 2 pass is equivalent to a GCSE grade 4. These courses will use four Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) pass grades: Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Some vocational qualifications also have the options of a level 1 pass if a student does not reach the level 2 pass.

Old GCSE Grading Structure	New GCSE Grading Structure	V Cert Grading Structure	
A*	9	Level 2	D* 8.5
A	8		D 7
B	7		M 5.5
C	6		P 4
D	5	Level 1	D* 3
E	4		D 2
F	3		M 1.5
G	2		P 1
U	1	NYA (not yet achieved)	



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## GCSE vs Vocational Qualification

Old GCSE Grading Structure	New GCSE Grading Structure	V Cert Grading Structure	
A*	9	Level 2	D* 8.5
A	8		D 7
B	7		M 5.5
C	6		P 4
D	5	Level 1	D* 3
E	4		D 2
F	3		M 1.5
G	2		P 1
U	1	NYA (not yet achieved)	
U	U		



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## **Core and Foundation Subjects...**

Based on a 50-hour, two-week timetable, all students study...

- 9 lessons of English
- 9 Lessons of Maths
- 8 Lessons of Science
- 3 Lessons of Physical Education
- 2 Lessons of PSHE
- 1 Lesson of Religious Studies

**32 hours of  
compulsory  
subjects**

**+ 18 hours of Option Subjects, 6 hours per Option**



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## Making the Correct Choice

Your decision should be made in **your best interest**, balancing those subjects that are going to **provide a wide range of opportunities further down the line of education and employment**, with those that you will **most enjoy** and have a **particular ability in**.

Decisions should certainly **not be made because of what friends are doing** or as a result of guessing **who might be teaching the course** for the next three years.



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## **To Consider**

### **You must:**

- choose either triple science, computer science, geography, history, French or Spanish.
- consider whether you want to study the full English Baccalaureate (see page 7 for further information).

### **You should:**

- choose subjects you are interested in, that you enjoy and will be good at
- keep a broad range in your choices.
- research any future careers and requirements before choosing.

### **You should not:**

- choose a subject because you think it might be ‘easy’ – very few are when you study them for examination!
- choose a subject because your friend is – you may end up in different groups anyway.
- choose a subject because you like the teachers – they may not be your teachers next year.
  - Choose a subject just because it is new and different to what you had done before.



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## Subjects on Offer



*'So many choices!'*

All subject videos are the options booklet are available on our website.

[Ormiston Six Villages Academy](#)

EBACC Subjects	Open Bucket Subjects
History (GCSE)	Art (Art)
Geography (GCSE)	Business Studies (NCFE)
French (GCSE)	Design Technology (GCSE)
Spanish (GCSE)	GCSE PE (GCSE)
Triple Science (GCSE)	Hospitality and Catering (BTEC)
Computer Science (GCSE)	Music (GCSE/NCFE)
	Performing Arts (Drama) (BTEC)
	Media Studies (GCSE)
	Photography (GCSE)
	Philosophy (GCSE)
	Sociology (GCSE)



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## **Child Centred Approach**

- The children are at the centre of this process, it is their options choice.
- They are choosing courses to study for 2 years. This will require commitment and hard work whatever their final choices might be.
- Please discuss this with your children and ask any questions of teaching staff. We want everyone to make the right choices and are happy to discuss the details of our subjects to make sure of this.



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# The English Baccalaureate

This is not an individual qualification but the name given to a **group of GCSE qualifications**.

To achieve the English Baccalaureate you must achieve grades 9 – 5 in: **English, English Literature, Maths, Combined or Triple Science, a modern foreign language and either History or Geography.**

The majority of students in Year 10 next year will study the subjects required to gain the English Baccalaureate. Students considering university, even as a possibility, take this pathway.



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# Duke of Edinburgh Award

**BRONZE**

Volunteering **3 months**

Physical **3 months**

Skills **3 months**

Expedition **2 days 1 night**

*PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.*



**SILVER**

Volunteering **6 months**

Physical **one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months**

Skills **one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months**

Expedition **3 days 2 nights**

*Plus an extra 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections if you haven't got Bronze.*



**GOLD**

Volunteering **12 months**

Physical **one section for 12 months, the other for 6 months**

Skills **one section for 12 months, the other for 6 months**

Expedition **4 days 3 nights**

Residential **5 days 4 nights**

*Plus an extra 6 months in the Volunteering, or longer of the Skills or Physical sections, if you haven't got Silver.*



## STARTING AGES:

**Bronze**  
Year 9+

**Silver**  
Year 10+

**Gold**  
**16 yrs**

All Awards must be completed by the participant's 25th birthday



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Y9 Options are the last choice you have in your education with us

In Y11, you will need to decide on your Post-16 pathway

Your success in your chosen GCSE options will help determine what you can do

## POST 16 OPTIONS MADE SIMPLE



Use the information below to help you understand the options available to you after Year 11.

IF I ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING GCSEs ...	I CAN MOVE ONTO LEVEL ...	AND CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS ...	AND APPLY FOR ...
<p>5+ 5+ 5+ 5+ 5+ Inc English Language and Maths at a Grade 4. Exact requirements vary according to the subject</p>	3	A LEVELS	3 or 4 SUBJECTS
<p>4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ Inc English and Maths at a Grade 4 and above</p>	3	T LEVELS	1 SUBJECT
<p>4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ Inc English and Maths at a Grade 3. Exact requirements vary according to the course</p>	3	VOCATIONAL COURSES	1 to 3 SUBJECT COURSES
<p>3+ 3+ 3+ 3+ Inc English at a Grade 3 and Maths at a Grade 2</p> <p>2+ 2+ 2+ Inc English at a Grade 2 and Maths at a Grade 1</p>	2 1	VOCATIONAL COURSES	1 SUBJECT COURSE
<p>4+ 4+ Exact requirements vary according to the employer. 3+ 3+</p>	3 2	APPRENTICESHIPS	APPLY FOR VACANCIES
<p>What if I get grades below 2 ?</p>	ENTRY 3 PRE-ENTRY (ENTRY 1 & 2)	VOCATIONAL COURSES FUNCTIONAL SKILLS COURSES	1 SUBJECT COURSE

Speak to your Careers Adviser to help you explore the options in more detail.

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## Research what you can do with the subjects you opt for:

- Talk to subject staff
- Talk to people you know in different jobs

- [BBC Bitesize Careers](#)

- [Unifrog](#) 

- [Career Pilot](#) 

## Jobs that use...

Explore job profiles related to the subjects you like. Hear from people who are using subjects that interest you, see how much you could get paid and what qualifications you might need for different roles.

Part of [Careers](#)

### Art and Design >



'I helped design the ball that won France the World Cup'



How to become an art director: Laura's story



How to become an illustrator: Anh's story

### Subjects library

Find the best subjects for you, then save your favourites here:

Your favourites 6 saved



**Lewis**  
Philosophy (BA) | University of Gloucester

**Philosophy**  
The study of complex questions about reality, existence, morality, mind, and knowledge.  
[Read the guide >](#)



**Carina**  
BA in Politics and Social Anthropology | University of Newcastle

**Anthropology**  
The study of human societies and cultures and their development.  
[Read the guide >](#)



**Lucy**  
Geography | University of Leicester

**Geography**  
Learn about the physical environment and how humans impact on it, through topics like coastal management and global warming.  
[Read the guide >](#)

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# Option Blocks 2026-28

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
History (GCSE)	History (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
Design technology (GCSE)	Comp Science (GCSE)	Triple Science (GCSE)
Media Studies (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)	French (GCSE)
Music (GCSE)	Spanish (GCSE)	Business Studies (NCFE)
Physical Education (GCSE)	Catering (WJEC)	Drama (GCSE)
Sociology (GCSE)	Philosophy (GCSE)	Photography (GCSE)
	Art (GCSE)	Art (GCSE)



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# English Baccalaureate, options available

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
History (GCSE)	History (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
Design technology (GCSE)	Comp Science (GCSE)	Triple Science (GCSE)
Media Studies (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)	French (GCSE)
Music (GCSE)	Spanish (GCSE)	Business Studies (NCFE)
Physical Education (GCSE)	Catering (WJEC)	Drama (GCSE)
Sociology (GCSE)	Philosophy (GCSE)	Photography (GCSE)
	Art (GCSE)	Art (GCSE)

***Yellow = Subjects included in the EBACC.  
Students must choose at least one subject highlighted in yellow.***



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## How to select your options...

**Click on the link titled 'Options Form 2026', this is in the Options Hub on the Academy Website.**

Key Information Below, please read prior to making your choices.

1. You must pick at least one EBACC subject, these include: History, Geography, Triple Science, Computer Science, Spanish and French.
2. If you want to study the English Bachelorette you must select; Triple Science or Computer Science, History or Geography and French or Spanish. You will then have one free option to choose from the other blocks.
3. You must pick a first and reserve choice for each option block.

The options form should be completed before the Easter Holidays, please take your time with your selection, do not rush into your choices.

All information, including subject videos can be found in the options hub on the Academy Website.



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You must have a **first** and **second** choice select in each option block.

These cannot be the same option choice.

## Year 9 Options Selection, 2024-26

Key Information Below, please read prior to making your choices.

1. You must pick at least one EBACC subject, these include: History, Geography, Triple Science, Computer Science, Spanish and French.
2. If you want to study the English Bachelorette you must select; Triple Science or Computer Science, History or Geography and French or Spanish. You will then have one free option to choose from the other blocks.
3. You must pick a first and reserve choice for each option block.

The options form should be completed before the Easter Holidays, please take your time with your selection, do not rush into your choices.

All information, including subject videos can be found in the options hub on the Academy Website.

1. Alongside your options, would you be interested in completing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award in year 10? \*

Yes

No

2. Option Block 1 (First Choice), please choose one option from the list below. \*

Triple Science (GCSE)

Business (NCFE)

Textiles, Art and Fashion (GCSE)

Travel and Tourism (BTEC)

Drama (GCSE)



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## Options Timeline

- Spring 1 Term, Pre-Options Survey completed.
- Spring 1 Term, Year 9 Careers Fayre.
- 5th March, Options Evening
- WB 9th March, Tutor Time Options Focus.
- 25th March, Year 9 Parents Evening.
- Options form to be completed by Easter Holidays.
- Student Conversations between Easter and Summer 1 Term.
- Students find out their options in Summer 2 Term.



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# Academy Website

## Ormiston Six Villages Academy - Our Curriculum

Ormiston Six Villages Academy



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## Any Questions?

Please contact Mr J Case or Mr M McConville.

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[mme@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk](mailto:mme@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk)



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