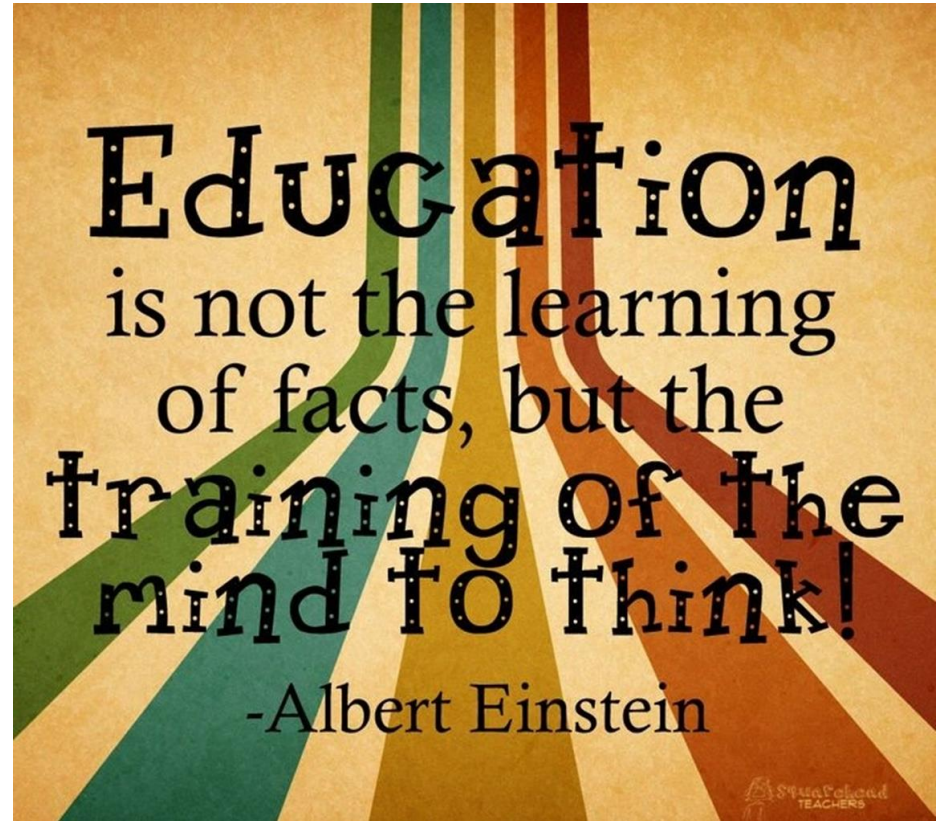


# Year 9 GCSE/Level 2 options information evening

Thursday 25 January 2025

# Important time

- Make informed decisions about the future.
- Take control of your curriculum to reflect your needs.
- Shape your future by being ambitious.



# What will the evening offer me?

The opportunity to:

- find out what subjects I must study
- find out the choices that I have
- talk things through with my parents/carers and subject teachers to support my decisions
- consider my future needs and ensure my options reflect this.

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# Government developments in education

- Academic rigour – most subjects are now linear with examinations at the end of the course and most GCSE courses are graded 9-1.
- Schools must provide a broader curriculum with students taking fewer vocational options - most vocational courses are graded D\*-P.
- The English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications is recommended for the vast majority of students to compete in the job and university arenas. The EBacc comprises – English, Maths, Science, History/Geography, and a Modern Foreign Language.

# Raising the participation age

Some time ago, the government increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training, requiring them to continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.

This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:

- ❖ full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider – Many students choose to remain in Denefield Sixth Form
- ❖ full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training
- ❖ an apprenticeship.

# The Denefield journey to success

High aspirations for, and expectations of, all young people.

Unique talents and abilities to meets the needs of industry.

A 'Can Do' culture and ethos of ambitious attitude .





# GCSE Core Curriculum

# The core curriculum

All students will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (combined or triple)
- Physical Education
- CHARACTER/Success for Life



# New qualifications

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# New qualifications: BTEC/Technical Awards



- BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise
- BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
- BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Digital IT
- BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness
- BTEC Level 2 Award in Travel and Tourism
- Level 2 Hospitality and Catering
- GCSE Sociology
- GCSE Film Studies

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# The pathways

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# My recommended pathway is 'Ebacc'

## What does this mean?

The Ebacc pathway requires students to study the core subjects of English, Maths and Science combined with a humanities subject and a Modern Foreign Language.

These are facilitating subjects and are academic in nature – Russell Group Universities favour this range of subjects.

Students on this pathway should select:

- French, German or Spanish - depending on language(s) studied
- Geography or History
- Two free choice additional options

Please note students can select a second humanities or a second language as their additional options if they wish to.



# My recommended pathway is 'Blended'

## What does this mean?

Students on this pathway should select either:

- French, German (depending on language already studied) Geography, or History
- they should then choose any three free choice options.

Students may choose:

- a maximum of one technology option
- a maximum of two BTEC options

Please note students on this pathway may follow the Ebacc route if they wish.

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# My recommended pathway is 'Booster'

## What does this mean?

Students on this pathway should select:

- Booster as one of their options
- they should then choose any three free choice options.

Students may choose:

- a maximum of one technology option
- a maximum of two BTEC options.



You have your recommended pathway shown in the letter in your pack.

So, what next?

## What should I do now?

Have your booklets at hand with the subject information and talk to the teachers of subjects you are interested in.

Take time to talk through the possible careers choices that you have in mind to ensure that the subjects you choose will help your future aspirations. Use Unifrog to help you to research and see Mrs Jackson who is here this evening to support with career advice.

Reflect on the frequently asked questions (FAQs) in the booklet.

Choose courses for the right reasons – eg progression to A Level, NOT because you like the teacher or because your friends are choosing it. This is about you and your future!

# When will I know if there are any problems with my choices?

Make firm choices on the online form by Friday 9 February 2024, this will be sent electronically to select subject options. Do not feel pressure to complete choices sooner. Take your time but meet the deadline.

The option blocks will be created when students have made their firm choices. This means that we will try our best to accommodate as many unique choices as possible.

As part of the form, all Year 9 students will complete a questionnaire about their subject choices and career aspirations so that we can check they have chosen subjects that will support future careers and that they have chosen a balanced curriculum

The number of students who opt for a subject will determine whether or not the group will be viable. We will keep students and parents/carers informed, and work with you, if any subject is unable to run

**Success for life**





# Deadlines and dates

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## Dates for your diary

The deadline for completing the options form is Friday 9 February 2024.

Further meetings for any clashes with subject or subjects not running will be arranged between Monday 25 and Thursday 28 March 2024.



Thank you for listening  
Any questions?