



# **Year 9 Options Launch 15 January 2026**

**This live event will begin at  
5.30pm**



# Key staff in the options process

**Mrs Conway** Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum

**Ms Bate** Year Leader

**Mrs Jenkins** Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo

Form tutors and subject teachers



[options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

# Year 9 Options Launch

1. Introduction Mrs Conway

2. Pastoral Support - Year Leader Ms Bate

3. KS4 curriculum and making choices - Mrs Conway

4. *SEND support and Access Arrangements*

**Q&A**

*Responses to any frequently asked questions*

[options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

# Pastoral Support Ms Bate



- **Careers and Options PSHE Lesson** - delivered by teachers in term 1 to prepare students.
- **Career-Pilot Sessions**- A weekly tutor session in term 2, where students had the opportunity to use Careers Pilot to research careers linked to their GCSE choices using Unifrog.
- **Careers talk on Fridays** – Advertised in tutor notices
- **Subject Career Lessons**- Every subject has done/will do a subject specific careers lesson during Year 9
- **Ongoing Pastoral Care and Support** – Tutors (lots of discussions in tutor groups!), SEND and SEMH team and Year Leader.
- **Key messages and reminders in assembly**





# Year 11 Results Day 2025



# Attainment - Key Stage 4

## How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
	6
B	5 STRONG PASS
C	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
	1
F	
G	
U	U

# GCSE Outcomes 2025



	BFS 2025	Nat Avg 2025	BFS v National
Students achieving <b>9-4</b> in English and Maths	<b>82%</b>	66%	<b>+16%</b>
Students achieving <b>9-5</b> in English and Maths	<b>65%</b>	46%	<b>+19%</b>
Students achieving five <b>standard (9-4)</b> Passes inc. EM	<b>79%</b>	61%	<b>+18%</b>
Students achieving five <b>strong (9-5)</b> passes incl E&M	<b>62%</b>	42%	<b>+20%</b>



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum (Y10-11)

## Compulsory - Examined

English  
Language

English  
Literature

Maths

Science

Religion &  
Philosophy  
(Short)

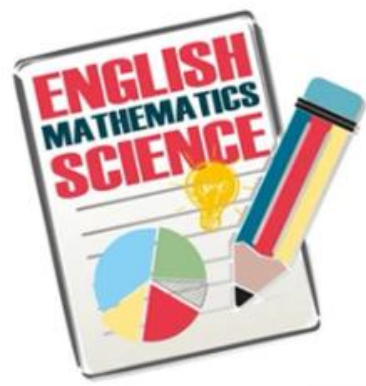
## Compulsory - Non-examined

PHSE

Physical  
Education



# KS4 Core Curriculum



## English

- All students study English Language and English Literature.
- They receive two separate GCSE grades.

## Maths

- Maths is timetabled so the entire year group are taught at the same time
- In Maths students are entered into one of two tiers. (Higher or Foundation)

## RP (Short Course)

- All Y9 students have started this course
- Final assessment at end of Y10

## Science

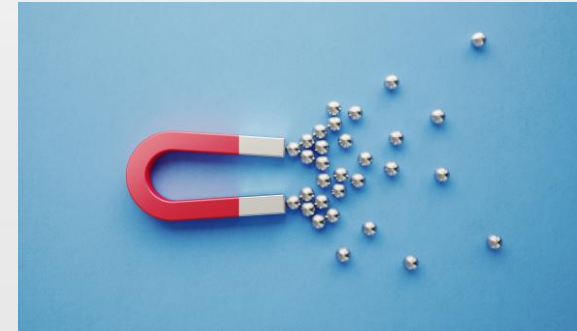
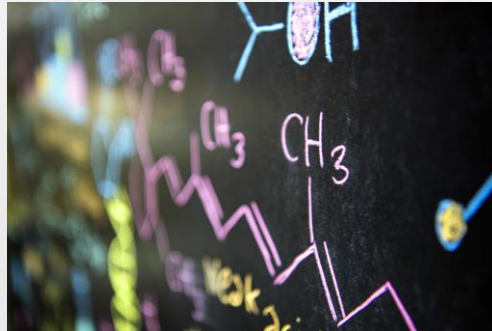
Students will study:

- Combined Science (2 GCSEs) **or**
- Triple Science GCSE (Biology, Chemistry and Physics – 3 GCSEs)

**This is where the BFS approach differs from some other schools.**

**Choosing to take triple science is not part of your options.**

Decisions are made towards the end of Year 10 regarding the best pathway for each student, wither Double Trilogy Science or Separate Triple Science

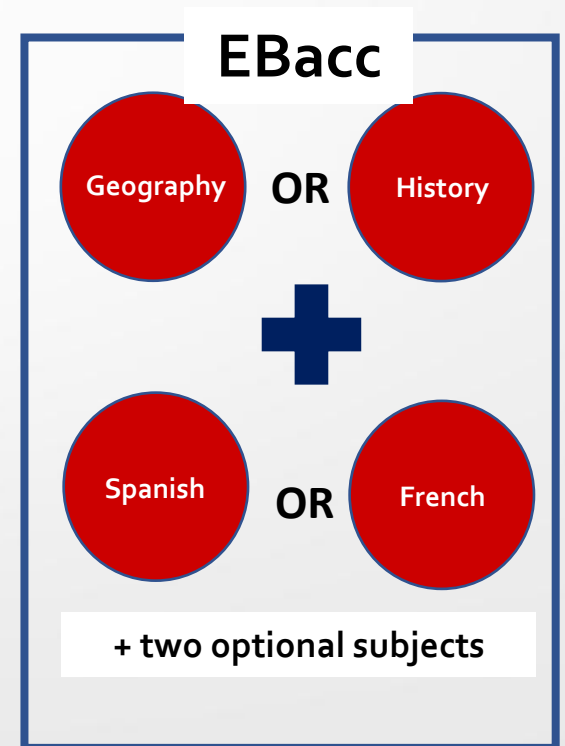


# The English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) subjects

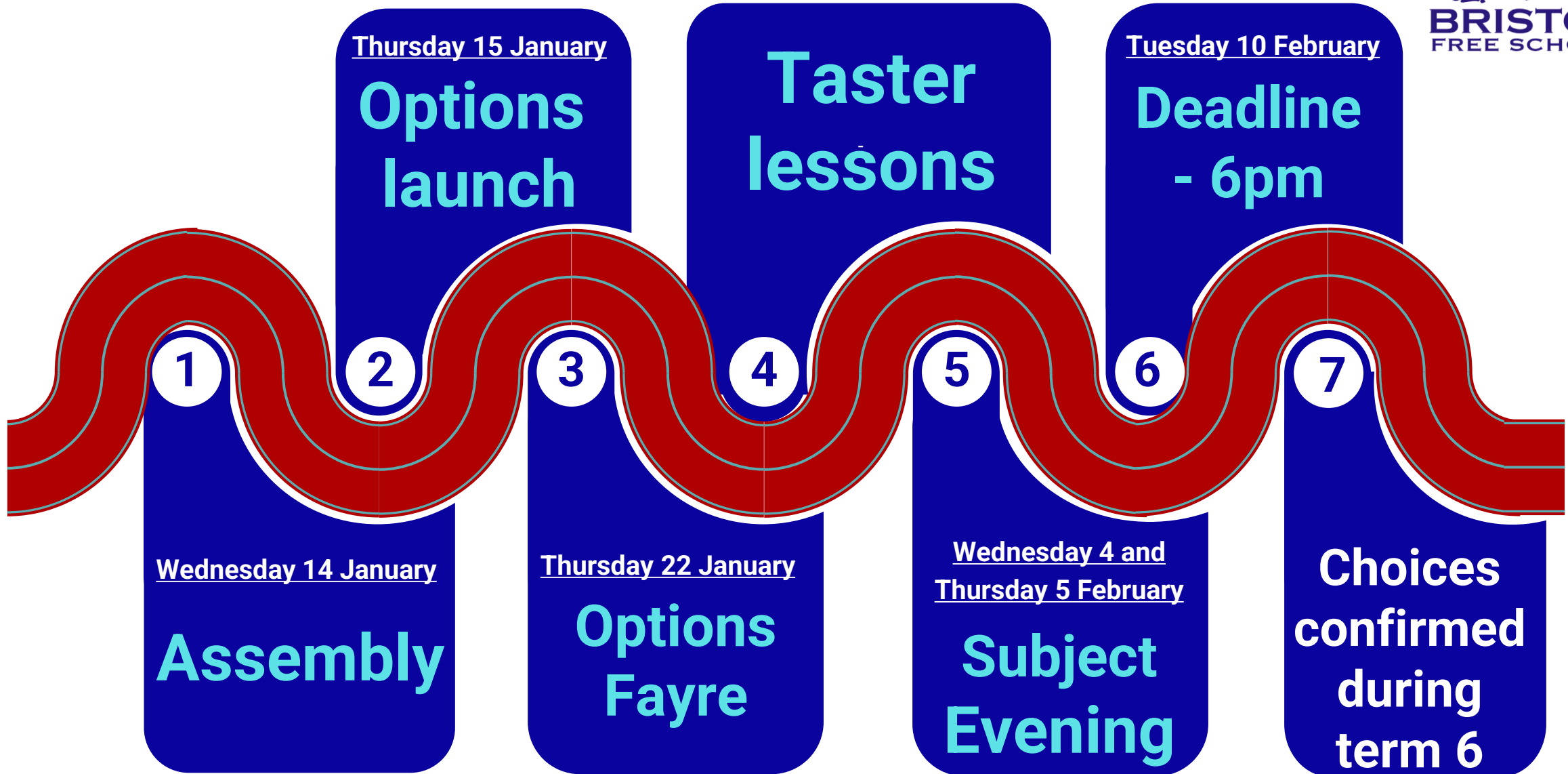
The **English Baccalaureate**, which represents success in a range of GCSE subjects reflects our own curriculum approach for Key Stage 4, where students are encouraged to follow a **broad** and **balanced** curriculum.

Our options process enables many students to follow this pathway which includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Two Sciences (Separate Sciences / Computer Science / Combined Science )
- Geography or History
- Modern Foreign Language (Spanish or French)



# KS4 Options 2026





# Vocational courses

## Vocational Courses

Creative iMedia - Cambridge National

Health and Social Care - BTEC

Sport Studies - Cambridge National

### Vocational

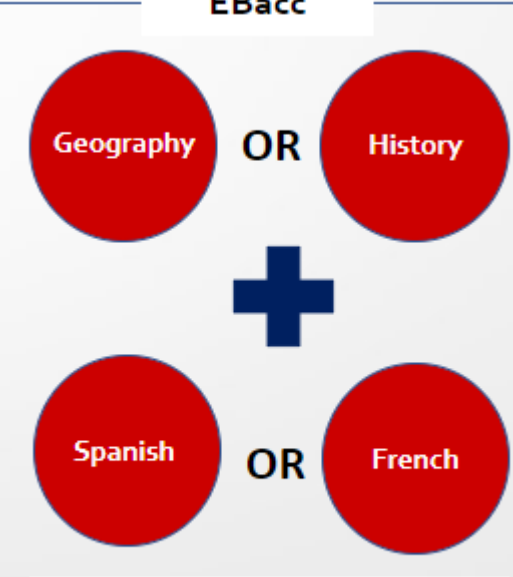
Health and  
Social Care

Creative  
iMedia

Sport  
Studies

- Different assessment models
- Fewer end of qualification exams
- Pass, merit or distinction at level 1 or level 2
- Level 2 pass is equivalent to a GCSE grade 4

# Course choices 2026-28

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4
Geography	French	Art and Design	Art and Design
History	Spanish	Business Studies	Business Studies
	<i>Request non-language - 3 subject choices</i>	Computer Science	Computer Science
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>EBacc</b></p>  <p><b>+ two optional subjects</b></p> </div>		Design Technology	Design Technology
		Dance	Dance
		Drama	Drama
		Food and Nutrition	Food and Nutrition
		French	French
		Geography	Geography
		History	History
		Music	Music
		Photography	Photography
		Physical Education	Physical Education
		Religion and Philosophy – Full	Religion and Philosophy – Full
		Spanish	Spanish
		Creative IMedia	Creative IMedia
		Health and Social Care	Health and Social Care
		Sport Studies - Cambridge National	Sport Studies - Cambridge National

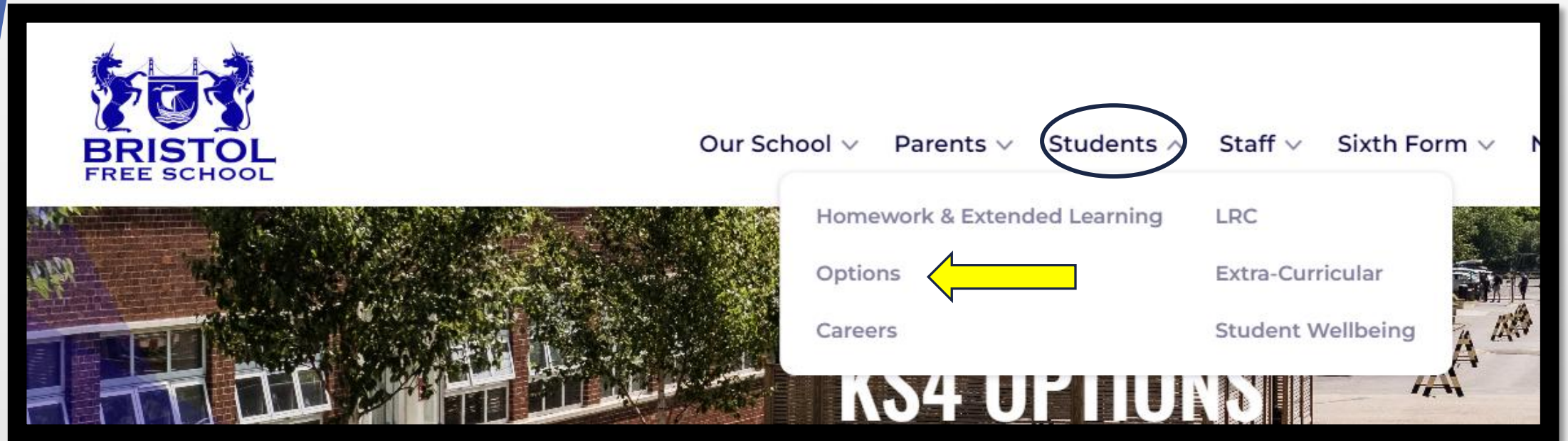


# Option choices – complete survey

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4
Geography	French	Art and Design	Art and Design
History	Spanish	Business Studies	Business Studies
	Non-language	Computer Science	Computer Science
Examples...		Design Technology	Design Technology
		Drama	Drama
		Food and Nutrition	Food and Nutrition
		French	French
		Geography	Geography
		History	History
		Music	Music
		Photography	Photography
		Physical Education	Physical Education
		Religion and Philosophy – Full	Religion and Philosophy – Full
		Spanish	Spanish
		Creative IMedia	Creative IMedia
		Health and Social Care	Health and Social Care
		Sport Studies Cambridge National	Sport Studies Cambridge National

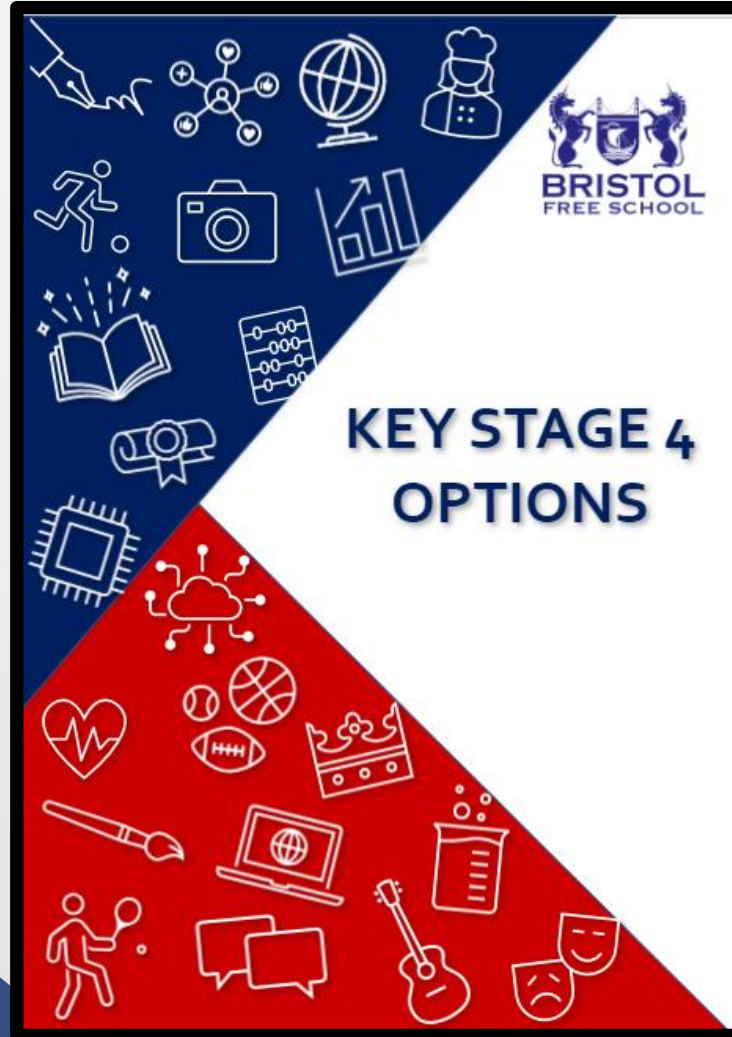
And a  
reserve  
choice

# Website – Options Guide





# Website – Options Guide



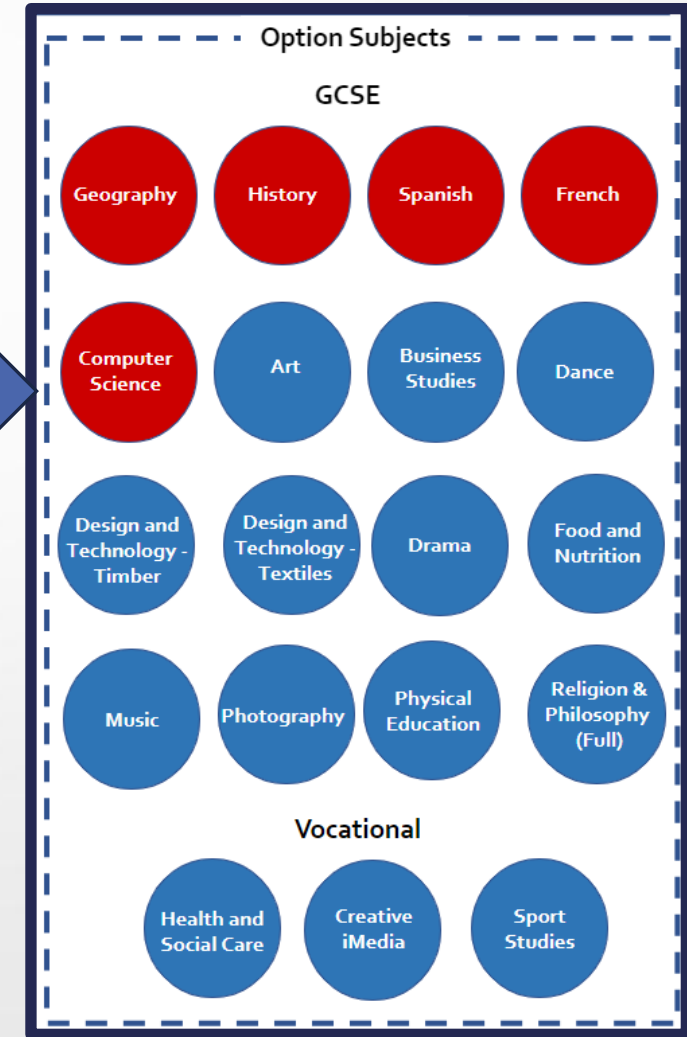
Options booklet



Subject videos



\* requirements for Music  
and PE / Vocational Sport



# Bespoke Pathways



- One option - additional support with English, maths and science
- Students will be invited to follow this pathway where appropriate
- SEND team and senior staff will discuss with students and parents during term 4





# Choosing your Subjects

## What is a good reason to choose a course?

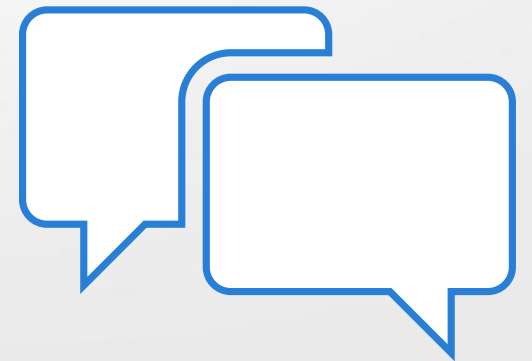
- Subjects you are good at – this will lead to better motivation and your best results.
- Subjects which interest you, which you enjoy and which you want to study for two years.
- Subjects which may help you with your future career (if you already have some idea of what this might be).

# Choosing your Subjects



## What should you avoid when deciding on your courses?

- Being influenced by friends
- Being influenced by wanting a particular teacher
- Based on rumours



[options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)





# Choosing your Subjects

**Are there any course combinations I must avoid?**

In order to maintain a balanced curriculum, you cannot choose:

❖ Art with Photography

❖ Creative iMedia with Computer Science

❖ PE GCSE with Vocational Sport




# More information....

10

## Food and Nutrition

If you have chosen Food and Nutrition, please write a short statement to explain why this choice is important for you.

If there are more students wanting to take the course than we have places, this information will help us to allocate places on the course. Random selection may also be used. 



[options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

# Will I get my first choices?

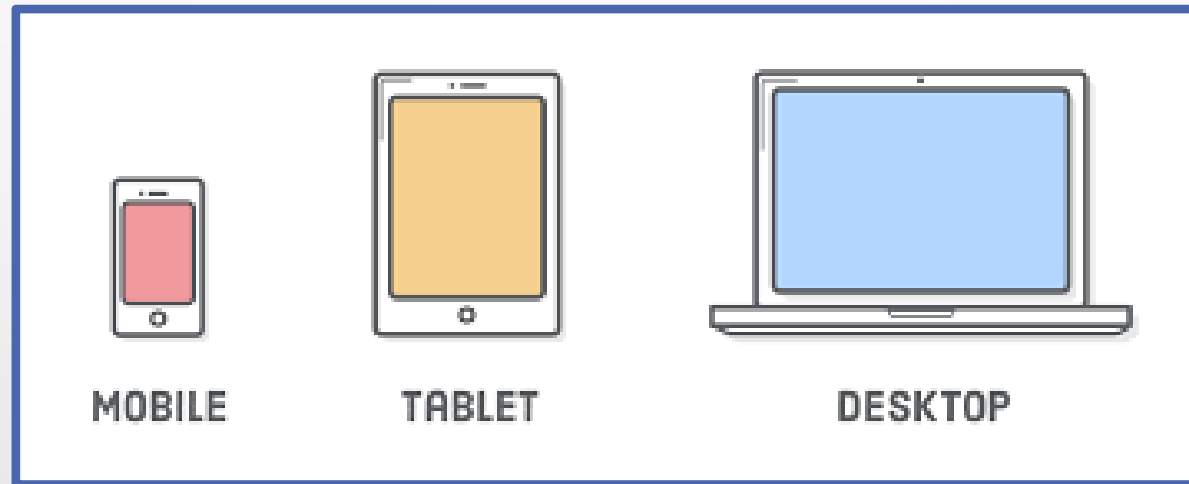
- We do our best to give you your first choice, but you are asked for a reserve
- Some courses have a maximum number (e.g Music, Food, DT) due to specialist rooming or equipment
- Group sizes must be enough to run a course

[options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

# Submitting your choices

Parents/carers will receive an email with the link to complete the online survey, next Friday.

The form can be completed on any device, deadline Tuesday 10 February



[options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)



# SEND – Mrs Jenkins

- Some flexibility for higher level SEND. For example, students with an EHCP
- Option choices for SEND students are reviewed to ensure they are appropriate.
- We will meet with students to discuss; if needed we will contact home. Some students need more guidance and support than others.
- Available at the options event 22nd January

# Access arrangements

## What are access arrangements?

- Access arrangements allow students with specific needs, such as special educational needs or disabilities, to access an exam.
- They allow students to show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the exam.

# Access arrangements

- Access arrangements (AA) are based on evidence of need.
- We must follow JCQ guidance and are inspected yearly to ensure we are compliant.
- Some access arrangements are centre delegated e.g. rooming, supervised rest breaks.
- We cannot formally apply for AA more than 2 years in advance of formal GCSE exams.

# Access arrangements

**Starts in Year 9 Term 5/6**

- Lucid testing (for students who do not have a formal diagnosis of ADHD, ASC or an EHCP)
- These assessments identify needs such as slow processing, reading difficulties, slow writing and comprehension difficulties.

# Access arrangements

Starts in Year 9 Term 5/6

- Teacher evidence is also gathered from Year 9 exams.
- Students may be put forward for formal testing if teacher evidence and LUCID results indicate a need.
- Only the formal test results, supported by teacher evidence can be used to apply for **25% extra time**.



# Access arrangements

**From JCQ:**

Not all students with additional needs will require access arrangements. This depends on whether their difficulty affects their access to exams. Additional needs or a diagnosis alone do not entitle a student to access arrangements.

Further information will be provided in advance of LUCID testing.

## Year 9 Options Launch

# Q and A

[options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)