

Welcome to KS4 Options Evening

Mrs Deane- Associate Vice Principal



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Aims:

To explain:

- ▶ The options process
- ▶ Key dates and deadlines
- ▶ The things to consider when making choices



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KS4 - A Three year curriculum

- ▶ Increased content and rigour of GCSE/equivalent
- ▶ Time for in depth learning and skill development
- ▶ Allows time from trips/activities to enrich learning
- ▶ More time to review learning and embed knowledge.

KS4 Qualifications

- ▶ **General Certificate of Education (GCSE)**

Students aim to achieve 9-1 grades

- ▶ **Business & Technology Education Council (BTEC)**

- ▶ **Vocational Certificate**

- ▶ **Technical Award**

- ▶ **Cambridge National Award**

Students aim to achieve Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass



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Curriculum

ALL students take the **CORE** subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science –combined or triple (selected based on ability)
- PE – Core (non-examined)

These core subjects provide students with 5-6 GCSE's



Science

- ▶ Combined science - Equivalent of 2 GCSE's studying topics across Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- ▶ Triple science - Equivalent of 3 GCSE's awarded separately in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A more challenging qualification which covers the topics at greater depth with additional topics covered compared to combined science.

Your Science teacher will inform you of which of these two routes you will follow. This does not form part of the options process.

Option Subjects Offered at the Academy

► Please be aware that not all option subjects can be combined. Further information on all subjects will be in the option booklet.

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- Dance
- Drama
- Design Technology
- Digital information Technology
- Geography
- Health and Fitness with Outdoor Education
- History
- Media
- Music
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sport
- Travel & Tourism (selected students)

Pathways

There are three different pathways that are recommended to students:

- ▶ Blue Pathway
- ▶ Purple Pathway
- ▶ Yellow Pathway

All pathways will ensure students study 4 option subjects, with each option studied over 5 hours per fortnight.

Pathways have been recommended to students based on the following:

- Prior attainment & SAT's data
- Teacher feedback
- Student attainment, progress and ATL scores
- SEND team advice

If a parent/carer feels an alternative pathway is more appropriate, they can contact me via email on tracie.deane@thebourneacademy.com to discuss further. Students cannot change to the purple pathway.

Option Forms

- Parents will be sent an email confirming the pathway we are recommending for your child.
- The email will also contain a link to an online form to enable submission of option choices.
- The online form link will not be open for submission until the day after the options PTC at 8am, this ensures parents, carers and students have an opportunity to meet with staff at PTC and discuss the option subjects with their child.

Option Forms

Identifies your recommended pathway

Year 8 Options form - Yellow Pathway 2025

You are on the **Yellow Pathway**. This means you must select **at least** one language (Spanish) **and/or at least** one Humanities subject (History/Geography).

Subjects must be selected in order of preference. We will aim to give you the subjects you place 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the others will be reserves in case we are unable to offer you your preferred options.

Please carefully check the options booklet for which subjects you can and cannot combine.

Please submit this form no later than **Friday 31st January**. Options are not assigned on a first come, first served basis, but any received after this date will be considered after those handed in on time.

ction 1

1. Student Surname *

You will be asked to complete student details.

When selecting options, a student **must** select 7 different options. The last 3 are reserve choices. Place in order of preference.

Declaration

Please ensure you are happy with the choices made as the form cannot be resubmitted.

By submitting this form, I confirm that I have discussed and agreed the choices with my son/daughter and hold parental responsibility for them.

11. Parent Name *

Back

Submit

In submitting the form you are agreeing that these choices have been discussed.

Blue Pathway - EBacc Route

- ▶ The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) - is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language.
- ▶ These are subjects recommended by the Government to ensure an academic breadth of study to ensure the most options are available moving forward.
- ▶ Considered the governments “Gold Standard” for education.
- ▶ Students **recommended** the blue pathway are expected to study the core subjects, a language and Geography or History. They will then be able to study two further option subjects.

Yellow pathway

- Students recommended the yellow pathway are expected to study the core subjects, a language and/or geography or history.
- Students will study a further three option subjects.



Purple Pathway

- ▶ Students on this pathway are expected to study the core subjects.
- ▶ Students on this pathway are given the opportunity to study Travel and Tourism as an alternative to a language and/or Geography and History. This provides a more vocational route for selected students.
- ▶ Students on this pathway will study three further option subjects and are encouraged to study BTEC's and vocational qualifications.

Options

- ▶ You should have been emailed:
 - ▶ A copy of the options booklet
 - ▶ The recommended pathway for your child
 - ▶ A link to the options submission form for the recommended pathway.
 - ▶ The options should be completed in agreement between parents, carers and student.
- ▶ When students make their options the deadline for return of the option selection form is **Friday 31st January 2025.**



Options

The importance of selection

- ▶ Do discuss with your son/daughter:
- What your child wants to do when they leave the Academy
- What subjects do they enjoy/are successful in?
- ▶ Do NOT allow him/her to choose a subject because his/her friend is doing it, or because they like the teacher.
- ▶ Carefully check the Options booklet for any courses which cannot be combined eg. A student cannot study both Sport and Health & Fitness with Outdoor Education.

**YOUR SON/DAUGHTER WILL NEED TO BE COMMITTED TO
COMPLETING THE THREE YEAR COURSE**



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Options

We will do our best to meet the requirements of each student, however we will not be able to give everybody their first four option choices for a number of reasons. Where this is the case students may be allocated their 5th, 6th or 7th option choice instead. This can happen:

- ▶ If not enough students choose a subject we may not be able to run the course
- ▶ After students have selected options in order of preference, the options need to be placed in blocks for timetabling. This can result in some subject combinations not being possible.
- ▶ Where courses are over-subscribed.

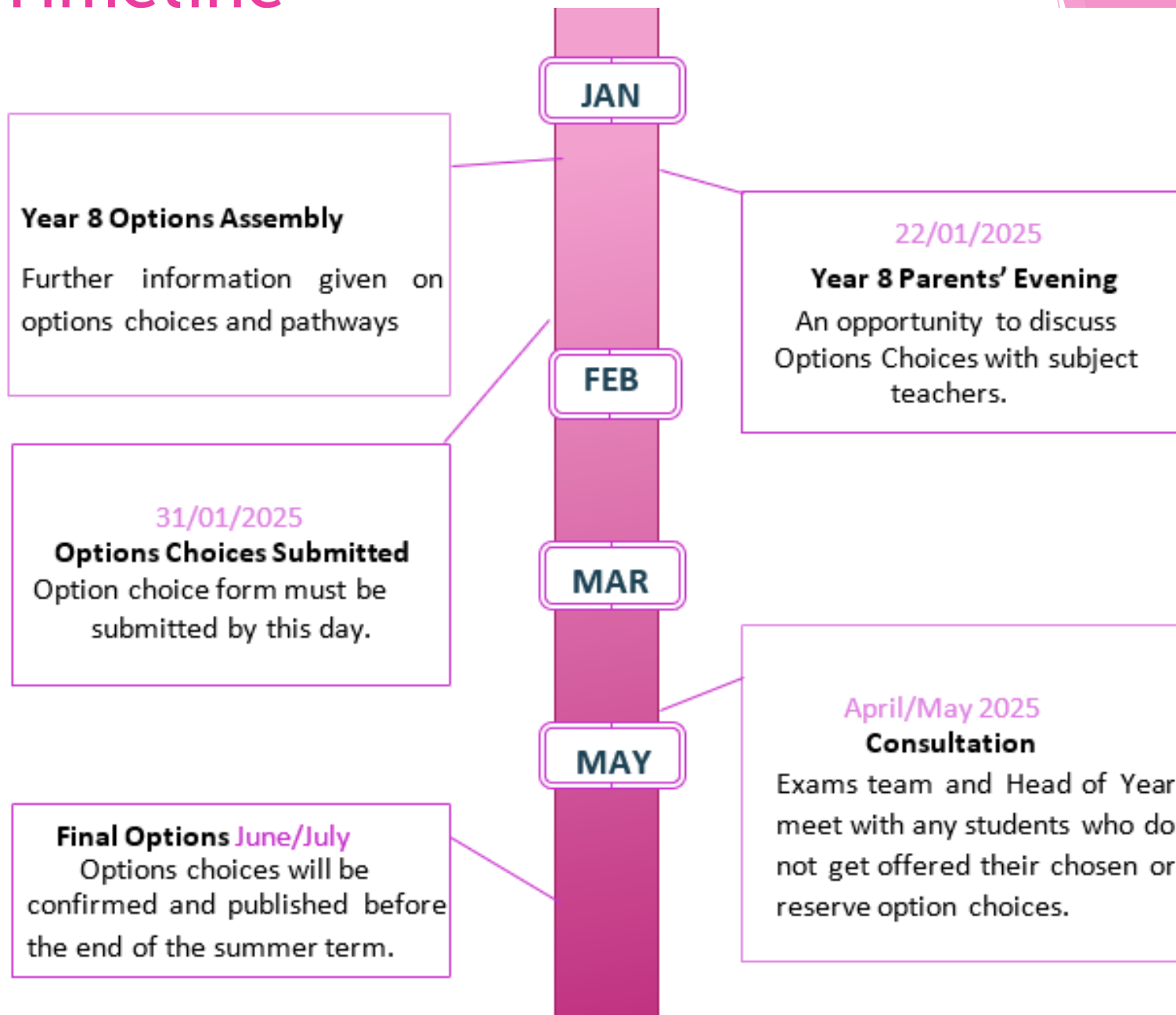
On the rare occasion a student cannot be allocated all of their options from the seven they requested, students will be spoken to and alternative options will be discussed.

There will need to be some compromise.



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Timeline



Options

Questions

- If you have any subject related questions please speak with the teacher of that subject. All option subject staff can be found in the hall.
- There is a brief outline of each course in your booklet as well as on the website.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child's options, please speak to the Head of year, who will direct them to the relevant person.



Options

Please complete the options form no later than the 31st January 2025.

- ▶ It is not a first come first served basis, however, forms returned after the closing date will not gain preference in over-subscribed subjects.
- ▶ We understand that on occasion circumstances may mean some families cannot return the form by the deadline. If this is the case for you please contact your HOY via email to advise.



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