

David Nieper
ACADEMY

Year 9 Options Booklet
2022-2024



Welcome to the Options process ...



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to our 2022 Key Stage 4 Information Booklet. I hope you will read this, together with your son/daughter and feel that you are able to discuss the important choices that are available to you.

David Nieper Academy is committed to providing all of its students with a broad and balanced education, thus giving them the best basis for choice and further study at the age of 16. We hope the choices will enable them to specialise in areas where they have particular ability, interest or enthusiasm.

Every year we review the Key Stage 4 Curriculum and this year we have made further changes to support students in their studies. This booklet provides you with the proposed option choices for September 2022.

Year 9 students will also have access to individual Careers interviews so that we can ensure students make the right choice for them and their future.

All option choices contained within this booklet are subject to change. There is no guarantee that these options will run as this will depend on the number of students choosing subjects etc. Therefore, students should consider alternative courses that they wish to pursue.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide an outline of the full Key Stage 4 Curriculum and specific information to assist with the making of choices where this is appropriate.

Students need to return final option choices on Friday 1st April via the electronic form we will send out on Monday 28th March.

Yours faithfully

Handwritten signature of Dr K Hobbs in black ink.

Dr K Hobbs
Headteacher

Handwritten signature of Mr C Endacott in black ink.

Mr C Endacott
Assistant Headteacher

Options Timeline

The 2022 Options process runs from Monday 28th March to Friday 1st April for our current Year 9 students. All information will also be on the school website under Parents – Options including links to digital resources such as videos and links to the digital options form and parents evening system.

Key Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 7 th March	Options material to be shared with students and parents online and in tutor period.
Wednesday 16 th March	Online options meetings (4-6pm) to take place via our online parents evening system where parents can meet specific staff to ask any questions.
Friday 25 th March	Face to face taster morning P1-P4. Students will be off timetable and able to attend 4 sessions to try lessons in subjects.
Monday 28 th March	Options form to go live so students can start picking options.
Friday 1 st April	Options forms to be submitted electronically.

Choosing Your Options

1. Who chooses?

You, your parents and your teachers must talk about your choice and agree on the final decision.

2. What must I think about before I decide?

Think about the qualifications you will need for the job you want or for the next stage of your education.

Think about the subjects you like and the subjects you are good at.

Think about your learning style.

You must have a balanced set of courses in case you change your mind about your career.

3. Who will help me make up my mind?

Your parents, subject teachers, form tutor, Progress and Achievement Leader and careers advisors.

4. What do I do next?

Read this booklet carefully. Show it to your parents and talk to them about your choices.

Please remember we may not be able to give everyone their choices. We will discuss the reasons with you and your parents if we cannot give you your top choices.

When you have reached a decision about your Year 10 courses, complete the form at the end of this booklet.

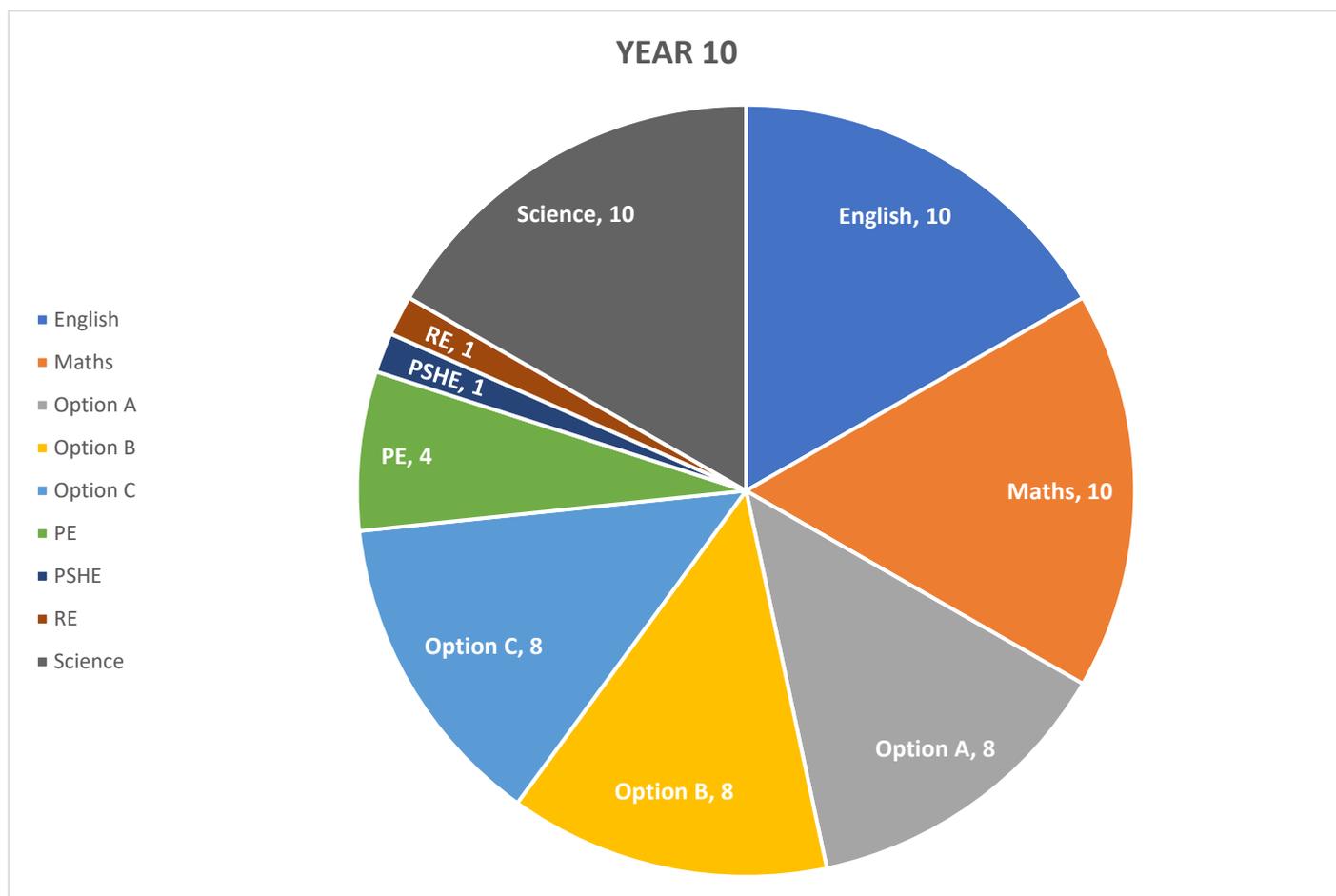
5. Will I definitely get to do the subjects I choose?

No. All subjects will only run if sufficient students choose them.



Year 10 and Year 11 Curriculum

As you can see from the pie chart below students have 10 lessons of English, Maths and Science per fortnight which are examined at the end of Y11. Students also have 1 PSHE, 1 RE and 4 PE lessons which are none examined subjects. Students then get to pick three options which they have 8 lessons per fortnight in.



When choosing your Options, it is important to think about how you work best, in order to select the type of qualification that suits you and your preferred pathway. The options we offer are either GCSE, BTEC or other level 1/2 qualifications.

BTEC and other level 1/2 subjects often involve more assignment-based learning which makes up the largest percentage of the overall qualification grade where GCSEs generally have more exam-based assessment.

Comparing Vocational qualifications and GCSEs

We offer a selection of vocational qualifications alongside GCSEs and these have different names including BTECs, Level 2 Awards and Certificates.

Vocational qualifications offer a mix of practical and theoretical learning that is directly related to a specific area of employment e.g. the Health and Social Care sector and careers in nursing etc.

These work-related courses can be a good option if you have a job sector in mind or if you would like to gain employability skills linked to a particular type of work.

Some people assume that vocational qualifications are easier than traditional GCSEs. This is not true. Students completing vocational qualifications might have a greater percentage of their final grade assessed through portfolios and coursework, but these are significant pieces of work and should not be underestimated.

GCSE's are generally assessed via exams with an element of controlled assessment work in some cases. The greatest percentage of the qualification is assessed via exam though. Some subjects are assessed entirely via exam. Talk to staff and look at the information in this booklet to clarify how qualifications you are interested in are assessed.



GCSE Changes

Grading moved a few years ago to a 9-1 scale, with grade 9 being roughly equivalent to a top A* grade and a grade 4 equivalent to a low to mid-grade C.

You will continue to receive 3 assessment point reports, from the Academy, which will outline your son/daughters GCSE working at grade, a minimum expected grade and their attitude to learning score and target if appropriate.

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

GCSE Expectations

- At Key Stage 4 there is an expectation that students receive homework that will develop and enrich their studies at David Nieper Academy. The format of the homework will change within each subject. However, it is essential that any homework is completed by the set deadline date.
- If your son / daughter is not making expected progress, they will be expected to attend intervention sessions that are running during lunch time or after school. You will be made aware of any intervention sessions that your son / daughter will be expected to attend.
- Developing independent learning is an important part of your child's education, as we prepare students for future study and careers. It is therefore expected that students engage in wider reading within the subjects that they are studying at KS4.
- Further to this, the Curriculum offers key employability links, within core and option subjects, to further engage and enrich student learning.

Careers and Employability at David Nieper Academy

Careers and Employability education begins as soon as students join David Nieper Academy in Year 7. Our aim is to ensure all students receive the best guidance, education and experiences to equip them for a successful career journey. When choosing GCSE options, it may seem daunting to think about future employment, but this is an exciting first step into the world of work.

To ensure our students are up to date and informed about available careers, the academy uses the online platform Unifrog.

Unifrog brings all the available information about careers, universities, apprenticeships and all other post 16 and 18 pathways into one, user-friendly, platform. All students in Years 7 – 13, now have access to this excellent website. Students can log in using their school email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone.

Students are able to make the best, informed choices about their future (including which GCSE subjects to choose) by navigating through the many features that Unifrog has to offer. They simply log in, complete a number of activities, such as their interests and personality profiles and their current thoughts about which pathway they may choose – which can be updated regularly depending on the students' choices at any one time.

Simply by searching the subjects they are most interested in, students can find a vast array of careers that may suit their individual skills and interests. We believe this is an excellent starting point when choosing GCSE options.

Search by keyword

Search for careers using a keyword

Go >

Search by school subjects

Search for careers using the subjects you're studying at school that you like the most

Go >

We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step. Therefore, we have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to truly support your child. The form code you need is DVNPparents and you can sign up on www.unifrog.org/code. You will need to fill in the required fields such as name, email address and create a memorable password before clicking 'Sign up'. Form codes are only used once and so email addresses and passwords are used to log in from then on.

Compulsory – GCSE English

Further information: Mr Covell

Email: acovell@davidnieper.academy

All students in Key Stage 4 prepare for two GCSEs in their English lessons: English Language and English Literature. In the English Language GCSE, students will study a range of literary fiction and non-fiction texts, in preparation for their English Language exam. In the English Literature GCSE, students will study a range of literary texts, including Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', 'An Inspector Calls', 'A Christmas Carol' and poetry from different eras.

Students are introduced to English in the daily world and the world of the imagination, helping them to express their own ideas clearly through the study of a range of Language and Literature topics. Students will also be entered for the Spoken Language Endorsement – a short presentation that will assess presentation and spoken communication to a small group of peers. This will be taken in Year 10.

Examination Board - AQA

Is there any coursework?

There is no coursework for GCSE English Language and Literature.

English Language	English Literature
<p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</p> <p>In this section of the course, students will study a range of unseen texts from across the world of fiction. They will study how writers convey meaning and use language and structure techniques to engage the reader and create tension and suspense in their writing. They will also study how writers' points-of-view can be interpreted and analysed.</p> <p>Also, in this section of the course students will develop their creative writing skills focusing on descriptive and narrative writing.</p>	<p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel</p> <p>Students will study <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>A Christmas Carol</i> in preparation for their final exam. They will explore how character, themes and plot are developed and how the writer's context influenced their work.</p>
<p>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</p> <p>In this section of the course, students will study a range of unseen texts from contemporary and nineteenth century non-fiction. They will study how writers convey meaning through language techniques and develop their understanding of how texts can be summarised and compared.</p> <p>Also. In this section of the course students will develop their persuasive and argumentative writing, focusing on creating transactional writing for a variety of forms.</p>	<p>Paper 2: Modern Drama and Poetry</p> <p>Students will study <i>An Inspector Calls</i> and an anthology of love poetry from modern and literary heritage poets. As with paper 1, the focus will be on theme, character, plot and context.</p> <p>In addition, students will also answer on unseen poetry which they will read, analyse and critique independently in the exam.</p> <p>All texts are assessed through essay-style questions.</p>

Compulsory - GCSE Maths

Further information: Miss Brown & Mr Burns

Email: rbrown@davidnieper.academy nburns@davidnieper.academy

What is GCSE Mathematics all about?

Here, at David Nieper Academy, our students will study two GCSEs. GCSE Mathematics; which covers topics from Number, Algebra, Geometry and Data Handling and GCSE Statistics which allows our students to be fully prepared for the world of employability. A small handful of our most able students will be given the opportunity to study Further Mathematics which is an excellent foundation for the A-Level Mathematics course.

The study of Mathematics you will be expected to:

- use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- use logic and reason to solve problems
- break down problems into small steps in order to solve them
- use the Mathematics that you learn to solve problems that might happen in real life
- learn how to use a calculator to solve problems quickly and effectively.

Why do I have to take GCSE Mathematics?

GCSE Mathematics is a core compulsory subject for all students and covers a lot of basic skills that you will need to use in a variety of ways all through your life.

A lot of the mathematics you learn will also be utilised in other GCSEs that you will study at David Nieper Academy. For example, in Science you may be asked to use formulae, graphs and solve equations, in Geography you will need to read charts and diagrams and use statistics and in Technology you will need to use measures and make scale drawings.

Which exam board do we follow?

Students will follow the AQA Mathematics Linear (9-1) course. In this course there are two levels of entry which we will work with you in Year 11 to decide which one you will sit:

Foundation (you can gain a up to a grade 5)

Higher (you can gain a grade 5 and above to a 9)

Is there any coursework?

There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics.

What about exams?

Students will sit three mathematics papers at the end of Year 11. Two will be calculator based, and one without a calculator.

What do we need to know?

All students follow a Mastery based approach to the learning of mathematics, building on conceptual learning and encouraging a depth of understanding.

Student performance in class and homework will continue to be monitored closely throughout years 9 to 11 in order to ensure staff can support students in achieving or bettering their target grades through additional intervention opportunities. Homework is an essential part of the course and students are expected to meet homework deadlines.

Students will need a ruler, protractor, compasses, scientific calculator and suitable pens and pencils for their GCSE in Mathematics.

Compulsory - GCSE Science

Further information: Mr Hardy

Email: [shardy@davidnieper.academy](mailto:shardy@ davidnieper.academy)

In GCSE Science, students will learn about the biological, chemical, physical and technological world, plan and conduct investigations to test out scientific ideas and explanations, and learn that the scientific understanding of the world is constantly changing due to continuing research and new technology.

Science forms an important part of the curriculum as it helps students to understand the world around them and their role in that world and understand the role science plays in our society. It is a fundamental requisite for jobs including: medicine, engineering and research amongst many others.

Science enables students to develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to find answers to their own questions about the workings of the scientific world, attempt to find solutions to problems arising from their own needs and experiences in daily life, and take a confident part in public debate and decision making about Science.

Compulsory GCSE Science is a double award, which means students will achieve 2 GCSE grades at the end of the course. Students are invited to take triple Science (3 GCSEs) and taught the extra sessions in co-curricular time.

There is no coursework in GCSE Science, and we test students regularly throughout the course to assess their strengths and weaknesses and to help prepare them fully for the GCSE exams. Students are expected to come to lessons fully prepared as they would for all lessons, with the added need of a good scientific calculator in order to assist them with any maths problems. There will be six exams: two biology, two chemistry and two physics papers. Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes. The subject content of this course is split into Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Examples of the content covered includes:

<u>Biology</u>	<u>Chemistry</u>	<u>Physics</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell biology• Organisation• Infection and Response• Bioenergetics• Homeostasis and response• Inheritance, variation and evolution• Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure and the periodic table• Bonding, structure and the properties of matter• Quantitative chemistry• Chemical changes• Energy changes• The rate and extent of chemical change• Organic chemistry• Chemical analysis• Chemistry of the atmosphere• Using resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces• Energy• Waves• Electricity• Magnetism and electromagnetism• Particle model of matter• Atomic structure

Students in Set 1 will study Triple Science, which has got some additional content, and will mean students will achieve 3 GCSEs. Examination Board - AQA

Option GCSE Subjects

For the GCSE subjects, students are able to achieve grades 0-9. Assessment is a mixture of examinations, controlled assessments and practical examinations. These subjects are linear, meaning that all examinations are taken at the end of Year 11. In the past, many GCSE examinations have allowed students to take examinations throughout the course. However, this has now changed.

GCSE Subjects have a focus on the effectiveness of student communication with regards to spelling, punctuation and grammar. Therefore, students need to ensure they focus on these elements within their work outside of School. Students will need to be skilled in learning about specialist terminology and being able to describe these for each subject.

When selecting your options, please note that you will need to select at least one subject from Computer Science, French, Geography or History.



My Option Choices

EBacc subjects are shown below in blue. Students need to pick at least one EBacc subject as one of their choices.

A	B	C
Design and Technology – GCSE	Computer Science – GCSE	Art – GCSE
Food Preparation and Nutrition- GCSE	Dance – GCSE	Business Studies – BTEC
Geography – GCSE	French – GCSE	Drama – BTEC
History – GCSE	Geography – GCSE	French – GCSE
Music – Level 2	History – GCSE	Geography – GCSE
Religious Studies - GCSE	Health and Social Care – BTEC	Health and Social Care – BTEC
Sport – BTEC	Art Textiles – GCSE	Sport – BTEC
Hospitality and Catering - GCSE	Hospitality and Catering - GCSE	

Once all stages of the options process have taken place (Options Evening 16th March, Options Taster Day 25th March) then students will be able to complete an electronic form to tell me which options they want to choose from the choices above. The link to this will be sent out to parents via email on Monday 28th March, this needs to be filled in by Friday 1st April at 4pm.

