

# Year 9 Options 2022-2024

Life in all its fullness

*Guidance for the successful selection  
of GCSE courses*



# Life in all its fullness

Dear Parents/Carers,

The following slides are designed to support you and your child in making the right decisions regarding GCSE courses.

We want you to feel confident that you have all the necessary information and support to make this process as easy as possible.

We want you to know that as your child begins the transition to Year 10 and the start of GCSEs, we will make every effort to ensure that the transition is a smooth one.

Underpinned by our four key pillars of Humanity, Optimism, Perseverance and Excellence (HOPE), we endeavour for your child to continue to flourish and live 'Life in all its fullness'.

# Key dates

## **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Monitoring Report and HOPE report

## **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Year 9 Parents' Evening

## **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Option Form and Guided Options information sent out to parents/carers

Guided Options 2022-2024 information available on school website

## **Between Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May: Options Focus**

You should take the opportunity to discuss options with your child. If you have any queries or questions, you will be able to email the Senior Leadership Team at [Options@steds.org.uk](mailto:Options@steds.org.uk)

## **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022: Option Choice Deadline**

Please ensure you have submitted your form by this date.



# GCSE Examinations – Understanding the grades

If this process is being undertaken by your eldest child, you may not be familiar with the new GCSE grading system that has been introduced over the last few years.

The chart opposite can be used for comparison purposes.

A 'standard pass' is generally the minimum requirement to enter post-16 courses. However many institutions will be looking for 'strong passes' and you will often need a higher grade in the subjects you wish to study at A Level/BTEC.

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

# The Ebacc

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- History or Geography
- A language

**WHAT IS THE EBACC?** The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

For more information about the Ebacc, please read the leaflet on our website here:

<https://www.steds.org.uk/documents/dfe-guide-to-ebacc/>



# What should I do first?

## 1. Read the Options Booklet

The Options booklet provides detailed information about the options process as well as all the courses offered. There is also a Q&A section that aims to address any additional queries.

## 2. Look at your Monitoring Report Grades

Use this information to guide your decisions. Think about where you are making good progress.

Look at your HOPE report. Grades 1 and 2 suggest that you engage well with your learning.

## 3. Have lots of discussions

What do you enjoy? What subjects might you want to take in the Sixth Form?

Do you want to go to University? Complete an Apprenticeship? What might you want to do as a career? Do you want to keep your options open? A piece of advice – don't make decisions on the options you choose based only on the teachers you like. The timetable for next academic year is not yet written and we do not know which teachers will be teaching Year 10 yet.

## 4. Research

Research potential careers and the qualifications you will need using Unifrog. Look at entrance requirements for our Sixth Form.



# The Curriculum

**All students** study English, Maths and Science.

In addition, students study GCSE Religious Studies. Students began this course in September 2021 and will complete the GCSE at the end of Year 10 (Summer 2023).

**Languages** – the majority of students will continue with their language at GCSE as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

In a very small number of cases, we may advise that a student drop the study of a language to focus on their other subjects. We will communicate this with students and parents/carers where we feel this may be appropriate.

## Option choices

Humanities: students will choose either History or Geography

Open choice: Students will rank these in order of preference (1 & 2 preferred choices; 3, 4 & 5 reserve choices)



# St Edward's Academy Sixth Form

We know many of you look forward to attending our Sixth Form in two and a half year's time.

Learning at St Edward's is not just about academic qualifications - it is about developing you as a whole student and ensuring you go on to excel in every aspect in your future life.

Here, in our Sixth Form, we aim to develop the whole person and many of the wider skills needed in life. These include: public speaking, event management, charity fundraising, mentoring and working with the wider community.

Our vision for St Edward's is one of HOPE – we strive to become the best that we can be through Humanity, Optimism, Perseverance and Excellence and develop so that we can live 'Life in all its Fullness'. We make sure that we know every child and are there to support and guide them on the pathway from childhood to self-realisation as a young adult.

Academic excellence is just as important as social development - all areas we take pride in and hope you will develop across a seven year learning journey with us.

The next two slides show our current entry requirements for the Sixth Form.



# A Level Entry Requirements

A-Level Subject	Minimum GCSE Entry Requirements
Accounting	Grade 6 in Mathematics. A GCSE in Business would be helpful and if studied should be at least a Grade 6
Architecture and 3D design	Grade 5 in a technology based subject
Art (Fine Art)	Grade 6 in Art
Biology	Grade 6 in both Core and Additional Science or Grade 6 in Biology as well as Grade 5 in Mathematics
Business Studies	If GCSE Business has been studied it should be a Grade 6, otherwise Grade 6 in Mathematics and English
Chemistry	Grade 7 in both Core and Additional Science or Grade 7 in Chemistry, as well as Grade 6 in Mathematics
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in both English Language and Literature
Economics	If GCSE Business Studies has been studied it should be a Grade 6, as well as Grade 6 in Mathematics

# A Level Entry Requirements

A-Level Subject	Minimum GCSE Entry Requirements
English Language	Grade 6 in English Language
English Literature	Grade 7 in English Literature
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in Mathematics
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography
Government and Politics	Grade 6 in English Language
History	Grade 6 in History
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Modern Foreign Languages	Grade 6 in the relevant language
Music	Grade 6 in Music
Physics	Grade 7 in both Core and Additional Science or Grade 7 in Physics, as well as Grade 7 in Mathematics
Psychology	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 5 in Mathematics
Sociology	Grade 6 in English Language

# Unifrog

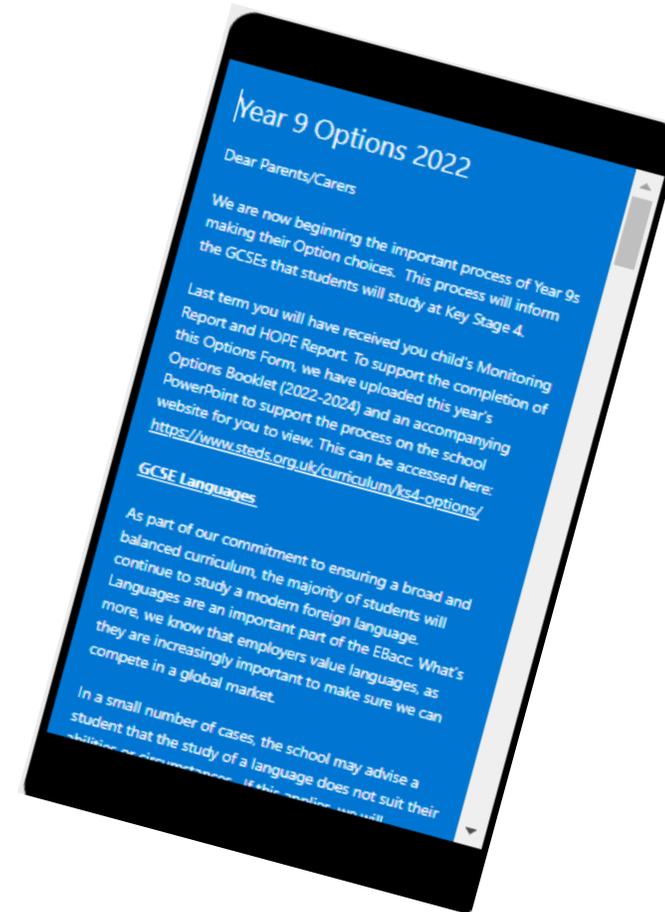
- Unifrog is a one-stop shop where students can easily explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their next best step after school.
- Unifrog will help you to explore your key interests and what career paths you can take to reach your goals!



# Completing the Options Form

Please read each section of the form carefully and follow the instructions provided.

We will do our very best to meet your preferences but please be aware that in some cases, this may not always be possible. In these cases, we will look at your reserve choices.



# Completing the Options Form

Please complete the Microsoft Form  
by Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Information regarding option preferences will  
be issued in June/July 2020.

# Support

- Guided Options Booklet
- Unifrog
- Internet
- Specific queries can also be emailed to:

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

