



**Year 8 into 9 Options 2017**  
**S Bennett , Assistant Headteacher**

# Tonight



- Why 3 year GCSE programme
- Core and options subjects – what, why
- Making wise choices – advice
- Process and timescales
- Help and guidance

# 2013 RPA

## Raising the Participation Age



- Students are expected to remain in education until at least 18 years old
- 3 options: full time education; apprenticeship; work with educational support
- The choices students make now need to support progression in education and further opportunity

# The world in 2017...2027...2037...?



- What is the world out there like?
- Really exciting time!
- Technology developments, worldwide communications, emerging world economies

# The world in 2017...2027...2037...?

What do you want  
to **become**?

What **skills** and  
**personal qualities**  
do you have and  
what do you want  
to develop?



Where do you see  
yourself **fitting in**?

What **part** do  
you want to play  
in it?

What **qualifications** do you want to have?

# Year 9-11 Programme at EBA

A programme that

- **develops a wide range of core skills and competencies**
- **keeps doors open for**
  - Sixth Form, College, University
  - Apprenticeships, Jobs
- **also lets students follow their passion,** study what they enjoy most and study what they are best at

# ‘English Baccalaureate’

- Introduced by the gov. in Autumn 2010
- Not a certificate or qualification
- **A group of subjects which keep many doors open for the future**
- Must achieve at least GCSE grade 5s (~ high C/B)

English Lang + Lit

Mathematics

History or Geography

Language (e.g. French,  
German, Spanish )

2 x Science subjects (which could include Computer Sci)

# Core GCSE Programme

6/7 compulsory GCSEs - all students

- Maths
- English Language and English Literature
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs) or 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Religious Studies



# ‘Core’ Experiences

- Non GCSE PE (called “Core PE”)
- PHSE
- Careers Guidance
- Extra Curricular Activities



# Four Option Choices

- Play to your strengths
  - ✓ what do you **enjoy**?
  - ✓ what are you **good at**?
- Make sure that you include reserve choices
- Majority of students get their first choices – we do our best!
- An option may not run if there are insufficient numbers

# What can I choose?

One compulsory choice:

You must choose (at least) one of these:

Geography

History

French

German

Spanish

# What else can I choose?



Any three choices from these... (or more from the previous page)

- Art and Design
- Art Textiles
- Biology + Chemistry + Physics (= one option, 3 GCSEs)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science

- Product Design
- Food and Nutrition
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- PE



# Science – Important Decision

- **Pathway 1 : Biology+ Chemistry+ Physics**
  - 3 GCSEs graded separately eg 7,6,8
  - More topics, more lesson time, uses up one of the option choices
  
- **Pathway 2: Combined Science**
  - 2 GCSEs, a double grade eg 66

# Pathway 1 : biol+ chem + phys

Do you...

- enjoy science and are you good at it?
- want to study more science at GCSE than in Combined Science and want to study topics in more depth?
- think you might want to
  - take science A levels?
  - have a career in a science related field?

Are you comfortable with maths?

# Pathway 2: Combined Science



For students who

- do not wish to take extra science
- would prefer to take a different option

You will still

- study separate biology, chemistry and physics topics
- be able to take A level sciences if you get good grades

# Which science pathway course is right for me?



- Read the course guide carefully
- Talk to Dr Longshaw tonight (Head of Science)
- Take advice from your science teachers



# GCSEs have changed.

(current Y10 are the first year though)

## Now

- All the exams are at the end of the course
- No coursework/controlled assessment in most subjects (a few exceptions -check the option guide)

So students need to

- remember a lot and get good at exams!

# Three year KS4



An extra year to

- focus on the GCSE content and skills
- investigate and deepen understanding (less cramming)
- practise exam questions and develop exam technique






# Is it working?

Y9 students now

- much more motivated ... “GCSEs matter”
- making better progress

Better progress continues in Y10 and 11

# Good Advice

-  Don't choose an option based on friends
-  Don't choose an option based on liking a particular teacher
-  Do talk to people and seek advice
-  Do **choose subjects that will support your future aspirations/career**
-  Do **choose subjects you are good at and enjoy**

# What next?

- Read about the courses in the Options Guide
- Discuss
  - at home, with subject teachers and form tutor
  - Ms Brindley (Year 8 Learning and Progress Manager) and other Senior Leaders
- Careers advice – PHSE 1 Feb, websites, specialist careers advisor here tonight
- This presentation will go up on the website

# Deadline

Yellow options form to tutor by  
**Monday 13 February**

Then?

- further discussions/review about choices made
- with form tutors, Ms Brindley, Senior Staff