



Year 9 Options 2025



Information on
Key Stage 4
Courses



Things to Consider

Do consider:

- What do I enjoy?
- What am I good at?
- What do I want to do post-16
 - a) Sixth form?
 - b) Vocational course?
 - c) Apprenticeship?
- Choose a good range of subjects

Do not consider:

- Choosing subjects just to be with friends
- Choosing subjects because "I like/don't like the teacher"



What do I have to study in Year 10/11?

English

GCSE English
Language

GCSE English
Literature

Mathematics

GCSE Mathematics

Science

One of the following

- Combined Science
- Triple Science

Religious Studies

GCSE Philosophy and
Ethics

Core PE



The English Baccalaureate

- English GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- 2 x Science GCSE
- ***1 x GCSE French or Spanish***
- ***1 x GCSE Geography or History***





English and Maths

- It is essential that every student gets the highest grade they can in GCSE English and Maths
- Students who do not achieve at least a grade 4 in English and Maths GCSEs are required to continue to study these subjects post 16



Languages

- Languages are hugely important in broadening pupils' horizons and improving their employment opportunities (Department for Education)
- Languages are an 'integral part of the curriculum' and they 'equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life' (Amanda Spielman)



Points to Consider

CONTROLLED OR NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

None <i>Examinations only</i>	Computer Science, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Maths, Religious Studies, Combined and Triple Sciences, Sociology
25%	French, Spanish (Languages have Speaking Assessments)
30%	Media
40%	Physical Education
50%	Design and Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition
60%	Drama, Music, Health and Social Care
100%	Art (40% is under controlled conditions)



Options Pathways

There are four options pathways, which are designed to suit and meet each individual student's needs. All students must follow one of,

- EBacc plus Triple Science and STEM enrichment
- EBacc (includes Combined Science)
- EBacc Plus (includes Combined Science)
- Non-EBacc (includes Combined Science)



Options Pathways

Ebacc plus Triple Science and STEM enrichment

- French or Spanish (or another approved language)
- Geography or History
- Triple Science/STEM enrichment
- One further subject choice



Options Pathways

EBacc

- French or Spanish (or another approved language)
- Geography or History
- Two further subject choices



Options Pathways

EBacc Plus

- French or Spanish (or another approved language)
- Geography or History
- EBacc subject support sessions
- One further subject choice



Options Pathways

Non-EBacc with additional English and/or Maths

- French or Geography or History or Spanish
- Additional support sessions in English and/or Maths
- Two further subject choices



Options Pathways

- Based on the progress and other data for each student, they will be guided to consider the appropriate pathway(s)
- Suggested pathway(s) will be shared with families by email on Thurs 13 Feb 2025



Pathway	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4	Reserve
EBacc with Triple Science & STEM* Enrichment	French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/>	Triple Science		
EBacc	French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/>			
EBacc Plus	French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/>	EBacc Plus		
Non EBacc	French <input type="checkbox"/> Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>	Additional English and/or Maths			

Students following the EBacc, EBacc Plus and Non EBacc pathways will study Combined Science which is equivalent to two GCSEs.



Arts Subjects	Humanities Subjects	Languages	Technology Subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art• Drama• Music• PE• Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BTEC Health and Social Care• Economics• Geography• History• Sociology <p><i>BTEC Health and Social Care not available to EBacc with Triple Sci pathway.</i></p> <p><i>Economics is only available to students secure in English and Maths</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• French• Spanish <p><i>If you have, or intend to, take a GCSE exam in a community language please see the next page.</i></p> <p><i>Where it has been agreed that a community language is being taken, students may also study a language in school or may choose another subject instead.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Science• Design and Technology• Food Preparation and Nutrition <p><i>Computer Science is only available to students secure in Maths.</i></p>

- Design and Technology students will need to express a preference for either Textiles or Product Design



Next steps

- Students and families will receive details of their suggested pathway(s) by email on Thurs 13th Feb 2025
- Families will receive an email after half-term to register to use SIMS Options Online
- Families can either
 - i. Complete option choices online by Tues 4th March 2025
 - ii. Request an options interview and complete the option choices online straight afterwards
- Individual interviews will begin during week commencing Mon 10th March 2025
- Individual interviews are not necessary where there is accord regarding the guided pathway



Next steps

- To request an options interview - email options@qegschool.org.uk
- To enquire about community languages - email options@qegschool.org.uk
- To enquire regarding recommended pathways - email options@qegschool.org.uk



Option Choice Follow-Up

- Timetabling constraints may force minor changes
- Families will be contacted if first preferences cannot be accommodated
 - this is to agree alternative choices.



OPTION CHOICE CONFIRMATION

- Final letters issued to students with their options offer - after Easter
- No changes in September



Information available on the school website

- KS4 Options Handbook 2025-2027
- 'How to use SIMS Options Online' helpsheet
- SIMS Options Online Demonstration Video
- For each subject
 - Subject overview video
 - Subject information sheet
 - Subject FAQs



Using SIMS Options Online

- You will receive an invitation email from noreply@sims.co.uk. If you cannot find this email, please check your SPAM/junk folder before contacting the school.
- Best to sign out of all accounts first
- Click the **Accept Invitation** button

You're invited to start using SIMS Parent to manage your child's personal details at GreenAb. If enabled by the school, you can also view child's attendance, school reports, homework assignments and more.

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

Accept Invitation

If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<https://registration.sims.co.uk>

Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is: **XVG9BTMRXT**



Using SIMS Options Online

- The **Activate Your Account** screen is displayed. The **Invitation Code** field is already filled with the unique code from your email.
- Enter your email address as **Username** and click the **Next** button
- Do not use the 'external account' option

Activate Your Account

So that we can confirm your identity, please enter your email address and personal invitation code.

Username

Invitation Code

Next

Alternatively you may complete the registration using an External Account.

Register with an External Account



Using SIMS Options Online

- You will be asked to **Create a Strong Password**
- Once your account has been registered, you will need to validate it. Check your email account for an email from SIMS ID Registration
- Click on **Verify My Email** in the SIMS ID Registration email
- Click the **Sign In** button on the screen confirming your email address has been validated



Using SIMS Options Online

- Once the registration process is complete, users can sign in via the following URLs.
 - <https://www.sims-options.co.uk> (for Options Online)
 - <https://www.sims-parent.co.uk> (for checking and updating personal data)



Using SIMS Options Online

When you log in you will see your daughter's recommended pathway.

The screenshot displays the SIMS Options Online interface. At the top, a blue header bar contains the word "Home". Below this, a purple bar shows "Student Choices - Guest Student ()". On the left side of this bar is a "Save" button with an upload icon. To its right are two buttons: "Show Notes" and "Hide Notes". The main content area has a light purple background and features a section titled "Pathway: Ebacc" in bold. Below the title, the text reads: "This pathway is tailored to students who want to secure the EBacc with the flexibility to study a w in Key Stage 3." followed by "Students on the EBacc pathway will have the opportunity to study a language (French or Spanish)" and "For more information about subjects please look at the Key Stage 4 Options page of the school w".

Home

Student Choices - Guest Student ()

Save

Show Notes Hide Notes

Pathway: Ebacc

This pathway is tailored to students who want to secure the EBacc with the flexibility to study a w in Key Stage 3.

Students on the EBacc pathway will have the opportunity to study a language (French or Spanish)

For more information about subjects please look at the Key Stage 4 Options page of the school w



Student Choices – Guest Student ()

Save Show Notes Hide Notes

EBacc Language Choice

Please choose either French or Spanish. If you wish to study both languages the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice
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EBacc Humanity Choice

Please choose either Geography or History. If you wish to study both subjects the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice
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Open Choice

Please choose two subjects from the list below. For those that wish to take the STEM route, Triple Science should be chosen as one of the subjects from this list. Once you have chosen your subjects, you will then need to choose one reserve subject.

You have chosen 2 of 2 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Computing GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Design & Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Food Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve You have selected this course in EBacc Language Choice	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve This course is also available in EBacc Humanity Choice	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve You have selected this course in EBacc Humanity Choice
Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Physical Education GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Triple Science GCSE Full Course Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve This course is also available in EBacc Language Choice	

Priority Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.

- French**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Language Choice
- History**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Humanity Choice

My Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Drama**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice
- Food Technology**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice

My Reserves

(Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Design & Technology**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice



EBacc Language Choice

Please choose either French or Spanish. If you wish to study both languages the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen **1 of 1** courses from this list

French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice
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EBacc Humanity Choice

Please choose either Geography or History. If you wish to study both subjects the other will be available in the Open Choice List.

You have chosen **1 of 1** courses from this list

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in Open Choice
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Open Choice

Please choose two subjects from the list below. For those that wish to take the STEM route, Triple Science should be chosen as one of the subjects from this list. Once you have chosen your subjects, you will then need to choose one reserve subject.

You have chosen **2 of 2** courses and **1 of 1** reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Computing GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Design & Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Food Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course You have selected this course in EBacc Language Choice	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in EBacc Humanity Choice	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course You have selected this course in EBacc Humanity Choice
Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Physical Education GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Triple Science GCSE Full Course Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course This course is also available in EBacc Language Choice	



Priority Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.

1 French

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Language Choice

2 History

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBacc Humanity Choice

My Choices

(Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Drama

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice

2 Food Technology

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice

My Reserves

(Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Design & Technology

GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice



Using SIMS Options Online

▼ Parent/Carer Approval

☐ Parent/Carer Approval

Add any comments here



Using SIMS Options Online

Home

 Student Choices – *Guest Student ()*



Save



Show Notes



Hide Notes



Opportunities to ask questions

- Questions relating to individual subjects should be directed to the relevant subject lead
- FAQs and video overviews are available for each subject on the school website