



Hazel Wood
High School

Respect Responsibility Aspiration

16th January 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Re: Your child's optional subject choices

As your child approaches the end of Key Stage 3, they begin to choose the subjects that they will study in Key Stage 4. At Hazel Wood High School, we offer a suite of qualifications that are both vocational (BTEC and Cambridge National Qualifications) and General Certificates in Secondary Education (GCSE). All of these types of qualifications are level 2 courses and all are of equal credit, preparing them for their next steps.

Our Year 9 students were introduced to their choices this morning when we launched the process in an assembly; and we are now writing to you to advise of the next steps, so that you can support them with their choices.

Today, each Year 9 student has been given an 'Options booklet'. They have been told to bring this home and to go through this with you, so that you can help them to design their curriculum from year 10. Our students can now choose four subjects to study alongside the core GCSEs of English Language, English Literature, Maths and Combined Science.

In today's assembly, they were told about the EBACC qualification. The EBACC is the English Baccalaureate Qualification and there is now a national expectation that most students in England should complete this. This qualification is a suite of GCSEs that contain all of the core GCSEs of English, Maths and Science, plus either GCSE History or GCSE Geography and a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language (MFL). If your child should follow this pathway, the brochure that your child has will have the word 'yes' on the front in the EBACC section. You can find out more about this qualification inside the booklet.

Our optional subjects are listed in detail in the booklet and there are full course overviews to help students know a little about the courses. To support students in making the right choices for their future, we are now putting the following steps in place for them:

- **For the rest of this week**, subject leaders will introduce our students to their optional subjects in a series of assemblies.
- **Next week**, pupils will all receive a taster lesson in every optional subject so that they can decide if this is of interest to them.
- **On Thursday the 26th of January 2023**, we have year 9 Parents' Evening. This is the perfect opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress in any of the subjects, to help decide if they should choose it as one of their 'options'.

Headteacher: Mr Paul Greenhalgh

Hazel Avenue, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 7QT



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Hazel Wood High School

- On Thursday the 2nd of February 2023, we have a 'Parent / Guardian and Child **Options' Evening' from 4.30pm – 6.30pm**. During this evening, subject leaders and teachers will all be available to explain courses to you, so that you can be fully informed and help your child to make the right decisions.
- **On Wednesday the 8th of February**, there is a Year 9 Careers' fair during the school day. There will be apprenticeship providers, employers and local colleges all on hand to talk to our children about potential career choices; and which subjects will help them to get onto the right path.
- **By Friday the 10th of February 2023**, students are expected to submit their option forms (at the back of booklet) to Student Services.
- **In March**, we should be able to start confirming the subjects that will form your child's Key Stage 4 curriculum.

We would very much like you to confirm your intention to join us at the 'Parent / Guardian and Child Options' Evening on the 2nd of February by completing the slip below. Your child can return this slip to Miss Gibb. Please be advised that, whilst you do not have to bring your child with you, it would be helpful to do so. Please also note that this is not an event for unaccompanied children; they must join us with a parent or guardian.

Thank you, in advance, for your support. We know that working together will achieve the best outcomes for your child and we are very grateful.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss M Rathor
Deputy Headteacher

Name of Child _____

Name of Parent / Guardian _____

How many people are likely to join us at the event? _____

Please indicate the time slot that you are likely to arrive by placing a tick below:

4.30pm – 5.00pm _____

5.00pm – 5.30pm _____

5.30pm – 6.00pm _____

6.00pm -6.30pm _____

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