

Fred Longworth High School

Y9 Options 2025

Mr P Davies

Headteacher



Options Booklet and Information

Subject Selections: 2025

A message from the Headteacher, Mr P. Davies:

Selecting subjects to study at Key Stage 4 is an exciting and nerve-racking process for students, and the guidance that we – their teachers and parents - give them is essential in helping them to make the right choices. Through the option process, we aim to provide you with all the information required to make informed choices. We must remember that the subjects chosen by the students will be studied for two years, so it is vitally important to take the time to get these choices right.

All students will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. Students must choose between History and Geography, and we strongly recommend that they study a Modern Foreign Language.

Students will then choose up to two or three additional option subjects. We believe it is important that students choose a balance of both academic and creative subjects. This broad and balanced curriculum will, we believe, give them the best possible chance of success.

As well as this, all students will participate in two hours of Physical Education each week, as well as a carefully balanced Personal, Social, and Health Education programme, which also includes careers education.

Through the subject selection process, we will guide learners towards courses and combinations of courses in which they will thrive. Parents and students will be invited to attend a one-to-one options meeting with a member of our senior team. It is imperative to attend this meeting with your child.

We look forward to working with you throughout this process.

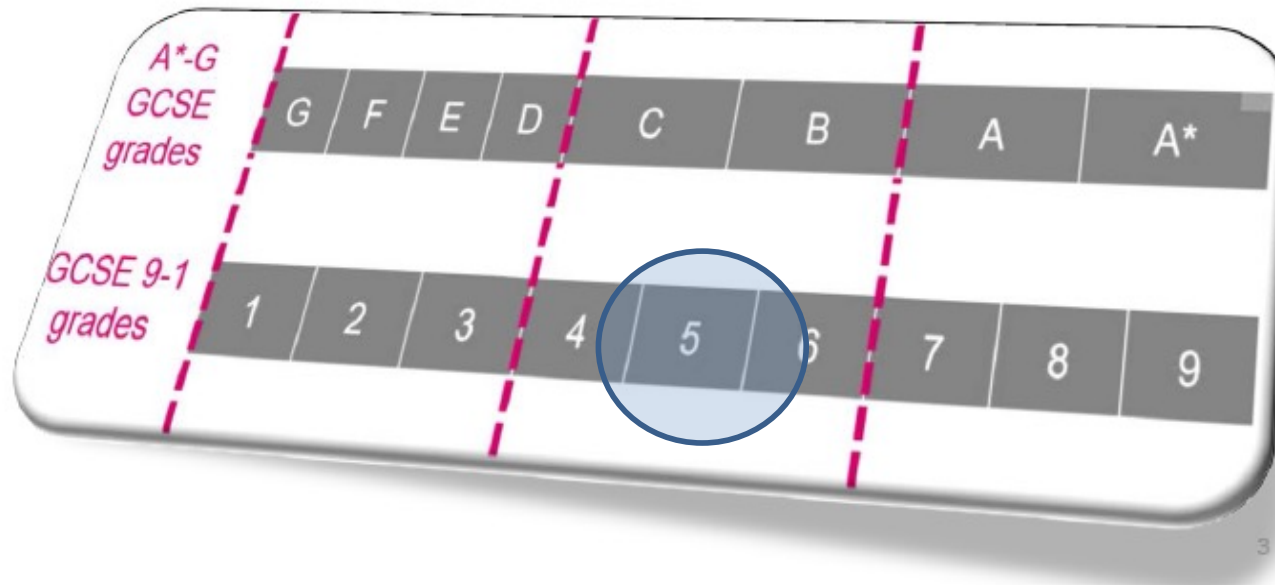
Your child will have received a letter, their options book and selection form.

Raised Expectations

In 2016 the examination system was reformed:

- The new GCSEs and reformed vocational courses are **more challenging and there is increased content.**
- The new GCSEs are **graded on a 1 to 9 scale.** 9 being the highest grade.
- Very few subjects have a coursework option. **Most subjects are assessed exclusively on examinations** taken at the end of Y11.
- Be aware that in **some subjects, some exams are taken in Year 10.**
- **A Levels and Further Education Courses** have also increased in difficulty too.

Numerical Grades



- Currently: Grade 4 is considered a **'standard'** pass.
- Grade 5 is considered a **'strong'** pass.
- Students who do not achieve grade 4 in English and Maths are required to retake these subjects post-16.

Most students will achieve 9 outcomes

- Maths
- English Language
- English Literature
- Double Award-Trilogy Science (worth 2 GCSE grades)

Students have 4 option choices.

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Option 4

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

The Department for Education recommends the following subject combination. Collectively they make up what is known as the English Baccalaureate:

1. English Language
2. English Literature
3. Maths
4. Science
5. History or Geography
6. A Modern Foreign Language

This combination of subjects is considered the academic gold standard and is intended to give students 'currency' to help them in later life.

Facilitating subjects from the EBACC

- History or Geography
- French (*or Spanish if taken in Year 9*)

Separate Sciences

All students automatically study the **Double Award-Trilogy** Science Course which is **worth two GCSEs.**

However, students can choose instead to specialise in the three Separate Sciences to obtain **three separate qualifications:**

- **GCSE Biology**
- **GCSE Physics**
- **GCSE Chemistry**

We strongly advise students who choose to study the Separate Sciences also study a language so that they qualify for the EBACC.

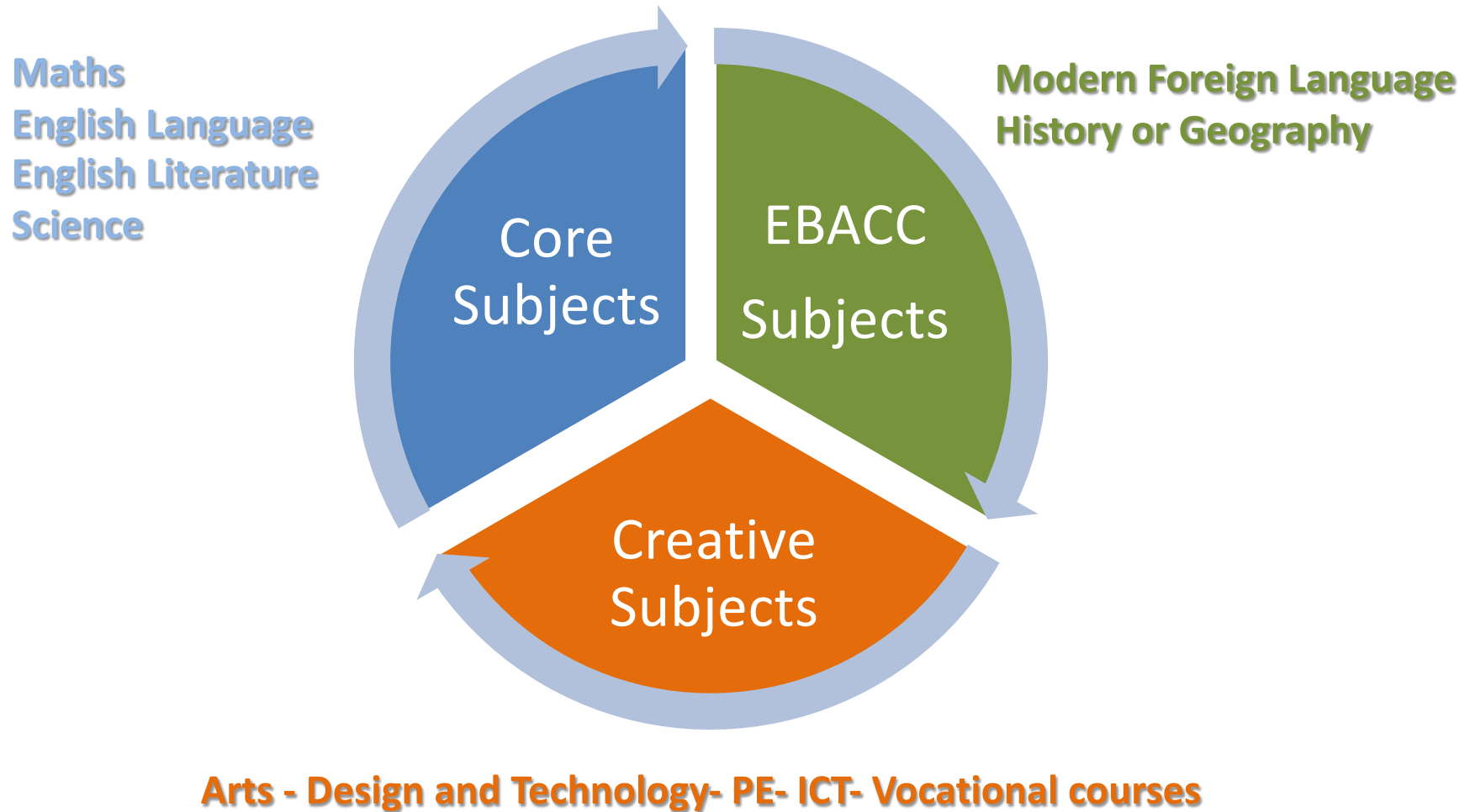
Vocational Qualifications

As well as GCSEs, we also offer the following vocational qualifications:

- BTEC Music Practice
- BTEC Performing Arts courses for both Dance and Drama
- OCR Sports Studies
- IMedia
- Construction and the built environment

Level / Qualification Grade	Grade Equivalent
Level 2 / Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 / Distinction	7
Level 2 / Merit	5.5
Level 2 / Pass	4
Level 1 / Distinction	3
Level 1 / Merit	2
Level 1 / Pass	1.25

Aim for a broad and balanced curriculum



General Certificate in Secondary Education (GCSE)



General Certificate in Secondary Education (GCSE)

Employability skills

- Team working
- Self-management
- Problem solving
- Communication – including application of literacy
- Languages
- Business and customer awareness
- Application of numeracy
- Application of ICT

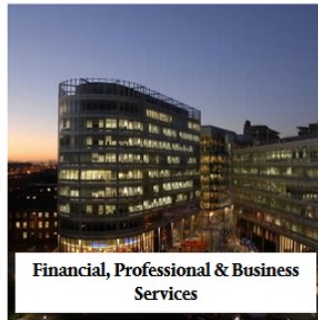
Thriving Sectors



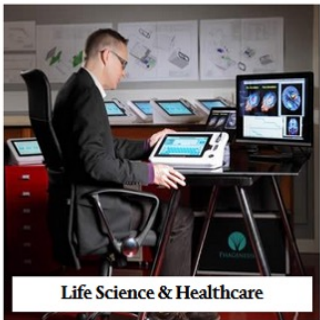
Creative, Digital & Technology



Energy & Environment



Financial, Professional & Business Services



Life Science & Healthcare



Logistics



Advanced Manufacturing

The Greater Manchester Priority Sectors are

Advanced Manufacturing
Construction Civil Engineering
Logistics
Financial and Professional
Hospitality & Tourism
Digital and Creative
Health and Social Care
Retail
Transport
Education

70-80% of young people will remain in the area in which they went to school.

What the form looks like:

Your child now needs to select one option choice from each of the columns below and a **reserve subject**. They can do this by carefully circling their choice. They must then write a reserve choice on the line beneath the table.

Please note that where the school is only running one class, e.g. Religious Studies, GCSE Dance or BTEC Music, it is not prudent to select one of these subjects as your reserve.

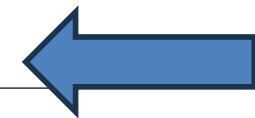
Humanities	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
	GCSE Religious Studies	BTEC Music	GCSE Music
	GCSE Separate Science	GCSE Dance	BTEC Dance
GCSE Geography	GCSE French	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama
GCSE History	GCSE Spanish	BTEC Drama	BTEC Drama
	GCSE Computer Science	OCR Sports Studies	GCSE PE
Happy to take either	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE French	OCR Sports Studies
	OCR Creative I Media	GCSE Art	GCSE Spanish
	OCR Sports Studies	GCSE Photography	GCSE French
	GCSE D&T	GCSE History	GCSE D&T
	Or	GCSE Geography	Or
	Eduqas Construction	GCSE Business Studies	Eduqas Construction
	Eduqas Hospitality & Catering		Eduqas Hospitality & Catering
			GCSE Art
			GCSE History
			GCSE Geography
			OCR Creative I Media
			GCSE Computer Science

Reserve choice is vital

Reserve: _____

Parent/Carer: _____

Student: _____



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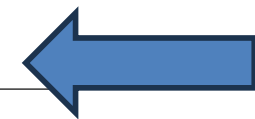
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	OCR Sports Studies	GCSE Photography	GCSE French
	GCSE D&T	GCSE History	GCSE D&T
	Or	GCSE Geography	Or
	Eduqas Construction	GCSE Business Studies	Eduqas Construction
	Eduqas Hospitality & Catering		Eduqas Hospitality & Catering
			GCSE Art
			GCSE History
			GCSE Geography
			OCR Creative I Media
			GCSE Computer Science

Reserve choice is vital

Reserve: _____

Parent/Carer: _____

Student: _____



Reserve Subject

- We do our very best to accommodate our students' first choices but we cannot always guarantee this.

**You must carefully choose a
reserve subject.**



How you can support your child:

- **Remind** them to read the information in the booklet carefully . Remind them not to close any doors until they have carefully considered the benefits of each subject.
- **Careful thought is required**. Options should not be based on friendship groups or a particular teacher. Once the decision is made, **students are committing to a two-year course. We do not allow students to drop courses.**
- In some cases, it is not possible for students to study two similar courses as they will be discounted. **Look for the OR!**
- Tell your child to **speak to their teachers** or those who have been identified as subject leads if they are unsure about a subject and what it entails at GCSE.
- Ask your child to sit down with you/ someone at home to **talk through their options and explain their thought process.**

Things to be aware of:

- **February** – Year 9 Option Process Assembly took place
- All options information can be found on our website under '**Curriculum- KS4 options**'
- **Tuesday 25th February (Online) & Thursday 27th February (face to face)** – Year 9 One-to-One OPTIONAL Options Meetings with Senior Staff.
- **Friday 7th March 2025** – Deadline for Year 9 Options to be in

Support

- ✓ Details about how to book an appointment have been emailed out. **Please book via School Cloud for an online or face to face meeting .**
- ✓ If your child is still unsure about their option choices, parents will be able to contact the school's careers adviser, Mrs Cross and arrange an appointment to speak with her. **Only do this after the Options Meeting.**
- ✓ **Encourage your child to be prepared to explain their thought process and have any questions ready.**

Please engage with us. These decisions are important.

Deadline

- Option choices and the options forms must be completed and returned to school by **Friday 7th March.**

- **Handed in to Form Tutor**

