



Y9 Options Information Session

The Options Process



Why the fuss about qualifications?

‘In a competitive job market, academic and vocational qualifications are increasingly important. Those without qualifications are at a higher risk of being unemployed and having low incomes.’

Exclusion, employment and opportunity, Case Paper No 4, Atkinson. A and Hills J, (eds),

Changing times....



Department
for Education

'Broad and balanced curriculum
curriculum'

Return to more traditional GCSE
subjects

High quality vocational
qualifications

Our Curriculum Offer

CORE Subjects All students will study these externally examined GCSE subjects:	EBACC Subjects (English Baccalaureate) Students MUST select 1 subject from this column:	OPEN Subjects Students MUST select 3 options from this column:
English Language English Literature Mathematics Combined Science (this includes equal weighting of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	Geography ¹ History ¹	Art & Design ² Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computing & IT Drama Engineering Food & Cookery
Foundation Subjects All students will continue to study these non-examined subjects: Citizenship Computing Personal Development: Personal, Social and Health Education – including Sex and Relationships & Physical Education Religious Studies	Spanish ¹	Graphic Design ² Health & Social Care History Media Studies Music Photography Physics Religious Studies Sociology Spanish Sports Science

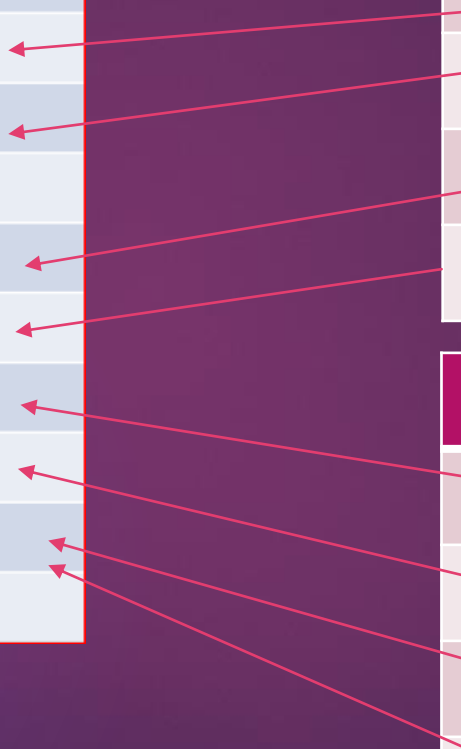
GCSEs

Grade Number
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
U

BTECs/NCFE/CIDA/Cambridge Nationals (L2)

Grade L2
Distinction *
Distinction
Merit
Pass

Grade L1
Distinction *
Distinction
Merit
Pass



Options Booklet: Sample Shot

Key Stage 4

Options Information

2024-2026

The future
is yours
to
choose...



Computing

What does this lesson offer me?

As part of the Computing national curriculum at key stage 4, you will learn about the following:

- staying safe online and knowing how to use modern technology, apps and virtual hardware and software safely.
- understanding how change in technology can affect your safety, making new ways to protect your online privacy and identity, and how to identify and report a range of concerns.
- developing your skills and understanding in computer science, digital media and information technology.
- developing your analytic, problem-solving, design, and computational thinking skills.
- investigating various careers in computing and developing your transferable skills that are valued by employers.

What does this series of lessons involve?

What you will study:

- Online safety, computer science, IT and careers.

FOUNDATION

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- This is a non-examination subject. It will not lead to a qualification at the end of Year 11.
- If you wish to gain a qualification in Computing, you will need to choose it as an option subject.
- You will be checked on your progress and understanding throughout the year on the range of topics studied and work produced in lessons.

SKILLS INVOLVED

- Extended Writing
- Using Numbers
- Using ICT (Not Gaming)
- Short Written Tasks

BEYOND Core Computing

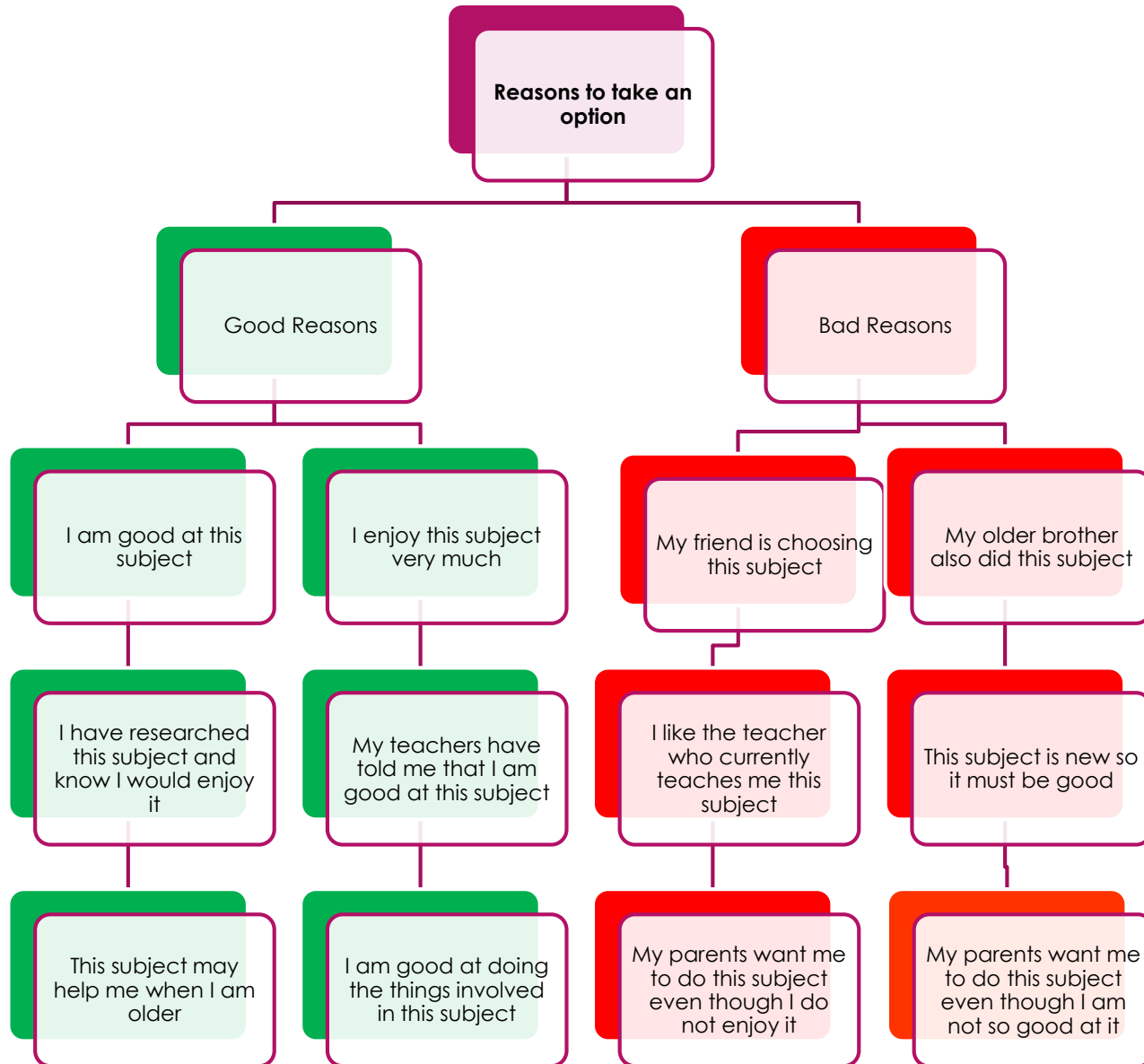
Proficiency in computing, and understanding how to stay safe online is vital and as you progress your job prospects further, it will equip you to stay safe online and allow you to continue with your career education.

What's different about KS4?

- **19 month course (a little over 5 terms) You have greater responsibility:**
- **Important that you work throughout Key Stage 4**
- **The work is harder and you have more to do**
- **YOU have to be more independent**
- **You must be prepared to give time to your studies**
- **Mock and final examinations**



Reasons to choose an Option



What our students say...

Don't pick it if you're not going to put the work in.

Make sure you enjoy a subject before you pick it

Choose subjects which will help you find a job, but don't do something if you won't put the effort in

Work hard; give effort or you won't get the grades you want

My subjects will help me in the future

My subjects are lots of work, but fun and definitely worth it



Attendance

The Impact of Attendance on Attainment

Attendance	Chances of gaining 5 GCSEs grade 9-4 (A*-C)
97+	96.7%
95%-96%	74.3%
93-94	60.4
92%-93%	53.1
88% and below	26.7

Punctuality to School is Vital

Minutes Late Each Day	Days of Learning Lost
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13
30	19

There is a DIRECT LINK between UNDERACHIEVEMENT at KS4 and POOR ATTENDANCE (below 97%) and POOR ATTENDANCE – FACT.

Can the school guarantee that I will be given my first choice of subjects?

NO.

- ▶ **Information gathered from CATS tests**
- ▶ **We use a checking process: are all you doing an appropriate set of courses for you?**
- ▶ **Viability of groups?**
- ▶ **Can we make each all students' choices fit?**

I want to do something different – such as a work related course. How?

Your parents can apply to other places to study at KS4 such as:

- **Liverpool Life Sciences UTC**
- **The Studio School**
- **St Helen's College Academy**
- **Another school**

What happens next?

- 1. Watch subject presentations during Academic Tutor Time**
- 2. Discuss options with your parents/carers**
- 3. Attend Parents' Evening to discuss choices with subject teachers**
- 4. Complete options form sent to your parents via EduLink (deadline 09/02/24)**
- 5. Attend an interview to make sure you have chosen the right options for you**