

# Year 9 Options and Progress Evening



The structure of the evening is as follows:

4.00pm – 4.50pm: Progress evening (parental appointments with staff)

5.00pm – 5.10pm: Year 9 options - presentation

5.10pm – 5.50pm: Year 9 options – subject stands

6.00pm – 7.30pm: Progress evening (parental appointments with staff)



## Progress 8 measure



**English**  
Double-weighted\*

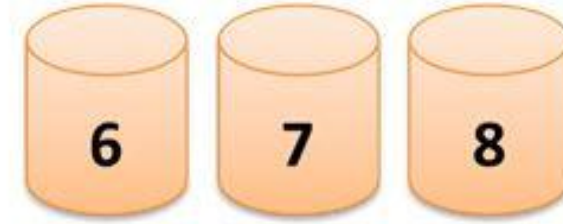


**Maths**  
Double-weighted

*\*Higher score of English Language or English Literature double-weighted if a student has taken both qualifications*



**EBacc qualifications**  
(sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages)



**'Open group'**  
**Remaining EBacc qualifications and other approved qualifications**  
(GCSEs and other approved academic, arts or vocational qualifications)

### Why study the Ebacc?

Research shows that students are more likely to progress on to, and remain studying A levels and other Level 3 subjects at Sixth Form or College.

**However**, for a proportion of students the EBacc subjects might not be the most appropriate choices. Staff will guide you on which subject choices.



# EBacc:

- English language and literature
- maths
- The sciences
- Geography or History
- French



How does the grading work at GCSE?

The “old” pass grade of a C equates to a 4 or 5 in the new grading structure.

A “5” is judged to be a “good” pass, and is often the grade required in English and Maths to progress on to many college courses.

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)  
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING  
4 and above = bottom of C and above



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A BTEC is a vocational course that you can study at different levels.

A BTEC Level 2 certificate is equivalent to one GCSE.

The BTEC grading system uses a Pass, Merit and Distinction grading system.

A guide to how the BTEC grading system equates to the “old” GCSE grading system is:

**Distinction \* (D\*) = A\* at GCSE**

**Distinction (D) = A at GCSE**

**Merit (M) = B at GCSE**

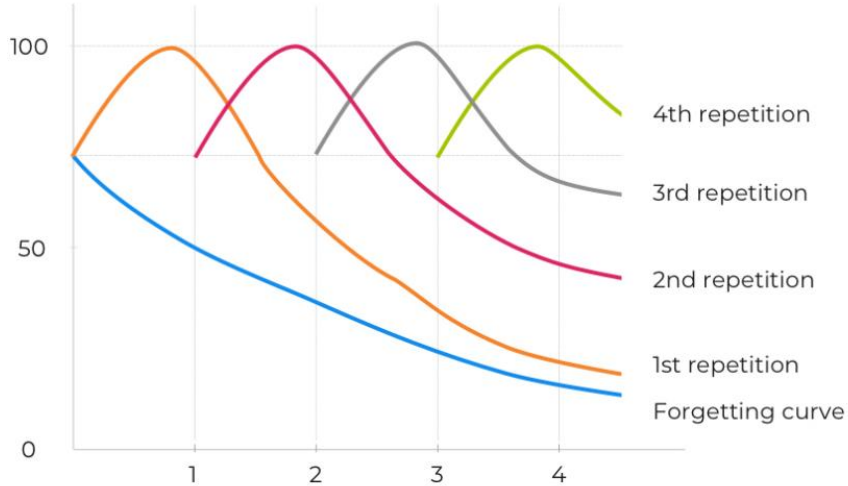
**Pass (P) = C at GCSE**

(This grading system is the same for OCR National qualifications)

Instead of the majority of assessment culminating in final exams at the end of Year 11. BTEC courses consist of 60% centre assessed work that is externally moderated and 40% external exam at the end of the course.



# KS4 Subjects are a challenge...



At times you will find subjects difficult.

At times you might not enjoy certain topics.

Resilience, determination and a long term view.

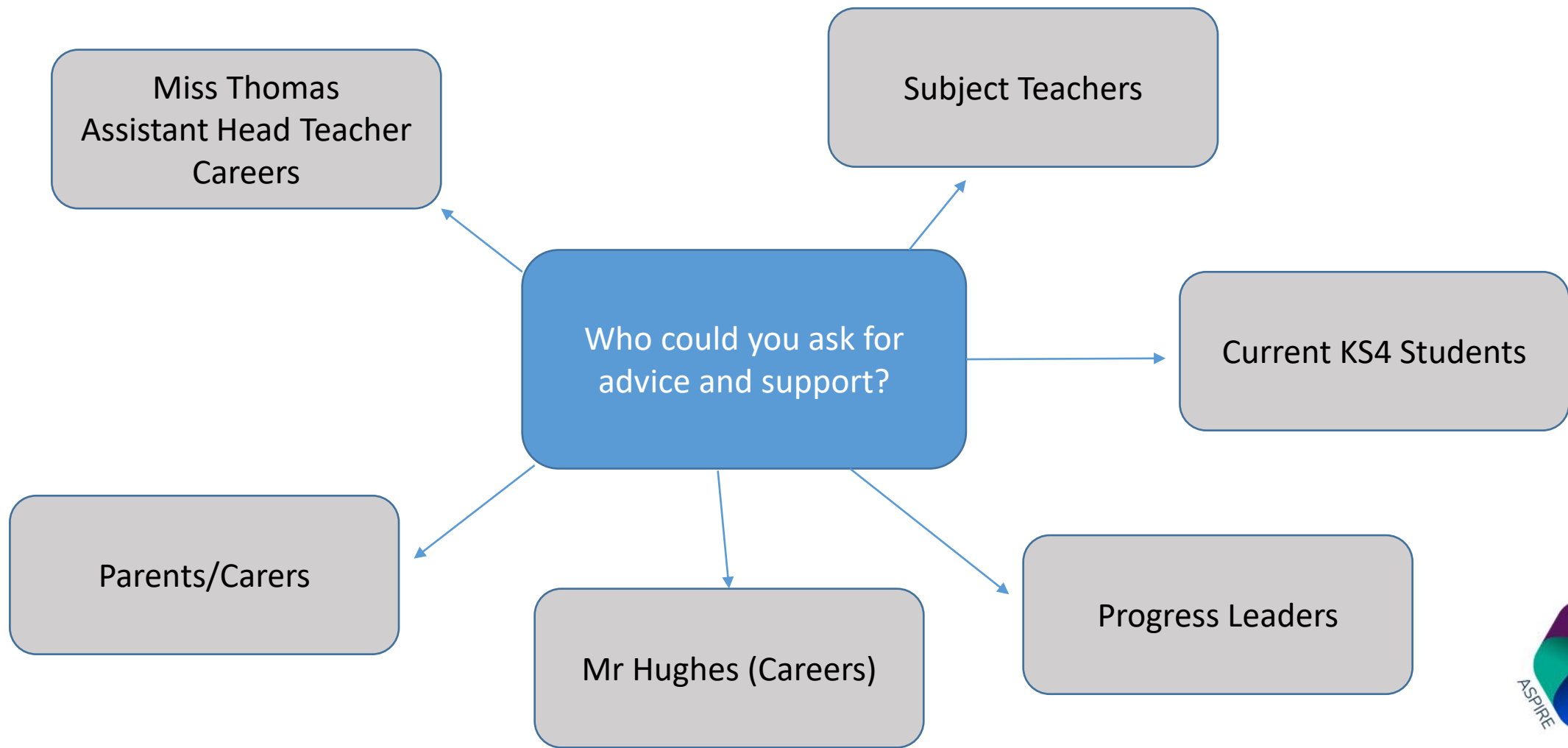
Study at home is essential.



# Option Blocks

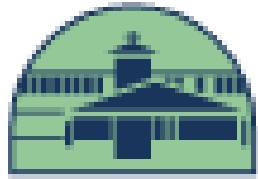
Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
OCR Health & Social Care BTEC Physical Education GCSE Triple Science GCSE 3D Design OCR IT GCSE Graphics	GCSE Graphics BTEC Performing Arts OCR Creative iMedia BTEC Small Animal Care OCR Child Development OCR Enterprise and Marketing GCSE Geography GCSE History	GCSE Fine Art GCSE 3D Design BTEC Physical Education Level 1/ 2 Hospitality and Catering OCR Enterprise and Marketing BTEC Music GCSE Religious Studies	GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE French





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# When you move on from Blacon High School.....



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**Cheshire College**  
South & West



**COLEG**  
**CAMBRIA**



**Employment**

**University**

**Apprenticeship**



# Making your choice

Email any questions that you might have to [options@blaconhigh.Cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:options@blaconhigh.Cheshire.sch.uk).

During the Progress Evening and Options Evening discuss your possible options with your class teachers and they will advise you on the suitability of the course at Key Stage 4.

Carefully consider why you are choosing each subject and where your options might lead after Blacon High School.

Join the Options Google Classroom and complete the online option form.

**Google Classroom Code:**

**v7ygatdk**

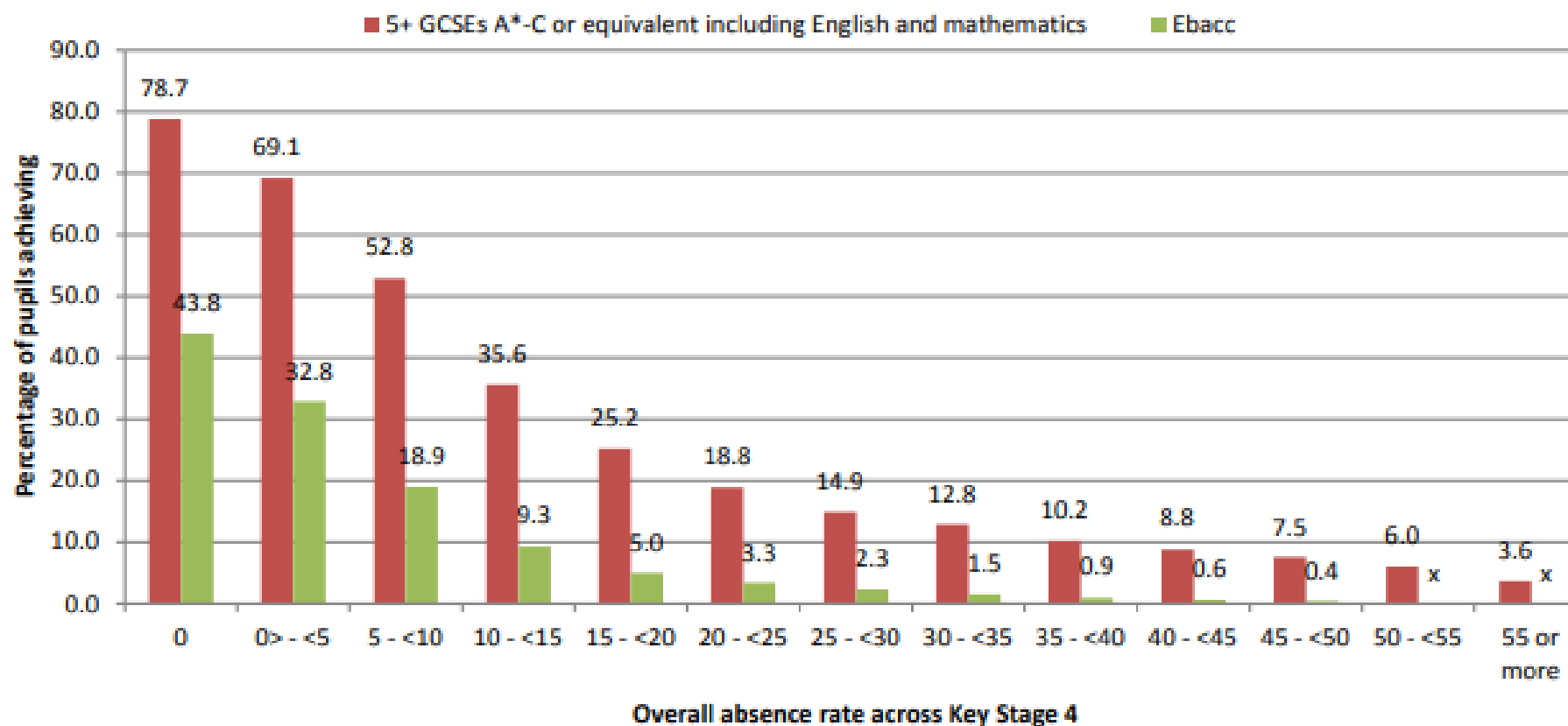


# Excellent attendance is essential if you are to achieving your potential and attaining high grades

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons



This graph shows the link between attendance and the percentage of students who achieved 5 or more GCSE level subjects at A\* -C.



Classroom > Year 9 Options 2026

Stream Classwork People Grades

# Year 9 Options 2026

Customize

Meet

Generate link

New announcement

Repost

This is where you can talk to your class



Google Classroom code: v7ygatdk



Option A

- Geography
- History
- BTEC PE
- OCR Health and Social Care
- Triple Science



# Key Dates

**In curriculum lessons:** Students received initial information about new option subjects directly from the teachers who lead these courses in Years 10 and 11.

**Thursday, March 26th – Options Evening:** You and your child are invited to look at resources, view examples of student work, and ask subject teachers any questions you may have.

**Thursday, March 26th (Evening) – Option Blocks Released:** Following the Options Evening, the final option blocks will be published online for students to access via Google Classroom.

**Friday, March 27th – Peer Discussions:** Students will have the valuable opportunity to meet with current students who are taking these subjects. They can discuss the realities of the courses and look at further examples of coursework from a student's perspective.

**Thursday, April 2nd – Submission Deadline:** All final option requests must be submitted by this date. **Students will need to select and submit their final choices using a dedicated Google Form**, which will be shared with them closer to the time.



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## It is essential that you choose your option subjects for the right reasons:

- Not because a friend is choosing particular subjects
- Not because you like a particular teacher; the Key Stage 4 experience may be very different to Key Stage 3
- Not because a friend, brother, sister chose a subject and liked it. You are unique.
- Choose subjects which you and enjoy, or think that you will enjoy.
- Which will be most suited to the longer term plan and the next pathway when you will be making choices again at the end of Year 11?
- Please look through the information booklet and the links to the qualification pages for each subject.
- Email the [options@blaconhigh.Cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:options@blaconhigh.Cheshire.sch.uk) if you have any questions about your choices.



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