

YEAR 9 GCSE PREFERENCES PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 26th January 2024



**Mrs Padley (Assistant Head)
&
Ms Daisley (Head of Year 9)**



THE PREFERENCES PROCESS - 2 STAGES

STAGE 1 - Choose top 4 (+ 2 reserve) of your dream combination of subjects.

STAGE 2 - Subjects are generated into blocks. Choose 1 subject (+ 3 reserve) from each block. These must be 4 different subjects.

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Construction BTEC	Art	Food and Nutrition	Business Studies (2 classes)
Drama	Computer science	French	Citizenship
French	French	History	Drama
Geography	History	Music	French
History	ICT BTEC	Numeracy and Functional Skills	Geography
Sociology	Religious Studies	Psychology	History
Travel and Tourism BTEC	Sport BTEC	Sociology	Hospitality and Catering BTEC
Triple science		Sport BTEC	

THE PROCESS...

KEY DATES	PROCESS
20th November 2023 - 22nd January 2024	All year 9s receives a 1:1 careers interview with our school careers leader.
Wednesday 10 th /17 th /24 th / 31st Jan 2024	Focused subject assemblies publicising the benefits of studying their subject and what the course entails
Monday 8th - Friday 9th February 2024	Subject GCSE taster sessions within lessons
Thursday 25th January 2024	Year 9 Parents Information Evening – Preferences focus with Q+A - Stage 1 preferences forms handed out and preferences booklet emailed out
Monday 26th February 2024	Stage 1 preferences deadline
Thursday 7th March 2024	Face to Face year 9 parents evening - stage 2 (blocks) forms handed out)
Friday 19th April 2024	Stage 2 preferences deadline
W/C 6 th May 2024	Consultation period - Conversations with pupils/parents that may need to study one of their reserve choices
Summer term (mid June) 2024	GCSE preferences finalised and confirmed with parents/carers and pupils.

WHICH SUBJECTS ARE ON OFFER AT STAGE 1?

Compulsory subjects	EBacc Subjects	Other optional subjects
English Language	French	Art
English Literature	Geography	Drama
Maths	German	Music
Combined Science	History	Textiles
	Spanish	Food Tech
	Triple Science	Sport BTEC
		Retail Business BTEC
		Citizenship
		Computer Science
		ICT BTEC
		Religious Studies
		Sociology

NOTE:

These subjects may be subject to change by STAGE 2.

FOR IDENTIFIED AND STUDENTS:

There is an offer of 2 additional BTEC subjects taught within the SEN provision.

EBACC - ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

To achieve the EBacc, pupils need a grade 4 or above in the following combination of subjects:

- English language and literature
- Maths
- Science (combined or triple)
- History or geography
- A language



All students who are capable of taking this programme should do it. It is an excellent suite of qualifications to offer variety post-16 and one which employers and universities hold in esteem. Although recently, UCL and Oxbridge Universities suspended a requirement that all applicants had to have the Ebacc to apply for their courses, they may choose to reinstate this requirement.

Whilst students may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives pupils access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for, keeping their options open.

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES

If your child can

Speak / Listen / Write / Read

any of these languages they can do an additional GCSE in it -

NOTE: There are NO lessons to support this.



Arabic

Bengali

Chinese (Cantonese/Mandarin)

French

German

Greek

Gujarati

Italian

Japanese

Panjabi

Persian

Polish

Portuguese

Russian

Spanish

Turkish

Urdu

STUDENT ADVICE WHEN SELECTING PREFERENCES

Things to consider:

- Do I enjoy this subject?
- Am I doing well in this subject?
- Am I interested in this subject outside of the classroom?
- Does my preferred way of working fit with the demands of the course?
- Would this subject be beneficial for my future aspirations?

However, DO NOT:

- Take a subject just because your friend is choosing it
- Take a subject because you like your current teacher (you may not get them at KS4!)

Who can support you in school?

- Subject teachers
- Ms Daisley/ Hazel / Your Form Tutor
- Careers Leader (Ms Seymore)
- Mrs Padley
- Ms Mills (SENCO) and/or Key Workers in AND provision

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE...



What do GCSE and BTEC stand for?

GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education

BTEC – Business and Technology Education Council

GCSE - Academic qualification in a subject, theory based - some practical/written work may be involved but generally will be assessed by exams at the end of year 11

BTEC - Practical qualification based around vocational subjects. BTECs tend to revolve around coursework and are assessed via a mixture of project based assessments, written work, online assessments and exams.

GCSE and BTEC qualifications hold the equivalent academic value

Do I need to be working at a certain grade to take it for GCSE?

In most cases - NO! It is more important that you enjoy the subject and will be engaged by it so you are more likely to succeed.

Subjects that require a minimum grade:

Triple science - grade 4 in science

Computer science - grade 4-5+ in maths

If a subject is over-subscribed, how will the school decide who can take it?

We will consider a range of factors...

These include pupil data and personal suitability to the course, discussions with pupils and subject teachers and reserve preferences.

It is also important to consider the overall range of subjects - ie.

- Do not do too many coursework based subjects which cause pressure points in the year
- You can not take more than 2 creative arts/tech subjects
- You can not take more than 2 humanities subjects unless agreed by Hums and myself

It is our overall aim to ensure that you are happy with your final choices.

Will I be able to change my mind in year 10?

This is highly unlikely and very rare.

Subject blocks are often full and it is difficult to swap subjects once the timetables have been finalised.

This is why it is imperative to get your preferences right in year 9 and take advantage of the resources and opportunities available during the preferences process.

Why do I have to choose from a preference block?

Subjects must be made into blocks to make the timetable work.

However, the blocks will be made based off of the stage 1 preferences to ensure the majority of pupils are able to choose a combination of subjects they are happy with and limit disappointment.

Does triple science count as a preference?

Yes it does.

Combined science counts as 2 GCSEs

Triple science counts as 3 GCSEs (Chemistry, Physics and Biology are awarded separately).

Do I still have to do PE even if I do not opt for BTEC sport?

Yes.

PE is a core lesson.

You will still have 1 hour of PE per week.

How many hours per week is each subject studied?

- Maths, English and Science lessons are 4 hours each per week.
- The 4 optional subjects are 3 hours each per week.
- Core PE is 1 hour per week

This totals 25 hours per week.

What can I do *now* to get ahead for Year 10

English?

- ★ **Engage 100% in your Year 9 English lessons.** The skills you practice every lesson are the skills you use at GCSE: language analysis, creative writing, thinking critically, comparison, listening and responding to other views, giving an opinion, presenting an argument, backing up your ideas with evidence...
- ★ **Read fiction and non-fiction regularly:** novels, non-fiction books, news articles, opinion pieces. This is the best investment in your English studies you can make! Ask your teacher if you need ideas
- ★ **Watch a film version** of **Macbeth**, **An Inspector Calls** and **A Christmas Carol** - ask your teacher for their favourite versions!
- ★ **Read or watch a summary of the set texts** to familiarise yourself with the plots - [Sparknotes](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#) have some great written and video summaries
- ★ **Browse the [AQA website](#)** for detailed information about the GCSEs, including past exam papers
- ★ **Buy or borrow the revision guides** for Macbeth, AIC, ACC and Poetry - we sell them in the English office for £2, or the library has copies to check out for free!

KS4 English at Bremer: what to expect

Everyone will work towards **TWO separate GCSEs** in English lessons. You are assessed through **four exams** at the **end of Year 11** (two for each GCSE). You will also complete your **Spoken Language** presentation, which is a **separate qualification**.

What is assessed at the end of Y11?

English Language:

- Reading and analysing a fiction text from 20th/21st Century; your own creative writing
- Reading, analysing and comparing two non-fiction texts from 19th-21st Centuries; your own non-fiction writing (writing to argue or persuade)

English Literature:

- Macbeth (essay), A Christmas Carol (essay)
- An Inspector Calls (essay), Worlds and Lives Poetry (essay comparing two poems), Unseen Poetry (one essay, one short comparison)

What will we do to prepare?

- ★ **Read, discuss, analyse and explore your set texts**
- ★ **Regular timed practice in class:** planning, reading activities, writing
- ★ **Regular in-class practice essays & feedback**
- ★ **Weekly homework set on Google Classroom**

MATHS

DIFFERENT SET STRUCTURE

- Currently all Y9 students are placed in “bands” named “Extend”, “Core”, “Develop” and “Nurture”
- From next year, you will go into a straight Set 1 to Set 7 structure. These sets will be determined using the results of your **End of Year mocks** and also your teacher’s input based on your classwork
- Depending on the set you are placed in, you will either be following the Higher or Foundation Scheme of Learning
- One Hour of Homework each week using SPARX Maths

CURRENTLY IN YEAR 9				HOW SETS WILL BE IN Y10
	Band codes for KS3			Band Codes for KS4
Extend X	Ex	Ey	Extend Y	XMa1
Core X	Cx	Cy	Core Y	XMa2
Develop X	Dx	Dy	Develop Y	XMa3
Nurture	N			XMa4
				XMa5
				XMa6
				XMa7



Students made

83%

more progress with just 15 minutes of practice every week

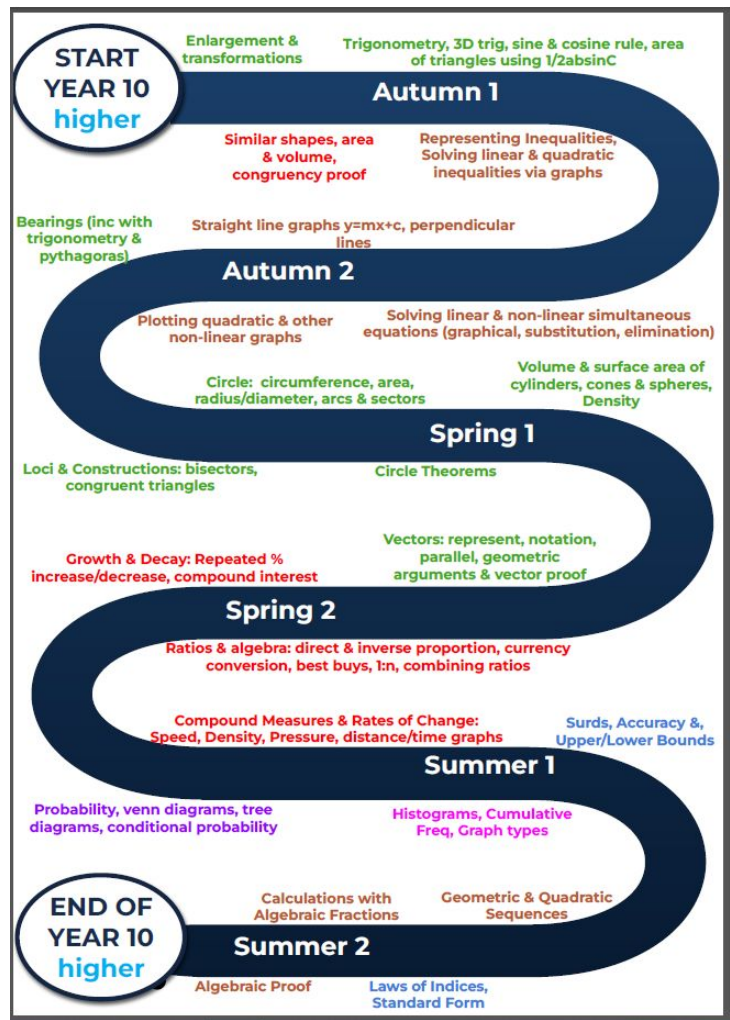
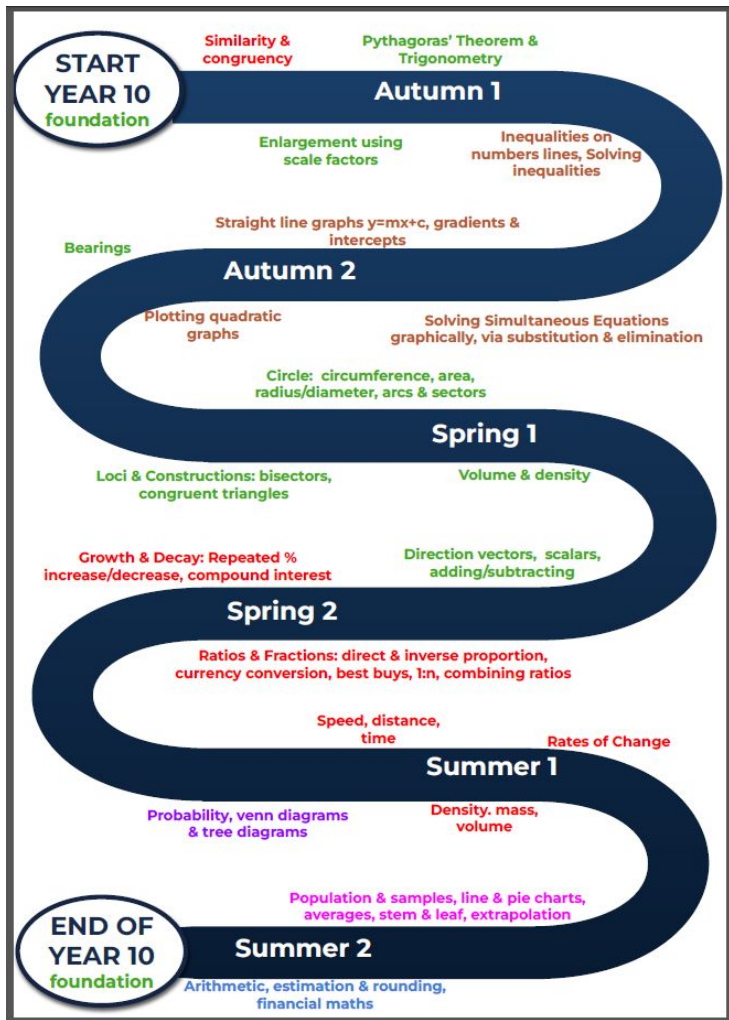
Students using Sparx Maths Homework made 83% more progress with just 15 minutes of practice (in comparison to those who did no homework). For each further 15 minutes of practice they made 67% more progress.



1 hour

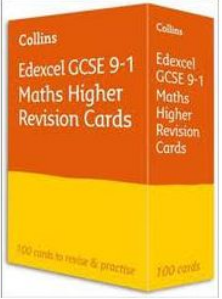
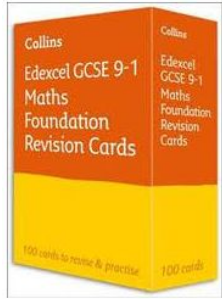
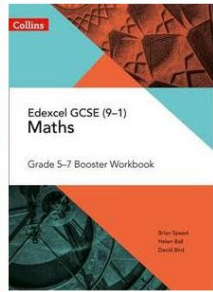
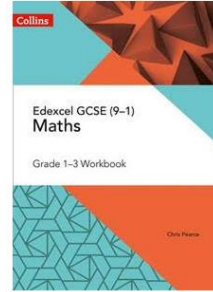
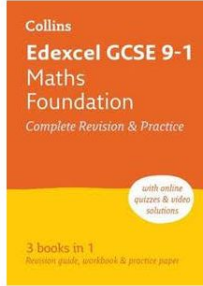
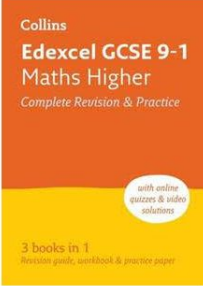
of Sparx Maths a week significantly improves grades

External research conducted by RAND Europe and Cambridge University found that using Sparx Maths for 1 hour a week significantly improves grades.



WHAT WE OFFER AT BREMER MATHS

Weekly Homework & Open Revision sessions



MATHS
Homework &
Open Revision

Every Wednesday
3pm—4pm
Room MM2

Come and do your own Maths revision, with Maths Teachers available to help you out!

GCSE Science

How should I be preparing for GCSE?

Science GCSE already started at the beginning of Year 9. All three sciences will be taught. Topics can be found on the school [website](#)

Wider Reading/Activities

Anything science related will help as it gets you to think scientifically.

Go to the science and natural history museums. You can also visit the royal observatory.

Combined or Triple?

If you are genuinely interested in science, you should pick triple as a preference. You will learn topics like space, perfumes and DNA structure which are not taught in combined science.

You would usually need to enjoy science to do triple science.

A revision guide is available to purchase on iPayimpact, Alternatively, speak to your science teacher.

ANY QUESTIONS?

