



KING
HENRY VIII
SCHOOL

GCSE Options Evening

This presentation will be distributed via InTouch on Friday.



18th January 2024



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Introduction

Mr Dearden – Headmaster



A Position of Strength

2023 Results:

- 47% of all grades at GCSE were 9/8/A*
- 67% of all grades at GCSE were A/A* 9/8/7
- 39% of students achieved exclusively 9, 8, or 7 grades
- 95% of all grades 9–4



THE TIMES

Top 20 independent secondary schools in the West Midlands

1 King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham

2 King Edward's School, Birmingham

3 Concord College, Shrewsbury

4 Rugby School

5 King's High School, Warwick

6 Warwick School

7 Solihull School

8 Shrewsbury School

9 The King's School, Worcester

10 Newcastle-under-Lyme School

11 King Henry VIII School, Coventry

12 RGS Worcester

13 Bablake School, Coventry

14 Bromsgrove School

15 Hereford Cathedral School

16 Wolverhampton Grammar School

17 Moreton Hall, Oswestry

18 Malvern St James Girls' School

19 The Kingsley School, Leamington Spa

20 Shrewsbury High School GDST



Top 20 West Midland Independent Schools by GCSE Results 2023

1. King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham
2. King Edward's School, Birmingham
3. King's High School, Warwick
4. King Henry VIII School
5. Wolverhampton Grammar School
6. Solihull School
7. Warwick School
8. Bablake School
9. The King's School, Worcester
10. Edgbaston High School for Girls



GCSE Journey at Henry's

- Teaching and Learning
- Academic Support
- Careers
- Beyond the Classroom
- Co-Curricular and Sport
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Preparation for Sixth Form



GCSE Grades are important - Choose the right GCSEs

- GCSE - only common grades universities/others have to distinguish between applicants
- GCSEs will follow pupils for the rest of their lives c.60 years
- Many competitive degree courses require 5/6 GCSE grades at 8 or 9



Timeline

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

OPTIONS ASSEMBLY

OPTIONS BOOKLETS
ISSUED

OPTIONS EVENING

PARENTS' CONSULTATION
EVENING

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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SUBMISSION
DEADLINE





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Current situation in Year 9

Looking ahead

Mr Amlani – Head of Year 9



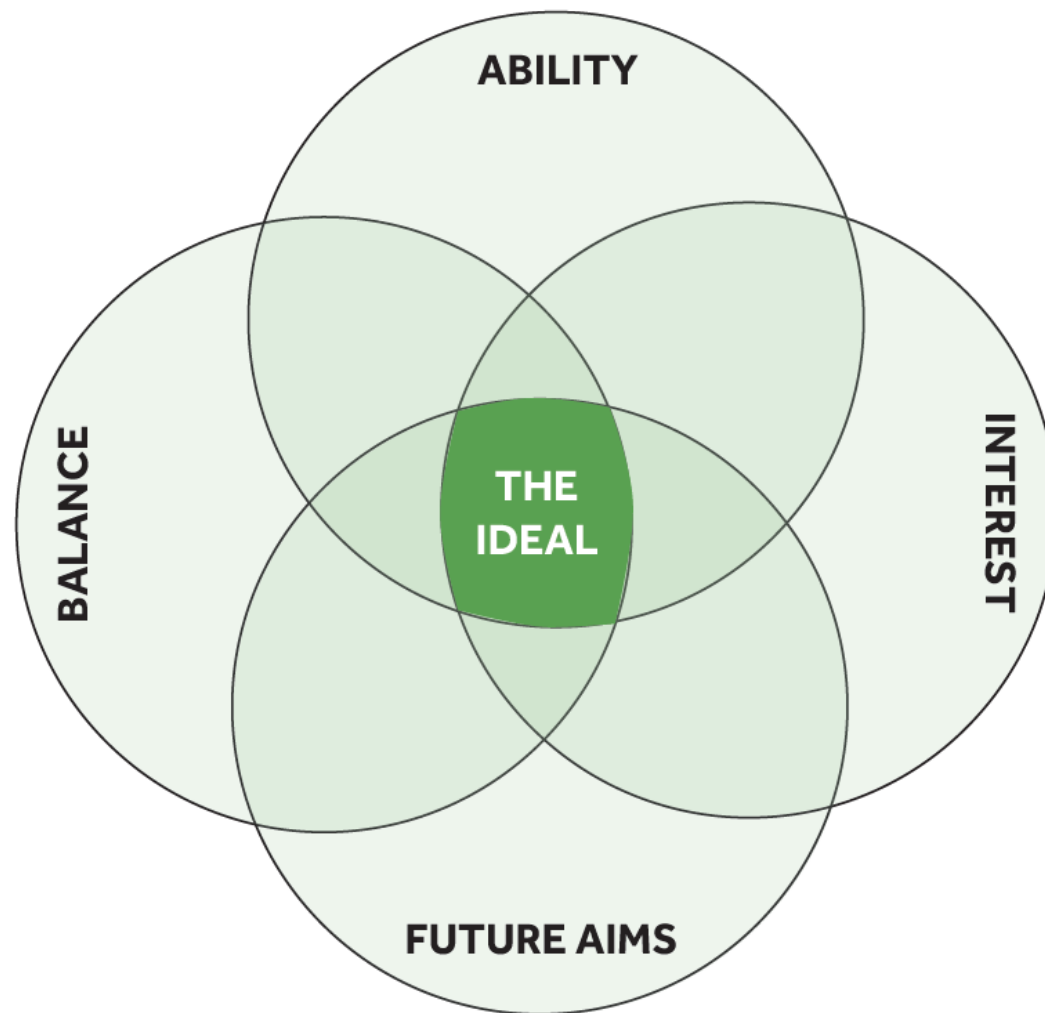
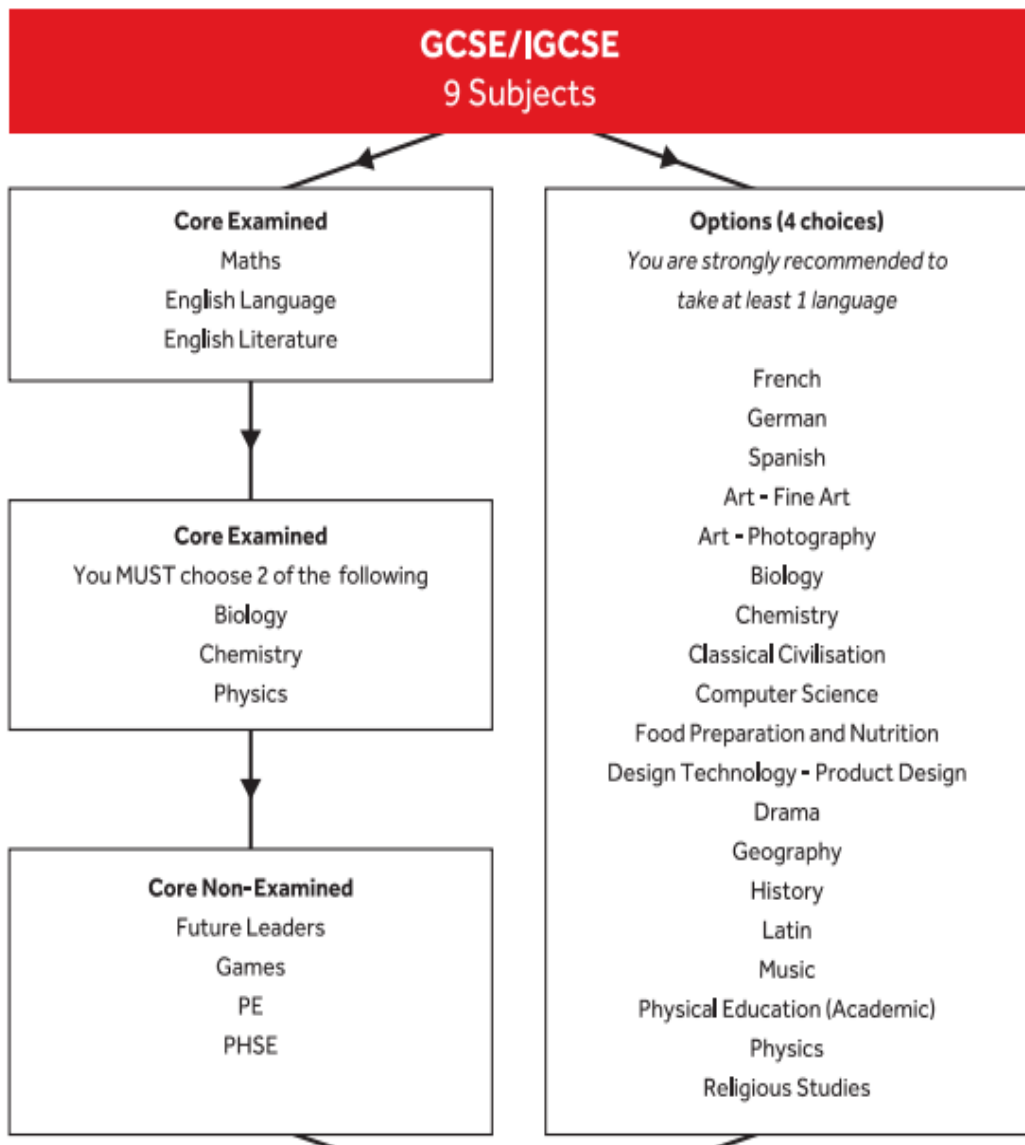
The Current Situation

- **Christmas Grade Cards & general impressions:**
 - Overall, there is much that is very good
 - Progress is being made by many
 - Maturing personally and academically
 - Showing good potential going forward

- **Room for growth:**
 - Increase extracurricular participation
 - Respect for each other
 - Communication



Option Choices- You SHOULD...



Option Choices- You SHOULD...

- **Make an informed choice – gather information**
 - Knowledgeable others – teachers, parents, peers and Careers Adviser
 - Take **time** – listen to the details from Parents' Evening.
 - Read the **Options Booklet** and see Mrs Pike.



Option Choices- You SHOULD...

- Think about what they enjoy studying; what they are good at; and what motivates them?
- Participation, determination and enjoyment are the keys to success.
- Think about what **THEY** want out of your education.
 - Check career or university requirements
 - Consider possible A-level subjects
- Take time and consider what is best for them.



Option Choices – You should avoid:

- **Choosing options based upon:**
 - Their friends' choices – they will not be sitting the exams and you may not be in the same classes.
 - Relatives' options at GCSEs etc. They are not your child...
 - Teachers' personalities – they don't know who they will get next year
- **Being pressured - teachers will not be offended if they don't take their subject.**



The future in Year 9

- Regardless of the choices you make...they will still need to work hard in ALL subjects in Year 9.
- Why?
 - Our expectations are high
 - End of year exams
 - Development of character and mental toughness – “Gives up too easily” doesn’t look good on a reference!
 - Transferable skills
- Rest of Year 9 is about building on their strengths and identifying and improving any weaknesses...



The future in Year 10

- New teaching groups
- New friends
- New teachers
- New challenges
- New opportunities
- Studying subjects you've chosen



This year's stumbling blocks can be turned into next year's stepping stones.

GOOD LUCK





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Careers Department

Mrs Pike – Careers Advisor



Careers Department

- Assembly outlining good decision-making skills
- Mr Amlani reiterating sound decision-making habits
- I work Monday – Friday
- This half term – Year 9 are my priority
- The next 2 weeks, I will base myself in each of the Year 9 tutor rooms over lunchtimes
- Senior Peer Support Team are also available



Careers Department – Form Visits

During lunch break on the below dates, Mrs Pike and Year 12 Peer Support Team will be available exclusively for Year 9 students

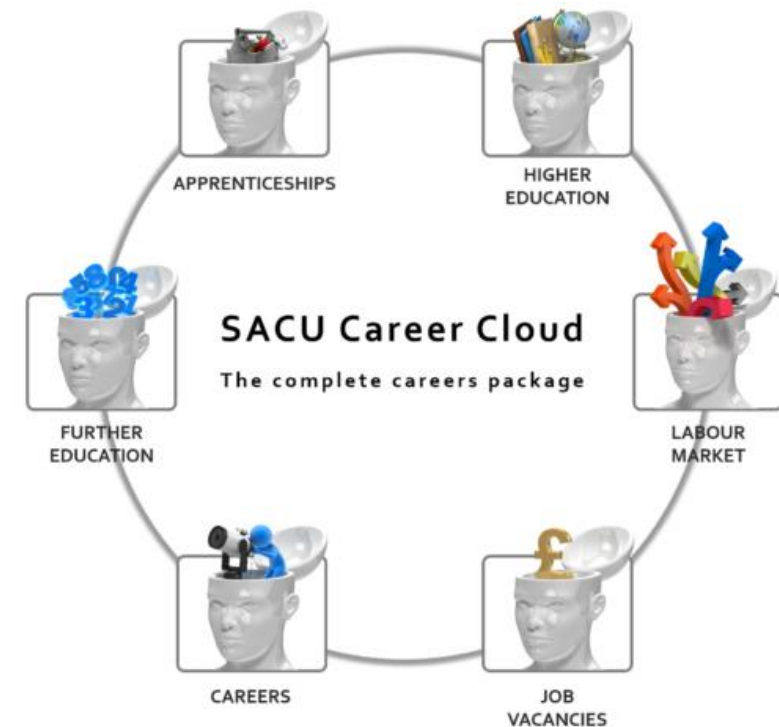
- 9AB - 22nd and 31st January
- 9SEB - 23rd and 31st January
- 9NCJ - 24th and 29th January
- 9EMK - 26th and 29th January



Careers Department

The decision is for the individual student, but you don't have to struggle with it alone:-

- Personal Careers Interview
- IT resources – “SACU”
- Advice for online resources



- https://sacu-student.com/?page_id=2850



Careers – Year 9 Options

Mrs Sally Pike - Careers Adviser

Tel: 024 7627 1124 (direct)

Email: spike@csfoundation.org.uk



Careers – Year 9 Options

So, to sum up....

- There are excellent resources available, please encourage your son/daughter to use them
- I can offer individually tailored advice and guidance
- Students are encouraged to focus on sound decision-making principles, which hopefully will result in strong, confident decisions being made
- Finally, I look forward to seeing you next week at the parents' evening





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Curriculum and Timetabling

Mr Sewell – Deputy Head



GCSE in 2024

2015 Reforms

- Grading by numbers
- Knowledge rich curriculum
- Increased content
- Non-examined assessment removed except for practical subjects
- Grading system 9-1.

How the new grades compare with old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 Strong Pass
	4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U



GCSE Curriculum at Henry's

9 GCSEs + Future Leaders course, PSHE, PE, Games

complemented by the extra-curricular and super-curricular activities

9 GCSEs comprised of:

- Compulsory subjects: English, Maths, 2 Sciences
- Expected subject: 1 Modern Foreign Language
- Three Option Subjects:
 - humanities, creative arts, classics, computer science, additional science, additional language



GCSE Curriculum at Henry's

9 GCSEs + Future Leaders course, PSHE, PE, Games

complemented by the extra-curricular and super-curricular activities

Future Leaders course, preparing our pupils for their futures

- Digital literacy
- Oracy / public speaking
- Environmental citizenship
- Global Citizenship
- Cultural capital
- Entrepreneurship
- Financial literacy
- Critical thinking



GCSE Curriculum at Henry's

9 GCSEs + Future Leaders course, PSHE, PE, Games

complemented by the extra-curricular and super-curricular activities

Super-curricular

academic activities outside the classroom,
such as:

- Vanguard Society
- Academic Olympiads
- Public Speaking and Debating
- VEX Robotics

Extra-curricular

non-academic activities outside the classroom,
such as

- Sports clubs/teams
- Walk for Wellbeing
- Chess Club
- Young Explorers



GCSE Curriculum at Henry's

The Core - GCSE subjects

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- At least 2 sciences
- 1 MFL

The Core ensures poor choices are unlikely

e.g. omitting an essential subject; too many of any one subject group



GCSE Curriculum at Henry's

Balance

Additional MFL:

- French
- German
- Spanish

A third science:

- Biology, Chemistry, Physics

- Art- Fine Art
- Art- Photography
- Classical Civilisation
- Computing
- DT – Product Design
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition

- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Music
- PE Academic
- Religious Studies

NB) options are provisional until confirmed



Option Submission

- Submissions online via 365 Form- link distributed 26th January
- A reminder will be sent prior to 6th February deadline
- Order of submission matters – input subject choices in order of preference
- Reserve option required



Option Submission

Can I change my options after submission?

- Yes – don't panic
- Pupils should talk to their Form Tutor
- Parents to email any option changes to Dr Barge (Timetable)

SRB@csfoundation.org.uk

- Changes confirmed by reply



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