



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Year 9 Curriculum Pathways

Q. How many options will my child select and study?

A. Students will select five options and study four options, in addition to the core offer.

Q. Should I select my options in order of preference?

A. Students should select options in order of preference however, it is important that students select five options that they are prepared to study.

Q. When will I receive confirmation of my options?

A. A letter will be issued to students in the summer term of 2021 to confirm options before the end of Year 9.

Q. Why do I need to select a pathway in certain options such as Business and Sport?

A. There are a range of courses available within these selected pathways and Heads of Faculty will determine the best course for students with discussion and support from Head of Year 9 and Learning Support. This ensures that we can offer a broad range of courses to meet the needs, skills and abilities of individual students to maximise their progress, outcomes and enjoyment.

Q. Will I need to purchase equipment if I want to study Photography?

A. No, there is no need to select options based upon financial constraints. There is no need for parents or carers to purchase any equipment and options are available to all students regardless of personal circumstances.

Q. Can I study both GCSE and vocational options within one subject?

A. No, both courses are Level 2 and are of equal value. Students' future study and career options are not limited if they study either qualification type.

Q. If I study Art and Design can I also study Three-Dimensional Design?

A. No, Art & Design and Three-Dimensional Design are variations of the same exam specification. Students can study any other combination of ADT subject but must demonstrate an interest and skill in their chosen options.

Q. How can I ensure my child fulfils the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?

A. To fulfil the English Baccalaureate students must select a Modern Foreign Language (French or German) and a Humanities subject (Geography or History) in addition to studying English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Combined or Triple Science. Computer Science also counts as a 'Science' subject as part of the EBacc.

Q. If I do not choose Geography in Option 1, can I select this as one of my 'open' options?

A. Yes, for open options students can select any of the subjects available from the Year 9 Pathways Brochure

Q. What is the difference between Triple and Combined Science?

A. Combined Science represents two GCSEs and the subject covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Triple Science course would result in students securing three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Q. If choose Combined Science over Triple Science does that mean I will be in a lower set?

A. No. Students can achieve grades 1 to 9 in both qualifications. Courses run in parallel.

Q. What is the different in teaching hours for Triple Science compared with Combined Science?

A. In Year 10; students would study five lessons per week for Combined and eight lessons per week for Triple Science. In Year 11 this would be seven for Combined and nine for Triple Science.

Q. Where can I fill in the options form?

A. The options form is available on the East Leake Academy Website:

- <https://www.eastleake-ac.org.uk/year-9-options>

Students will need to access the form using their academy email address and password to register their choices. The deadline for this process in March 10th 2021.

Q. Are there any other options I can select for option 1 and option 2?

A. No, students must select either Geography, History, French or German in option 1. They must also select from either Geography, History, French, German, Computer Science or Triple Science in option 2.

Q. Can I access the syllabus for each course?

A. Yes, each faculty member has provided presentation materials for each subject and these are available at:

- <https://www.eastleake-ac.org.uk/year-9-options>

This includes subject-specific information relating to the specification for each option subject, including the exam board and course content. If you require further course-specific information please contact the subject lead directly. Their contact details are available in the Year 9 Pathways Brochure.

Q. What guarantee can you give that students will get to study their first four selected options?

A. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that students will study their first four options. This is because blocking subjects before the timetable is created sometimes affects the combinations of subjects available. This means that it is very important that students select five options that they are willing to study just in case the combination of other options is not available. It is important to note that many subjects sit within multiple blocks so the majority of subjects are likely to be available in combination.