

# Year 9 Parents: Options Information Evening

Thursday 18 January 2018

**Subject Choices for moving  
into Key Stage 4**

# Year 9 Parents: Options Information Evening

- 1) Review of what the Key Stage 4 Curriculum looks like**
- 2) Explain the options process at Longsands Academy**
- 3) Outline the next steps in the process.**

# Recent changes in examinations

- All GCSEs are now linear in structure, so that examinations are taken only at the end of the course.**
- This will mean that examinations are mainly taken in the summer of Year 11.**
- The content is also now more challenging and rigorous.**

# Exam content of GCSEs

- Internal Assessment (Coursework) has largely disappeared and used only where it is needed to test essential skills: Art, Computer Science, Food, Media, Music, PE. (As a result pupils will sit a far greater number of exams at the end of the course.)**
- There are now extra marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) in the GCSEs in English Literature, Geography, History and R.E.**

# The new Key Stage 4 grading system

|       |  |    |
|-------|--|----|
| 9     |  | A* |
| 8     |  |    |
| 7     |  | A  |
| 6     | <b>GOOD PASS (DfE)</b><br>5 and above = top of C and above | B  |
| 5     |  |    |
| 4     | <b>AWARDING</b><br>4 and above = bottom of C and above     | C  |
| <hr/> |  |    |
| 3     |  | D  |
|       |  | E  |
| 2     |  | F  |
|       |  | F  |
| 1     |  | G  |

# In 2018, the curriculum consists of:

**English**

**2 GCSEs**

**4 hours a week**

**Maths**

**1 GCSE**

**4 hours a week**

**Science**

**2 or 3 GCSEs**

**6 hours a week**

**PE**

**1 hour a week**

**ECM**

**1 hour a week**

# What is the Optional Curriculum?

- ❑ In addition to studying the Core Curriculum, students will also be able to select 3 Option subjects.
- ❑ Students will be guided to which options will be most appropriate for you to enable you to achieve the best possible grades.
- ❑ The Options occupy 36% (9 out of 25 lessons) of a student's timetable in Year 10 and 11.

# GCSE and other qualifications

- We offer a number of BTEC and Cambridge National courses. These are often assessed by on-going assignments as well as a final exam.
- These courses often include more practical opportunities than GCSE courses and can develop skills required in the workplace.
- A mix of GCSE and Vocational courses provides a broad and balanced curriculum for some students.

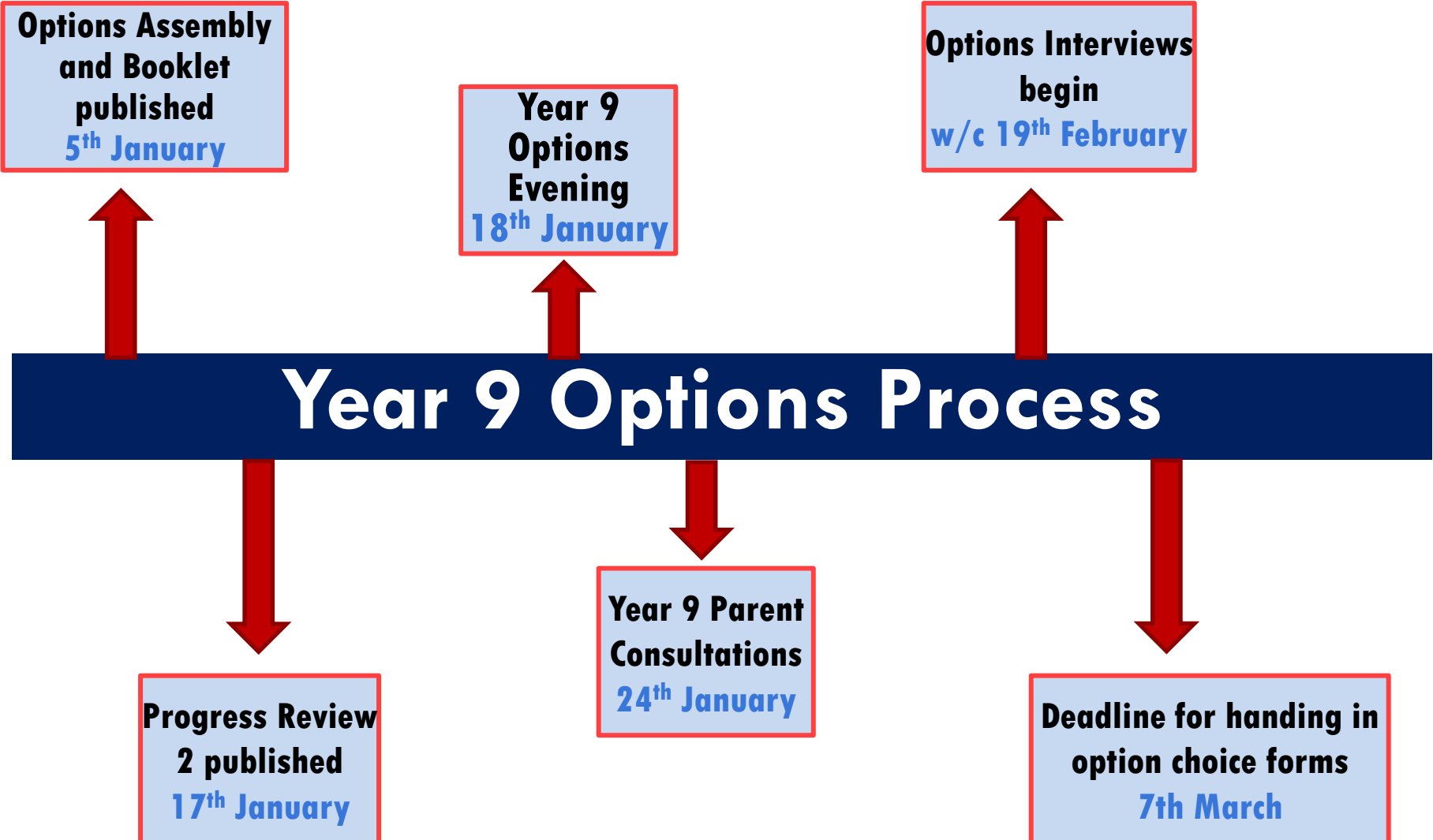


# The English Baccalaureate

- The English Baccalaureate is a measure the government has introduced.**
- To achieve the English Baccalaureate you need to attain a grade 4 or above in 5 subjects: English, Maths, Science, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign or Ancient Language (e.g. French, German, Spanish or Latin).**

**The core purpose of the Learning Partnership is to secure the best possible experience, learning and outcomes for each young person for whom we have responsibility**

# Next steps



# Making the right choices...

- Future aspirations**
- Aim high**
- Enjoyment and Balance**
- Skills**
- Achievement**

# Mistakes to avoid...

- Friends**
- Current teacher**
- Considered an 'easy' option**
- Today and not tomorrow**

# Subject information

| <b>Subject</b>         | <b>Room</b> | <b>Subject</b>               | <b>Room</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Business               | N1.15       | Hair & Beauty                | N1.11       |
| Child Development      | N1.14       | Heads of School/Year Support | N1.5        |
| Computer Science       | N1.13       | Help Desk & Support Staff    | N1.5        |
| Construction           | N1.11       | History                      | N1.3        |
| Creative i Media       | N1.13       | Hospitality                  | N1.11       |
| Dance & Drama          | N1.6        | IT                           | N1.13       |
| Duke of Edinburgh      | N1.5        | Latin                        | N1.3        |
| Economics              | N1.15       | Mathematics                  | N2.7        |
| English Language & Lit | N2.8        | Media Studies                | N1.16       |
| Film Studies           | N1.16       | Music                        | N1.8        |
| Fashion & Textiles     | N1.7        | PE                           | N2.5        |
| Fine Art               | N2.11       | Photography                  | N2.11       |
| Food Technology        | N1.11       | RE                           | N1.1        |
| French                 | N1.4        | Science                      | N2.6        |
| Geography              | N1.2        | Sociology                    | N1.14       |
| Geology                | N1.2        | Spanish                      | N1.4        |
| German                 | N1.4        | Technology                   | N1.11       |
| Graphic Design         | N2.11       | Textiles                     | N1.7        |

# Further queries:

**Mrs H Breakspear**

**Senior Assistant Headteacher (KS3)**

**[hbreakspear@longsands.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:hbreakspear@longsands.cambs.sch.uk)**

**Mr N D Owen**

**Senior Assistant Headteacher (KS4)**

**[nowen@longsands.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:nowen@longsands.cambs.sch.uk)**