



DARWEN VALE

An Aldridge Community Academy 

Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 22nd February 2024

Mrs Cull (Vice Principal)

#WeAimHigh

#WeWorkHard

#WeCare

#WeAreVale



Purpose of Options Evening

- The rationale behind the DVHS Key Stage 4 curriculum offer
- A guide to the options process



The structure of Key Stage 4 education in England

- **Content:** New and more challenging content
- **Structure:** Exams at the end of the course
- **Assessment:** Mainly by examination. Non-exam assessment only where necessary
- **Tiers:** Foundation and higher tier permitted only in Maths, science and modern foreign languages
- **Grading:** Numbered scale (9 to 1 plus U), 9 is the highest Government 'good pass' set at grade 5, 'standard pass' set at grade 4.



KS4 Curriculum

In KS4 subjects are divided into:

- **Core Curriculum** (those that everybody has to study)
- **Option Subjects** (those that are chosen by students)

The KS4 Core Curriculum



**DARWEN
VALE**
An Aldridge Community Academy 

Subject	No. of GCSEs	Hours per week
English Language & English Literature	2	5
Mathematics*	1	5
Combined Science**	2	5
Core PE	0	1

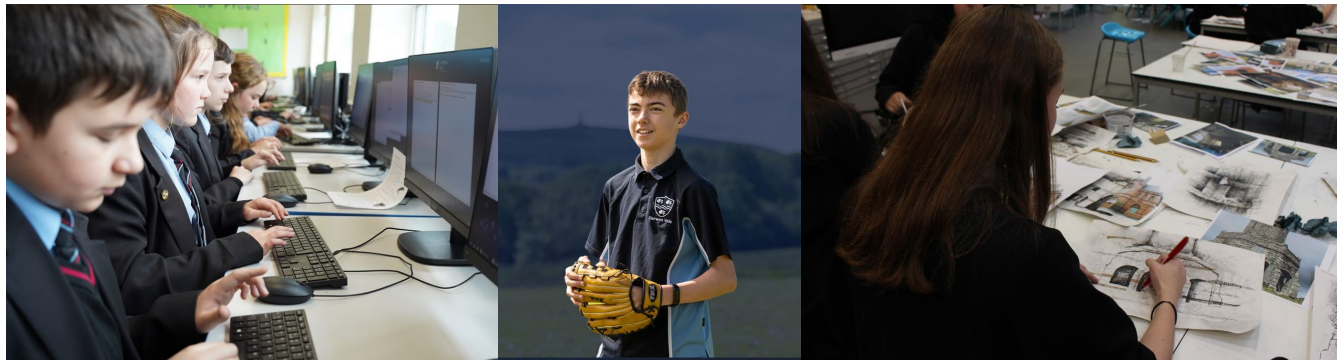
* Further Maths for the most able

** Students may opt to choose Triple Science instead

The KS4 Optional Subjects

3 lessons per week, plus period 6

- 3D Art*
- Art and Design *
- Art photography
- Business – Enterprise & Marketing
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality & Catering (Food)
- Music
- Sport Science
- Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) *



Vocational Qualifications

- BTEC and Cambridge Nationals are a suite of vocational qualifications which help students acquire knowledge, skills and understanding through practical, work-related activities in a real-life context so they can apply what they have learned.
- They are academic qualifications
- They have the same value as GCSE (Level 2) equivalent courses
- Assessment varies between course, please ensure you ask the staff this evening about how their course is assessed

CNAT Sport Science	CNAT Business-Enterprise & Marketing	Hospitality & Catering
BTEC Performing Arts – Dance	BTEC Performing Arts – Drama	

The Option Pathway at DVHS

1. **Option A** – French, Geography, History, Or Triple Science*
2. **Option B** – any option subject
3. **Option C** – any option subject
4. Reserve





Please choose a reserve subject

- I build a timetable to provide for as many first choices as possible. However, I **cannot** guarantee that all first choices will be met.
- It is important that you are happy to study the reserve subject and that you are not just putting it on the form to fill a space

You're reserve option must be different to
your other 3 options

How do I choose my options?



- Options form is online
- A link to access it will be sent to your **SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS** tomorrow.
- Take your time to complete it as once you press submit you cannot go back and re-do it.
- Deadline to complete it is **Friday 8th March**

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

- The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.
- EBacc is a set of 6 GCSE's
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - 2 Sciences
 - Foreign Language
 - Humanities (History or Geography)

Why choose the EBacc route?



**DARWEN
VALE**

An Aldridge Community Academy 

Considered **essential** to many degrees

It is **government's ambition** is to see 90% by 2025 studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE

Increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in **full-time education** (*UCL Institute of Education*)



EBacc
impact

Creates **greater opportunities** in further education

Can help **improve** a young person's **performance** in English and Maths (*The Sutton Trust*)

Ebacc pathway

- No student is disadvantaged as all students may opt for the English Baccalaureate if they choose

Pupil A:

- ✓ History
- ✓ French
- ✓ Sport

Pupil B:

- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Drama
- ✓ French

Pupil C:

- ✓ Triple Science
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Food



Making informed choices

Before you choose consider....



- ✓ What do you enjoy?
- ✓ What are your strengths?
- ✓ What are your career aspirations?
- ✓ Have you picked a good balance of subjects?



**DARWEN
VALE**

An Aldridge Community Academy



Don't pick your options based on:

- ❖ Your favourite teacher
- ❖ What your friends picked
- ❖ "its easy"



**Options
2024-26**



The best people to ask about the option subjects is your teachers.....

Questions to ask?



Content – what will you learn?



Delivery – how much is coursework?
Exam?



Success – what % of pupils achieved a grade 4+, 5+ etc last two years? What is the progress 8 score?



Interests – what do you like about teaching it?



Career opportunities – what type of careers/courses etc does this qualification lead to?

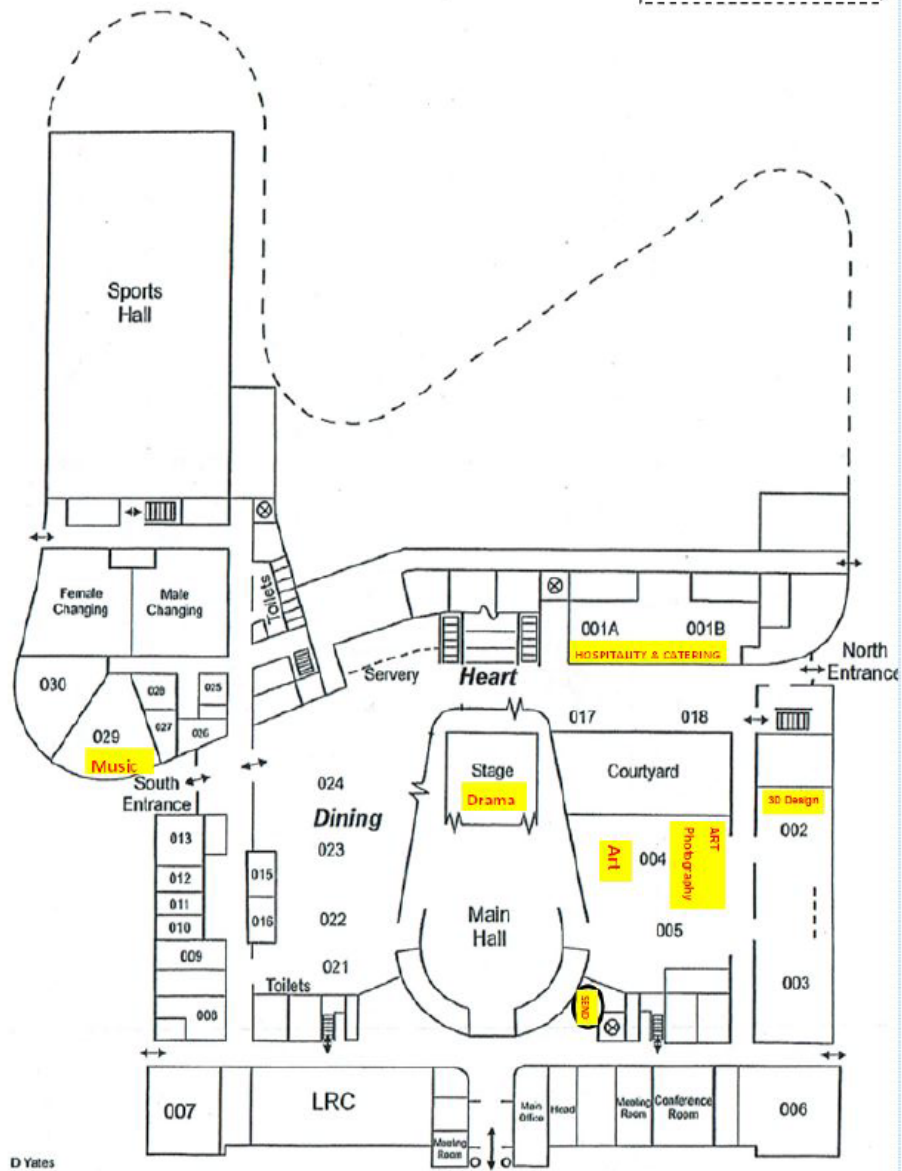
Timeline of the options process

- Options Form Deadline: **Friday 8th March**
- Options Interviews w/b : **25th March**
- Options Confirmed: **June/July 2024**



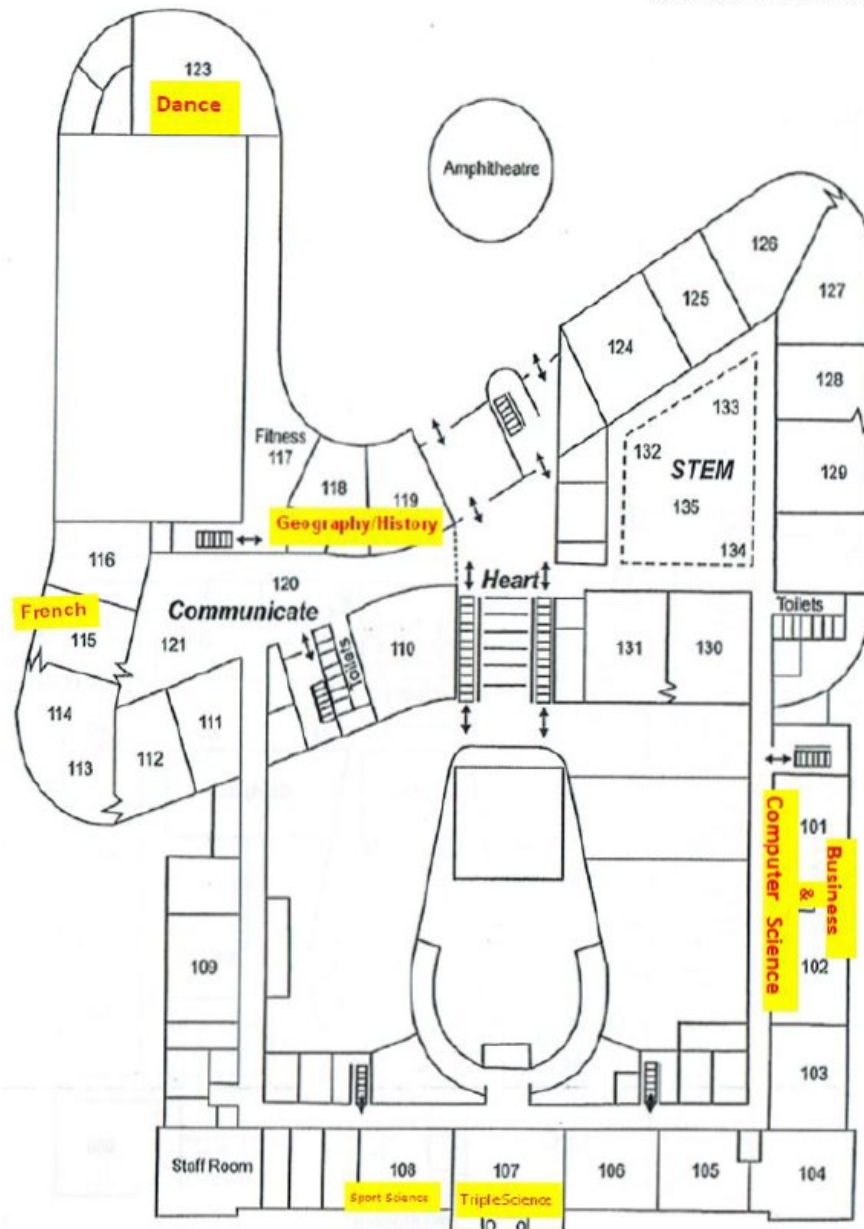
Floor Zero

Subjects Room Map



Floor One

Subjects Room Map



DARWEN VALE

An Aldridge Community Academy

Mrs Cull – Vice Principal
Ruth.Cull@darwenvale.com

Mrs McKenna – Head of Year 9
Claire.McKenna@darwenvale.com

Mr Broderick – SENDCO
SBroderick@darwenvale.com

Mr Miele – Careers and D6 Lead
NMiele@darwenvale.com

Any queries or
concerns?