



DARWEN VALE

An Aldridge Community Academy 

Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 2nd March 2023

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 Core Curriculum



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

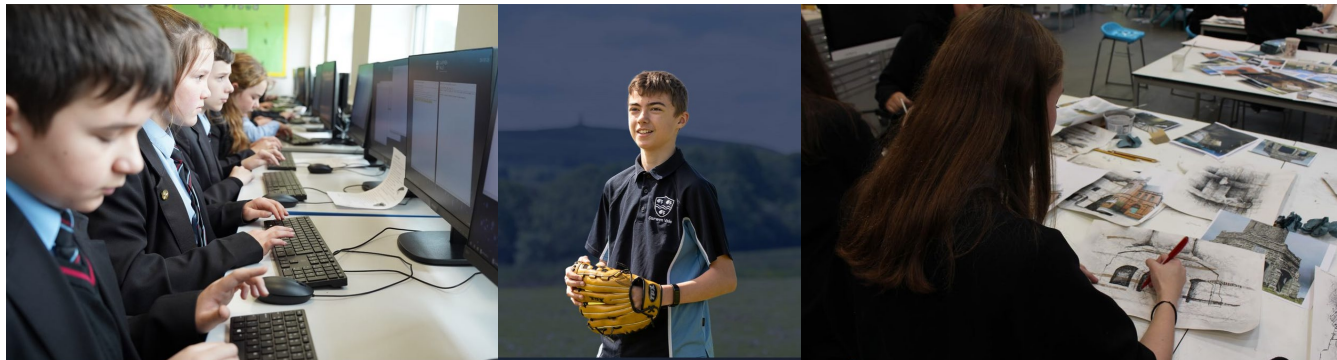
* Further Maths for the most able

** Students may opt to choose Triple Science instead

The Optional Subjects

3 hours per week, plus period 6

- 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)



The English Baccalaureate

- The EBacc is not a qualification in its own rights – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.
- EBacc is a set of 6 GCSE's
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - 2 Sciences
 - Foreign Language
 - Humanities (History or Geography)

The EBacc is HIGHLY REGARDED by Russell Group Universities

The Russell Group is an association of twenty-four universities in the United Kingdom.

The association represents the very best in public universities dedicated to research, pedagogy and quality education.



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| |
|---------------------------------|
| University of Birmingham |
| University of Bristol |
| University of Cambridge |
| Cardiff University |
| Durham University |
| University of Edinburgh |
| University of Exeter |
| University of Glasgow |
| Imperial College London |
| King's College London |
| University of Leeds |
| University of Liverpool |
| London School of Economics |
| University of Manchester |
| Newcastle University |
| University of Nottingham |
| University of Oxford |
| Queen Mary University of London |
| Queen's University Belfast |
| University of Sheffield |
| University of Southampton |
| University College London |
| University of Warwick |
| University of York |

Curriculum 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

- We do ask that all students choose at least 1 ebacc subject, so everyone must choose from Geography, History, French or Triple Science in their first option



The Access Project



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The Access Project provides extra support to students who want to go to a top university or aren't sure yet if that is the correct path for them.

If your child is academic and has potential, this could be a fantastic opportunity.

TAP supports students through a unique combination of free online tuition, once a week in a subject of their choice, and in school mentoring with our University Access Officer, Sam Parker.

Sam will be launching to Year 9 after Easter, ready to onboard students to start in September. This is a competitive programme and spaces are limited.

Sam is based outside in the foyer this evening, if you have any questions.

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 equivalent courses
- Assessment varies between course, please ensure you ask the staff this evening about how their course is assessed

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



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?



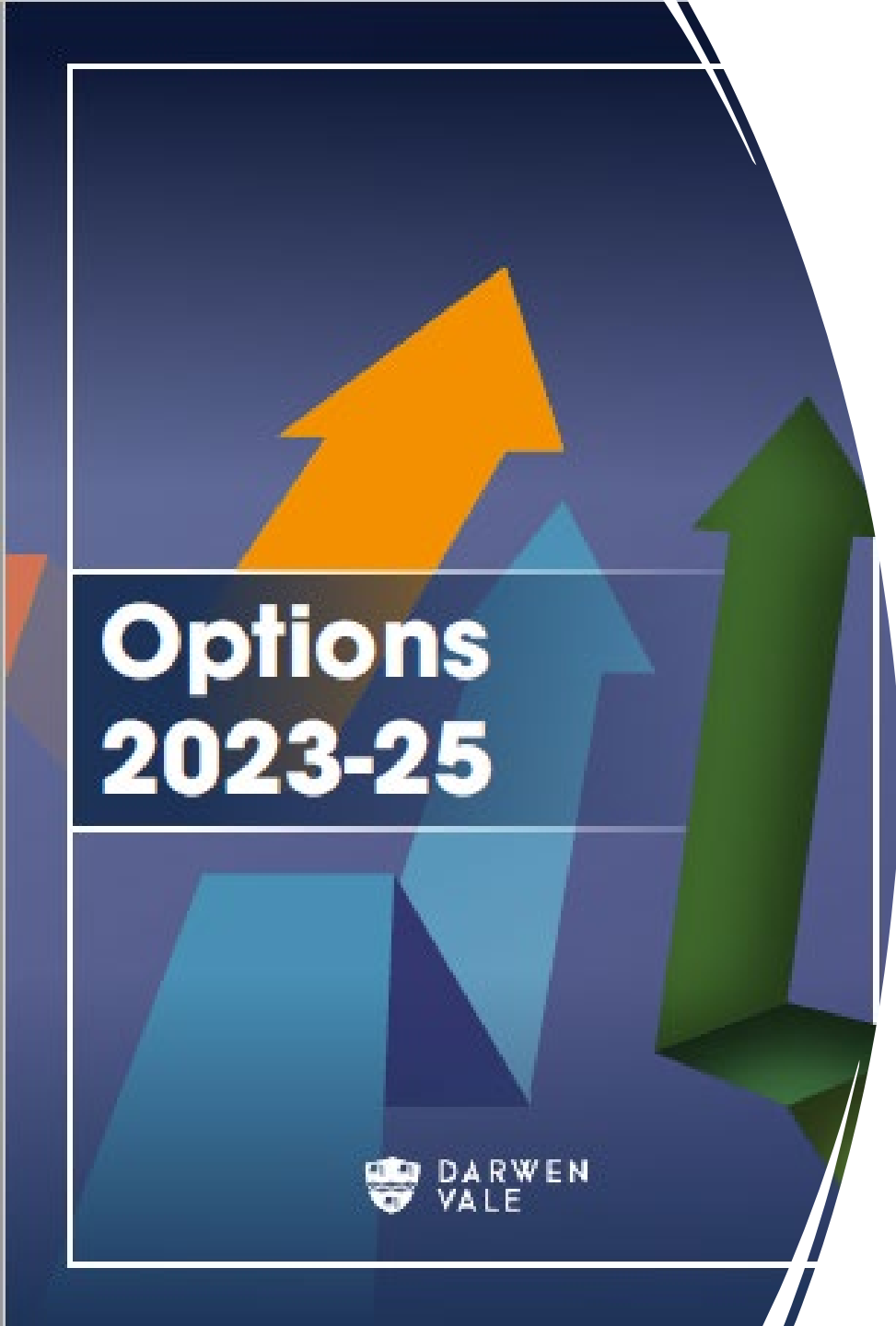
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Don't pick your options based on:

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

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue background with several upward-pointing arrows in orange, light blue, and green. At the bottom left is the Darwin Vale school crest and name.

**Options
2023-25**

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

Questions to ask?



Content – what will you learn?



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



Delivery – how much is coursework?
Exam?



Interests – what do you like about teaching it?



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



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



KS4 Options Form : Class of 2023-2025

At KS4 you will be required to study:

- English, Maths, Science, and Core PE
- You will have the opportunity to select 3 additional subjects, plus a reserve option from below

If you want to follow the EBACC route (highly regarded by Russell Group universities) you must choose French AND either Geography or History.

Thank You

Section 1

1. First Name *

Enter your answer

2. Last name *

Enter your answer



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- 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 10th March**

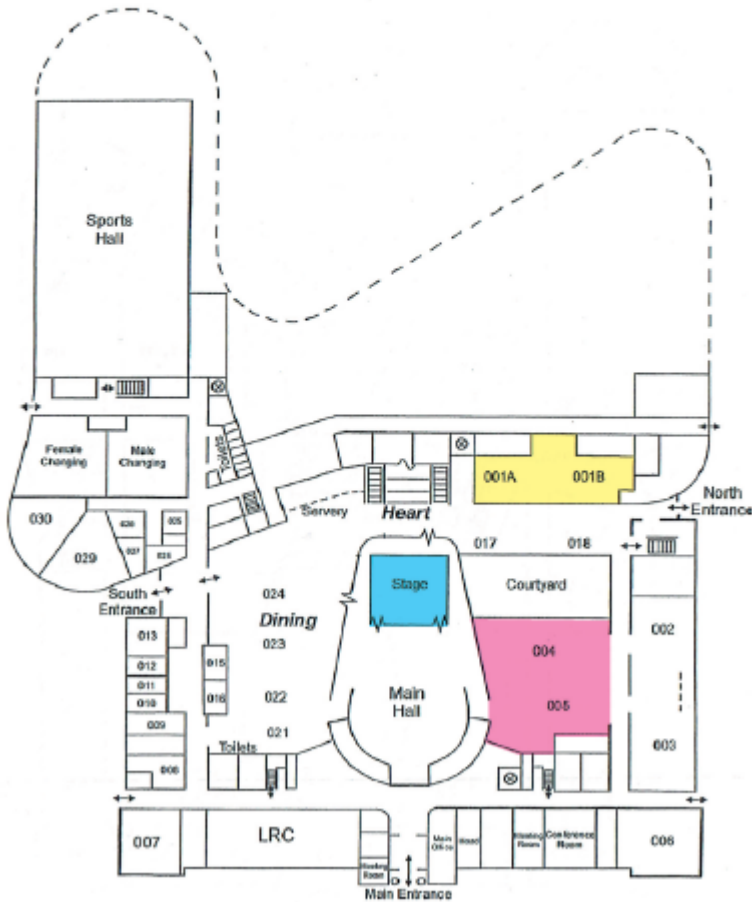
Timeline of the options process

- Options Form Deadline: **Friday 10th March**
- Options Interviews w/b : **27th March**
- Options Confirmed: **June/July**



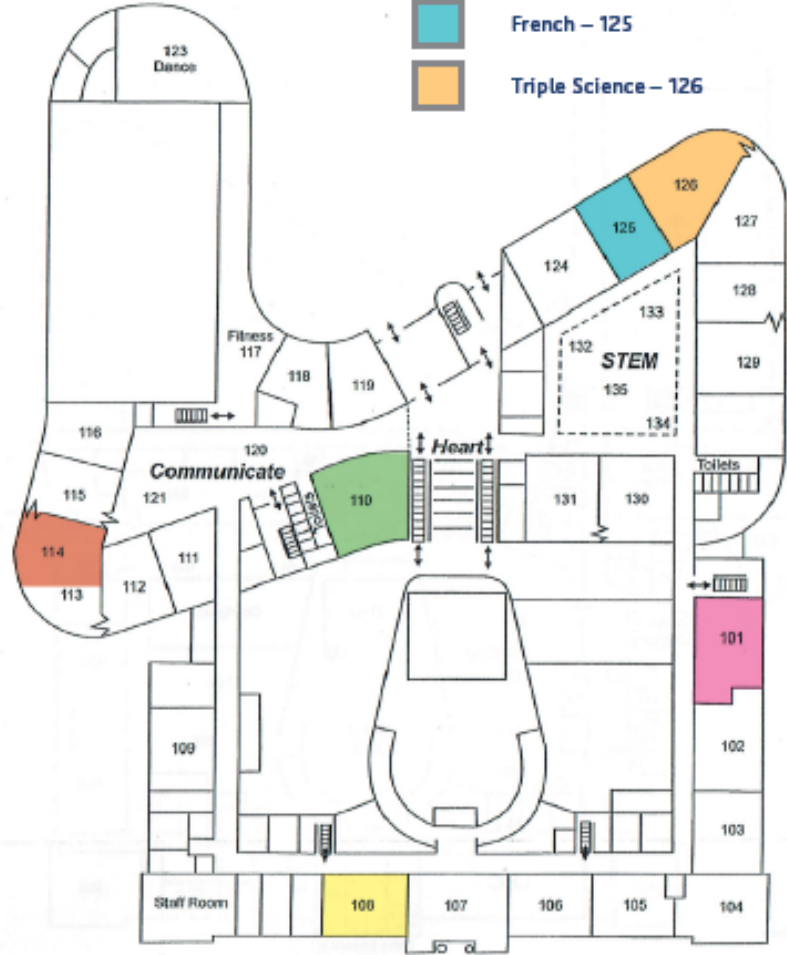
Floor Zero

- Art – 004
- Hospitality & catering – 001
- Drama/Music – stage



Floor One

- Computing/Business – 101
- Sport – 108
- Art photo – 110
- Humanities – 114
- French – 125
- Triple Science – 126



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Any queries or
concerns?

Careers appointments for students
who require further advice from
Mr Miele – Careers Lead
(Neil.Miele@darwenvale.com)

ruth.cull@darwenvale.com