

Brockington College



Year 8 Consultation on Future Option Choices from 2015

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach an exciting stage in the development of Brockington College, I would like to take this opportunity to outline our current thoughts regarding our possible Key Stage 4 Curriculum. We realise that for pupils whilst this is very exciting, it can also be a slightly daunting process. For this reason we have tried to set out our proposals to date as clearly as possible. We will add more specific information within the Year 9 Option Booklet prior to actual choices.

All of the courses on offer provide a clear pathway onto the next stage of your child's learning. The choices that are made will have a bearing on choices in the future and it is therefore important that pupils receive good advice from a number of sources before making their final choices.

Some of you may have children who have already decided what they want to do in the future. However, many pupils will be unsure and this is not uncommon. Even the most decisive pupils can, and often do, change their minds. It is important therefore to consider a broad range of subjects that will allow doors to remain open.

In 2015 the current GCSE curriculum and examination system is due to undergo radical change. Many of you will be aware that the A* - G grading system will be replaced by a grading system from 9 points down to 1 point. Currently, schools in England do not have the finalised format, but once it becomes available, we will let you know. National Curriculum Levels that we use at Brockington will also be disappearing and so some of the information that enables the prediction of potential GCSE grades will also change.

Many examinations are changing and there will be less emphasis on coursework and modular exams. Instead, most examinations will be returning to a linear format, which means pupils will have to return to revising for exams at the end of their two year GCSE courses.

Schools will be judged in a variety of ways including: the number of pupils that gain five A* - C grades including English and Maths (this will obviously need to change to a points system); the percentage of pupils who gain the English Baccalaureate; the progress all pupils make over their best eight GCSE results and the average of the best eight GCSE results across all pupils.

Whilst all of this may seem overwhelming and confusing, our plan is to inform you as we move through the process step by step. However, if you have any questions at any point, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chris Southall
Principal

Introduction

The aims of our Key Stage 4 Curriculum are to:

- provide flexibility of provision to best meet the needs of all pupils
- ensure optimum levels of achievement for all pupils
- provide motivation and encourage responsibility
- promote '*learning to live life to the full*' for all pupils

We intend for our curriculum to be pupil focussed and therefore based on choices from a range of option subjects. Some schools ask pupils to choose from prescribed blocks, but we do not intend to do this. Although this makes the process more complicated for us, we believe it will improve motivation and enable the majority to pursue the subjects they wish to study.

The current plan is that the option process will allow pupils to choose 3 courses that will inspire and motivate them. Undertaking this process in Year 8 as a trial will assist us in ensuring that we can provide the most appropriate curriculum for pupils. In order to maximise our offer to pupils, we may run some vocational courses in collaboration with other providers such as South Leicestershire College.

English Baccalaureate:

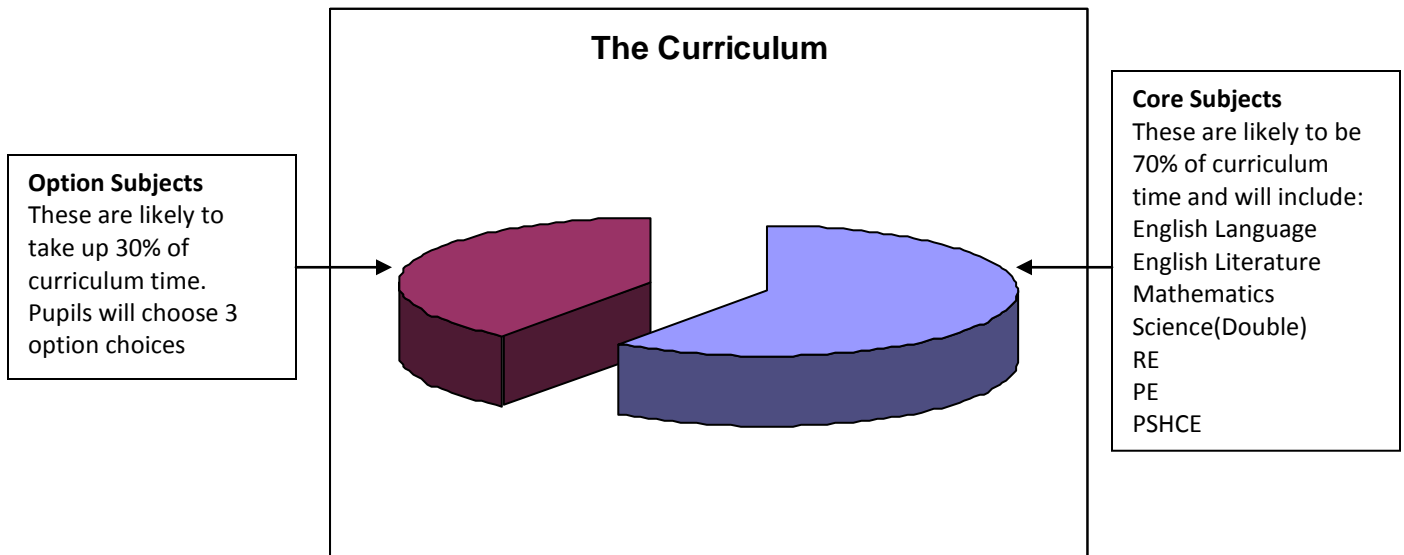
The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure, not a qualification. It is not compulsory, but the measure shows where pupils have secured a C grade or above across given academic subjects at Key Stage 4. It is designed to enable parents and pupils to see how the school is performing in comparison to other schools and for universities and employers to compare academic qualifications across pupils.

The English Baccalaureate is made up of the following subjects:

- English
- mathematics
- history or geography
- the sciences (double, triple or computing)
- a language

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The Curriculum is made up of core subjects and option choices



Proposed Option Choices:

On the following pages are brief outlines of the courses which we are currently planning to offer as options next year. All courses are at GCSE level, unless otherwise identified.

As this is a trial options process, we have not included the level of detail for each course that we will include in the Year 9 Option Booklet next academic year.

Please take time to read through the course outlines on the following pages and then complete the information sheet at the end and return it to school by **Friday 21 March 2014**.

Subject: Art

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	Study will be broken down into 4 units of work comprising the following areas: printmaking, sculpture, mixed media, painting and mask making.
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Subject: Computing

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will learn in detail about how computer systems work. You will learn about new technologies, such as touch screens and mobile devices and you will gain skills in programming and coding in a programming language.</p> <p>You will learn about computer security and how to encrypt messages. You will gain skills in database design and learn how to solve large problems by breaking them down.</p> <p>This qualification counts towards the English Baccalaureate.</p>
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Subject: Drama

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>This course will help you to develop your social and performing skills. It will allow you to work from a variety of stimuli to devise, rehearse and develop performances. It will give you opportunities to work from script and enhance characters. You will have the opportunity to work individually or in groups of up to six. The course will have elements of written work combined with practical performing.</p>
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Subject: French

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will follow on from the work you have completed in Years 7-9 and broaden your knowledge of the language and culture of the French speaking world. You will develop your ability to communicate in written and spoken language whilst gaining further understanding using your listening and reading skills. We will cover the topic areas of Personal and Social Life, Local Community, The World of Work and the Wider World.</p> <p>This qualification counts towards the English Baccalaureate.</p>
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Subject: Food Technology

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>This course involves both theory and practical skills. You will create a portfolio of coursework which involves research, design, planning and evaluation. Practical work will involve using a range of skills and techniques.</p>
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Subject: Geography

<p>What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?</p>	<p>Geography will be broken into three themes. Theme 1 will look at issues that people and communities face in the places they live. We will study housing and services in Leicester and surrounding villages and compare this with another part of the world. Theme 2 will look at how our natural world affects people and the impact human actions can have on natural environments, for example hurricanes, drought and flooding. Theme 3 will look at the imbalance across the world between rich and poor and consider how this gap can be closed. This qualification counts towards the English Baccalaureate.</p>
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Subject: Graphic Products

<p>What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?</p>	<p>Graphic design in its simplest form is any type of drawing that gives you information, such as road signs, diagrams, pop-up books and cards; the list is endless. Graphics skills are very varied and this is reflected in the different types of skills and theory learnt on this course. You will create a portfolio of coursework which involves research, design, planning and evaluation, as well as a final product that encompasses and demonstrates a range of practical skills.</p>
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Subject: History

<p>What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?</p>	<p>History is broken down into 3 units: a development study, a 'depth' study on 'Medicine through Time' and a source enquiry. You will study 20th Century European History with a focus on the Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany. You will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical periods, themes and topics studied and their chronology through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• making connections and comparisons between different aspects of the periods, themes and topics studied• describing, analysing and evaluating the causes and consequences of historical events and situations• describing, analysing and evaluating changes and developments in the periods, themes and topics studied• assessing the significance of individuals, events, developments and/or ideas in the history studied <p>This qualification counts towards the English Baccalaureate.</p>
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Subject: Information Technology

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will learn about how IT can be used in business and everyday life and gain skills in developing websites, leaflets and graphics.</p> <p>You will do some basic video editing and presentations.</p> <p>You will learn how to use spreadsheets to organize and analyse data and how to manage an IT project.</p> <p>You will become digitally literate and be able to use IT to help you in any job.</p>
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Subject: Music

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>Pupils wishing to take this course must be able to play an instrument to a minimum of Grade 2 standard when the course commences.</p> <p>During the course, pupils will be expected to continue to develop their instrumental skills, with the aim of reaching a minimum of Grade 3 standard during the second year of the course. It is not necessary to have studied music theory prior to starting the course, however being able to read musical notation before starting the course is an advantage.</p>
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Subject: Music BTEC

What type of qualification will I achieve?	BTEC First Certificate in Music. This is equivalent to 2 GCSE grades.
What prior learning and instrumental skills do I need?	<p>Pupils wishing to take this course do not have to be learning or able to play an instrument at the start of the course. However, they must be willing to learn an instrument during the course and practice regularly to improve their skills.</p> <p>It is recommended that pupils have regular peripatetic lessons on an instrument in order to develop their skills during the course.</p> <p>Being able to read music notation is an advantage but not a requirement.</p>

Subject: Physical Education

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will learn about the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle and how this affects personal health and well-being.</p> <p>You will examine the effects of an active healthy lifestyle on the different body systems e.g. muscular system.</p> <p>You will develop skills and understanding in different sports as a participant and have the opportunity to experience and be assessed in different roles such as an official and leader. There will also be opportunities to coach and analyse performance and evaluate effectiveness.</p>
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Subject: Resistant Materials

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	This course deals with the fundamental understanding of materials and their characteristics. You will create a portfolio of coursework which involves research, design, planning and evaluation, as well as a final product that encompasses and demonstrates a range of practical skills. Pupils are asked to generate their own ideas for a product design through a variety of different means of communication. The course also deals with health and safety issues and the application of simple industrial practices to designs.
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Subject: Textiles

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	During this course you will have both practical and theory lessons. The main focus in Year 10 will be learning the key practical skills in order to make an array of textile based products. You will create a portfolio of research, design ideas, planning and evaluation as well as a final product that encompasses a range of practical skills
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Subject: Triple Science

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, and GCSE Physics. These are three separate GCSE qualifications. Pupils opting for this course should have a passion for Science and be achieving Level 6 by the end of Year 9. This qualification counts towards the English Baccalaureate.
What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	This involves learning about and investigating practically, the world around you. Key skills include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• communication• problem solving• planning and organisation• modelling• data analysis• making and testing predictions• hands-on practical skills including accurate measurement and repeatable techniques Topics include: Biology: Keeping Healthy; Cells & Plants; Moving Substances in and out of Organisms; Environment Chemistry: Atoms & Materials; Making Molecules; Periodic Table; Water; Analysing Substances Physics: Energy; Forces & Motion; Medical Physics; Electronic Systems

Possible Course:

The following course may run if there is enough interest. It will be for talented linguists only and is likely to be a twilight subject which means it may be taught 2 evenings per week (probably 3.10 – 4.30 pm). Please indicate on your information sheet if you would be interested in this course.

Subject	Brief Outline of Course
Italian	GCSE Italian helps students develop their Italian language skills in a variety of contexts and build a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Italian is spoken. The course requires pupils to develop their ability to write and speak in Italian and to understand Italian when it is written down or spoken. This qualification counts towards the English Baccalaureate.

Other Courses Available:

There may be a number of other courses available which pupils are able to consider, but which will require a further interview to ensure suitability for the course. Some of these courses will be taught in school but the majority would be taught by an alternative educational provider.

If you would like to be considered for one of the following courses, please indicate on the option information sheet.

Subject: ASDAN COPE AWARD (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness)

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	During Year 10 and Year 11 you will have to complete a number of modules that promote a wide range of skills and introduce pupils to new activities and challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the environment• beliefs and values• expressive arts• work related learning The course will involve day trips out and visitors to college. This will be taught in school and is most suitable for those that have taken the ASDAN Bronze or Silver award.
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Please be aware that the timing of the following courses may extend beyond the normal school day as they are offered off-site:

Subject: Construction and DIY
National Vocational Qualification Level 1 or Level 2

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	This is a practical course with direct links to industry. You will complete a number of units in order to gain your qualification. Pupils will be able to focus on one particular aspect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• carpentry and joinery• painting and decorating• bricklaying This course will require purchasing some specialised equipment This course will be run off-site with another provider.
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Subject: Diploma in Beauty
National Vocational Qualification Level 2

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	This qualification will provide you with the requisite knowledge, understanding and skills to work competently as a beauty therapist. Throughout this qualification you will ensure responsibility to reduce risks to health and safety, promote additional services or products to clients, develop and maintain your effectiveness at work, provide facial skincare treatment, enhance the appearance of eyebrows and lashes, carry out waxing services and provide pedicure and manicure services. This course will be run off-site with another provider.
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Subject: Diploma in Hairdressing
National Vocational Qualification Level 2

What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	This qualification will provide you with the requisite knowledge, understanding and skills to work competently as a hairdresser. Throughout this qualification you will ensure responsibility to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce risks to health and safety• Give customers a positive impression• Advise and consult with clients• Shampoo, condition and treat the hair and scalp• Change hair colour• Cut hair using basic techniques, style and finish hair and set and dress hair This course will be run off-site with another provider.
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Subject: Diploma Introduction to Hair and Beauty
National Vocational Qualification Level 1

<p>What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?</p>	<p>This qualification is designed to provide you with an introduction to the Hair & Beauty sector, giving you the opportunity to develop basic techniques, allowing you to demonstrate and recognise how hair and beauty can be considered as an expression of individuality.</p> <p>This course will be run off-site with another provider.</p>
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Subject: Child Care
National Vocational Qualification Level 1

<p>What will I be learning in my lessons and what skills will I gain?</p>	<p>This qualification aims to give you the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge needed to care for children.</p> <p>The Entry Level units cover aspects such as communicating with young children, respecting children and dealing with young children's physical care needs. The Level 1 units build on these areas and also cover activities to carry out with children such as creative activities, group activities, musical experiences, stories and rhymes.</p> <p>Pupils will also develop personal skills such as communication, team working and self management in the context of caring for children</p> <p>This course will be run off-site with another provider.</p>
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Option Information Sheet (for 2015 conversion)

Name		Tutor Group	
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Do you intend to stay at Brockington in Year 10?							
Yes		Probably		Possibly		No	

Complete the following section by:

1. Choosing one option to fill each of the top boxes (you may study only one NVQ)
2. Indicate two subjects as possible reserves
3. Indicate whether you wish to study GCSE Italian

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	
Reserve 1	Reserve 2	GCSE Italian	
		Yes	No

Any general comments, feedback or further suggestions for courses:

Parent Signature:	
Pupil Signature:	

Please return to Miss Darby by Friday 21 March 2014 via reception