



# Key Stage 4 Choices 2019

Mr Hayward, Assistant Headteacher

Mr Davies, School Leader: Science



# Key Stage 4 curriculum

The aims of this evening are

- to help you support your child so they are well placed to make informed decisions about their future.
- to find out how the Key Stage 4 curriculum is structured.
- to tell you about the qualifications available.
- to understand the choices process.

# Backdrop to the Choices Process



- Key Stage 4 will be different...in some aspects
- All students study a core curriculum PLUS have choice over some additional subjects
- We provide a range of courses, which will allow maximum access to further opportunities in further and higher education, employment and training.
- All our courses are approved by the DfE and have equivalence to GCSE grades



Level 2 Distinction\*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Pass

| Reformed GCSE grading | Unreformed GCSE grading |         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 9                     | A*                      | Level 2 |
| 8                     |                         |         |
| 7                     | A                       |         |
| 6                     | B                       |         |
| 5 Strong pass         |                         |         |
| 4 Standard pass       | C                       | Level 1 |
|                       | D                       |         |
| 3                     | E                       |         |
| 2                     | F                       |         |
| 1                     | G                       |         |
| U                     | U                       |         |



# Core curriculum

## - what everyone studies

- English, Maths, Science, Core PE, PDEV, RPE
- Students will take English Language AND Literature
- GCSE RS and GCSE PE/BTEC Sport can be chosen as an option subject
- Science will **either** be **Combined Science** (counting for 2 GCSEs) or, **Separate Sciences** (ie Chemistry, Physics & Biology) and count for 3 GCSEs (separate scientists also have to choose this as one of their additional courses)

# Progress in English

% Grade 5+ 

# +6%

FFT Rank



% Grade 7+ 

# +2%

FFT Rank



# Progress in mathematics

% Grade 5+ 

# +8%

FFT Rank



% Grade 7+ 

# +4%

FFT Rank





# Key Stage 4 – Core + Choices Considerations...

- Combined or Separate Sciences
- Combinations – especially of Technology & Art subjects
- Languages
- GCSE or vocational or both
- **Student strengths, interests & aspirations**



# Don't choose a subject because :

- they like the teacher
- their friends are doing it!
- they think the course, type of work or different method of assessment is the easy option
- they think it is the right thing to do (even if it means not following a different course they are passionate about)





# Science Options at GCSE

Choosing *Combined* or *Separate*  
Sciences...



# Who can take **Separate Sciences**?

- You can choose to do ***Separate Sciences*** regardless of your Predicted Grade – it is open to everyone!



# Why choose Separate Sciences?

- For those how are really **enthusiastic** about studying Science
- You will study topics in greater **depth**
- You will cover more content e.g. **Space** unit
- You will do more **Required Practicals**
- You will have Science **every day** – often twice in a day
- You will be much better prepared for **A level Sciences**



# Comparing GCSE Science

|                               | Combined Science  | Separate Science  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| No. of lessons per fortnight: | 3 Biology<br>3 Chemistry<br>3 Physics                             | 5 Biology<br>5 Chemistry<br>4 Physics                             |
| Number of exams in Year 11:   | 2 Biology<br>2 Chemistry<br>2 Physics<br>(papers 1 hour 15 mins.) | 2 Biology<br>2 Chemistry<br>2 Physics<br>(papers 1 hour 45 mins.) |
| Tier of entry:                | Higher or Foundation  | Higher or Foundation  |
| Access to A level:            | Yes   | Yes   |
| No. of GCSEs:                 | 2 (double award)  | 3 (individual award)  |
| Advantages:                   | Extra option choice   | More time studying Science<br>Better preparation for A level      |



# Ebacc

- An acknowledgement not a qualification
- English, Maths, Science, Language, Humanities all at grade 4+
- Worth considering...but not compulsory at this school
- Still a largely unknown value attached to this by employers/universities



# EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS



- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Problem solving
- Self-motivation
- Working under pressure and to deadlines
- Organisational skills
- Team work
- Ability to learn and adapt
- Numeracy
- Valuing diversity
- Negotiation skills





# Guidance for choosing

- Choose 7 preferences
- Complete the form and return to tutor by Wednesday **13<sup>th</sup> March 2019**
- Rank order subjects by degree of preference – i.e. if Art is the favourite choice put a 1 next to it, if Geography is the 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite choice put a 2 and so on...
- No guarantee of the top 4....but we will try (approx. 90% get their top 4)

# Example



| Subject/Course   | Preference Priority (1-7) | Subject/Course  | Preference Priority (1-7) |
|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| GCSE Art and Design<br><b>OR</b><br>GCSE Art and Design: Textiles - Fashion and Costume Design<br><br><i>Delete as appropriate</i> |                           | GCSE Design and Technology<br><b>OR</b><br><del>GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition</del><br><br><i>Delete as appropriate</i> | <b>3</b>                  |
| GCSE Business Studies  | <b>7</b>                  | GCSE History  | <b>6</b>                  |
| Child Development and Care (CACHE Level 2)   |                           | GCSE Media Studies  |                           |
| GCSE Drama   |                           | GCSE Music  |                           |
| GCSE French  | <b>4</b>                  | GCSE PE / BTEC Sport  |                           |
| GCSE Geography   | <b>2</b>                  | GCSE Religious Studies  | <b>5</b>                  |
| GCSE German  |                           | Separate Science (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics)  | <b>1</b>                  |
| BTEC Health and Social Care  |                           |   |                           |

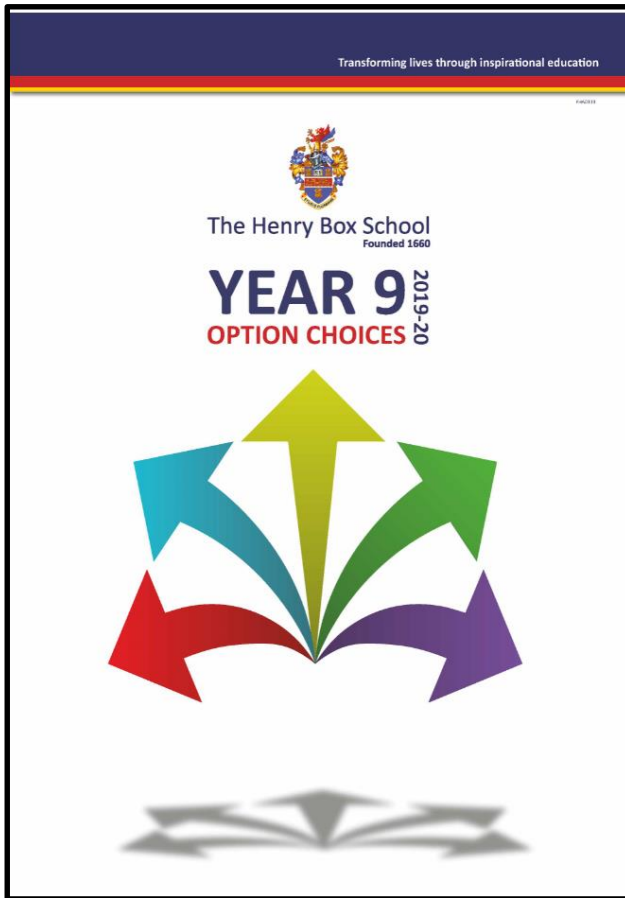




# Why ALL preferred courses might not be allocated

- Finance
  - Timetabling
  - Staffing
  - Rooming/resources
- 
- The school reserves the right to run the courses it can ultimately afford to / logistically accommodate.

# The booklet/website



- Outline of course
- Projects/topics covered in the course
- Organisation of assessment
- Homework requirements
- Learning environment
- Opportunities for continuing study
- Associated career opportunities



# The booklet/website

- Key sources of support/references
- Please take time to go through this with your son/daughter
- Choices form (via tutors) – please discuss and sign....we need to know parents/carers have been involved. Return by **13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**



# Support & Guidance

- From Talentino Career Coach (parents' evening, one-to-one meetings, lunchtime drop-ins)
- Subject teachers (in lessons and through advertised 'clinics')
- Tutors, House Leader, school website and Choices booklet



# Year 9 – dates to note

- Student Assembly – 30<sup>th</sup> January
- Subject Clinics – 4<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 9 Reports 2 issued – w/b 25<sup>th</sup> February
- Parents' Evening – 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Deadline for KS4 Choices – 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 9 Reports 3 issued – July