

# Welcome to

# Year 8 Options Evening

- Please fill up seats from the front and from the centre aisle outwards
- Please turn mobile phones to silent or vibrate

Thank you

# Mr Barns

## Assistant Principal

# Aims for tonight

- An overview of the options available
- An overview of the process
- Opportunity to speak to staff

# Why are we opting in Year 8?

- Develop skills and knowledge
- Achieve full potential
- Foundation year if appropriate

# What do we offer?

- Mainly 'traditional' GCSE Options
- Selected technical and vocational courses

# Core

- English Language
- English Literature
- ICT
- Maths
- Science
- PE

# Options

- Four subjects will come from the options process
- ‘Free’ choice for three subjects within a broad and balanced curriculum
- Requirement to study **at least** one of History, Geography, French or German
- If there are too few people then course may have to be withdrawn

# What is the 'Ebacc'?

- English Baccalaureate
- Not the same as 'International Baccalaureate'
- Umbrella term for passing a defined set of subjects
- About 25% of students nationally do Ebacc



# What makes an Ebacc ?

- To achieve an Ebacc you need to achieve a “good pass” in:
- GCSE English (Core)
- GCSE Mathematics (Core)
- GCSE Science (Core)
- GCSE in a Humanity (History/Geography)
- GCSE in a Language (French/German)

# Should I do an Ebacc?

Universities will be most likely to look for specific GCSE grades in English, Maths and possibly Science – but these subjects are compulsory for you to take anyway.

It's up to you to decide whether to take one or more of the optional subjects. On the plus side, taking a mix of these will ensure you can be more flexible in your university course choices later down the line – especially if you're not sure what you want to do yet. But if you feel you're weaker in these subjects, don't feel that you *must* take them in order to go to university.

<http://university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/whats-the-english-baccalaureate>

# Should I do an Ebacc?

The English Baccalaureate ... is not an official requirement, even among Russell Group institutions.

UCL does, however, ask that students have a grade C GCSE or above in a modern foreign language – an Ebacc subject. If your child did not take a languages GCSE, or they missed out on a C grade, this won't damage their application, but they will be expected to complete a short language course either before or during their first year.

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/aug/21/how-important-are-gcses-when-applying-to-university>

# TEN Group Ebacc Policy

- TEN Trustees – put the needs of the students first
- Free choice of options we will not insist on all students doing Ebacc

(This may prevent Ofsted grading us as ‘Outstanding’)

# What are technical and vocational subjects?

- Slightly more practical
- Combination of coursework and final exam
- Recognised and respected
- Progression to FE and University

# What is Flexible Intervention?

- Targeted support
- Particularly around literacy and numeracy
- Also for other such as late joiners

# How to Choose

DO - read all the information in the Options Booklet.

DO - get as much help as you can from your Parents/Carers, Form Tutors and Subject Teachers.

# How to Choose

- DON'T - choose a subject because of the teacher.
- DON'T - choose a subject because your friend has.



# OPTIONS

Students can choose **ANY 4 Options** from the subjects listed below but they must choose **AT LEAST 1** subject with an asterisk (\*).

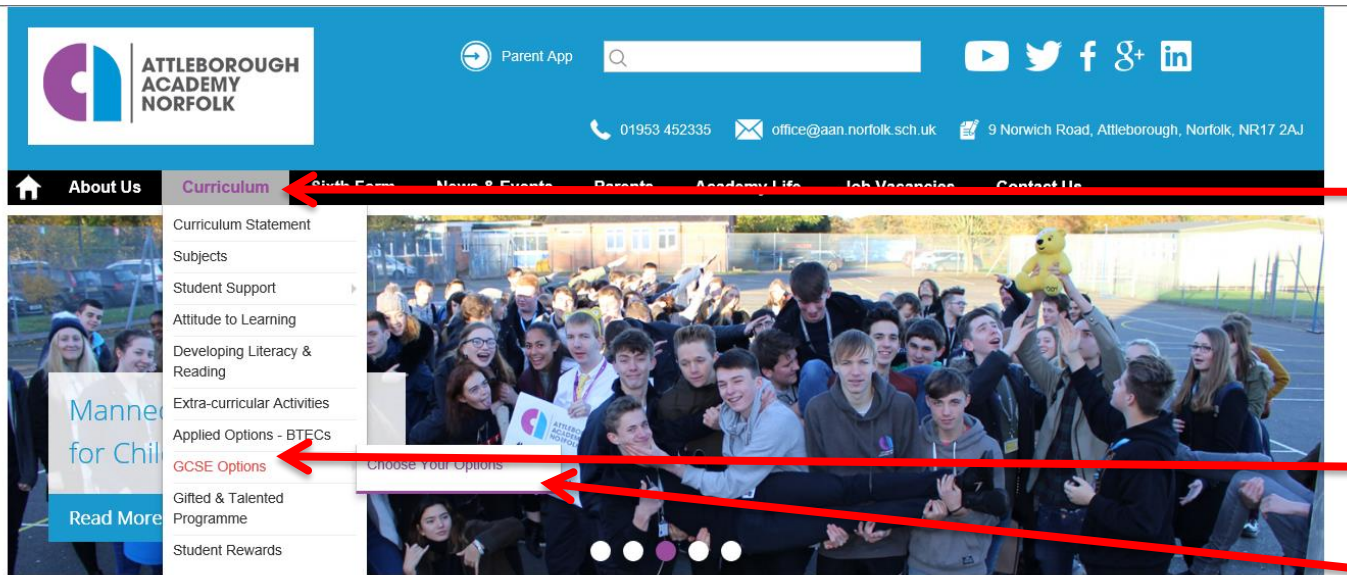
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Citizenship
- Computer Science (see note 1)
- Drama
- Flexible Intervention
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French\*
- Geography\*
- German\*
- Graphic Products (see note 2)
- History\*
- Music
- Product Design (see note 2)
- Religious Studies
- Sport Science

**Note 1:** Computer Science requires a highly mathematical approach. If you are not in the top sets (A1 or B1) for maths then please discuss your situation with Mr Pickering before making your final choice.

**Note 2:** You can choose Product Design OR Graphics Products – not both.

*Choose 6 subjects in order of preference, ranked 1 – 6 (with 1 as most preferred and 6 as least preferred option). We will endeavour to allocate your first 4 option choices wherever possible, however, choices 5 and 6 may be needed as a back-up.*

# Online information



Curriculum

GCSE Options

Choose Your Options

News



# The Options form will be emailed to students' school email account

## \* Required Information

### \* Forename

### \* Surname

### \* Form

- \* Choose 6 subjects in order of preference, ranked 1 – 6 (with 1 as most preferred and 6 as least preferred option). We will endeavour to allocate your first 4 options choices wherever possible, however, choices 5 and 6 may be needed as a back-up.

You must choose at least **1** subject with an asterisk (\*). You can choose more than 1 of these marked subjects

Art and Design	--Please Rank--
Business Studies	--Please Rank--
Citizenship	--Please Rank--
Computer Science (See note 1)	--Please Rank--
BTEC Sport (See note 2)	--Please Rank--
BTEC Dance (See note 2)	--Please Rank--
Drama	--Please Rank--
Flexible Intervention	--Please Rank--
Food Preparation and Nutrition	--Please Rank--
French*	--Please Rank--
Geography*	--Please Rank--
German*	--Please Rank--
Graphic Products (See note 3)	--Please Rank--
History*	--Please Rank--
Music	--Please Rank--
Product Design (See note 3)	--Please Rank--
Religious Studies	--Please Rank--

**Note 1:** Computer Science requires a highly mathematical approach. If you are not in the top sets (A1 or B1) for maths then please discuss your situation with Mr Pickering before making your final choice.

**Note 2:** You can choose BTEC Dance **OR** BTEC Sport - **NOT** both.

**Note 3:** You can choose Product Design **OR** Graphics Products - **NOT** both.

[Clear answers on page](#)

Submit



# When should I complete my options?

- Option forms will be **emailed** Friday 2nd February
- Closes Friday 23rd February
- NOT first come first served
- We will send a letter home to confirm with a reply slip

# Over the next few weeks

- Read the Options Booklet (also available on-line)
- Speak to the Subject Leaders/Teachers and Form Tutors
- Discuss your choices with your parents/carers
- If you have any queries about the process talk to Mrs Cushing (Boudicca and Cavell) or Mr Stott (Kett and Nelson)

# Next Steps Tonight

- Options Subjects in the Gym

