



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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17th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

14+ Options Process

I am writing to you regarding the 14+ options process which began last week for Year 9 students. Students have been talked through the 14+ options process. They received presentations from a number of 'new' subjects on the courses that are on offer, for example GCSE Business and BTEC Health and Social Care.

On Thursday evening, from 6pm, we will be explaining the process to you and answering any questions you may have about choices or the recommendations we have made. There will also be an opportunity to see some displays from the different departments on their courses, the content and how they are assessed, along with some examples of student work. We will have some Year 12 students on hand to give you a student perspective of the different courses on offer.

The blue 14+ options card for this year has been handed out to students. In the top section you will find the school's recommendations for the Science course that students should follow and if they have been recommended for Learning Support or should consider taking it.

With regards to the Science recommendation the Science Faculty have used previous assessment data, student's science targets and the recommendation of staff teaching them to make a recommendation for the most suitable Science GCSE course. Students follow one of two GCSE Science options. Combined Science (Trilogy) leads to two GCSEs in Science and covers all three Sciences. Separate Science leads to three individual and separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics. Therefore, students gain a GCSE in Biology, a GCSE in Chemistry, and a GCSE in Physics.

The programme of study for Separate Science is accelerated in order to cover the higher volume of content in the time available. Therefore, it is most suitable for students who can keep up with the pace of the lessons, those who have high levels of motivation, organisation and can work well independently. The alternative route, Combined Science (Trilogy) which leads to two GCSE awards, allows students a little more time to concentrate on embedding fundamental principles, revisiting topics and consolidation. Both routes allow for progression into A-Level Science and both routes have the same number of lessons per week.

Students recommended for Separate Science should complete the Route 1 part of the form if they wish to study Separate Science and will need to make a choice of Modern Foreign Language and Humanity they wish to take. They will then have two free options to choose from the suite of options available. Please ensure that free options are placed in order of priority, i.e. Free Option 1 is the subject that they want to study the most.

Students recommended for Combined Science need to fill out Route 2 on the form. They will need to make a choice of the humanity they wish to study and then have three Free Option choices. As before, please ensure that free options are placed in order of priority, i.e. Free Option 1 is the subject that they want to study the most. If your child has been recommended to follow the Combined Science (Trilogy) route and wishes to take Separate Science, you will need to discuss this with Mrs Stott. Please make this clear on the options form by filling out Route 1 and making a note in the parent/carer's comment section.

Students considering BTEC ICT, GCSE Computing, Cambridge National Sports Science or GCSE PE have had lessons last week to allow them to understand the differences between the courses, in both the content and how they are assessed. This should allow them to make a more informed choice.

The 14+ options booklet is on the School website here: [14+ Options Booklet](#) and contains a wealth of information regarding courses, content and assessment.

Please ensure that you have filled out the initial choices on the 14+ options form ready for student interviews on the 23rd January 2024. Final choices will need to be made for 9th February 2024.

If there is anything we can do to help, please get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'David Duncker-Brown' and the signature on the right is 'Emma Stott'.

David Duncker-Brown
Head of Upper School

Emma Stott
Head of Year 9