



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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15 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9 Options

I am writing to you regarding the 14+ Options process which began last week for Year 9 students with the options evening. Yesterday I held a special assembly for Year 9 to explain the GCSE Options guidance process. In addition, they received presentations from the 'new' subjects on the courses that are on offer, for example, GCSE Business, BTEC Health and Social Care and our new Cambridge National in Engineering. The presentation is available on the school website in [PPTX](#) & [PDF](#) formats together with the 14+ Options booklet here: [14+ Options Booklet](#) providing a wealth of information regarding course content and assessment.

The blue 14+ Options card for this year has been issued by form tutors and will be coming home with students. In the top section you will find the school's recommendations for the Science course that students should follow and the most recent performance and target data. This can be used to inform decisions and will be used in the 14+ interviews with students.

To generate 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 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), 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 the Humanities subject they wish to take. We also recommend that they consider a Modern Foreign Language. They will then have two further options to choose from the suite of subjects available. Please ensure that free options are placed in order of priority.

Students recommended for Combined Science need to fill out Route 2 on the form. They will need to make a choice of the Humanities subject they wish to study and then have further option choices. As before, please ensure that free options are placed in order of priority. 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 will be having lessons next 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 an informed choice.

Please ensure that you have filled out the initial choices on the 14+ Options form by 30 January 2025 ready for student interviews on 3 February 2025. Final choices will need to be made by 7 February 2025.

Another date for your diaries is for End of Year 9 exams which will be 23-27 June 2025.

If there is anything we can do to help, please email me or Mrs Stott and we will be able to help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncker-Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Duncker-Brown
Head of Upper School
dduncker-brown@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Stott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emma Stott
Head of Year 9
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