



Sir Geoffrey Leigh
Academy

GCSE Options 2025



Open minded Risk-takers Knowledgeable Balanced Caring Reflective Principled Thinkers Communicators Inquirers



Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy Vision

Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy inspires the next generation to be resilient and respectful learners who are successful and strive for academic **excellence** by:

- **Challenging** all to become compassionate and active members of our global community
- Building effective **partnerships** through intercultural and social interactions
- Ensuring **consistent** approaches to develop lifelong learners

ECPC- 'Opening Minds to Success'

Open minded Risk-takers Knowledgeable Balanced Caring Reflective Principled Thinkers Communicators Inquirers

A journey of 1000 miles starts with one step.

Year 7 - Transition, join clubs, grow roots, belong

Year 8 - Be resilient, plan careers, First stage of MYP complete

Year 9 - MYP community project, GCSE choices, Duke of Edinburgh Award, MYP Graduation

Year 10 - Work experience and beginning GCSE's

Year 11 - Careers conversations, GCSE exams, Prom, apply for P16.

Year 12 - Earn your predicted grades for University applications, learn to manage your own time.

Year 13 - Final Examinations, prepare for adulthood.





This evening....



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1. The Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) curriculum
2. The EBacc and LeighBacc pathway
3. Options subjects - the 'marketplace' and GCSE options booklet
4. Qualifications and grades
5. Tips on making the right choices
6. Timeline



What does the Key Stage 4 curriculum look like?

The curriculum in Year 10 and Year 11 has many aims and objectives:

1. To continue to build on the IB MYP skills and attributes developed in Year 7, 8 and 9
2. To provide excellent careers advice and opportunities to help you with decisions beyond your GCSEs
3. To support you through your tutor and college leadership, ensuring you are on track to meet your goals
4. To provide a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom e.g. trips, revision classes, clubs, external visitors etc
5. To help you achieve the best GCSE grades possible across 9 subjects
6. To help as many students as possible be successful across the range of subjects which make up the EBacc and LeighBacc pathways.
7. To prepare students for the Post-16 curriculum and beyond.



What does the Year 10 curriculum look like?

What is the breakdown of 24 lessons each week?

12 lessons are set aside for English, maths and science (4 lessons each).

English, maths and science give each student **5 GCSEs**:

1. Maths
2. English Literature
3. English Language
4. Combined Science
5. Combined Science

2 lessons are set aside for PE (core - no exam) and Healthy Minds / RE (no exam)

The remaining 10 lessons are for 4 GCSEs.



What does the Year 10 curriculum look like?

Lesson allocation for GCSE options will be as follows:

MFL (French or Spanish): 3 lessons per week

History or Geography: 3 lessons per week

All other option subjects: 2 lessons per week (each student has 2 subjects in this category)

The organisation of these option choices differs slightly depending on the pathway the student is on - either the EBacc or LeighBacc.



What is the EBacc pathway?

The EBacc Pathway

The **English Baccalaureate** groups together a range of qualifications identified by the Government as a measure of a student's performance. In addition to the Core Curriculum of English, maths and science, students following this pathway study a foreign language **and** either geography or history.

Benefits of the EBacc Pathway

While students may not have decided on their future career path yet, following the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the Bacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

We have identified students who must take the EBacc pathway in order for us to meet Government expectations, and because we value the study of languages in line with our status as an IB World School. However, the opportunity for a LeighBacc student to take the EBacc pathway is also possible.



What is the LeighBacc pathway?

The LeighBacc Pathway

‘LeighBacc’ is short for **Leigh Baccalaureate** and enables students to study a combination of traditional GCSE subjects alongside vocational subjects. It is unique to Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy and is tailored for those students who would enjoy some of the EBacc subjects (history, geography, French and Spanish) but do not wish to study them all. A LeighBacc student must choose either history or geography and then any other 2 options.

When EBacc students are timetabled on to their language lessons, LeighBacc students will also have the opportunity to study a language, or they will take the **Digital Information Technology Qualification**.



Choosing your 4 GCSE option subjects

The first thing to understand in this process is that this is not an open choice of any 4 subjects. There are limits around the subjects you can choose for the following reasons:

1. The ambition for all students is for you to leave with 9 GCSEs across the academic core of subjects which will include:

English Language
English Literature
Maths

Combined Science (2)
History / Geography
French / Spanish

2. In line with government and LAT expectations, at least 75% of students study a language and history or geography at GCSE level
3. Timetabling. We do try and be as flexible as possible, but there are limits to how many students can do each subject. Subjects also need a viable number of students.



Choosing your 4 GCSE option subjects

Choice 1: History or Geography

Choosing **history or geography** is compulsory.

You won't be able to do both so carefully consider your choice, and talk to the subject teachers.

Choice 2: French or Spanish (EBacc only) Or DIT or French or Spanish (LeighBacc only)

We value the study of Modern Foreign Languages at Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy and all students who are showing good progress will continue with this subject through to GCSE. **Obviously choose the one you are currently studying!**

LeighBacc students will have an open choice here, including choosing a language and being an EBacc student should they wish to.



What does the Year 10 and 11 curriculum look like?

Choices 3 and 4: Open choice of all other subjects

There is no restriction on the subject choice here, *apart from GCSE PE (IB MYP Grade 4), computer science & separate science (IB MYP Grade 5).*

Following this presentation you will visit the **subject marketplace** to help you decide. The GCSE options booklet you received on arrival also has details on every subject, including careers they can lead into.

Choice 5: Reserve choice from all other subjects

Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that students will get their 3rd and 4th subject choices (although we can usually get 90% of first choices). That means you need to choose a reserve subject, and that is the one your child will get if it's impossible for us to give them their first choice.

Choices are submitted via the Bromcom Student portal emailed to parents on **Friday 28th February at 1pm**. The deadline for form submission is **Saturday 15th March**.



Choice 3 and 4 subjects

- Art and Design: Fine Art
- Art and Design: Graphic Communication
- Art and Design: Photography
- Business Studies
- Computer Science (MYP Grade 5 and above only)
- Design and Technology
- Engineering BTEC
- Ethics / Religious Education
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Health and Social Care BTEC
- Media Studies
- Performing Arts (Acting) BTEC
- Physical Education GCSE (MYP Grade 4 and above only)
- NCFE Health & Fitness
- Separate Science (Higher Tier only- MYP Grade 5 and above only)



Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
			<div><div><div>4 = C</div><div>and above</div></div><div>and above</div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.</div>							
A*			C			D	E	F	G	U
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.



GCSE grade

BTEC grade

9	
8.5	Level 2 Distinction *
8	
7.5	
7	Level 2 Distinction
6.5	
6	
5.5	Level 2 Merit
5	
4.5	
4	Level 2 Pass
3.5	
3	Level 1 Distinction
2.5	
2	Level 1 Merit
1.5	Level 1 Pass
1	



GCSE options tips - some 'Do's' and 'Don'ts'

Do:

1. Visit as many subjects as possible
2. Be aspirational
3. Ask questions - staff, students, SLT
4. Commit to working hard and get into a GCSE mindset

Don't:

1. Be influenced by your friend's choices!
2. Base choices on your current teachers
3. Go for an 'easy option'
4. Rush the decision - take your time and explore different options.



Next steps...

1. Go on visit as many subjects as possible in the marketplace in the restaurant and science labs.
2. Discuss as a family the best subject choices to make. Consider current achievement, career aspirations and advice from staff and older students.
3. Tutor time discussions until next 14th March will help finalise your decisions.
4. The Options form with choices to be completed and returned by **Saturday 15th March**. The form will be shared with your child via email on **Friday 28th February**. We will also email parents to confirm it's release.