

KS4 Options Process

Welcome to
Year 9

Parents and Students



Which subjects do students **HAVE** to study?



- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Combined Science (Core Science and Additional Science= 2 GCSEs)

and non –examined subjects:

- RS
- PE
- Soc. Ed (includes careers, work related learning, sex education, financial capability, citizenship etc..)

They then choose 4 option subjects from the list: Media, Psychology, PE, RS, Sociology, IT, Computer Science, Triple Science, Creative IT, Business Studies, 3D Design, Food, Art, Textiles, Graphics, Music, Performing Arts, French, German, Spanish, History, Geography, Preparation for Working Life.....



Very few people know, at the age of 12 or 13, what they want to do in the future!

Some people do not find the 'right' career until much later in life.

Some jobs haven't even been invented yet.....

You may have undiscovered skills and interests.

The current generation of school leavers will most likely change career several times.

So the answer is:



- Choose what you *enjoy*.
- Choose what you *are good at*.
- Aim to keep your choices as *broad* as possible.
(Don't close doors in the future by having taken a narrow range of subjects).
- Aim high (be ambitious for your future) - but be realistic
- Take lots of advice.

Keep your choices as *broad* as possible



Ideally everyone should:

1. Choose a Humanities subject (History, Geography or RS)
2. Choose an arts/creative subject (Music, Performing Arts, Design, Art, Graphics, Food, Textiles)
3. If you are capable of achieving in languages then consider choosing French, German or Spanish.

This will provide a **broad and balanced** curriculum.

What is the EBacc?



The **English Baccalaureate** was introduced by the Government in 2011 as a *standard* that some students can aim for in their KS4 studies.

To achieve the English Baccalaureate, students must complete and obtain a grade 5 (Grade C) or higher in the following subjects:

- Maths
- English Language
- Two Sciences (at John Mason School, all students at least follow both Core and Additional Science – some will do three sciences if they choose triple Science. Computer Studies counts as a science)
- a Language (e.g. Spanish, French or German) and
- either Geography or History

Russell Group Universities



The Russell Group of Universities (a collaboration of 20 leading UK universities) are not only interested in the results that pupils achieve at GCSE and A Level, they are increasingly expecting students to have breadth of study as well as rigour in what they study. This generally means they consider the traditional academic subjects such as those included in the EBacc as more appropriate for entry to their universities.

Students of high ability should aim to stretch themselves by considering choosing options that have academic rigour, such as History or a Modern Foreign Language.



Tonight:

- ✓ Visit all Options Subjects that you are considering
- ✓ Ask the members of staff about the course, how you'll be assessed and if your skills are well suited to the course
- ✓ Annotate your Options Booklet

Adviza (Independent advice and guidance)



Terry Bianchini, our careers advisor, is available in M4 this evening.

Students can make an appointment to see Terry via their tutor/HOY

Information Advice & Guidance (IAG)

Students are able to gain IAG from online sources – these are accessed in careers education sessions during Social Education (Soc. Ed) lessons and tutor –times.

Students also have log-on details and can access these sites from home.





John Mason School
Excellence Through Creativity

How NOT to choose!

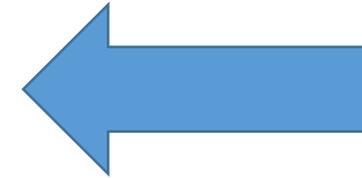
DO NOT choose a subject:

- Because your friends are choosing it
- Because you like the teacher

The Choices Form



Additional Learning: Option Boxes			
A	B	C	D
History	Art	Music	Textiles
Geography	French	Geography	Food
Art	German	Media	Graphics
Performing Arts	Spanish	Business	3D Design
Creative IT	Business	PE	Computing
Media	Sociology	RS	History
		Psychology	IT



You will choose one subject from each column

Column	Main Choices
A	
B	
C	
D	

Column	Reserve Choices
A	
B	
C	
D	

If you have an absolute 'must have/highly desired' subject, then please do let me know. (e.g. asterix it * or make notes on the form)

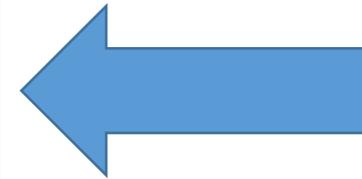
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Creative IT	Business	PE	Computing
Media	Sociology	RS	History
		Psychology	IT

Column	Main Choices
A	
B	
C	
D	

Column	Reserve Choices
A	
B	
C	
D	



Reserve choices are important: we won't be able to accommodate everyone's first choices, but we will try.

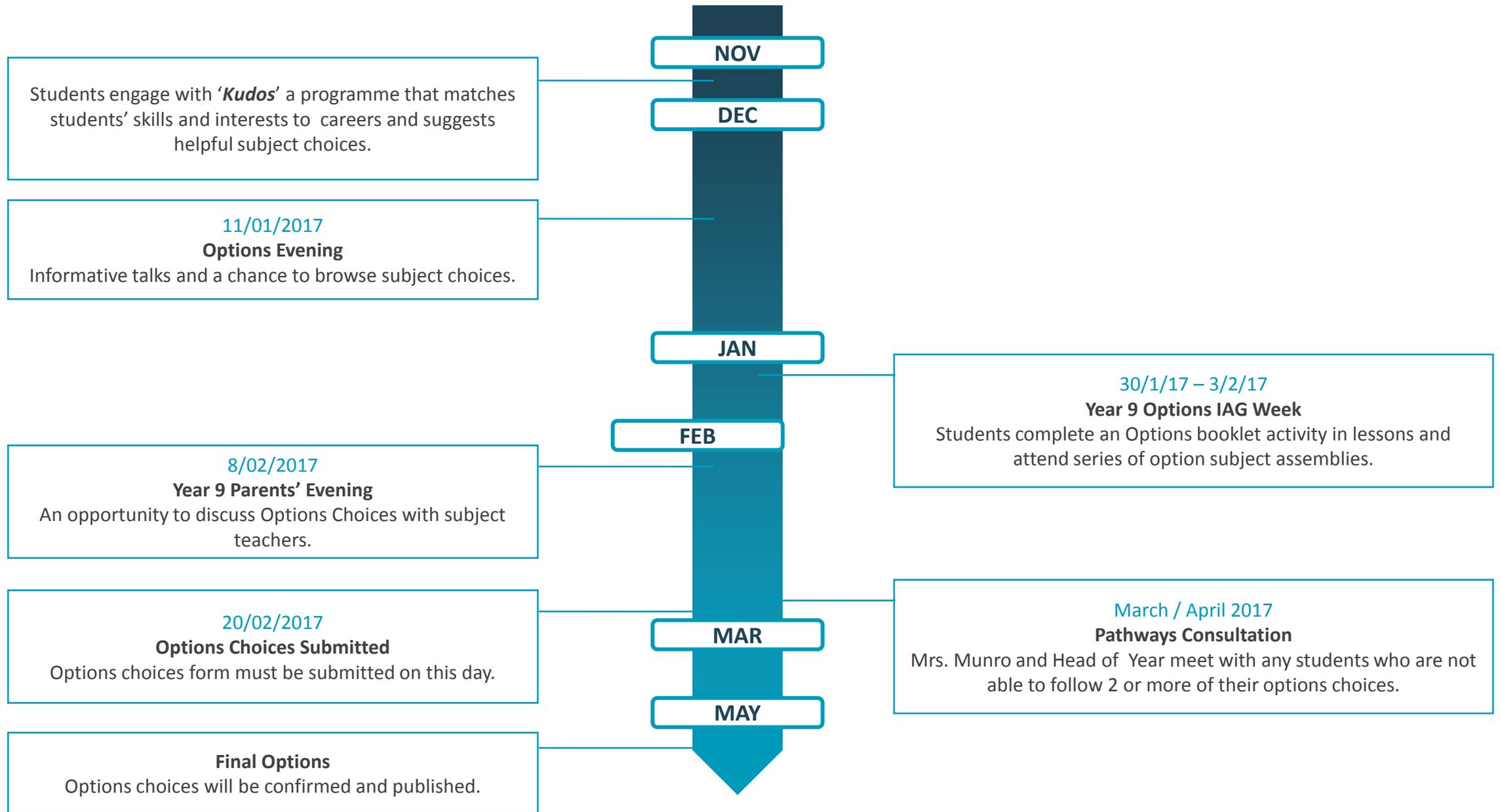
Please be aware that a subject may not run, if it is undersubscribed.

Flexibility over four GCSEs



If students are struggling with four options subjects, students may either:

- Replace a GCSE option with a college course (hair and beauty, construction, equine studies, motor vehicle studies etc..)
- Do only three options instead of four, and have some study/catch up time
- Replace a GCSE subject with the Prince's Trust qualification (more details on request from Ms. Othen)



Don't worry about these decisions:



Although the deadline for option choices is close, things can change between February and June.

There is plenty of advice on offer.

If a course is oversubscribed or if there are lots of students who can't get their choices, we may be able to add an additional subject in an option column, depending on staffing.

Most employers and college admissions tutors want to see that you:

- Have followed a broad curriculum
- Are punctual, honest and reliable, show initiative, communicate well
- Have enthusiasm for the course or job you are applying for
- Have made the best of your education and the opportunities you have had

These are more important than the option choices you have made!