

# MILLAIS SCHOOL

## KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2023-25

**All the information about Options is on the school website and on your Y9 TEAMS page.**

The online pages on TEAMS review every course.

**Students will make their choices on the Student Portal from tomorrow,**

they can change their minds up until 28<sup>th</sup> February.



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## ***OPTIONS - Important Dates***

- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**      **Parents evening**
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**      **Choices Deadline**  
(use “Save for Later” – only “Submit” on  
deadline day)



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Most of Y9 have started to look at options.

If you haven't logged into the Student Portal on Bromcom then you need to do so ASAP. Instructions on TEAMS and from ICT Network Support.

You need to read the online TEAMS pages and look at the requirements of individual courses.



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## *GCSE grading system.*

Since 2017 all GCSEs are marked in numerical grades.

- 9-1
- Your current flightpaths correspond to your **estimated** GCSE performance.



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*How is success measured at GCSE?*

- **Achievement in eight best subjects.**
- This includes English, Maths, EBACC subjects and 'other' subjects.
- Students will have to re-take English and Maths, post 16 if they don't get a 4 at GCSE.
- Check A level requirements



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## *Technical Awards and OCR Nationals*

- In addition to GCSEs, there are Technical Awards and OCR Nationals which can be found in more practical or work related subjects.
- These still count towards Progress and Attainment 8 and will count for getting onto post 16 courses.
- They may still have exams, but will have a greater coursework element.



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## *Why 10 GCSEs?*

- **10 subjects is ambitious (OFSTED 2022)**
- Fewer than 10 limits your choices.
- Sixth forms (& universities) will look at individual subject grades.
- **You will maximise your achievement.**



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## *What subjects do I have to take?*

All pupils study several compulsory GCSEs

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science – leading to two GCSEs
- One Modern Foreign Language





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The remaining courses that are compulsory are...

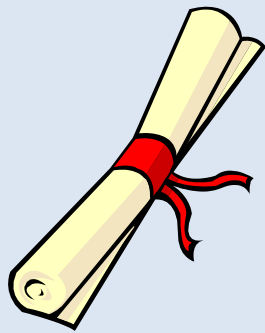
- Physical Education
- Personal Development and World Views
- There is no exam for either of these.



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## *What is the English Baccalaureate?*

Pupils will gain an accreditation called the English Baccalaureate provided they gain a grade 4 or above in:



English  
Maths  
2 Sciences  
A Language  
History or Geography

This can influence post 18 choices



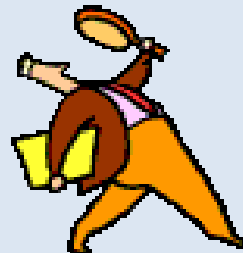
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*Why have students been allocated a pathway and what does it mean?*

There are four main pathways... Endeavour, Ambition, Challenge, Aspiration

A requirement of the Department for Education is to offer pupils an education directed more specifically at their abilities and strengths.

**Most subjects are on all pathways.**



# EXAMPLE STUDENT TIMETABLE

	C Block	D Block	E Block	F Block	G Block
Student A	Spanish	Drama	History	Art	GCSE PE
Student B	History	GCSE PE	Spanish	Drama	Art

Some subjects are designed and run for students of certain abilities.

**We also have limitations on rooms, facilities and how many teachers can teach each option subject.**

This is why some subjects are not on every pathway. For example Additional Maths, Child Development or Media Studies.

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## *How many subjects are chosen?*

These are the subject areas to choose from...

- One Modern Foreign Language
- Four Open Choice Courses
- One Reserve Choice

**Five** options to choose in total, plus **a reserve.**



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## *Options Choices*

- **Students should select subjects that they enjoy & are good at**
- Consider what may fit in with future career ideas.
- All students will receive an interview with a member of SLT to discuss their choices. These will take place on the week beginning 20th February.



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*Will my choices affect my long term career aspirations?*

Not in most cases but they could do. You may need to consider which subjects may be useful to you in your chosen career, if you have one.



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## *New Subjects At KS4*

Taking a new subject is fine and may suit some students.

Make an informed choice.

Look at the course details, speak to subject teachers if you are unsure.





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## *How should I get the balance right?*

Its good to have a variety of subjects

**Ideally, make one choice per section on the form.**

This will then give students a balanced and varied workload.



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## *One From Each Area Doesn't Suit Me!*

You can choose two creative subjects like **Drama & Music** .  
Or two Humanities like **Geography with History**.  
Some want **Triple Science & Additional Maths**.

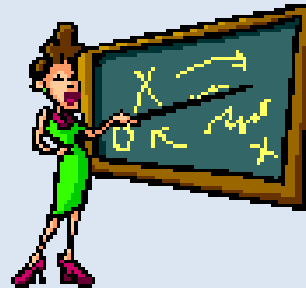
The only exceptions are DT subjects where  
coursework is very time consuming.



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*Which teachers will they have for GCSEs?*

Simple answer: we don't know!



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*If I choose the same subjects as my friends will we be together?*

New groups are formed from all three bands of Year 9 for the Options.



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## *Will I definitely get my first choice?*

- Every effort will be made to make sure that students get their first choice but occasionally groups are too small and we cannot offer them.
- Some combinations unfortunately won't fit into the timetable, but the pathways do help with this

If we need to use your reserve choice we will speak to you about this individually.



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## *How long is there left to choose Options?*

Subject Choices can be “saved for later” when ready, and can be changed up right until the end of **Tuesday 28th February provided they don’t “submit”**.

**Only submit on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Parents will then be contacted to view confirmed choices, made by their daughters.

Options are allocated properly towards the end of the Year.

**After this date online choices become final.**



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## *Example Options Choices*

### Challenge Draft 2

Name  Tutor group: 9

**Common rules:** A subject can only be selected once

✔ Thank you!

Your choices have been submitted and are ready for review by the school.

If you would like to change your choices, please speak to the school.

Close Tab



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*What if I change my mind after deadline day?*

The Options and Parents' Evenings provide opportunities to make the most informed choice before the deadline.

We then start to confirm staffing, sets, rooming and budgets. You cannot change at this point.





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**The options exhibition in the Main School Hall will provide extra information.  
Y9 Parents' Evening is on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.**

If you have questions later, you can ask via  
[options@millais.org.uk](mailto:options@millais.org.uk)

