



Buile**Hill**
Academy

Curriculum Choices
2019-2021

Please bring this booklet to the key Stage 4 Choices Evening on Thursday 23rd January 2020, 4-6pm

Students are welcome to attend with families

430-500pm and 530-600pm: formal presentations will outline the options process

400-600pm an opportunity to visit subjects and talk to subject specialists

Other important dates

16th December 2019, 30th March 2020 and **13th July 2020** reports issued to Year 9 students

Thursday 19th March 2020 Subject Consultation Evening

An opportunity to discuss students' progress in their various subjects and get advice from their teachers about their option choices. We strongly encourage families and students to attend this together.

Monday 23rd March- Thursday 26th March Individual Interviews between students and Senior Leaders

Following the Easter holidays, a letter to parents and pupils will be sent with the final suite of chosen qualification offer

CORE SUBJECTS

English
Maths
Combined Science- Trilogy
Core Physical Education

GCSE OPTION SUBJECTS

Art and Design
Business Studies
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Drama
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography
History
Spanish
Music GCSE
Photography
Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

NON GCSE OPTION SUBJECTS

BTEC in Digital Information Technology
BTEC IMedia
BTEC Health and Social Care
BTEC Music
BTEC Sports Science
BTEC Construction

Introduction to Option Choices

As students approach the end of Year 9 they are required to make key decisions regarding their future studies. This is an incredibly exciting time for both parents and students alike, as for the first time students have the opportunity to shape their education, tailoring it towards a particular career , aspiration or passion.

They may also begin to consider post 16 options, as it is Government policy that all students must stay in education, or work-based training, until they are 18. Here they can specialise in just 4 subjects, with university courses and career options very much on their mind.

However, at this stage we believe it is unnecessary to specialize in specific subject areas and recommend students keep a broader choice of subjects. Throughout the options process we remind students and their families to consider the English Baccalaureate, see below, and the need to plan for possible future education and employment pathways.

At Buile Hill Academy, we are absolutely committed to providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced and meets the needs of all our students.

The National Core Curriculum

All students must study the core curriculum: English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Religious Studies, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Optional Subjects

Most students will choose four additional subjects. Optional subjects are broadly split into GCSE qualifications and alternative qualifications.

When we make these choices with our students we will consider:

- The requirements of a balanced curriculum
- Subjects in which they have a keen interest
- Subjects in which they have shown an aptitude
- Entry requirements for specific Further and Higher Education institutions

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

Students who gain a grade 5 or better in English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and Spanish are recognized for achieving the English Baccalaureate. This is not an additional qualification but is recognition of the challenging combination of subjects which students have attained a 'strong pass' in. This is becoming increasingly important and valued by employers and universities and students should be mindful of this when making their option choices.

How we make Option Choices

Parents and students will have access to two parent consultation evenings to find out information on courses and how their children are progressing. Following the second consultation evening, students will be interviewed by members of the senior leadership team and four option choices will be made with one in reserve. Whilst we will make every effort to enable as many students as possible to study the subjects they have requested; we cannot guarantee meeting the exact preferences of every student. The running of courses is dependent upon them being sufficiently subscribed and the availability of specialist teachers. If there are any difficulties, you will be informed as soon as possible.

Core Curriculum Subject Information

English Language and Literature

All students will study both courses in parallel and achieve two separate GCSE qualifications at the end of the course. Further information regarding English can be found in the Core Subject section of this booklet.

Mathematics

All students will study Mathematics in Years 10 and 11, which will lead to one GCSE qualification at the end of the course.

Combined Science (Trilogy)

Most students will take this course, which is worth two GCSEs. It combines elements of Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

Separate Sciences

Students who have an aptitude and/or interest in Science and are considering studying Science at A Level may choose to study the sciences as three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Due to the increased depth of content, this course requires students to take Science as one of their four options.

PSHE including Religious Studies

This is provided for all students throughout Year 10 and Year 11.

GCSE Option Subjects

These examinations provide a common examination at 16+ with all grades awarded being 9-1.

Controlled Assessment (CA)

On some courses a proportion of the examination grade is dependent upon the work done by the student during the two years of the course.

GCSE courses currently offered at Buile Hill Academy:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Photography
- Spanish
- Separate Sciences

Non- GCSE Option Subjects

For some students a full GCSE diet of English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, plus 4 further GCSE subjects is not appropriate. As such we offer a flexible learning route for students.

Alternative qualifications are often designed for those who are more practically- minded and can be studied at different levels. All students opting for BTEC, or other certified course would study it at either Level 1 or Level 2. Students achieve a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction * at the end of the course.

Alternative qualifications are just as valuable as GCSEs, with many students going onto University having achieved a BTEC qualification.

Alternative courses currently offered by Buile Hill Academy

Digital Information Technology
Health and Social
BTEC Music
Sports Studies
Dance
Travel and Tourism
Engineering

Additional Qualifications and examples of choice combinations

Throughout their studies, students have the option to supplement their qualifications with our Duke of Edinburgh Award. Further information can be found on our website

<https://www.builehillacademy.co.uk/curriculum/page/duke-of-edinburgh-award-scheme/>

Choices, Broad, Balanced and Appropriate

At Buile Hill Academy we aim to ensure that students make informed choices that take account of the need to;

- Match choices closely with the individual students interests and aptitude
- Be fully aware of the increasing focus of the English Baccalaureate by employers, colleges and Universities
- Make choices that will leave doors open to them to access further study and careers opportunities

The table below illustrates some examples of the variety of choices and routes available to our students;

Example 1 (Full Ebacc)	Example 2 (Full Ebacc)	Example 3	Example 4
Maths*	Maths*	Maths*	Maths*
English Language *	English Language *	English Language *	English Language *
English Literature*	English Literature*	English Literature*	English Literature*
Combined Science*	Combined Science*	Combined Science*	Combined Science*
History^	Spanish^	Travel & Tourism	History^
Spanish^	History^	Sports Science	Food & Nutrition
Computer^ Science	Triple Science^	Fine Art	Drama
Fine Art	Digital Information Technology	Spanish^	Geography^

Key: * = Ebacc core subjects (compulsory) ^ = Ebacc Options

Looking beyond Year 11

Whilst the choices students make in the coming months will shape their next two years at Buile Hill Academy, they will also have an impact on their options after Year 11. This may involve many of the local sixth forms, going to another college or gaining employment with training.

Level of Qualification	General	Vocation	Occupational
3 Advanced Level	A Levels, International Baccalaureate	Applied A Levels, BTEC Diploma, BTEC Nationals Level 3 VRQ/NVQ	Level 3 NVQ and Apprenticeships
2 Intermediate Level	5 GCSEs Grades 4-9	BTEC First Awards Level 2 VRQ/NVQ	Level 2 NVQ Trainees and Apprenticeships
1 Foundation Level	5 GCSEs Grades 1-4	Level 1 qualifications	Level 1 NVQs First jobs in offices, industry and commerce
Entry Level	Certificate of Educational Achievement		

Level 3

To progress onto A Level courses at most colleges and sixth forms, students will need to have at least 5 GCSE grades between 5-9.

For Level 3 Vocational courses(e.g. BTEC Diplomas/BTEC Nationals, LLevel 3 VRQ/NVQs) , students will need an average of around grade 4 across all GCSE results and the courses can be studied at colleges.

Level 2

Where students have achieved at least 5 GCSE grades 1-4, they will be able to progress onto Level 2 courses (BTEC First Awards, Level 2 VRQ/NVQ, Trainees and Apprenticeships). These courses will be delivered at local colleges.

Year 9 Options Form

Name of Student: _____ Tutor Group: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer:

Our Core Curriculum Offer

All students will study the following in Years 10 and 11:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science (worth 2 GCSEs)
- Core PE (non examined)
- PSHE (non examined)

In addition, students can choose up to 4 further option subjects, from a range of Ebacc, other GCSEs and non-GCSEs.

Our knowledge of our students, their abilities, strengths, interests and aspirations enable us to guide them as to appropriate subjects.

Option Subjects

When deciding on your subject choices with a member of the senior leadership team, please refer to your options booklet. Be clear as to the course content and assessment criteria and use our parent consultation evenings to discuss whether you feel the subject is right for you.

Art & Design	Business Studies
Computer Science*	Design and Technology
Drama	Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography*	History*
Music	Photography
Spanish*	Separate Sciences*

* Count towards the English Baccalaureate and are increasingly valued by employers and universities

BTEC Digital Information Technology	
BTEC Health and Social Studies	BTEC Music
BTEC Travel & Tourism	BTEC Engineering
BTEC Dance	OCR Sports Studies

Please note BTEC and GCSE music cannot be studied together

My choices in order of preference:

Option 1:
Option 2:
Option 3:
Option 4:
Reserve:

We will try to match all your choices and give you the options you would like. We may not however, be able to provide an option if there are too few students to make it viable. In these circumstances we will consult with you personally. Remember to look for a broad, balanced range of choices to help you succeed at school and beyond. Think about your combination of choices and whether you will be completing the Ebacc. Below are some examples.

Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4
Spanish	Spanish	History	Geography
Geography	Music	Travel and Tourism	Art
Drama	History	Media	Food and Nutrition
Sports Studies	Textiles	Design & Technology	Spanish

You will complete this form with a member of the senior leadership team and / or your Head of Year, no later than Friday 27th March 2020.