

Year 9 Options 2025-2026



Mr Fehr
Assistant Principal

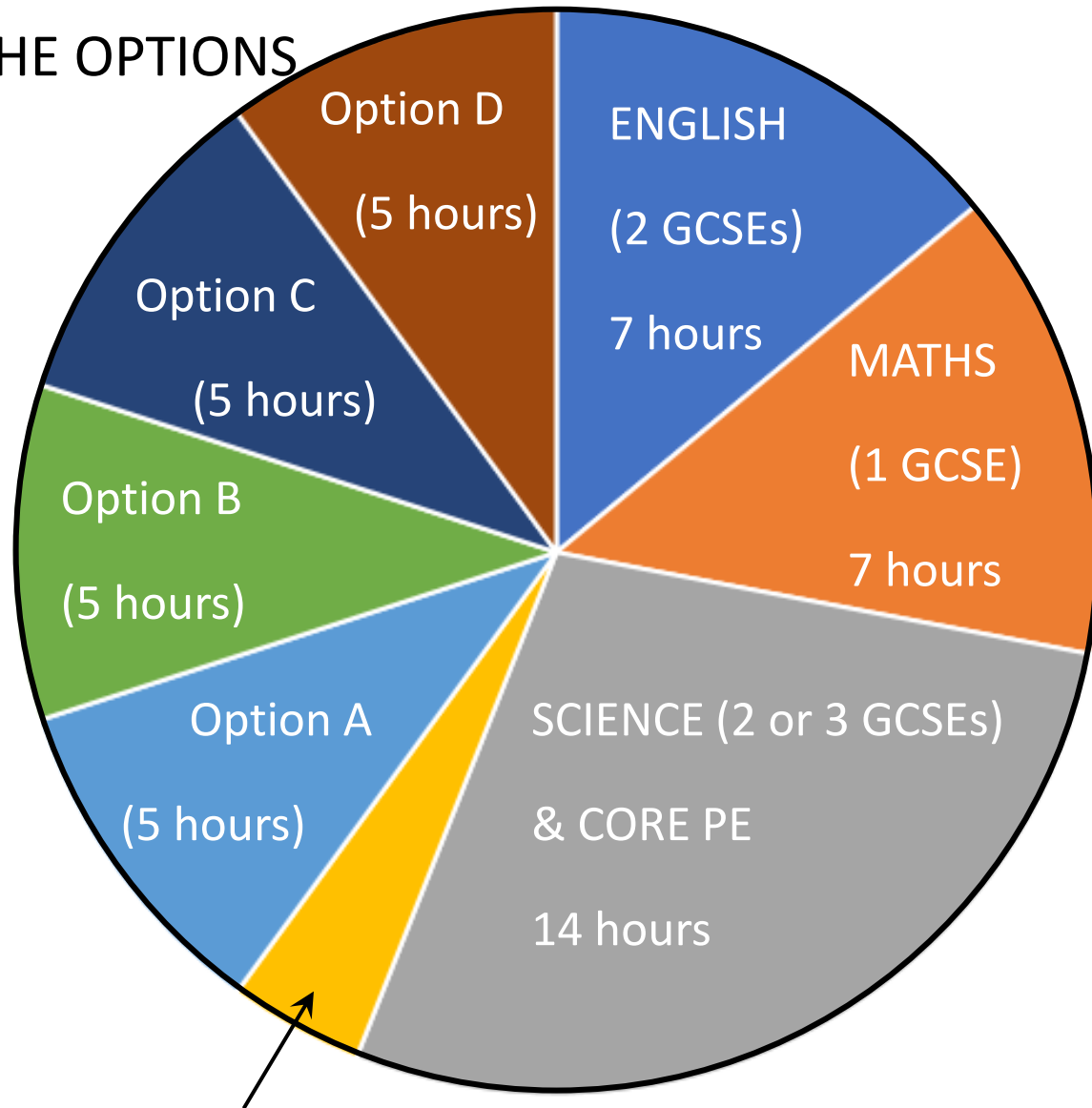
*“The secret of success is to be ready
when your opportunity comes”
Benjamin Disraeli*

1. Overview of Key Stage 4
2. The options process, the choices you will make, and the timeline
3. Advice and guidance on how to make these choices
4. Where to find further information



1. Overview of Key Stage 4

THE OPTIONS



PSHE and Ethics (not examined) – 2 hours

COMBINED SCIENCE

(2 GCSEs) – 10 hours

CORE PE

(not examined) – 4 hours

or BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS

(3 GCSEs) – 12 hours

CORE PE

(not examined) – 2 hours

The science department make this decision in discussion with you.

Option Subjects from Year 9

Fine Art

Dance

Drama

Music

Computing

Design & Technology

Food Preparation & Nutrition

*Only available if you are
studying it in Year 9*

Other Options

French

Spanish

Geography

History

Religious Studies

GCSE PE

Health & Social Care

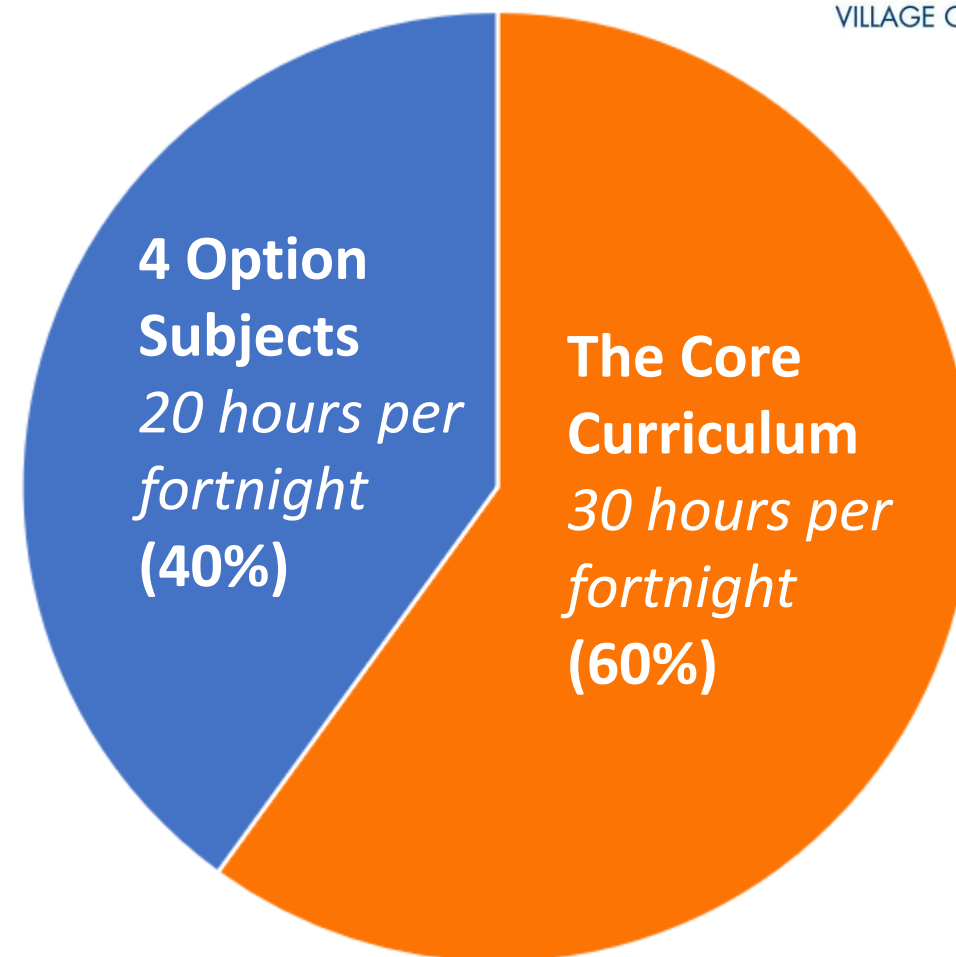
Sport Science

Statistics

Engineering

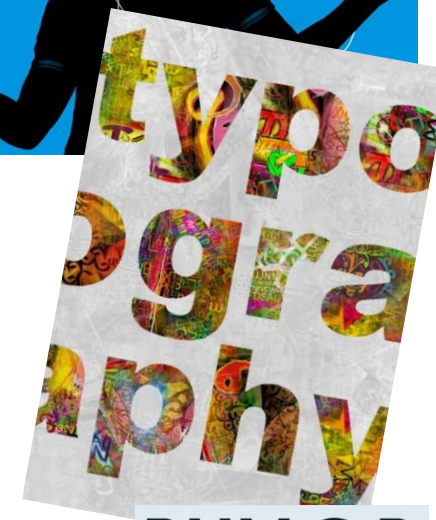
Photography

Graphic Communications



Graphic Communication (or Graphic Design) is the process of designing to convey information and ideas. This includes:

- Websites and digital design
- Logo design and branding
- Game and app design
- Motion graphics
- Magazines and books



In this GCSE you will explore the above through a portfolio of personal exploration (60% of the GCSE) and an exam at the end of year 11 (40% GCSE).

This GCSE is a good foundation for anyone thinking of going into a creative profession.



Take Photography to...

- understand the creative process,
- explore a range of photographic techniques,
- improve your technical, creative and thinking skills through digital means,
- and learn about photographers; the history of photography.

Consider careers in advertising, architecture, fashion, illustration, photojournalism.

Or maybe you just enjoy taking photos and enjoy being creative!



Learn about...

- camera controls including aperture, shutter speed and composition,
- technical and creative aspects,
- photo editing and manipulation using Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop and other relevant software packages,
- how to express your own thoughts and viewpoints through photography.

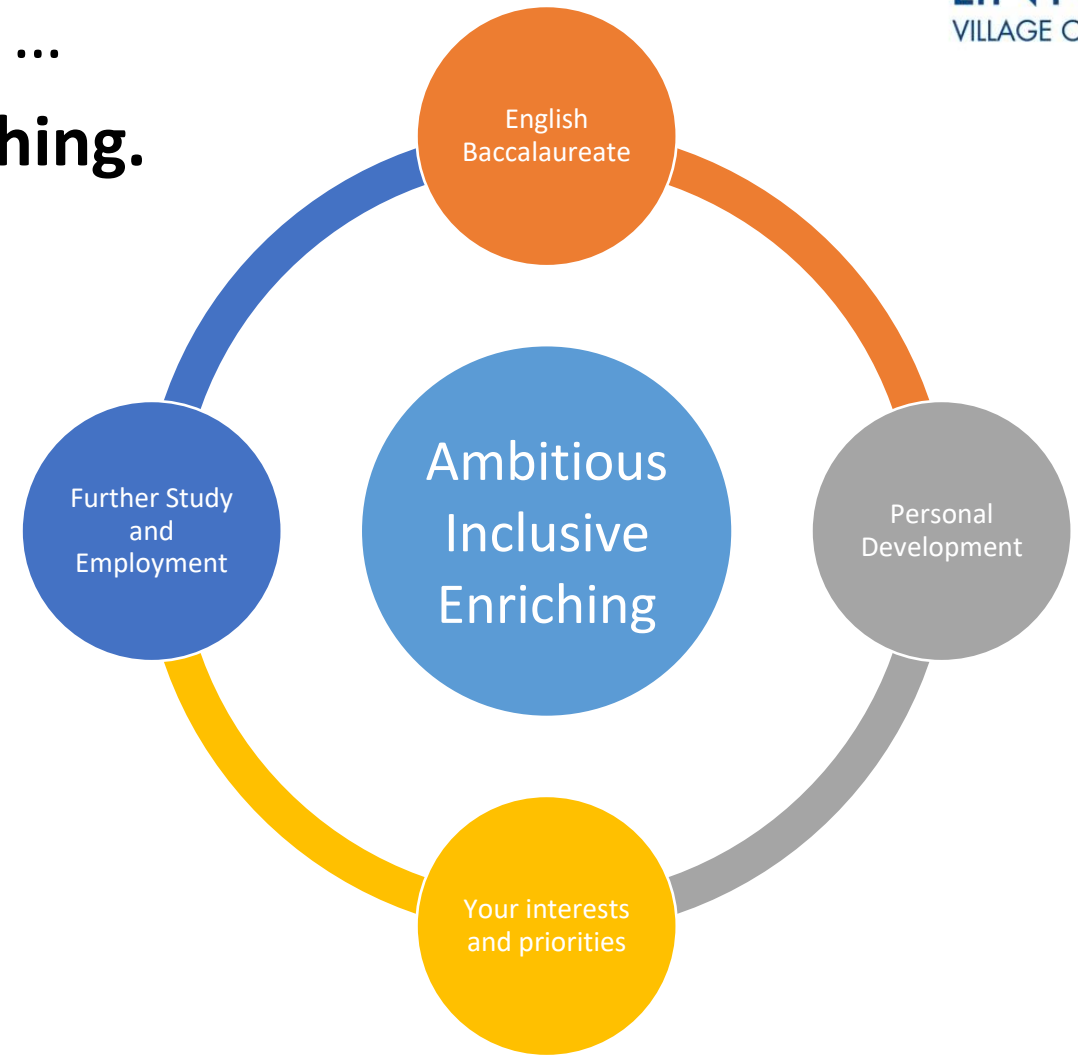
3. Making the Right Choice

At LVC, we believe your curriculum must be ...

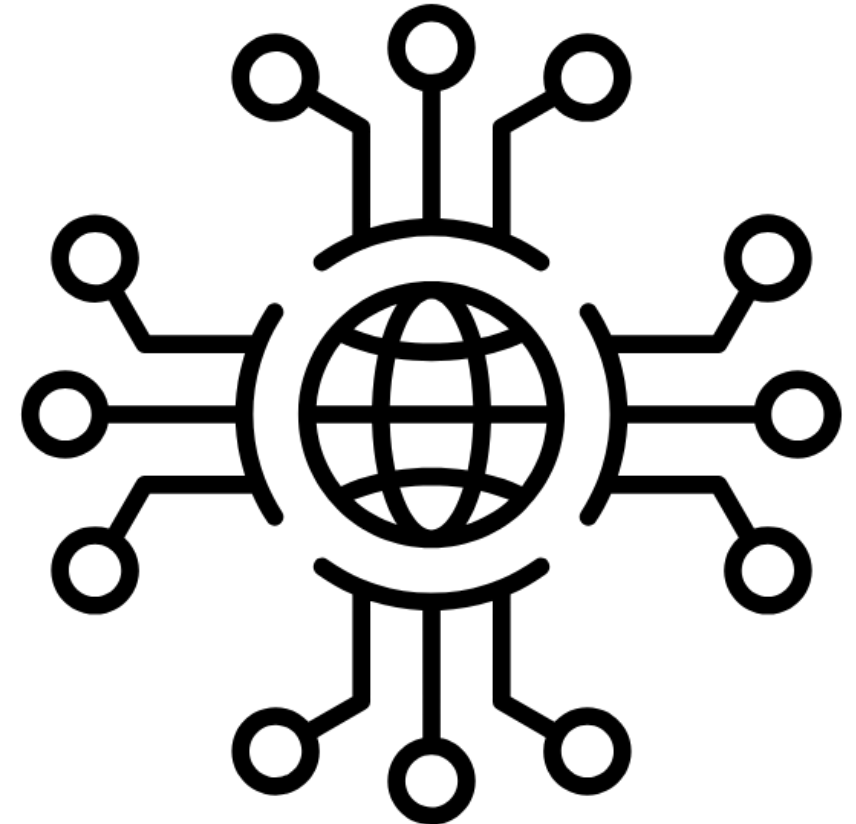
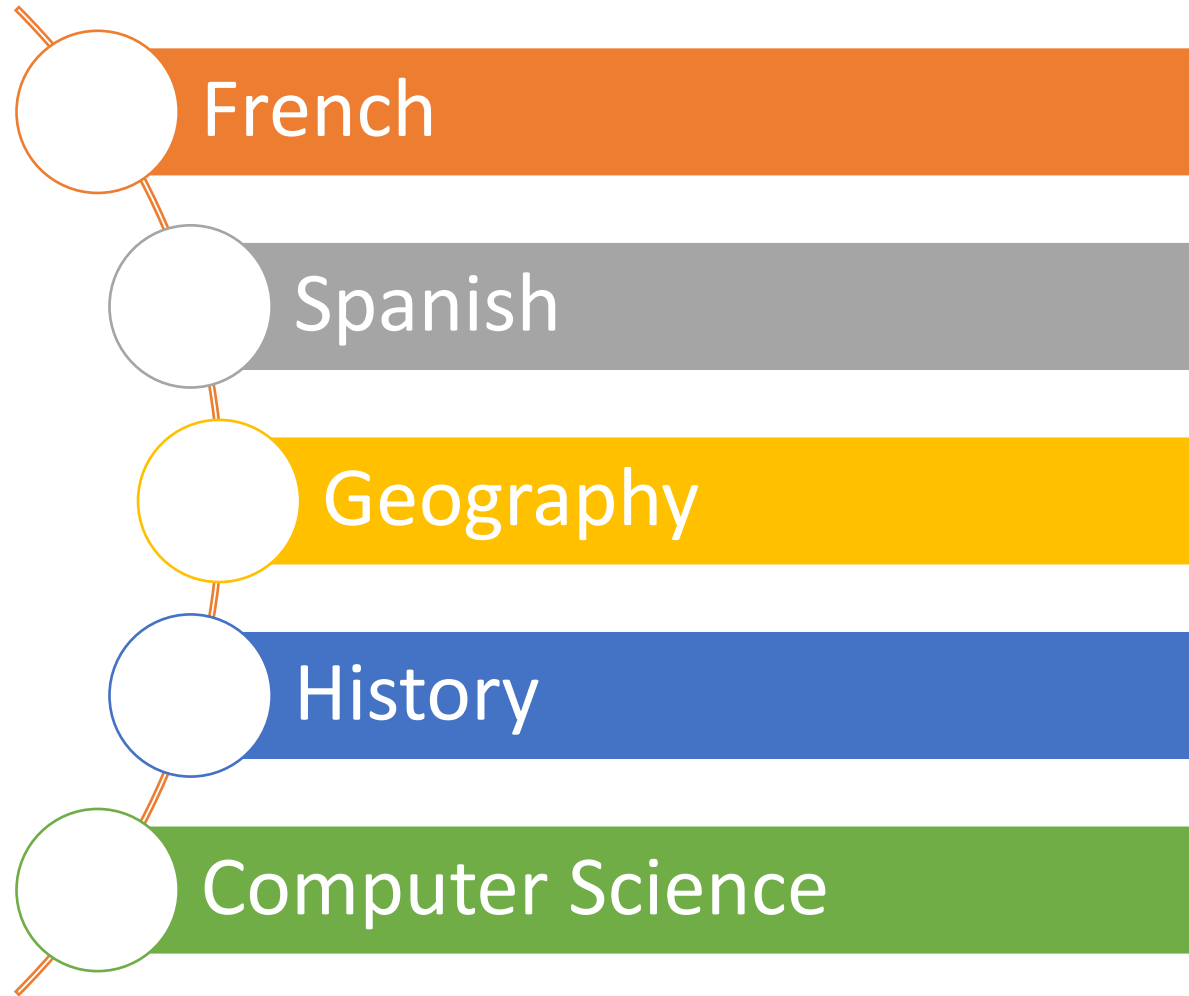
Ambitious, Inclusive and Enriching.

This means your options choices should...

- be **Broad and Balanced**,
- include **English Baccalaureate** subjects,
- consider your **personal development**,
- match your **interests and priorities**,
- and include the knowledge and skills required for **further study or employment.**

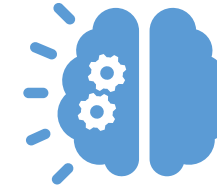
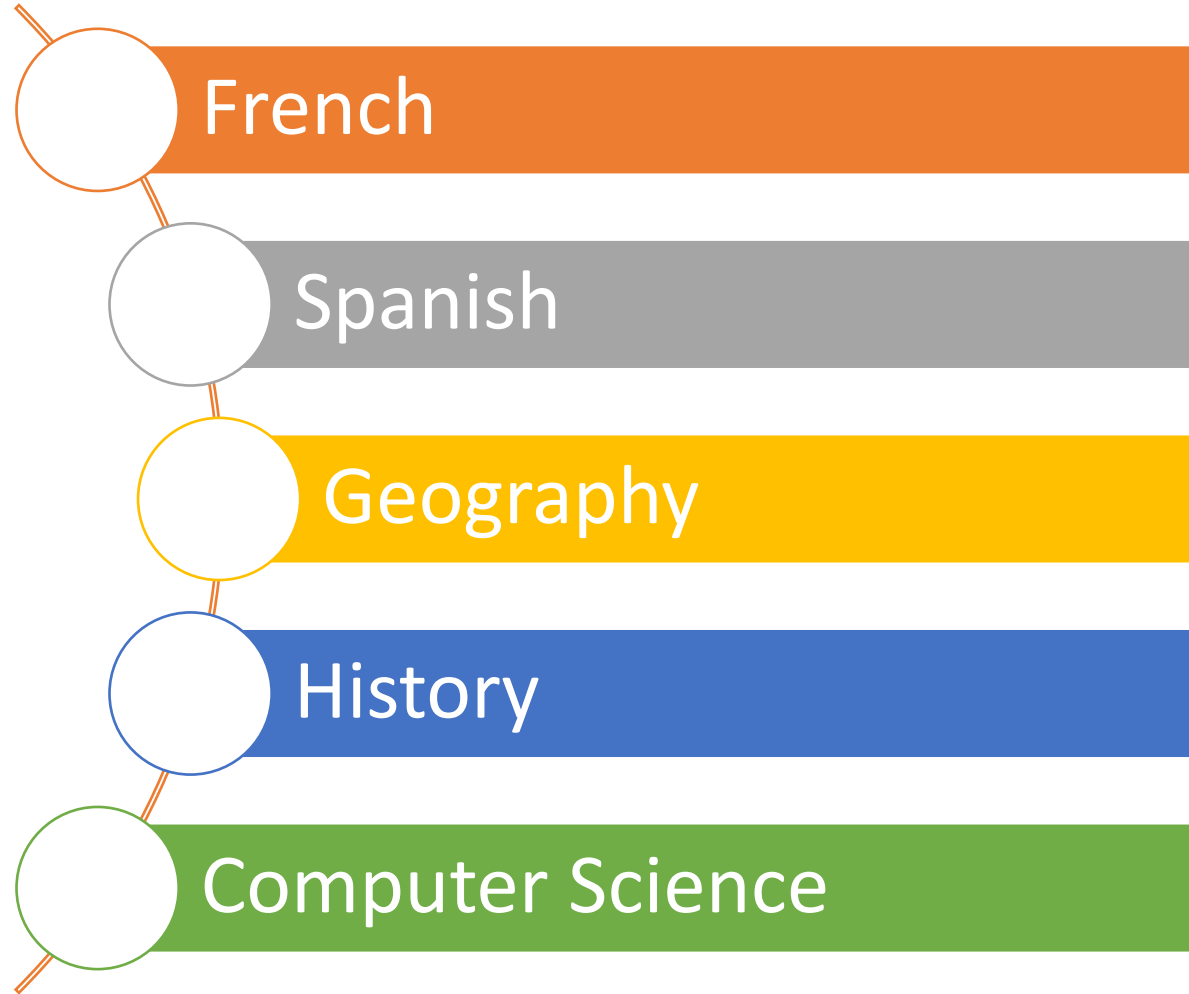


What are the EBacc subjects?



Why are they important?

What are the EBacc subjects?



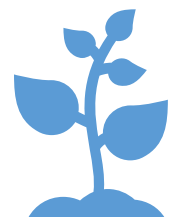
Academic and
Cognitive Benefits

Impact on A-Levels
and University

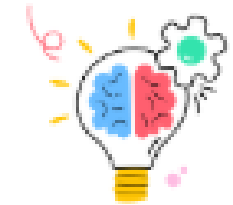


Career and
Employment Value

Personal
Development



Why are they important?



1. Boost Your Skills – Develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical abilities that apply to real life.



2. Pathway to Top Universities – A respected subject that supports studies in science, finance, sustainability, and urban planning.



3. Career Power – Opens doors to jobs in business, engineering, environmental science, and travel, with employers valuing its transferable skills.



4. High Employability – Combines literacy, numeracy, and data analysis, making you stand out in the job market.



5. Understand the World – Gain insight into global issues, climate change, and the environment, shaping you into a future leader.

Geography isn't just a subject—it's your key to a smarter, more sustainable future! 🌍

History



Understand the Past – Learn about key events and how they shaped the world today.



Develop Critical Thinking – Analyse sources, question evidence, and form strong arguments.



Improve Communication – Learn to express ideas clearly in essays and discussions.



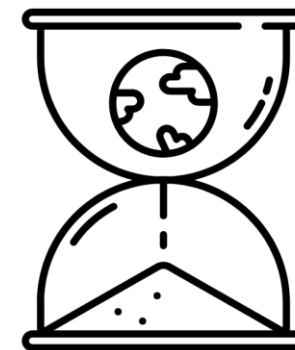
Explore Fascinating Stories – From medicine in Ancient Greece to revolutions in Russia to wars in the Middle East, history is full of incredible events and people.



Boost Career Prospects – Valued in law, politics, journalism, and Sixth Forms!

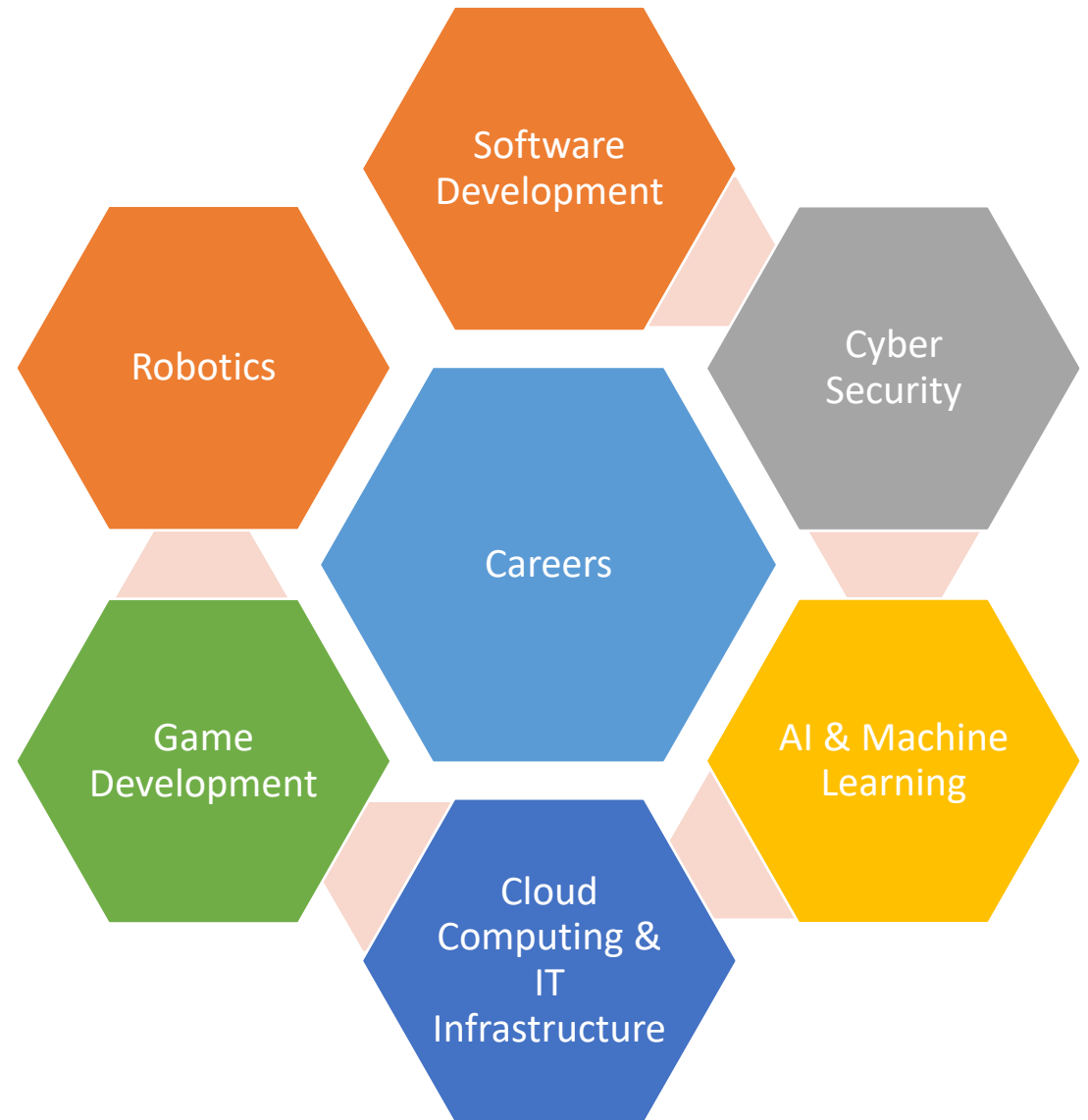


Be an Informed Citizen – Understand politics, society, and global issues.



EBacc Subjects: Computing

- Problem-solving, analytical and logical thinking skills.
- Higher salaries compared to other disciplines.
- Growing job market.
- Digital literacy and coding are essential life skills.
- Supports careers in finance, healthcare, the sciences, and beyond.



French and Spanish

1. Academic and Cognitive Benefits
2. Impact on A-Levels and University
3. Career and Employment Value
4. Statistical Trends.
5. Personal Development

Develop appreciation for culture and the global community.



Better communication



Cultural awareness



Better at solving problems



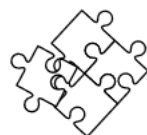
Easier travel



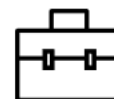
Better memory



Improves your English/Maths



Improved logic



Better career prospects



Opportunities for combined degrees



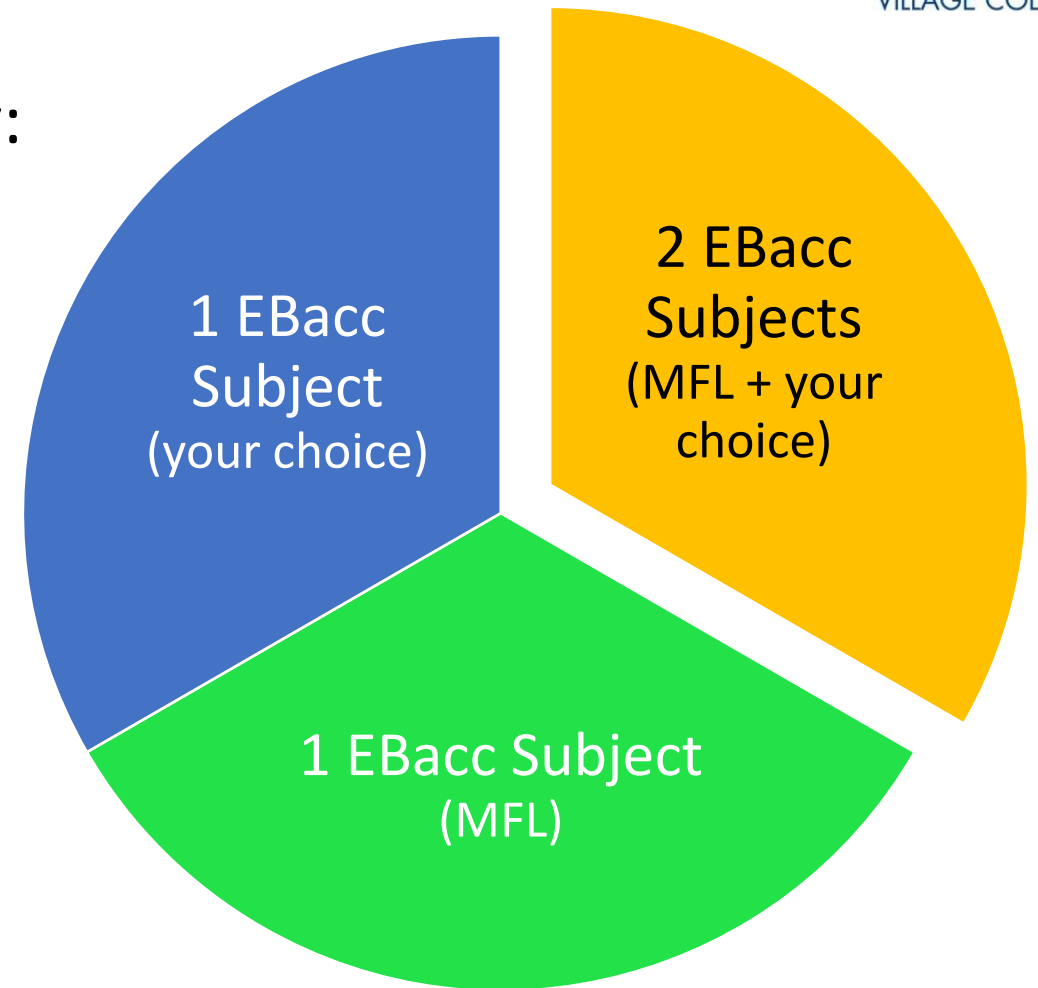
Social skills

You will get a **personalised options form**.

Based on your academic profile, you will study:

- A minimum number of EBacc subjects
- Two or three other 'free choice' subjects.

Which EBacc subject(s) will you choose?



Your personalised options form will provide you with clear guidance.

Examples of possible selections:

Student A	Subject
EBacc MFL	French
EBacc Your choice	Computing
Free choice	Sport Science
Free choice	Design Technology
Reserve 1	Geography
Reserve 2	Graphic Comms

Student B	Subject
EBacc MFL	Spanish
Free choice	Photography
Free choice	GCSE PE
Free choice	Drama
Reserve 1	Statistics
Reserve 2	Fine Art

Student C	Subject
EBacc Your choice	History
Free choice	Health & Social Care
Free choice	Food
Free choice	Dance
Reserve 1	Music
Reserve 2	Religious Studies

Further information about GCSE courses:

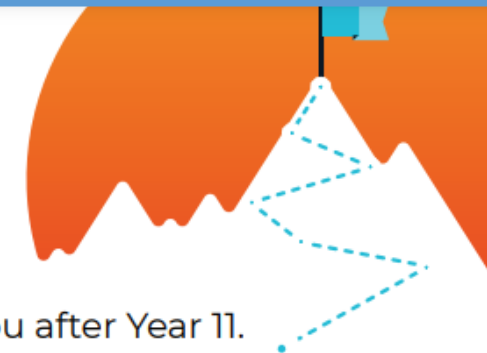
- Many subjects have coursework, known as **Non-Examination Assessments (NEA)**.
- NEAs take many different formats, depending on the subject.
- All GCSEs have an **exams** which are taken in the summer of Year 11.
- Only Maths, Science, Statistics and MFL have **Higher** and **Foundation** tiers.
- All GCSEs are graded on a **1-9 scale**.
- Cambridge National courses are graded **Pass, Merit, Distinction** at Level 1 and Level 2. (H&SC and Sport Science)

- **Computer Science** – Being confident mathematically is helpful, but if you determined, do not let this stop you.
- **Drama and Dance** – You are expected to perform in front of others and work in a group.
- **Food Preparation & Nutrition** and **Design & Technology** are limited in group size for health and safety reasons.
- **Statistics** supports academic study beyond GCSE, reinforces your GCSE Maths, and is available to all students.
- You can go on to study A-level science with **Combined Science** or **Triple**.
- **Fine Art, Photography,** and **Graphic Communication** are Art GCSEs. You can study no more than one.
- Similarly, you cannot study both **Design Technology** and **Engineering**.

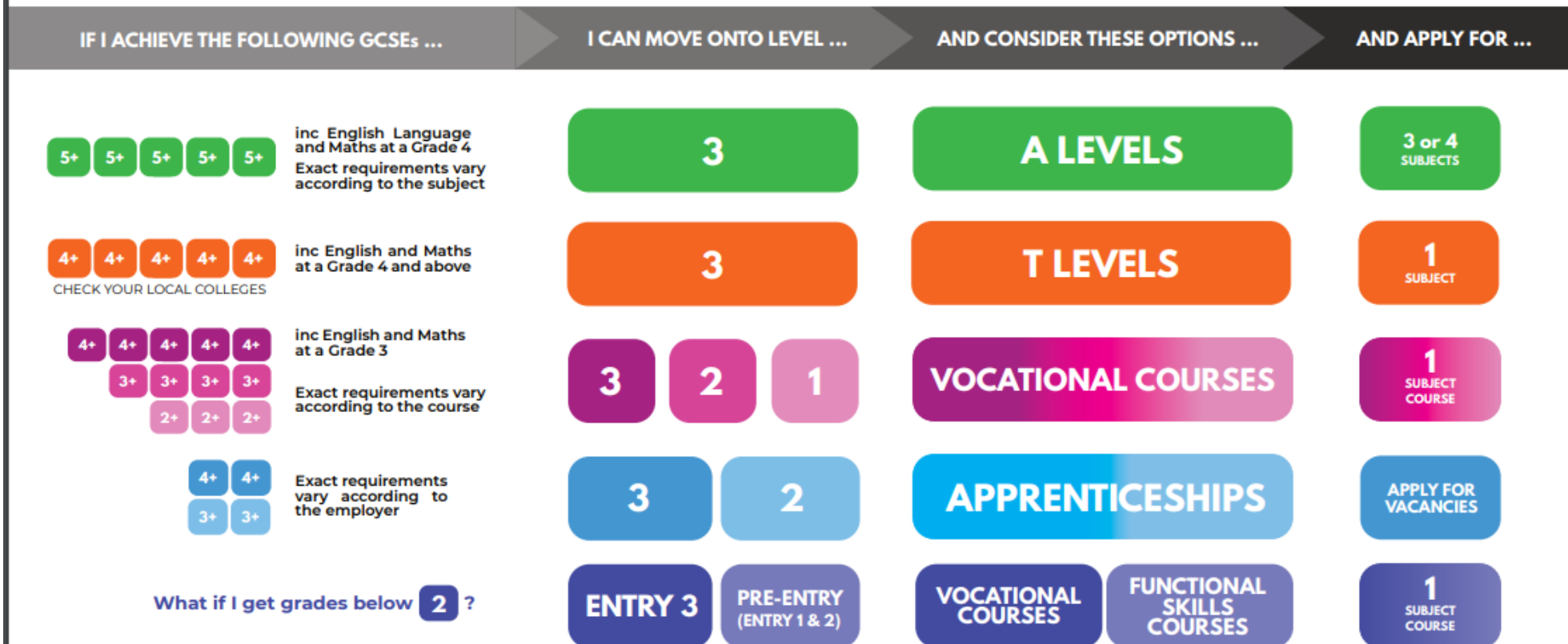
Finally:

- Many subjects only have one group. Not all combinations are possible. Think carefully about your order. There's a good chance you will be using your reserve choice.
- It is possible that a subject may not run if there is not sufficient interest.
- All qualifications are equal.
- No subject is any easier than another. All are challenging.
- You will not be changing courses during Year 10. You are expected to complete all courses you start.
- Be aware of course expectations, and the format of assessment.
- Attendance is important.
- How do the clubs or groups you are part of outside of College complement your choices?

POST 16 OPTIONS MADE SIMPLE



Use the information below to help you understand the options available to you after Year 11.



CURRICULUM ▾ PARENTS ▾

Curriculum Rationale

Years 7 and 8

Year 9

Years 10 and 11

Careers Education, Information,
Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)



unifrog

What is it all about?

Please use the links below to access information about post-16 choices for Year 11 students and their parents. If you have any questions about post-16 education and careers, please contact [Ian Simmons](#), Careers Lead & Post-16 Coordinator.

Post 16 Launch Presentation

Aptitude Test: <https://www.whatcareerisrightforme.com>

Careers information: <https://careerpilot.org.uk/>

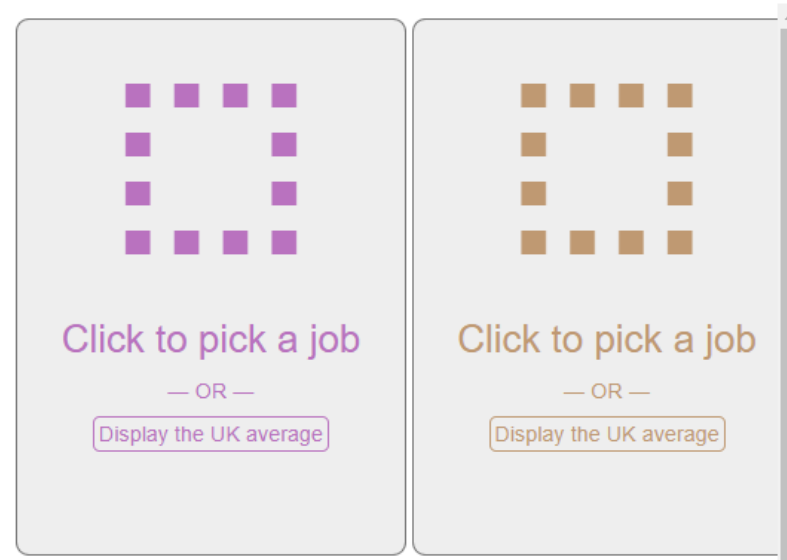
Information about university options: [Russell Group: Informed Choices](#)

Technical Education and Apprenticeship Providers:

[Youthoria](#) has help and advice on a wide range of issues affecting young people including the transition from LVC to sixth form education and the world of work.

Apprenticeships: [Apprenticeships](#)

'WHAT TYPE OF CAREERS?'



Click to pick a job

— OR —

Display the UK average

Click to pick a job

— OR —

Display the UK average

Reminder – Key Dates, one more time

- Thursday 6th February - Launch with Year 9 students.
- Monday 10th February - Options book + personalised options form published to students
- PSHE lessons (and/or form time activities) to support decision making.
- Thursday 6th March – Options Evening and Parent-Tutor Evening.
- Monday 10th March - Online form published to students.
- Thursday 21st March – Parent-Teacher Evening
- **Monday 21st April – Online form deadline (priority order, with reserves)**



Do

- Choose the subjects you enjoy
- Reflect on subjects where you feel successful
- Consider your EBacc choice(s)
- Think about your values and priorities
- Consider your plans for the future
- Listen to advice from those you trust
- Check how subjects are assessed
- Ensure your choices are
broad and balanced!

Speak with your form tutor and Mrs London for advice.
Direct any other questions to options@lintonvc.org

Don't

- Choose based on the teacher
- Copy your friend's decisions
- Seek out the 'easiest' subject
- Bury your head in the sand