



**BRENTSIDE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**LEARNING & ACHIEVING TOGETHER**



# Year 8 Options Evening 2025





# Aims of the evening:

- To provide information about the **Key Stage 4 curriculum** for all students
- To explain the **Options Process** and what **choices** are available
- Provide an opportunity to **visit subjects** and ask questions
- Tonight is **all about YOU**



# GCSEs have changed in the last few years...

- There is more to cover in GCSEs than there used to be so you need a bit more time.
- To help, at Brentside we start your GCSEs in Year 9.
- This is why we start the process of choosing subjects in Year 8.



# What is the difference between KS3 and KS4?

- At KS3 and at KS4 there are subjects that nationally all students have to study:
- English language, English literature, mathematics, science, citizenship, religious studies and physical education.
- At KS4, there is an element of choice. You can choose particular subjects that will lead to either a GCSE or BTEC qualification.



# The majority of students will study one subject from each of the following:

- **A humanity:** Geography or History
- **A modern foreign language:** French or Spanish
- **Religious Studies or Citizenship**
- **One open choice subject:** computing, media studies, health and social care, PE, food preparation and nutrition, product design, history, geography, drama, music (includes a traditional pathway or music tech pathway), or one of the arts (Visual arts: fine art, sculpture, 3D design, textiles, graphics, or photography)



# Pathways

- **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)** – English, maths, history or geography, sciences and a modern foreign language
- **Supported Pathway**





# English Baccalaureate: EBacc

Is a measure that recognises where students have secured a grade 4 or above across a core of academic subjects – **English, mathematics, history or geography, two sciences and a modern foreign language.**

This is highly promoted nationally as a ‘gold standard’ of achievement and will influence university entrance for many universities.



# Pathways

- Some students will study additional GCSEs within their subject lessons for example set 1 mathematicians will usually study Further Maths as well as maths.
- In science students in set 1 will study triple science which is worth three GCSEs rather than two. Students will receive extra lessons if they are studying triple science





# Religious studies & citizenship

- On the options form students are asked to indicate whether they will take a full GCSE in religious studies or citizenship.
- Statutory elements of the subject students do not select will be covered at set times during the academic year which as during applied learning days.



### The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

All students study all the subjects in the 'core' row. They then select one from each of the next four rows.

Core (all)	English and Literature <b>1</b>	Mathematics <b>1</b>	Science <b>1</b>	Physical Education			
Languages (one of)	French <b>4</b> (if studied at KS3)	Spanish <b>4</b> (if studied at KS3)	*Curriculum Support	*English as an Additional Language	*Learning Support		
Humanities (one of)	Geography	History					
Open Choice (one of)	Art <b>3</b>	Computing	Drama	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Health and Social Care	History	
	Media Studies	Music	Physical Education	Product Design	*Additional support	*Arts Award	*Employability Skills
Religious Studies or Citizenship				Religious Studies <b>2</b>	Citizenship <b>2</b>		



### Year 8 Options Form 2025

#### EBacc Route

Students will be given the appropriate options form for their pathway.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

**CORE** All students study English, literature, mathematics, science, citizenship, core PE and religious studies.

We will also be running two qualifications which do not count as GCSE level qualifications for some students. We will discuss these qualifications with students before Year 9 or during Key Stage Four (Year 9 to Year 11) if we think a student should consider attending one of these courses. Whilst not counting as a GCSE level qualification, some students will benefit from the skills these courses help them to develop. They are the Arts Award and the Kings Trust awards.

#### 1. Modern Foreign Language:

You must select the language you have studied in Years 7 and 8. Tick the right one below:

French	Spanish
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 2. Humanities:

Choose ONE of these. Tick it:

Geography	History
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3. Open Choice:

Choose ONE of these PLUS ONE reserve. Tick your first choice and also write R in your reserve choice (your second choice).

You cannot select any subject below if you have already selected it above.

Art*	Computing	Drama	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Health and Social Care	History
PG					
TX					
FA					
SC					
Media Studies	Music**	Physical Education	Product Design		
	TR				
	MT				

\* Art: Please indicate your preferred specialism using the codes from the following list: (PG) photography/graphic design, (TX) textiles, (SC) sculpture and (FA) fine art.

\*\* Music: Within music students will have the choice to study the traditional pathway or the music technology pathway. Please indicate your preferred pathway using the following codes: (TR)Traditional or (MT) Music technology.

**4. Religious Studies or Citizenship:** All students will study both Religious Studies and Citizenship, however they will specialise, and sit a GCSE in one of these only. Where there is competition for spaces in a subject, those with the highest attitude to learning score in the subject will be prioritised. Please select your first choice below:

Choose ONE of these. Tick it:

Religious Studies	Citizenship
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (student) \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/carer)

Where possible, students will be given their first choices, but they should think carefully about reserves as these may be needed. Remember that all courses offered are subject to availability of staff and group sizes.

Fill in and return to your form tutor by Thursday, 3 April 2025

For more information, please see your options booklet. For support and guidance, speak to your tutor, Safe Worker or Year 8 Leader.

- Core
- MFL
- Humanities
- Arts
- Open
- RS or Cz



### Year 8 Options Form 2025

#### Supported Curriculum Route

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

*Students will be given the appropriate options form for their pathway.*

CORE All students study English, literature, mathematics, science, curriculum support, citizenship, core PE and religious studies.

#### Additional Support Option

You will not study a Modern Foreign Language. You will have additional classes to support you in succeeding across the Key Stage 4 curriculum. We will also be running two qualifications which do not count as GCSE level qualifications for some students. We will discuss these qualifications with students before Year 9 or during Key Stage Four (Year 9 to Year 11) if we think a student should consider attending one of these courses. Whilst not counting as a GCSE level qualification, some students will benefit from the skills these courses help them to develop. They are the Arts Award and the Kings Trust awards.

#### 1. Humanities:

Choose ONE of these. Tick it:

Geography	History
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 2. Open Choice:

Choose ONE of these PLUS ONE reserve. Tick your first choice and also write R in your reserve choice (your second choice).

You cannot select any subject below if you have already selected it above.

Art*	Computing	Drama	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Health and Social Care	History
PG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media Studies	Music**	Physical Education	Product Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	TR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* Art: Please indicate your preferred specialism using the codes from the following list: (PG) photography/graphic design, (TX) textiles, (SC) sculpture and (FA) fine art.

\*\* Music: Within music students will have the choice to study the traditional pathway or the music technology pathway. Please indicate your preferred pathway using the following codes: (TR)Traditional or (MT) Music technology

4. Religious Studies or Citizenship: All students will study both Religious Studies and Citizenship, however they will specialise, and sit a GCSE in one of these only. Where there is competition for spaces in a subject, those with the highest attitude to learning score in the subject will be prioritised. Please select your first choice below:

Choose ONE of these. Tick it:

Religious Studies	Citizenship
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (student) \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/carer)

Where possible, students will be given their first choices, but they should think carefully about reserves as these may be needed. Remember that all courses offered are subject to availability of staff and group sizes.

Fill in and return to your form tutor by Thursday, 3 April 2025

For more information, please see your options booklet. For support and guidance, speak to your tutor, Safe Worker or Year 8 Leader.

## Supported Curriculum:

- Withdrawal from MFL
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Year Lead
- Agreed with parent, AHT and Year Leader
- May discuss other options such as Arts Award or Kings trust Award



# Why do I need a reserve choice?

- Once we know every student's first and second choices, we then aim to build the curriculum to meet these. It is possible that some students will need to use their reserve (second) choice.
- If this is the case, we will speak with the student first.
- We aim to ensure that everyone gets their first or second choice each time.



# Options Process

- February/March Assemblies and form time - overview of the process
- February/March Options Booklets made available to students. Tutor time and discussions with staff
- 6 March Options Evening
- 3 April Target Review Day - opportunity to discuss choices and return hard copy of Option Form to tutor.

Deadline for Options Form- 3 April



## Where will my choices take me?





Simphiwe is now a FSRH Faculty Registered Trainer who trains other nurses.

She has given a presentation to our GCSE Health and Social Care group.







# Marta graduated from Brentside



and is now reading English literature at  
Cambridge University.



## Kalu studied maths at Brentside



He graduated from Cambridge University and is now a trader for JP Morgan. He delivered a talk to our students about his journey.



Farah studied sciences.  
She is now a GP working in  
General Practice, Urgent care and  
Accident & Emergency in London.



She was our guest of honour at an Awards Evening.



## Frankie studied art



She is now a freelance fashion assistant delivering workshops to our BTEC and A level art students.



## Suley studied drama at Brentside



He is now a multi-Award  
Winning Engagement Lead,  
Specialising in  
Communications, Projects  
and Leadership.



## Options Evening: 6 March 2025

### Subject Rooms



#### GROUND FLOOR

Subject	Room
English	G30
Design Technology: Product Design	G41
Food Preparation and Nutrition	G81 (new building)

#### FIRST FLOOR

Subject	Room
Science	F1
Learning Support	F9
Music and Music Technology	F17
Drama	F23
Textiles, Fine Art and Sculpture	F38
Media Studies, Graphics and Photography	F38
Mathematics	F72 (new building)

#### SECOND FLOOR

Subject	Room
Computer Science and Creative iMedia	S2
History	S7
Geography	S9
Religious Studies	S6
Citizenship	S26
Physical Education (GCSE)	S29
Modern Foreign Languages	S28
Health and Social Care	T75 (new building)

**Students with surnames A-K** are asked to start from the bottom floor and work their way up.

**Students with surnames L-Z** are asked to start on the top floor and work their way down.



## Questions?

- Options Booklet
- Ms Busingye (Year Leader)
- Ms Lane (AHT)
- Ms Nagra (AHT)
- Mr Bannon (DHT)
- Subject teachers
- [y8options2025@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:y8options2025@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk)

**Have an enjoyable evening!**