



THE BRAKENHALE SCHOOL

High Expectations and Challenge for All

Year 9 Options Evening





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The Purpose of This Evening

- To provide information on the options process including an update based on feedback.
- To understand the range of courses available at KS4.
- To provide information on the new grading systems in GCSE examinations.



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Looking Forward

Obstacles

Support

Balance

Journey

Success





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The KS4 Curriculum

The KS4 Curriculum at The Brakenhale School:

- **The Core Curriculum** – English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, RS in Year 10, Core PE and PSHE through tutor.
- **The Optional Curriculum** – 4/3 subjects, some of which choices are advised by Government guidance.



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A Broad and Balance yet Personalised Curriculum

- Last years new model worked.
- Allows a broader range of courses.
- Courses that are accessible for all learners.
- Vocational and/ or Traditional courses in all subject areas.



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Pathways

- Previously – Students opted for subjects but in a limiting way.
- Previously – Students dropping courses halfway through their study.
- Now – Students have courses available to them that weren't before.
- Now – All courses offered are approved by OfQUAL and accepted by 6th forms and colleges.
- Now – Courses available for students that they can succeed in.



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Pathways

YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2017-19

Core Subjects

Green	Blue	Yellow	Purple
GCSE English Language	GCSE English Language	GCSE English Language	GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature	GCSE English Literature	GCSE English Literature	GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Science	GCSE Science	GCSE Science	GCSE Science
GCSE Religious Studies	GCSE Religious Studies	GCSE Geography	GCSE Religious Studies
1 Humanity	1 Humanity	GCSE Religious Studies	Additional Literacy and Numeracy
1 Language	1 Language		



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Pathways

Brakenhale School Key Stage 4 Curriculum Options Form 2017-19

Student Name		Tutor Group	
Pathway			

Please choose FOUR courses in the table below – options 1 and 2 are limited to the subjects pre-entered

	Green	Blue	Yellow	Purple
Option 1	Geography / History (Please circle 1)	Geography / History (Please circle 1)	Geography	
Option 2	French / Spanish (Please circle 1)	French / Spanish (Please circle 1)		
Option 3				
Option 4				

Now choose two reserve options from any block.

Reserve 1	
Reserve 2	

Signed – Student

Signed – Parent/Carer

Signed - Tutor

Form to be returned by 1st March 2017



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Flexibility

- The pathways are a recommended route based on previous and predicted performance.
- Meetings available with P Gibson.
- Some subjects span all pathways.
- No streaming – You will not be in a pathway class.
- Listening to your feedback – Compulsory subjects and combinations – PE/ BTEC Sport and Dance, Art and Photography allowed.



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The EBACC

- A set of qualifications recognised by the Government to create a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Excellent for those that are unsure of a career.
- English, Maths, Science, MFL & Humanity.
- Recognition – but not a certificate!



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Languages

- Students have studied one language predominantly throughout KS3.
- Some students did 1 hour a week of the other language in Year 8.
- Advice is to choose the one where 3 years study completed.
- There is an option of either.



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Vocational Courses

- Much more rigorous and accepted by colleges and 6th form alike.
- Less Exams.
- Vocational focus.
- Excellent track record of success.



The Process

- 1st February – Options evening.
- 23rd February – Parents Evening - Adviza careers advisor available.
- WB 20th February – Half hour appointments available with PGI, NOD, LRU – bookable through reception.
- Option forms due in 1st March.
- Any issue with clashes will be discussed on a one to one basis.



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The start of a journey.....





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Advice!

- Find out about the subjects by reading the booklet and asking the relevant members of staff.
- Choose subjects you enjoy or think you will enjoy.
- Select subjects that you feel you already excel in.
- Ask for advice!
- Do not be influenced by the choices made by your friends.
- Do not select a subject because you like a teacher. You may have a different teacher.
- Each student is encouraged to select a broad and balanced curriculum.



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What's Different About KS4

- 19 month course (a little over 5 terms)
- Greater responsibility: Important work throughout Key Stage 4
- Higher level and greater amount
- More independent learning
- PPE and final examinations
- Be prepared to give time to your studies



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*Curriculum and
Accountability Reform*

Update January 2017





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GCSE Reform

- All GCSEs are reformed – no exceptions.
- Lots of change to content.
- Changes to the amount of content.
- Grades changing from letters to numbers. A*-G is now 9-1



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GCSE Reform Continued

- Less tiering.
- Less coursework and more exams.
- Terminal papers.
- Focus on EBACC subjects.



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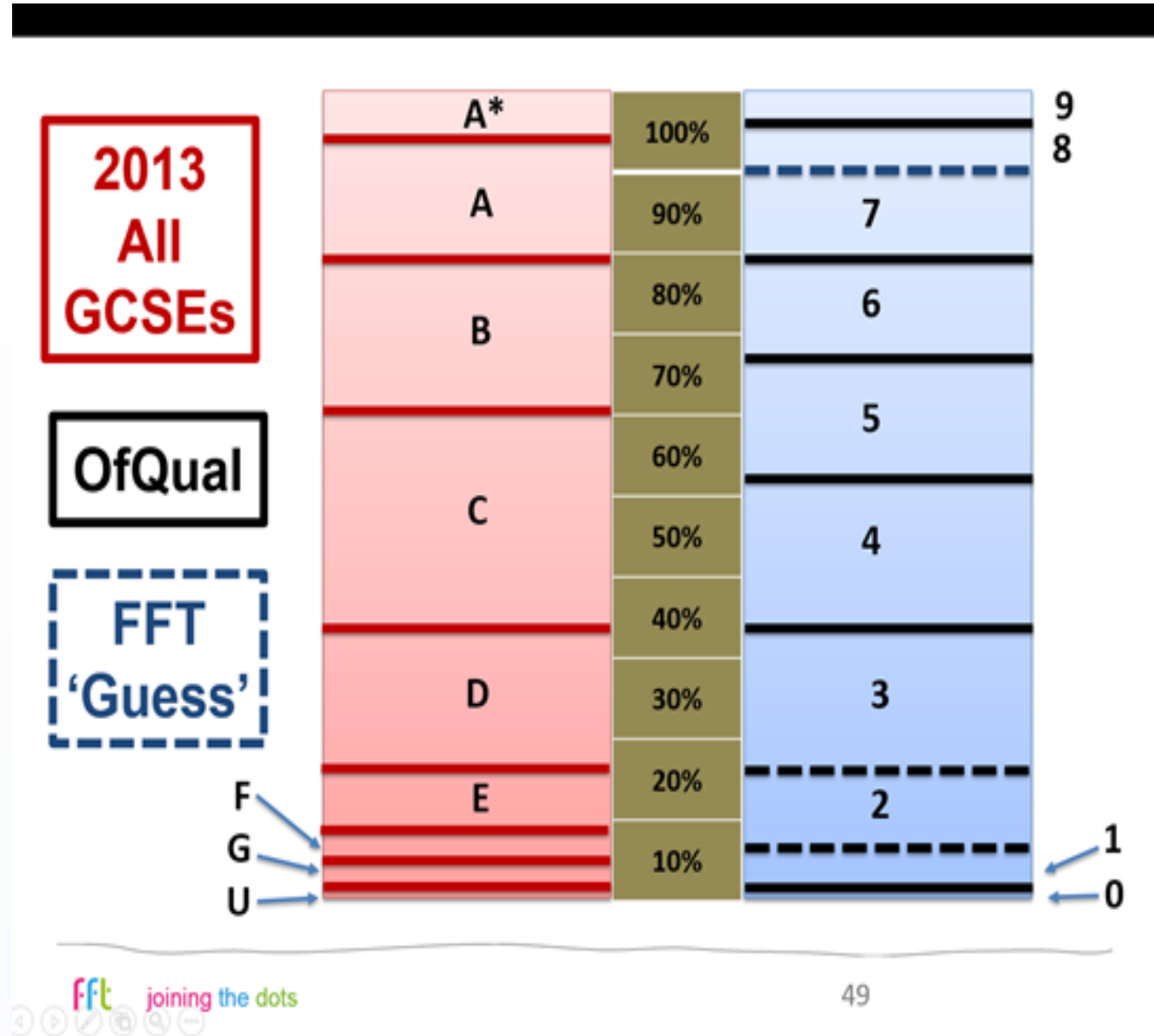
GCSE Reform Continued

- English (Literature and Language) and Maths first examined 2017 – current year 11.
- Sciences, modern and ancient languages, history, geography, comp science, art and design, food tech, drama, dance, PE, citizenship, music and RS first examined 2018 – current year 10.
- Others, including combined science, need to be approved for 2019 exam-current year 9.



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GCSE Religious Studies





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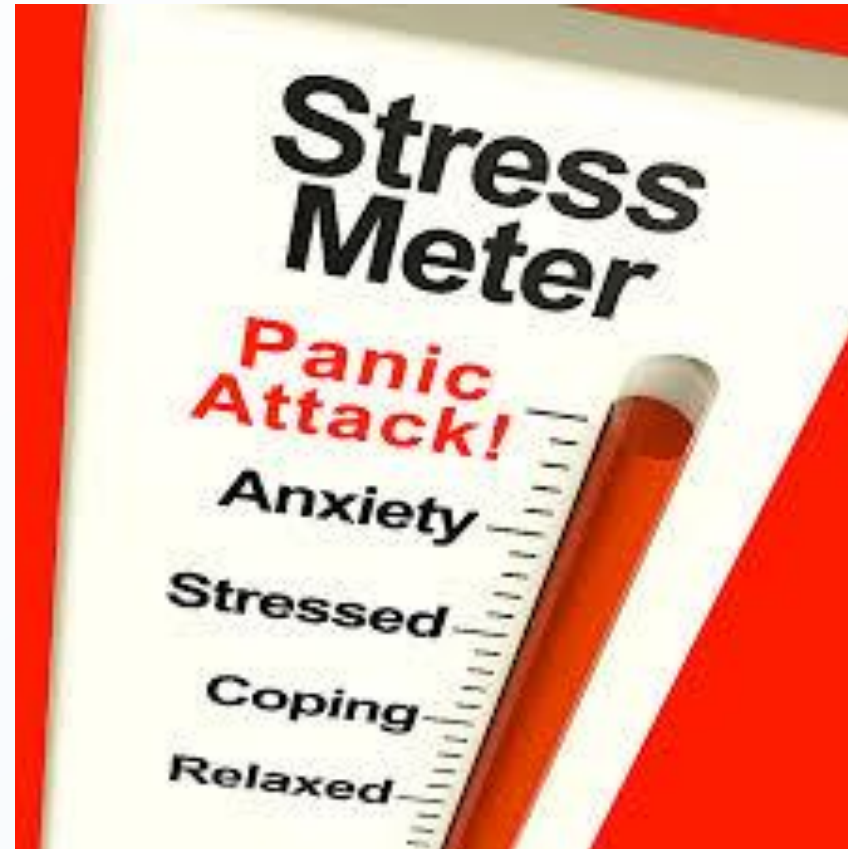
Thinking beyond GCSE





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Don't panic!





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Here are a few pointers on how – and how not – to make the right GCSE choices thinking post-16

- choose your optional subjects because you think you'll be good at them, and that they will interest you
- if you're not sure what you might want to take at university, ensure you've got a good mix of GCSE subjects – you could follow the [English Baccalaureate model](#) (taking English, maths, double science, history or geography and a modern or ancient language)
- if you're already thinking about a particular type of course, take a look at the entry requirements for specific courses at university and work back from there.



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Physiotherapy

- **Essential A-levels (or equivalent)**
- Biology for most courses (many accept human biology).
- Some courses may accept physical education as an essential subject instead of biology.

- **Useful A-levels (or equivalent)**
- Chemistry.
- Maths.
- Physics.
- Physical education.

- **Other typical A-levels taken by current physiotherapy students**
- General studies.
- Psychology.



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Building and Construction

- **Essential A-levels (or equivalent)**
- Maths and/or physics (for building services engineering)

- **Useful A-levels (or equivalent)**
- Maths
- Physics
- Technology
- A science subject

- **Other typical A-levels taken by current building students**
- Business studies
- Geography
- IT



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BTEC vs GCSE?



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- <http://university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/how-important-are-gcse-choices-when-it-comes-to-university>
- <http://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/what-a-levels-do-you-need-for-the-degree-you-want-to-study>