

Options 2025

What do I
want to be?



What is a
qualification?

Why do I need
GCSEs?

Why do I have
to choose
subjects?

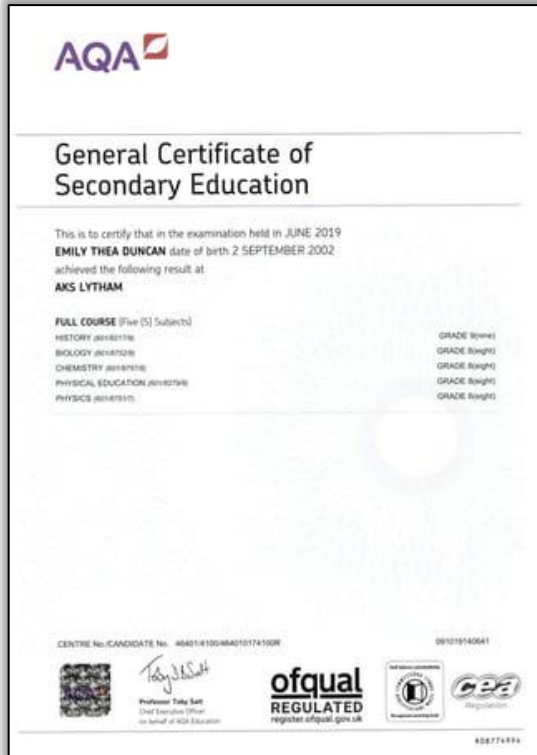


The Fernwood School

High Achievement With Care and Discipline for All

Goodwood Road, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2FT
Headteacher: Mr C Gell

Qualifications



A qualification is a certificate which means you have met a **standard of learning**.

It allows **comparisons**, so if you gained a GCSE in Biology at grade 5, it means you are just as good at Biology as a child in Cornwall who also gained a grade 5.

All examinations and tasks are set by **examination boards**. They also mark any tests.

If you meet their standards, they then issue you a certificate saying this, which you then keep for life.

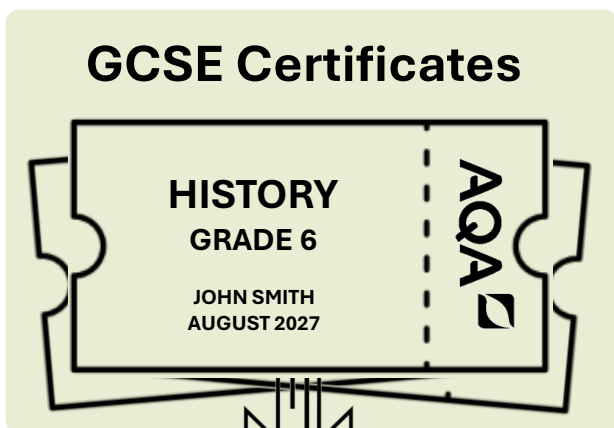
You often have to **show your certificates** when applying for jobs or applying for **further education**.



Education & Employment



Qualifications enable you 'entry' to further study, and also enable employers to work out which candidates to give a job to.



6 **BILBOROUGH**
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

A-Level History

Entry Requirements:
GCSE Maths: Grade 4
GCSE English: Grade 5
GCSE History: Grade 5

Application for Employment

Accommodations for persons with disabilities in the hiring process. If you require assistance, let us know, and we will provide assistance.

Date of Application		Date
First Name	Middle Initial	
City		
years of age or over?		
<input type="checkbox"/> No	If No, Date of Birth	Education

Gaining a Qualification

There are many ways to gain a qualification:

Academic Study

Examinations

These can be 1 hour to 2.5 hours in length, sat at the end of year 11, usually in the sports hall. They are marked by national agencies known as exam boards

NEA

This is usually project work that you do during the course with your teacher. It may last several weeks or months as teachers cannot help you during it.

GCSE

Examination



50%

+

Examination



50%

GCSE

Examination



100%

GCSE

Examination



50%

+

Non-Examined Assessment



50%

GCSE

Examination



50%

+

NEA



35%

+

NEA



15%

Academic vs. Vocational

There are many ways to gain a qualification:

Academic Study

GCSEs & A-levels

Examination



+

Examination



(+)

NEA



Technical & Vocational

OCR National & T-Levels

Examination



+

Practical Assessment



Apprenticeship

On the job training




+

Classroom Learning



Qualifications Framework



	Academic	Vocational & Technical	Apprenticeship		
LEVEL 8	Doctorate PhD			Higher Education University e.g. University of Nottingham	
LEVEL 7	Masters Degree MS, MSc, PGCE				
LEVEL 6	Bachelor Degree BA, BSc, BEd				
LEVEL 5		Foundation Degree FdA, FdSc, FdAr	Higher National Diploma		Higher Apprenticeship
LEVEL 4			Higher National Certificate		
LEVEL 3	A-Level Grades A*-E AS Level	L3 Award L3 Certificate L3 Diploma (BTEC)	T-Level Worth 3 x A-levels 20+ hours working + Part time education L3 Award L3 Certificate L3 Diploma (BTEC)	Advanced Apprenticeship	Further Education Key Stage 5 College & Sixth Form e.g. Bilborough College
LEVEL 2	GCSE Grades 4-9	L2 Award/Certificate/Diploma Technical Awards		Secondary Education Key Stage 4 e.g. The Fernwood School	
LEVEL 1	GCSE Grades 1-3	L1 Award/Certificate/Diploma Technical Awards		Secondary Education Key Stage 3: National Curriculum e.g. The Fernwood School	
					

Earliest possible exit from education →

Grading Structure



Before 2017		Academic Grade	Vocational & Technical Level	
		9	L2 Distinction *	50% of students nationally
A*		8	L2 Distinction	
A	LEVEL 2	7	L2 Merit	
B		6	L2 Pass	
C		5 STRONG PASS		
D		4 STANDARD PASS		50% of students nationally
E	LEVEL 1	3	Level 1 Scheme	
F		2		
G		1		

Core Curriculum



There are some subjects which, because of their importance for life and the world of work, are considered to be **essential** for all students.

Core Curriculum Subjects:

- English (Language and Literature),
- Combined science,
- Mathematics,
- Religious education,
- Physical education
- Personal development (includes careers advice, information, and guidance, plus preparation for post 16 applications and work experience)

What is it?

The EBacc is a suite of academic GCSE subjects intended to expose children to a broad range of subjects that keeps options open for **further study** and **future careers**.

Particularly important where students are unsure of their next steps. These are **highly regarded**, traditional **academic** subjects.

English

LANGUAGE or
LITERATURE

Maths

Science

COMBINED or 2 SINGLE

MFL

GERMAN or
FRENCH

Humanities

GEOGRAPHY or
HISTORY

How do I get one?

The **EBacc is not a separate qualification** but children who fulfil the EBacc requirements are eligible to 'pass' the EBacc with a 'standard pass' (grade 4+ in all EBacc subjects) or a 'good pass' (grade 5+ in all EBacc subjects).

It is not compulsory, but as a school, we do **strongly recommend** that students on Pathway 1 make option choices which enable them to be eligible for the Ebacc.

We also **recommend** that students on Pathway 2 select at least a language and/or a humanities.

Science



We offer two different versions of science to suit different learners. As a minimum all students must take combined science within the compulsory core curriculum.

However, you can also choose to opt for triple science **which will take up one of your option choices.**

Combined Science

These are separate courses which cover an **equal mix** of all the three sciences above, but there **is less content**. It leads to a double award GCSE

1 x GCSE
SCIENCE

+

1 x GCSE
SCIENCE

Triple Science

Separate courses in biology, chemistry and physics which each lead to a separate GCSE qualification.

This course is academic and aimed at those with a **keen interest** in science or those **pursuing science beyond Fernwood**.

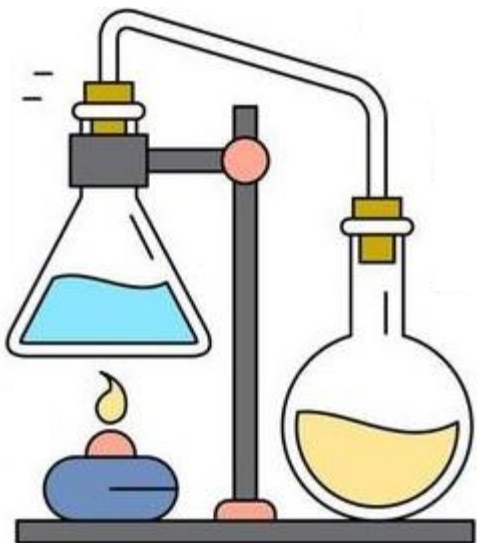
1 x GCSE
PHYSICS

+

1 x GCSE
BIOLOGY

+

1 x GCSE
CHEMISTRY



Pathway One Options



You need to nominate **one subject from each option block**, and then **a reserve choice** (from any block).

Remember, to be eligible for the **EBacc**, you must choose a language, and a humanities.

Option A

Triple Science
French
German
Geography
History
Art
Business Studies
PE
Sports Studies
Performing Arts: Drama*
Performing Arts: Music Technology*

Option B

Triple Science
French
German
Geography
History
Art
Business Studies
Computer Science
Music
PE
Creative iMedia*
Engineering*
Health & Social Care*

Option C

Triple Science
French
German
Geography
History
Business Studies
Drama
D&T: Graphic Design
D&T: Product Design
Food Preparation & Nutrition
Photography

Reserve: **Art**

Option D

Triple Science
French
German
Geography
History
Computer Science
Drama
D&T: Graphic Design
D&T: Product Design
Food Preparation & Nutrition
Photography



Ebacc 
English Baccalaureate

Most children get all their options.

You are **more likely** to get your **Option A** choice.

You are **less likely** to get your **Option D** choice.

Let's assume I wish to do Computer Science more than Geography. I need to get Computing into an earlier option.

Pathway Two Options



You need to nominate **one subject from each option block**, and then a **reserve choice** (from any block).

Remember, to be eligible for the **EBacc**, you must choose a language, and a humanities.

Option A
<u>Triple Science</u>
<u>French</u>
<u>German</u>
<u>Geography</u>
<u>History</u>
Art
Business Studies
PE
Sports Studies
Performing Arts: Drama*
Performing Arts: Music Technology*

Option B
<u>Triple Science</u>
<u>French</u>
<u>German</u>
<u>Geography</u>
<u>History</u>
Art
Business Studies
Computer Science
Music
PE
Creative iMedia*
Engineering*
Health & Social Care*

Option C
<u>Triple Science</u>
<u>French</u>
<u>German</u>
<u>Geography</u>
<u>History</u>
Business Studies
<u>Drama</u>
D&T: Graphic Design
D&T: Product Design
Food Preparation & Nutrition
Photography

Reserve: **Geography**



Ebacc 
English Baccalaureate

Most children get all their options.

You are **more likely** to get your **Option A** choice.

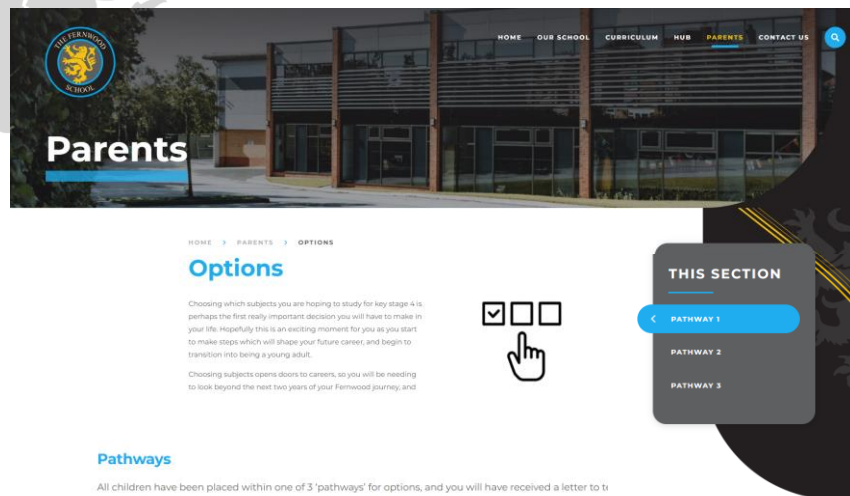
You are **less likely** to get your **Option D** choice.

Let's assume I wish to do Computer Science more than Geography. I need to get Computing into an earlier option.

All the information on what each course will entail is now available via our website.

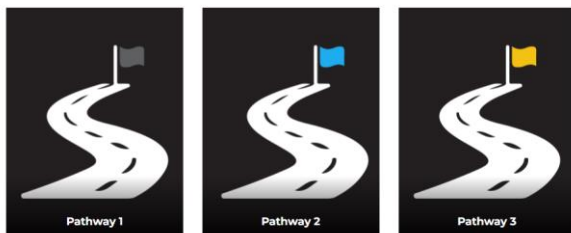
There are videos from most subjects, along with written information that I encourage you to read thoroughly.

Some children are quite surprised during year 10 as to what studying a specific subject actually entails, in comparison to what they imagined it would involve.

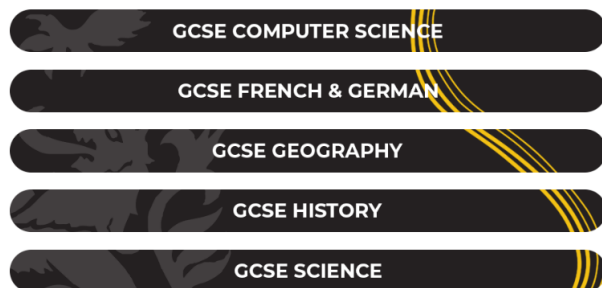


Pathways

All children have been placed within one of 3 'pathways' for options, and you will have received a letter to let which you are within. This decision has been taken by your academic staff, in conjunction with your head of key stage too.



EBACC eligible GCSE Options:



Options Evening



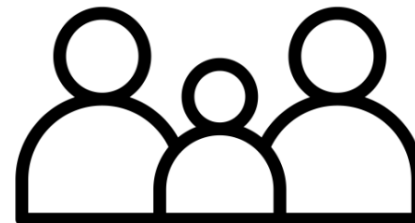
Tuesday 4th February 2025,

This is an evening event, which will include:

- A presentation in the hall for parents from Mr Jones.
6:15pm for FERNWD (don't be late!)
7:00pm for SHCMTY
- An opportunity to visit subject areas, and speak to staff (and KS4 pupils) about the various courses on offer.
- Dining hall and drama rooms for market place

Please help organise your parents!

- Tutor groups FERNWD: 6pm to 7:15pm
- Tutor groups SHCMTY: 6:20pm to 7:45pm



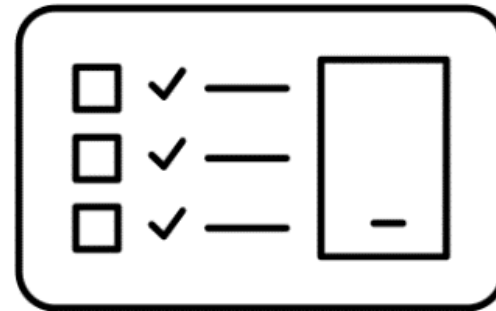
Entering Options



How to tell me what you wish to study

In **mid-February**, once you have...

- had time to speak to your teachers
- read / watched the website
- attended options evening
- had time to think properly!



You and your parents will **be emailed a link** to a webpage-based options system, for which you will need a **username** and **pin code** to access.

You will then select the subject you wish to follow for each of the 3 or 4 option blocks, remembering that you have a greater chance of gaining that option if selected in block A than block C or D.

Frequently Asked Questions



- **Is it first come, first served?**
No – it's order of preference
- **All medical professions need triple science**
No – but all need good grades!
- **I can't do triple science or the Ebacc on Pathway 2**
Yes you can!
- **Computer Science is playing on computers, or Photography is just taking photos!**
*GCSEs are not given away like chocolate biscuits. They all have equal challenge!
Making any decision based on a belief something is easy, never goes well.*
- **Can I change my mind?**
Yes, so long as it is before the deadline. After the deadline it is feasible, but much harder the longer you leave it. Your choices will be confirmed in June.
- **Vocational qualifications aren't viewed as well as GCSEs.**
No, they're great qualifications, and have equal worth!

Deadline:

Friday 28th February 2025



Enjoy the process, and remember, whatever you choose, make sure you enjoy it!

If you enjoy something, you are far, far more likely to be brilliant at it!

