

Key Stage 4 Options Process

2023

Starting on the right path for success



Some guiding principles for a student



- What subjects do you like/enjoy?
- What are your interests?
- What will you succeed at?
- Where will you go after CamVC?
- Keep your options open for the future.



Thursday 19th January: Year 9 Options Information Evening



Friday 20th January: Link to Options brochure and options webpage emailed to pupils



Monday 23rd January: Guidance Interviews begin



Thursday 2nd February: Year 9 Parents' Consultation 2pm-7pm



Monday 13th February: Half Term holiday - A time to reflect and think.



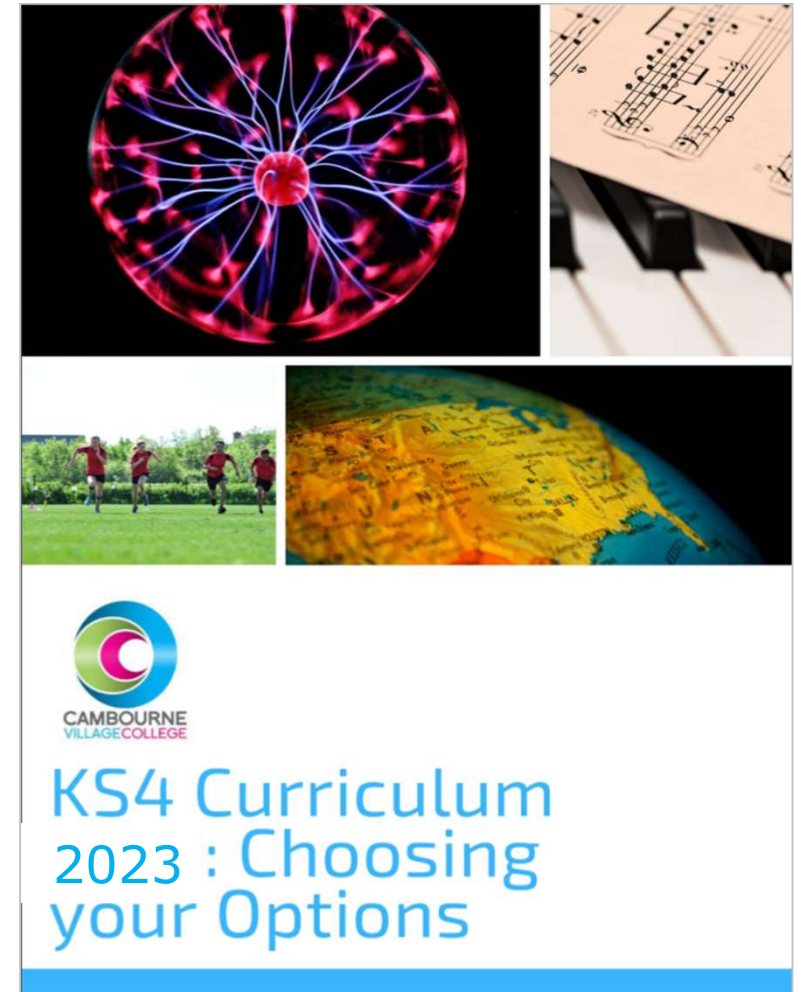
Monday 20th February: Completed options forms to be submitted electronically please.

Timeline

The Options Brochure



- A brochure for our Year 9s and parents
- Comprehensive information on the options process
- Information on each subject
- View/download from the school website



The Options webpage



- Accessible throughout the options process
- Comprehensive information about each subject area
 - Video introduction by subject teachers
 - Pupil feedback
 - FAQs



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Alumni
Maths Hub
The Cam Academy Trust

Y9 Options

Y9 Options

Core Subjects

English	Maths	Science	MFL
Video Student Feedback FAQ	Video Student Feedback FAQ	Video Student Feedback FAQ	Video Student Feedback FAQ

Option Subjects

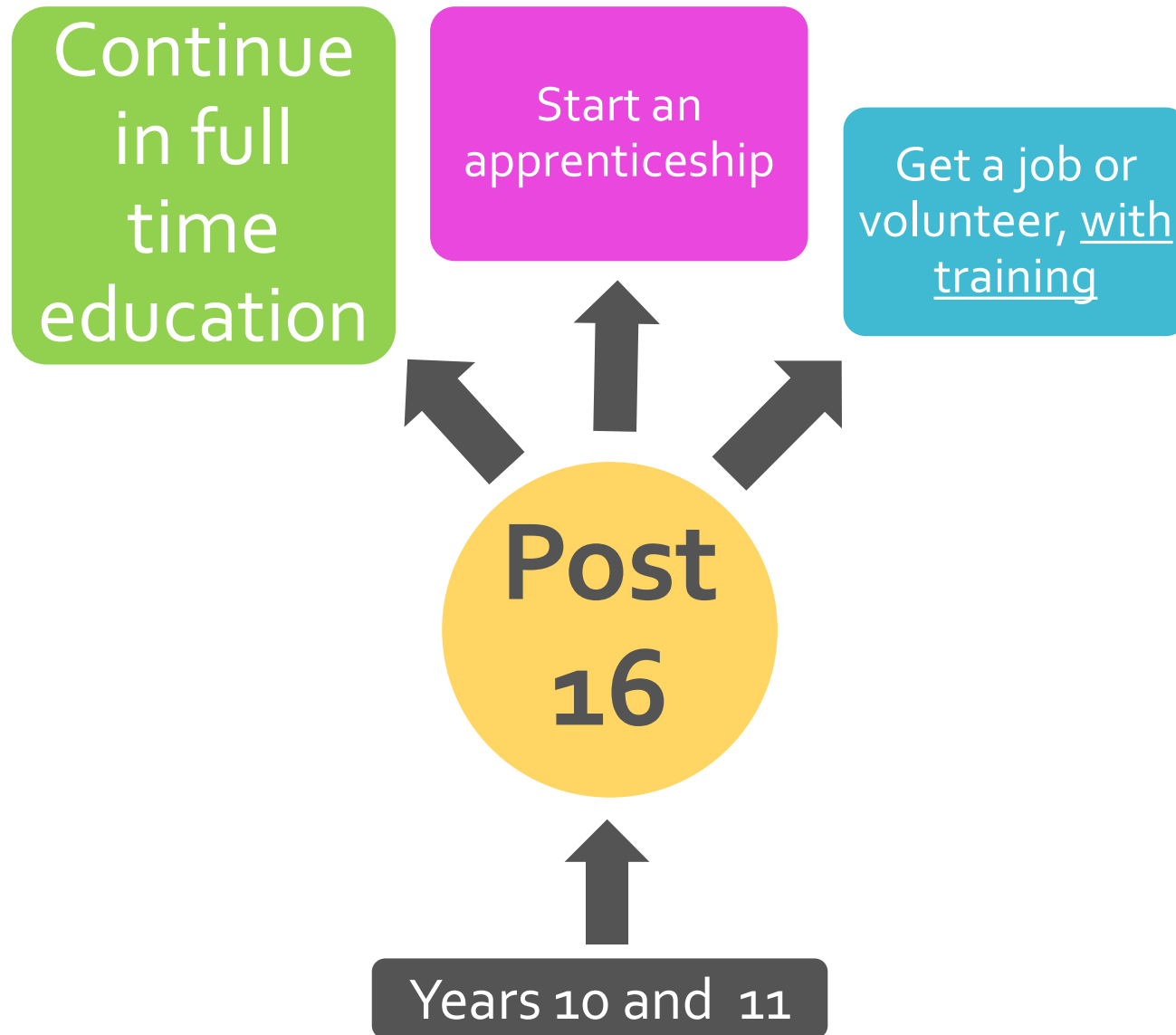
Students must select 3 courses plus TWO reserves

Engineering Video Student Feedback FAQ	GCSE Art and Design Video Student Feedback FAQ	GCSE Business Studies Video Student Feedback FAQ	BTEC Child Development Video Student Feedback FAQ
GCSE Computer Science Video Student Feedback FAQ	BTEC Performing Arts - Dance Video Student Feedback FAQ	GCSE Design Technology Video Student Feedback FAQ	GCSE Drama Video Student Feedback FAQ

Guidance Interviews



- A **guidance meeting** with a Pastoral/Senior Leader.
- An excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress so far and to identify strengths and areas to develop further.
- We would like to find out more about your child's interests and ambitions to **help them start making some important, well-informed and appropriate decisions.**
- Please book in your appointment by visiting cambournevc.parentseveningsystem.co.uk



What happens after Key Stage 4?



How do the choices you make now affect your options post-16 and beyond?

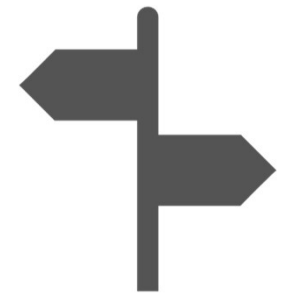
A-Levels

- Some subjects require a GCSE in order to continue onto A-level, e.g. languages. **Most do not.**
- Sciences and Maths at A-level courses can have high entry requirements.
- BTEC vocational courses are counted as GCSE equivalent by sixth forms, but the number that can be included can vary.
- Other Colleges offer pathways specifically building on BTEC pathways.

Vocational courses

- You don't need to have done a vocational course at Key Stage 4 to do one at Key Stage 5

Continue
in full
time
education



How do the choices you make now affect your options post-16 and beyond?

What about university?

- All GCSEs and Level 2 qualifications are important.
- Universities review your GCSE grades.
- Some university courses require at least five grade 7 (A-grade) equivalents at GCSE in addition to A-levels.
- Some science-based degree courses favour Triple/Separate Science at GCSE level. However, you can still access Medicine with double science qualification

Applying for a job

You will put your GCSE grades and other qualification on every job application you complete throughout your lifetime.

Continue
in full
time
education



Facilitating Subjects



Facilitating subjects (sometimes called 'informed choices') are those **A level subjects** which are more frequently required for university entry than others.

Including at least 2 facilitating subjects in your **A level choices** will give you a wide range of degree courses to choose from.

Keep your options open, particularly if you are not sure what you want to study at university.

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Maths and further maths
- Modern and classical languages
- Physics

Some
guiding
principles
for a
student



If you know you **definitely** want to study it at A-level, then take it at GCSE.

If you don't know,
keep your options open.

Content and assessment



- ALL subjects have lots of content and are demanding.
We recommend pupils choose subjects that they are interested in.
- For GCSE exam courses, assessment is mainly by final exam.
- All BTECs, VCERTs and Nationals include some examined assessment
- Courses are designed for two years of study
- Fewer exams split into 'Foundation tier' and 'Higher tier': only MFL, Maths and Science.

GCSEs have a grading scale of 9 to 1 with 9 being the top grade.



Grade 1 = G

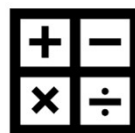
Grade 4 = C

Grade 7 = A

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE		CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9		A*
8		
7		A
6	<div>GOOD PASS (DfE)</div> <div>5 and above = top of C and above</div>	B
5		
4	<div>AWARDING</div> <div>4 and above = bottom of C and above</div>	C
<hr/>		
3		D
		E
2		F
		G
1		
U		U

English and Maths GCSE

All students aged 16 to 18 who do not have a **Grade 4**, or higher, in **Maths** and/or in **English**, are required to be continue to study these subjects.



GOV.UK

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

A combination of:

- Two English qualifications (Literature and Language)
- Maths
- Two Science qualifications
- A Humanity subject (Geography or History)
- A Modern Foreign language

It is not a qualification that students receive.

The Core Curriculum

Examined:

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- A Modern Foreign Language

Non-Examined:

- PE
- PSHE
- Core RE

Languages

Pupils will take a Core Language, selecting from:

Spanish
French
German



Options Selection

Core MFL Subject

*Students must select one of the courses below
(Unless there are exceptional AND authorised circumstances)*

French (GCSE)		German (GCSE)		Spanish (GCSE) / Spanish (Entry Level)	
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Option Subjects

*Students must select 3 courses **plus TWO reserves**
Please indicate also order of preference: **1, 2, 3, R1, and R2***

Ancient History (GCSE)		Geography (GCSE)	
Art and Design (GCSE)		History (GCSE) / History (Entry Level)	
Business (GCSE)		iMedia (Cambridge National Level 1/2)	
Child Development (BTEC Level 1/2)		Music (GCSE)	
Computer Science (GCSE)		Physical Education (GCSE) / Health and Fitness (VCERT)	
Dance (BTEC Level 1/2)		Photography (GCSE)	
Design and Technology (GCSE)		Religious Studies (GCSE)	
Drama (GCSE)		Separate Science (GCSE)	
Engineering (Cambridge National Level 1/2)		Spanish (GCSE) as 2 nd MFL	
Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)			

Languages

Pupils will take a Core Language, selecting from:

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German



Important knowledge and pupils are entitled to it; learning a language helps prepare pupils to live in the world after they leave school – TRAVEL, CAREER, FUTURE STUDY

- Maintains a breadth of study.
- Helps students to develop an understanding of different cultures.
- Helps students develop communication skills.
- Once you have learned one language, then it is easier to pick up other languages later on.
- Prepares students for life in a global workforce.
- Provides social opportunities.

Options Selection

Core MFL Subject

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Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)			

Option Subjects

Pupils must choose

3 subjects
plus

2 reserves

Each subject has its own challenges and opportunities...

- Are you organised?
- Are you good at independent work?
- Are you good at English or Maths?
- Are you creative?
- Are you good at remembering and learning lots of facts?
- Do you know what you would like to do at A-level?

Ancient History (GCSE)		Geography (GCSE)	
Art and Design (GCSE)		History (GCSE) / History (Entry Level)	
Business (GCSE)		iMedia (Cambridge National Level 1/2)	
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Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)			

Option Subjects

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After School Options

This is an
optional extra
choice.

- Optional choice.
- Only 1.
- Think carefully- this is a big commitment of time and effort.
- Cost associated
- Anyone in receipt of FSM – who meets other suitability requirements – the school will pay in full for their after-school course.

Ancient History (GCSE): Cost and date to be confirmed.	
Art and Design (GCSE): Cost and date to be confirmed.	
Film Studies (GCSE): Cost and date to be confirmed.	
Statistics (GCSE): Cost and date to be confirmed.	

What does the form look like?

You will receive an email from CamVC that looks like this:

The following message has just been sent to your CamVC **School**Post mailbox.

Please do not reply directly to this automatic notification - use the links below.

Option Selection form - Year 9

Please see option form attached. The deadline for completion is 20th February

If you have any queries regarding the form please contact me on 01954 284000.



Cambourne Village College, Sheepfold Lane, Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, CB23 6FR

[View online](#)[Reply](#)

Quick links

[CamVC **School**Post mailbox](#)[Notification preferences](#)[Unsubscribe](#)

Please use the form below to confirm your child's option choices.

Pupil first name

Pupil surname

Pupil tutor group

Core MFL Subject

Students must select one of the courses below (unless there are exceptional AND authorised circumstances). Please select the language choice, by typing Y in the relevant box.

Please only select French or German if your child has experience with this language, if not then Spanish should be selected. If a second GCSE language is required, please select Spanish as one of the numbered options in the Options Subjects section below.

GCSE Spanish

GCSE German

GCSE French



Pupil name and form group

Language choice

Options Subjects

Students must select 3 courses, plus a reserve and a second reserve.

Please select the 3 option choices below, indicating each choice in order of preference by typing 1, 2 or 3.

You will also need to select a reserve subject (you should do this by typing R in the relevant text box) and a second reserve (you should do this by typing R2 in the relevant box).

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Business Studies

BTEC Child Development

GCSE Computer Science

**Three option choices in
order of preference by
typing 1, 2 or 3**

**Two reserve choices in
order of preference by
typing R and R2**

After School Options

Costs apply; where this may be a concern, please discuss this with the College - some support may be possible. (Cost and date to be confirmed).

Students may opt for one after school option if they wish to. There is no requirement to do so.

To select an after school option, type ADD in the relevant box.

GCSE Ancient History

GCSE Film Studies

GCSE Statistics

GCSE Art

Please confirm that you have considered the options available and agree to the choices that have been made.

☐ I confirm that I have discussed and

agreed the option choices my child has made.

Please enter your password

[Request password reset](#)

SEND

If opting for after school subject

Consent and press SUBMIT

Order of preference and reserve choice

- We want to build the school timetable around your choices. **Preferences help us to prioritise your option choices.**
- **Every year, approx 90% of pupils gained their first 3 choices.**
- Reserves are needed in case we cannot match every pupil's top 3 choices.
- Sometimes, a course is **over-subscribed**. We will review effort grades and progress scores in such cases.
- Sometimes a course is **under-subscribed** and will not be able to run.

Some final thoughts for pupils



- Explore the options webpage; hopefully you will find that what subjects have to offer is what you are looking for!
- Enthusiasm is intrinsically linked to success. **Choose the subjects you enjoy!**
- Make sure these are your choices – **DO NOT follow your friends.**
- Do not choose a course because of a particular teacher
- Discuss courses with the staff who teach them, with parents, with brothers or sisters who have completed them. Talk to someone who has been there or is doing it.
- **Be certain about your decision.** If you are unsure you need to ask more questions!
- Be excited about the challenge of Key Stage 4 courses! The staff at Cambourne VC will help you towards success.



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**Thank you
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