



NOWER HILL
HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to our Year 8 Options Information Evening 2019



Support for Year 8

- **'Steps for Year 8'** Workbooks
- **Careers Room on Fronter** – subject specific information
- **Subject Assemblies** (January – February)
- Guidance provided from **Form Tutor** in helping to complete the Options Form
- **Parents'/Carers' Evening** – 1:1 appointment with a member of staff to discuss final option choices

Support for Year 8

- **Options Booklet** – this outlines all the courses available. All students received this booklet this morning.
- It is important to see all of your child's subject teachers at the upcoming **Parents'/Carers' Evening: 6th March (N side) and 12th March (H side).**



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HIGH SCHOOL

Year 8 Options Information Evening



The Nower Hill Curriculum

KEY STAGE 3 (Years 7 and 8)

Students will have studied up to 20 subjects by the end of this school year

- Maths
- English
- Science
- Physical Education
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- History
- Geography
- Food Technology
- Resistant Materials
- Textiles
- Oracy
- French
- Spanish
- German
- Latin
- Classics
- Music
- Art
- Drama
- Citizenship
- Computer Studies



The Nower Hill Curriculum

KEY STAGE 4 (Years 9-11)

**Students focus on 7 examined subjects
(plus core PE, PRE and Citizenship)
leading to between 8 and 10 GCSEs**

CORE SUBJECTS

- Maths
- English
- Science
- Physical Education
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Citizenship

+ 4 OPTION SUBJECTS

Core Subjects

- English – Students study for 2 GCSEs
 - English Language and English Literature
- Maths – Students study for 1 GCSE
- Science – Students study for 2 or 3 GCSEs
- All students will also study core Citizenship, PE and PRE which will not lead to any GCSEs

Science GCSE

The science department determine which pathway students follow at the end of Y10 based on their performance in Science in Y9 and 10.

- Combined Science – all three sciences are studied but it leads to two GCSEs

or

- Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) which will lead to three separate GCSEs.



The Nower Hill Curriculum

KEY STAGE 4 (Years 9-11)

**Students focus on 7 examined subjects
(plus core PE, PRE and Citizenship)
leading to between 9 and 10 GCSEs**

CORE SUBJECTS

- Maths
- English
- Science
- Physical Education
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Citizenship

+ 4 OPTION SUBJECTS



English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

Maths

**English Language or
English Literature**

2 Sciences

History or Geography

A Language

EBacc



Our advice....

In addition to the compulsory core subjects, students should select:-

At least one EBacc subject

If likely to be applying for University study, a second EBacc subject, to cover both a language and either history or geography, is advisable.



KS4 COURSES FORM 2019 – 2022

Please use **CAPITALS** throughout

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	FORM

All students will study the compulsory core of:

- **English Language/Literature** (2 GCSEs)
- **Maths** (1 GCSE)
- **Science** (2 or 3 GCSEs)
- **Citizenship** (Non-examined)
- **PE** (Non-examined)
- **PRE** (Non-examined)

Optional Subjects

Our advice is that all students should take courses which reflect their **strengths and interests** whilst bearing in mind the importance of a **broad and balanced** range of subjects. All students will have an individual meeting as part of the options process to help ensure that they follow the most appropriate courses in Years 9, 10 and 11.

The English Baccalaureate Subjects:

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification but is recognition that students have completed a particular group of subjects. These subjects also happen to be the most regularly asked for by college and university courses.

In order to complete the EBacc, students would need to select a humanity subject and a language.

Students need to select 4 option subjects in total from the lists below.

Everyone needs to choose at least one EBacc subject from either Humanities or Languages as your first option. If you wish to study the full EBacc you need to choose from both Humanities and Languages as your first two options.

Humanities

Ancient History	
Geography	
History	

Languages

French	
German	
Latin	
Spanish	



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You also need to select 2 or 3 more subjects from those listed below, so that you have selected 4 subjects in total. Please write '1' next to your first choice, '2' next to your second choice and '3' next to your 3rd choice. It is not always possible to get the choices you want if the combination does not work. Please therefore also write 'Reserve 1' and 'Reserve 2' next to 2 further subjects should any of your first 4 preferences not be possible to accommodate. Please note, if you are selecting a technology subject, you are only able to choose ONE of those shaded grey. These subjects will be taught at the same time and you will not therefore be able to choose more than one.

Ancient History		Latin	
Art (Fine)		Media Studies	
Art (Graphic Communication)		Music	
Business		Music Technology (vocational course)	
Child Development and Care (vocational course)		Physical Education	
Citizenship Studies		PRE	
Classical Civilisation		Spanish	
Computer Science			
Creative iMedia (previously ICT) (vocational course)			
Drama			
French		Design Technology: Resistant Materials route	
Geography		Design Technology: Textiles route	
German		Food Preparation and Nutrition	
History		Hospitality and Catering (vocational course)	

Unless complete in all sections forms will not be accepted. Late forms take lowest priority if a course is oversubscribed.

Signature of Student: _____ Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Form to be returned to Form Tutor on or by **FRIDAY 15TH MARCH 2019**



Subjects not yet studied

- Media Studies
- Business
- Child Development and Care (vocational course)
- Hospitality and Catering (vocational course)



Subjects that divide in to different specialisms?

There are also some subjects which branch out into different areas of specialism:

- Creative iMedia or Computing
- Fine Art or Graphics
- Music or Music Technology
- History or Ancient History



Advice that has been given to students

- Talk to your subject teachers.
- Read the courses booklet carefully – each subject has a page devoted to it.
- Visit the Careers room on Fronter and make full use of all the advice and information on there.
- Talk to your parents and form tutor to help map out your ideas and get a different perspective.
- Have questions ready to ask at your interview and when you visit the Careers Room.
- Do NOT allow your choices to be influenced by subjects that your friends are choosing or because you want to be taught by a particular teacher!



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From the options form to starting courses....

Important changes to the content and grading of GCSE exams

- All GCSE subjects will now be graded 9 to 1 where 9 is the highest grade and 1 is the lowest. This replaces the old system of A* to G.
- This is a national change. All students in the country will take these new exams.
- All GCSEs have been reformed to ensure that students have a deeper understanding of the subject. There is less coursework and controlled assessment resulting in more emphasis on final exams. Exams demand a greater emphasis on literacy , communication and problem solving skills.



Important changes to the content and grading of GCSE exams

The following subjects hold the same value as a GCSE but are vocational qualifications and therefore are graded differently:

- Child Development and Care
- Digital Applications
- Hospitality and Catering
- Music Technology

Why the change?

- Improved standards to match those of the highest performing countries.
- Improved consistency between examination boards.
- Less ‘bunching’ of grades around a B, C and D to better reflect the differing abilities of students.



How this looks

9		A*
8		
7		A
6		B
'Strong Pass' → 5		
'Standard Pass' → 4		C
3		D
2		E
1		F
		G



What next

DATE	ACTIVITY
Tonight	Options Evening for all parents/carers.
January onwards	Presentations during assembly for KS4 subjects
11 th February	Completion of practice form in draft with Form Tutors
Wed 6 th March (N side) Wed 12 th March (H side)	Parents'/Carers' Evening including a meeting with Year Coordinators or a senior member of staff
Friday 15 th March	Deadline for submitting courses form



KS4 COURSES FORM 2019 – 2022

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- PE (Non-examined)
- PRE (Non-examined)

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