



Bowland High

**Welcome to Bowland's
Key Stage 4
Information Evening**

**A chance to find out about all of the
subjects available in years 9, 10 and 11.**

**Please take a copy of the Options Form from
the table at the back**





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The aims of tonight's meeting.....

- to inform you of the courses on offer
- to explain how the choices are made
- to answer any questions you may have about our Key Stage 4 curriculum
- to provide a chance for you to talk to subject leaders about their subjects at KS4





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Attainment 8 and Progress 8

- Government keen to ensure that all pupils follow a balanced curriculum with a significant number of what they consider to be 'academic' subjects.
- Pupils no longer measured simply on raw outcomes, ie how many GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grade C and above they achieve.
- New measures will look at pupil attainment and progress in their best 8 subjects, consequently focusing, not simply on outcomes, but on pupils' starting points and the progress they have made. These new measures are called **Attainment 8** and **Progress 8**.

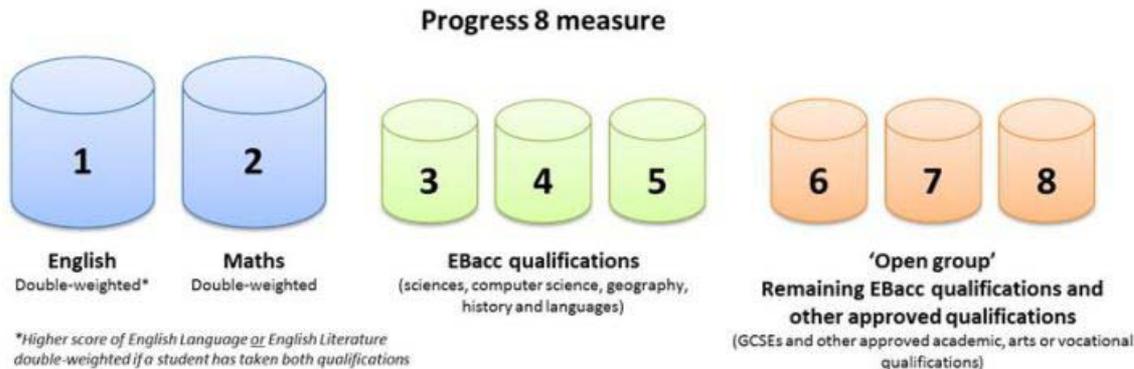




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Attainment 8 and Progress 8

In order to ensure a balanced curriculum, the subject components within progress 8 are broken down into three 'groups'.



It is **essential for pupils** to be mindful of the progress 8 when they are selecting their options.



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The English Baccalaureate

Is **Not** a single qualification

Is awarded to pupils who gain a **GCSE pass grade in ALL** of the following...

- English
- Maths
- Science (x2)
- Modern foreign language
- History or Geography





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Grades 9 - 1

The current grading system (A* – G) will be replaced with a nine point scale. The rationale for this is to provide more differentiation, particularly among high achievers, and for pupils who 'bunch' in the middle grades.

See below;

Existing GCSE grade	New GCSE
A, A*	7,8,9
C+, B	5,6
C / C-, to E	3,4
F to G +	1,2





New Specifications - Sept 2016

Most subjects will be teaching from new specifications that are linked to the new 9-1 examination grading.

Maths and English are already working with these new specifications and Sept 2016 will see the introduction of new specifications for most other subjects.

* DT resistant materials, hospitality and media studies will remain on the old specification for one more year.

Please note – many of the specifications are still in draft format. We are awaiting final confirmation from OFQUAL.





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Terminal Examinations

- Government concern about modular courses – too many opportunities to retake units - *'dumbing down'*.
- All examinations for courses will now be terminal (i.e. they will come at the end of the course).
- Implications for pupils who find learning a lot of factual information difficult.
- Consideration must therefore be given to courses which do not have a high examination percentage ie art, drama, dance, music etc





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The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Compulsory subjects:

- English language
- English literature
- mathematics
- science (x 2 or 3)

All at GCSE level.

- core physical education
- PSHE & citizenship

- religious education (until end of Y9)
- MFL (until end of Y9)
- humanities (until end of Y9)





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The Key Stage 4 curriculum

Subject	Lessons Y9	Lessons Y10	Lessons Y11
English	8	8	9/10
Maths	8	8	9/10
Science	6	10	12/10
PE	4	3	4
RE	2	Themed days x 3	Themed days x 2
PSHE	2	1	2
MFL	4	-	-
HUMANITIES	4	-	-
OPTION 1	5	5	-
OPTION 2	5	5	-
OPTION 3	-	4	6
OPTION 4	-	4	6
	-	-	

Total - 48





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The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Option Subjects

- Pupils will study 4 options subjects in total.
- Two options will commence in Y9 and be examined at the end of Y10.
- Two will commence in Y10 and be examined at the end of Y11.





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Why start some options in Year 9?

- The staggered start, and consequent staggered end of courses, will relieve some pressure caused by terminal exams all at once at end of Y11. By the end of Y10 pupils will already have completed and been assessed in two options.
- Core subjects, particularly English and maths, can be prioritised a little more in Y11 with more time dedicated to them.
- Year 9 can be a 'dip' year for pupils in subjects that they have lost interest in. Taking two options in Y9 will allow pupils to focus on their progress in the subjects they wish to pursue. All pupils will continue with the core subjects, ensuring that their diet is still balanced.





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Why start some options in Year 9?

We have analysed:

- pupil feedback (current y10),
- parental feedback on a questionnaire (current Y10 parents)
- mock result data

Over 90% of parents (41 responses) and over 95% of pupils (sample of 24 – all abilities) were very positive about the staggered examination system.

Equally the mock examination data shows that Y10 are out performing Y11 in a number of their early entry subjects.





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Is 4 the right number of options?

- We currently have a system where pupils study 5 options over a 3 year staggered system. Given the increased demands of new subject specifications and the new linear examination system we feel strongly that 5 options will be too much for our pupils in the future.
- 3 options would mean that most pupils will only study 8 subjects in total and will give no safety net with regard pupils' progress & score.
- Curriculum breadth and pupil choice would also be significantly affected with only 3 option choices.





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Is 4 the right number of options ?

- To drop to 3 options will significantly affect the number of subjects that can be offered by school. We will go from 20-21 options being offered to 15.
- This will also affect curriculum balance. Options often offer more practical learning opportunities.
- If pupils are to consider the Ebbac when they are choosing options this will take up two of their choices (MFL and humanities). Pupils will then be restricted as to one other option choice.





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Is 4 the right number of options?

- In summary - 4 options is the right number.
- It maintains pupil choice and curriculum breadth whilst not stretching pupils too thinly. It will also allow pupils to have a one subject margin in reporting their best 8 results in their progress 8.





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Options subjects – GCSE Courses

Year 9/10

- Art and Design
- CIDA (Edexcel Level 2 certificate)
- Dance
- Design and Technology – Resistant Materials
- Drama
- Geography *
- Hospitality
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE





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Options subjects– GCSE Courses

Year 10/11

- Spanish
- French
- German
- Geography *
- History
- Religious studies
- Computer Science





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Options subjects – other courses

Year 10/11

- Constructing the built environment (WJEC Level 2 award) (pass, merit, distinction)
- Countryside and Environment (BTEC Level 2 extended certificate) (pass, merit, distinction, distinction plus)
- Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy (VTCT Level 2 certificate) (pass, merit, distinction, distinction plus)





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Are the non-GCSE courses worth doing?

- All of the courses that we offer, with the exception of Countryside and Environment, are level 2 and therefore have GCSE equivalence.
- They will all count in the open group of qualifications (except C and E)
- For many pupils these **are** the right course.
- Course leads to progression onto higher level courses in the same sector at college.
- Balanced curriculum with sufficient interest can be invaluable.





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Countryside and Environment (BTEC)

The BTEC Countryside and Environment course is not a listed qualification. This simply means that it can not count in a pupils' progress 8 score.

Pupils will still receive the BTEC Level 2 certificate on completion of the course.

Course leads to progression onto higher level courses in the same sector at college.





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How do I decide?

- Enjoyment/interest
- Curriculum balance
- Success/confidence
- Future plans
- Keep doors open
- Type of assessment





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How don't I decide?

- Friends
- Teacher
- Feel pressure
- Easy option
- Sounds interesting, I've never done it before!



The Options Form

EXAMPLE

You must select your **first choice (1)**, **second choice (2)** and **2 reserves** from each of the 2 blocks.
Fill in your choices below.

BLOCK 1 – YEAR 9/10	1,2 or R in this box	BLOCK 2 – YEAR 10/11	1,2 or R in this box
Geography		French	1
Dance		Spanish	
Drama	1	German	
Music	R	History	2
Hospitality		Religious Studies	R
DT – Resistant Materials		Geography	
Art and Design		Computer Science	
Physical Education	R	Construction **	R
CIDA	2	Hair and Beauty **	
Media Studies		Countryside and Environment **	



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The Options Process

- Jan & Feb Options module studied in PSHE
- 18th Jan BRAG event @The Grand
- 29th Jan Options booklets distributed
- 3rd Feb Key Stage 4 Information Evening
- 12th Feb Deadline for handing in options forms

Following this;

- March Discussion and counselling of pupils
- April Choices finalised and cross referenced
- May Parents/pupils informed of final choices





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Please note.....

- Whilst every effort will be made to satisfy pupils' requests, some option choices are not possible. Courses have to be financially viable and therefore must meet a minimum number for them to run.
- Courses also have a maximum number and preference will always be given to pupils who have chosen a course as their number one option.
- Consequently it is essential that pupils give reserve choices when completing their choices. Any form handed in without reserve choices will be handed back to the pupil.





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Ask the teachers about the courses, the material that is studied, the way in which pupils are expected to learn, the methods of assessment, available support, required or desirable skills etc.

Ask yourself what is best going to suit you and will encourage you to achieve your potential over the next two years.





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Thank you for attending this evening.

