

Year 9 GCSE Options 2024



Parents Evening, Thursday 25th January

Welcome



Where are we now?



Pathways



How many choices?



Understanding the terminology



Science options



Sources of information



How parents can help



TDA Sixth Form



Using Edval – how to complete on-line choices



Key Dates (timeline)



Where are we now?

Our young people have a lot going on:

- Hormones
- Growing fast
- Peer pressure
- Social media
- Body image
- Tendency to focus on *short-term* gains
- Covid legacy
- An uncertain economic future
- Political instability
- War and conflict

Now we are asking them to make some significant, *longer-term* decisions.





Pathways

A

Vast majority of students
310

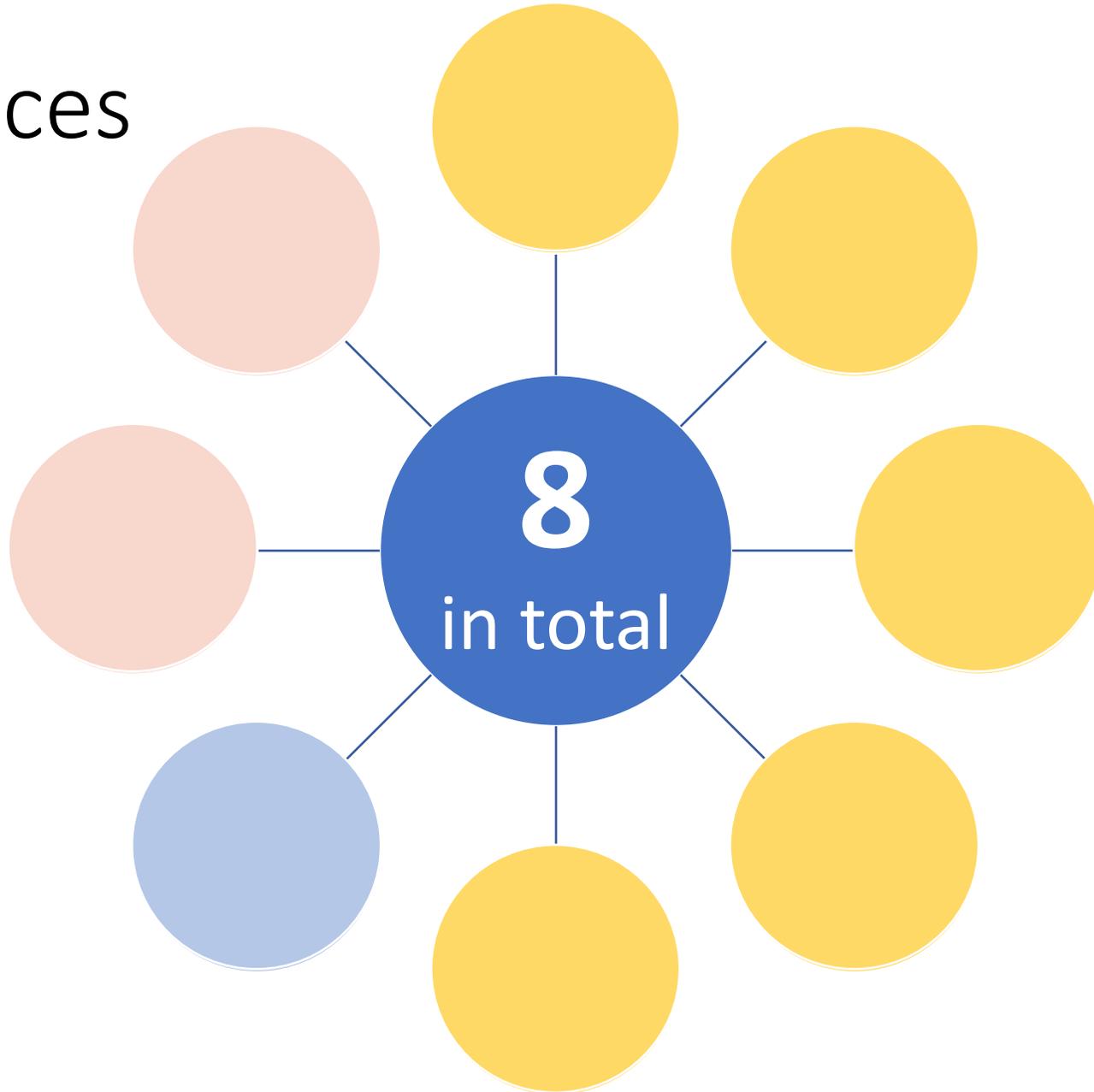
Will select **three** choices
MUST have an EBACC choice
See below

B

A smaller cohort
≈20

Will already know who they are
NO EBACC choice required
Alternative – PSE course

Choices



5 Core

*English
Maths
Science*

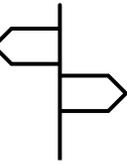
1 EBACC

*Must choose
at least one*

2

Options

Free choices



5

Core

English language

English literature

Maths

Science

Science

1

EBACC

History

Geography

Spanish

Computer science

Triple science

2

Choices

Art & D.	History
Business	H&S
Comp	Care
Science	Digital
Dance	IT
D&Tech	Media
Drama	Music
Engine.	Photog.
Fashion	RS
textiles	Spanish
Food	Sport
Geog.	Trip Sci.

2

Reserves

In case we are unable to timetable all their options OR there are too few applicants to run a subject, students **must** select two reserve choices **in order of preference.**



Understanding the terminology

EBACC *English Baccalaureate – government guidance directs that learners must complete an EBACC subject.*

Edval *The software we use to collect student option choices*

Key Stage 4 *Years 10 and 11 aged 14-16
(Key Stage 5 refers to pupils in Sixth Form)*

GCSE *Common form of assessment usually consists of end of course examinations sat in silence.*

Vocational *Alternative qualifications which involve coursework and continuous assessment e.g. BTEC*



Science options

Trilogy Science

$\frac{2}{3}$ the content of each science subject
Equivalent to **TWO** GCSEs

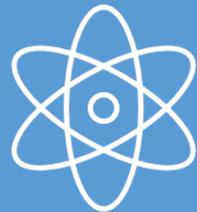
Biology



Chemistry



Physics



All students are automatically entered for Trilogy science as part of their “core” - unless they opt for **Triple**.

PLEASE NOTE: science staff will speak to your child and direct them to the best option.

Triple Science

Additional content and more lessons
Leads to **THREE** separate GCSEs in...

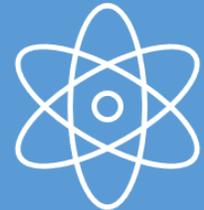
Biology



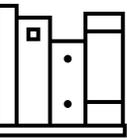
Chemistry



Physics



Ideal for students who are very interested in science possibly at A-level. It is a choice that must be selected.



Sources of information

Our website: Thomas Deacon Academy - Year 9 Options 2024

GCSE Options 2024 booklet – emailed to students and parents

The **Careers Hub** at the front of the Academy

Form Tutors and Subject Teachers

Exam board websites:

www.aqa.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk

[Edexcel](#) | [About Edexcel](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)



www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers

Find out what a job involves and if it's right for you.



Explore by job category

Administration

Animal care

Beauty and wellbeing

Business and finance

Computing, technology and digital

Construction and trades

Creative and media

Engineering and maintenance

Environment and land

Government services

Healthcare

Home services

Hospitality and food

Law and legal

Retail and sales

Science and research

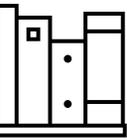
Social care

Sports and leisure

Teaching and education

Transport

Travel and tourism



www.gov.uk/careers-helpline-for-teenagers

Call the National Careers Service helpline for information and advice about jobs, careers and training if you're 13 or older in England.

National Careers Service helpline

[National Careers Service](#)

Telephone: 0800 100 900

Text messages: 07766 413 219

Textphone: 0800 096 8336

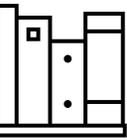
Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm

Saturday, 10am to 5pm

[Find out about call charges](#)

If your child is still stuck

- You could point them in the direction of SACU (UCAS backwards).
- [Career Quiz helping you find the right career, degree or apprenticeship \(sacu-student.com\)](https://www.sacu-student.com)
- Free to use, students can use their academy email address.
- Approx. 50 questions
- Your child selects the picture which most applies to them and their interests (they should avoid “*none of the above*” where possible).
- It creates word clouds of potential careers with additional links to find out more about those jobs and their entry pathways.



Dedicated email for questions or support...



options@tda.education



How to help - encourage your child to:

- ✓ consider a wide-range of options
- ✓ think about any potential career paths e.g. medicine
- ✓ pursue their interests or aptitudes e.g. if they enjoy maths, might they also like computer science?
- ✓ not opt for the same courses as their friends!!!
- ✓ read and find out about the options. How are subjects assessed? Coursework or examination?
- ✓ complete the application process by the deadline



Talk to your child, ask them what subjects they enjoy.



How to help – sorry Mums and Dads

REMEMBER

It is your child who will have to attend lessons, complete home learning, do additional reading and sit exams.

They should **NOT** choose a subject simply because you want them to do it!



Future ready

This may feel a little early, however, subject choices may impact what you can do next.

- What do I need for sixth form?
- What are the best subjects for the careers I am interested in?
- How will my subject choices be viewed by universities?

Career and University Ready

Some jobs and degree courses need specific grades or qualifications e.g. A*, A*, A doctor.

Degrees in midwifery, pharmacy, optometry, psychology or architecture, require certain A levels - often maths and/or a science.



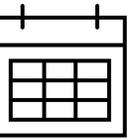
Using Edval

Completing the on-line choices – the link will be sent to student academy email addresses.



edval





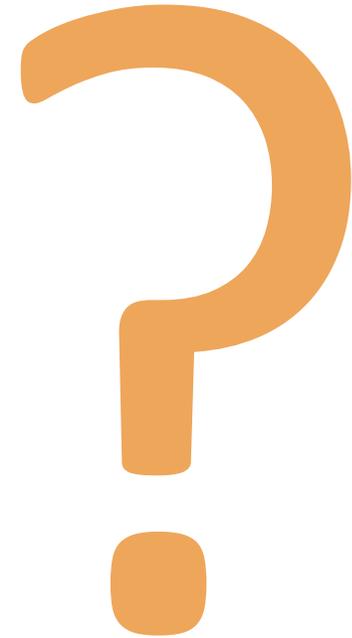
Timeline

Options Evening	Thu 25 th January 2024
Options Invites sent to students	Fri 26 th January 2024
DEADLINE for SUBMISSION	4pm Fri 1st March
Letters sent to parents for approval	Fri 8 th March
Parent confirmations of choices	Thu 28 th March
Final confirmation of option subjects	Term 6

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please do talk to any of the staff available here tonight or contact us via email:

options@tda.education



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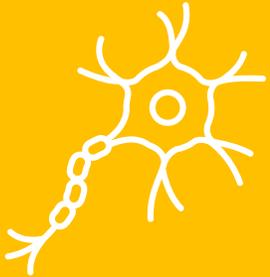
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Explaining the science options

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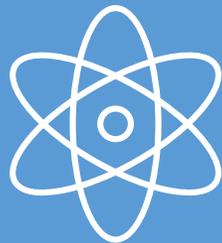
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Chemistry



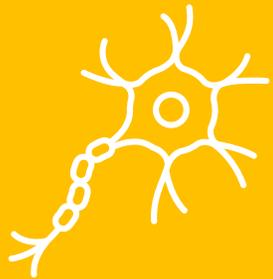
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