

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are at that exciting point in your child's school journey when they are able to start making important choices over what they study as they move into Year 10 and begin their GCSE and BTEC courses.

Whilst some of the courses are mandatory, others are optional and your child will be able to choose the options that best serve their interests as well as their preferred post-16 choices. We will offer their preferred choices, where possible, based on interest levels and staffing. The information you give us about your child's preferred options will inform and shape our key stage 4 offering.

The information regarding the choices your child will need to make are shown below:

<p><b><u>English Language</u></b> AND <b><u>English Literature</u></b> All learners will study these 2 GCSE courses.</p>	<p><b><u>Maths</u></b> All learners will study GCSE Maths.</p>	<p><b><u>Science</u></b> All learners will study Combined Science (2 GCSEs).</p>	<p><b><u>Humanities</u></b> All learners will choose either History or Geography.  A small group of learners may pursue a different option here, if we feel they will find the nature of these courses too overwhelming and a more vocational course would better suit their next steps.</p>	<p><b><u>Modern Foreign Languages</u></b> All learners will be asked to indicate their preferred language: Spanish or German.  This is a facilitating option, and is in keeping with the school's global vision. We want as many learners as possible to pursue a Language GCSE as it is seen very favourably by employers and universities, and we have high aspirations for all our learners.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

**Options- learners will be asked to give their top 6 choices, in order of preference**

Business Studies	Computer Science	BTEC Dance	Drama	Fine Art	Food and Nutrition
Geography (select History as your Humanities option, if you would like to study both)	German (select Spanish as your preferred MFL option, if you would like to study both)	Graphics	BTEC Health and Social Care	iMedia	BTEC Music
Product Design	Psychology	Sociology	BTEC Sport	Triple Science	

***\*Courses are subject to change based on uptake and staffing.***

To enable you and your child to make informed choices, we will be launching our Options information on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

All subject leaders have created videos to introduce their subject area, providing an outline of what your child would study as part of their course and how the skills are assessed. We will also be providing an information booklet with further detail about each of the courses we have available and how they can benefit your child in their post-16 education and future careers.

All this information will be available on the school website, here: <https://nia.emat.uk/2532/year-9-options> from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

On the evening of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March we will also be running a 'talk to the teacher' evening, via Edulink, where you will be able to book appointments with subject leaders to find out more information about the courses you are interested in.

In addition, year 9 parents' evening will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, via Edulink, which will allow you to have more personalised conversations about your child's choices and the suitability of options for their future aspirations.

Your child can also discuss their options with their tutors and subject teachers once we return to school. All options will be reviewed to ensure a student will be successful in their chosen subjects and their choices will enable them to successfully progress to the next stage of their education. Members of the academic progress team, curriculum leaders or the SEND department may discuss your child's options with you individually, to ensure learners are entered for subjects where they will be successful and be able to progress to the next stage of their education.

The deadline for submitting your preferred options is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Your child will be asked to submit their preferred 6 options, as well as their chosen Humanities subject and preferred Modern Foreign Language.

There will be an assembly for learners, further explaining the process and the importance of making the right choices, in the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Andrew.johnson@nia.emat.uk](mailto:Andrew.johnson@nia.emat.uk) (Assistant Head: Data and Outcomes) or [Jane.barlow@nia.emat.uk](mailto:Jane.barlow@nia.emat.uk) (KS3 Academic Progress Leader).

Yours faithfully,

*Andrew Johnson*

Assistant Head: Data and Outcomes.