

GATEACRE SCHOOL

Year 9 Options
Information 2025



Gateacre School

Gateacre Futures Evening

Mr A. Dalton-Bunker

Vice Principal

Mrs S. Tracey

Associate Assistant Principal

Mr J. Byrne

Head of Year 9

In the Atrium

GCSE Options booklet

The 'marketplace' of subject stalls

An opportunity to ask questions



Gateacre School

What is all the fuss about qualifications?

‘In a competitive job market, academic and vocational qualifications are increasingly important. Those without qualifications are at a higher risk of being unemployed and having low incomes.’

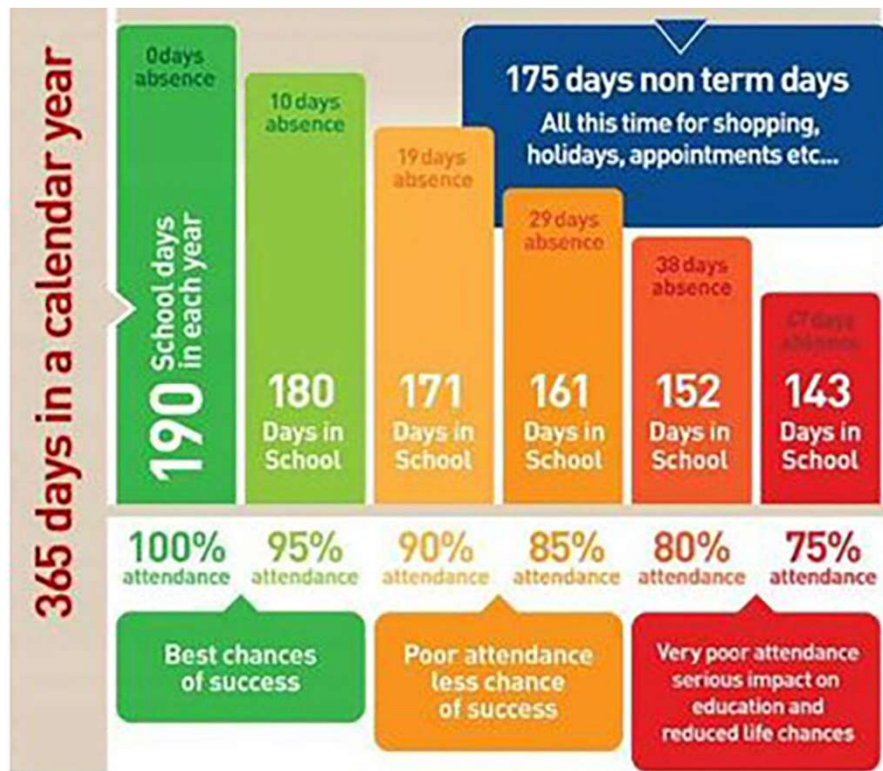


What is different about Key Stage 4?

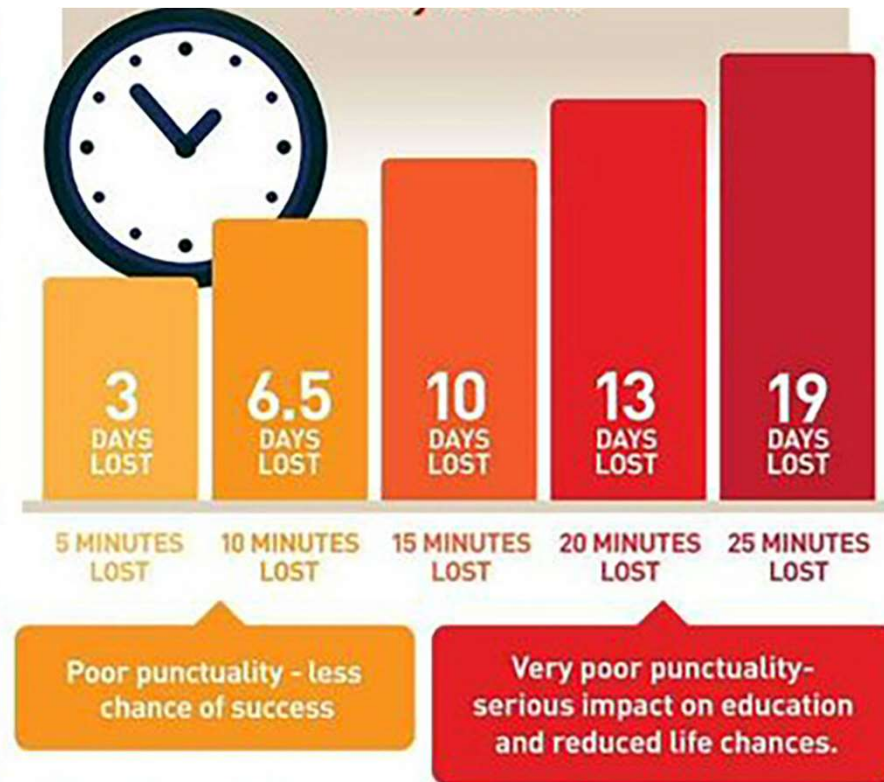
- 19-month course (a little over 5 terms)
- You have greater responsibility.
- Important that you work throughout Key Stage 4
- The work is harder and you have more to do
- YOU have to be more independent
- You must be prepared to give time to your studies
- Mock and final examinations



Attendance and Punctuality



DID YOU KNOW? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is **94.7%**



DID YOU KNOW? If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed a full 2 weeks of school in one year?



The Options Process



What are the different types of qualifications?

- **GCSE** – academic qualifications, usually in more traditional school subjects, which are generally assessed through final examinations and often lead towards A-levels
- **Level 2 certificates** (eg. BTECs, CNats) – vocational qualifications, often in more practical subjects, that are largely assessed through coursework and lead to vocational college courses, apprenticeships or work-based learning



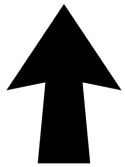
English Baccalaureate ('The EBacc')

- This is not a qualification.
- It is a combination of GCSE subjects that offer an important range of knowledge & skills to young people.
- Students must study: English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Science, **Spanish and History OR Geography**
- The EBacc is recommended by some of the most prestigious universities.



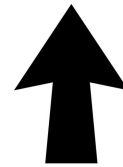
Pathways

Further Education (e.g. A Levels, University)
Professional employment



EBacc
2 or more EBacc subjects
GCSE subjects courses

Further Education (Vocational College course, A Levels)
Apprenticeship
Full time employment



1 or 2 EBacc subjects
A mixtures of GCSE and BTEC courses

More support and guidance
L1/2 College course
Work based learning



1 EBacc subject
BTEC qualifications





Reasons to choose an Option:

Do choose...

- * Subjects you like
- * Subject you have done well in and gained good marks
- * Subjects you feel would help you to be successful in whatever you choose to do after the end of Year 11

Don't choose...

- * Subjects that your friends are choosing (they may not be in your class)
- * Subjects that your favourite teacher teaches (you may not be in their class)
- * Subjects that you think other people would like you

Key dates

- **14/01/25 Options Launch Assembly**
- **w/c 20/01/25 In class taster sessions for KS4 Option subjects**
- **30/01/25 Year 9 Parents Evening**
- **03/03/25 Gateacre Futures Evening**
- **Friday 7th March 2025 – Deadline for submission of Options forms**
- **March/ April 2025 – Student Options interviews**
- **July 2025 – Option choices finalised**

The Options Booklet



Year 9 Options Booklet 2025

A guide to the courses and qualifications available to Year 10 and 11 students.



History (Edexcel)

What does the course offer me?	GCSE	Option
<p>History will develop a depth of knowledge that links to the modern world. Importantly it allows students to develop a range of highly valued skills that support many other areas of study. For example, studying History helps develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A range of communication skills including debate and persuasion. - The range of communication skills including debate and persuasion. - The ability to organise and categorise. - Decision making skills. <p>Students will have the opportunity to learn in well resourced environment. In recent years there have been a number of enrichment opportunities. For example, the History Department has conducted trips to destinations linked to topics of study including the First World War battlefield sites in Belgium and France, the UK Parliament, Krakow and Berlin.</p> <p>Learning is supported by the fact that many students have found the topics to be interesting and relevant. Some questions raised during studied History GCSE include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why did Elizabeth I have her cousin murdered? - How has medicine enabled us to live so much longer than our recent ancestors? - Why was the USA so divided in the late 20th Century? - Why did political ideology increase global tensions after World War Two? 		
<p>What does the course involve?</p> <p>In History we work in a variety of ways in order to develop core knowledge and subject skills. These include independent research, oral presentations, debate and discussion, ICT, and the study of filmed events including newsreels, documentaries and feature films.</p>		

SKILLS INVOLVED	Future Careers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Writing Using ICT (Not Gaming) Short Written Tasks Speaking in front of Others 	<p>History develops many skills such as research, examining evidence and presenting an argument. Therefore, it is useful for many careers such as: Archaeology • Business • Historian • Journalist • Lawyers • Museum Curator • Police • Politician • Researcher • Teaching • Tourism</p> <p>Next Steps Study: A Level History Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme</p>



Computing and IT

What does the course offer me?	Camb. Nat.	Option
<p>This exciting and new qualification will inspire you with confidence to learn and use new Computing Skills that are crucial to the world of IT. Some of the topics you will study are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmented Reality - real world and computer generated content! • Cybersecurity; • Mobile Apps; • Internet of Everything (smart devices e.g. Amazon Alexa); • Cloud technology; How 4G/5G and WiFi work 		
<p>What does the course involve?</p> <p>What you will study: RS50 - IT in the digital world (written exam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Computer Interface (HCI) • Cybersecurity, digital communications, data, legislation • Digital devices, hardware, software, smartphones, laptops <p>RS60: Data manipulation using spreadsheets (coursework)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and creating the spreadsheet solution • Testing and reviewing the spreadsheet solution <p>RS70: Using Augmented Reality to present information (coursework)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Augmented Reality (AR) • Planning and creating an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype • Testing and reviewing your Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype 		<p>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre-assessed 60% - this is marked by your teacher in class and checked by the exam board. (RS60 and RS70) • Exam 40% - this is a written exam which is externally assessed by the exam board. (RS50) • This course is equivalent to one GCSE. It is a new, engaging and practical IT course. • You can work in the IT rooms and the IT pods throughout the 2 years to complete and improve your work/grades.

SKILLS INVOLVED	Future Careers Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Writing Using Numbers Using ICT (Not Gaming) Short Written Tasks 	<p>The knowledge and skills learned on this course are useful for many careers such as: CAD Designer • Computer Programmer • Cyber Security Analyst • Data Analyst • Day Trader • Digital Media Analyst • Engineer • Games Developer • Programmer • Software Developer •</p> <p>Next Steps Study: A Level /3 Computing; Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme</p>



The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Step 1: Compulsory subjects

English Language and English Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science or Separate Sciences

If you choose the Separate Sciences this will need to be one of your option choices in step 3.



The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Step 2: EBACC

You must choose one of the following.

- 1) Geography
- 2) History
- 3) Spanish

If you wish to do more than one, you must select in step 3.

You will also be asked for a reserve.



The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Step 3: OPEN CHOICES

You can choose **three** other subjects from the follow list.

Art & Design	Engineering
Classical Civilisation	Graphic Design
Computing & IT	Health & Social Care
Drama	Music
Business Enterprise	Photography
Economics	PE and Sport
Separate Sciences	Sociology
Geography	History
Spanish	Religious Studies
Hospitality & Catering	

You will also be asked for a reserve.



Next steps...

- Visit as many subjects as possible in the marketplace in the atrium
- Discuss with family the best choices to make. Consider current achievements, career aspirations and advice from staff and older students.
- Seek more help and guidance in school.
- The EduLink form will go live tonight at 6pm
- EduLink form with choices to be completed by 8am on Friday 7th March.



Year 9 Option choices form

Year 9 Options form

Please use this form to make your Options choices.

This should be an informed decision with your parent(s)/carer(s) after attending Gateacre Futures evening on Monday 3rd March 2025, reading the options booklet and asking any questions.

You have also been given the opportunity to have taster sessions and speak to all your teachers about your suitability for subjects. If you have any questions, please look in the options booklet in the first instance, then speak to your parents and teachers.

Please double check what you have chosen before you submit these final choices.

Choice 1 - EBacc: *

Select

Choice 1 - RESERVE: *

Select

CHOICE 2: *

Select

CHOICE 3: *

Select

CHOICE 4: *

Select

RESERVE: *

Select

Please double check what you have chosen before you submit these final choices. Do not select the same subject more than once.

Note - You CANNOT choose both Art and Graphic Design.



Thank you

Option choices deadline:
8am on Friday 7th March.

GATEACRE SCHOOL