



GCSE Options 2023





The Leigh Academy 3 Rs
Respect • Resilience • Responsibility



We are The Leigh Academy...

...Opening Minds to Success



Healthy Minds in Schools



Open minded Risk-taker Knowledgeable Balanced Caring Reflective Principled Thinkers Communicators Inquirers



The Leigh Academy Vision



The Leigh Academy inspires the next generation to be resilient and respectful learners who are successful and strive for academic **excellence** by:

- **Challenging** all to become compassionate and active members of our global community
- Building effective **partnerships** through intercultural and social interactions
- Ensuring **consistent** approaches to develop lifelong learners

ECPC- 'Opening Minds to Success'

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THE LEIGH ACADEMY'S LEARNING JOURNEY

"Opening Minds to Success"



The Leigh Academy Learning Journey: From Year 7 to Year 13



This evening....

1. The Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) curriculum
2. The EBacc and LeighBacc pathway
3. Options subjects - the 'marketplace' and GCSE options booklet
4. Qualifications and grades
5. Tips on making the right choices
6. Timeline





The Key Stage 4 curriculum:

Year 10 and 11 has many aims and objectives:

1. To continue to build on the IB MYP skills and attributes developed in Year 7, 8 and 9
2. To provide excellent careers advice and opportunities to help you with decisions beyond your GCSEs (including P16 at The Leigh)
3. To support you through your tutor and college leadership, ensuring you are on track to meet your goals
4. To provide a wide range of opportunities beyond lessons e.g. trips, revision classes, clubs, external visitors, work experience etc
5. To help you achieve the best GCSE grades possible across 9 subjects
6. To help as many students as possible be successful across the range of subjects which make up the EBacc and LeighBacc pathways.





What does the Year 10 curriculum look like?

What is the breakdown of 24 lessons each week?

12 lessons are set aside for English, maths and science (4 lessons each).

English, maths and science give each student **5 GCSEs**:

1. **Maths**
2. **English Literature**
3. **English Language**
4. **Combined Science**
5. **Combined Science**

2 lessons are set aside for PE (core - no exam) and Healthy Minds / RE (no exam)

Leaving 10 lessons for 4 GCSE options.....



What does the Year 10 curriculum look like?

Lesson allocation for GCSE options will be as follows:

MFL (French or Spanish): 3 lessons per week

History or Geography: 3 lessons per week

All other option subjects: 2 lessons per week (each student has 2 subjects in this category)

The organisation of these option choices differs slightly depending on the pathway the student is on - either the EBacc or LeighBacc....





What is the EBacc pathway?



The EBacc Pathway

The English Baccalaureate groups together a range of qualifications identified by the Government as a measure of a student's performance. In addition to the Core Curriculum of English, Maths and Science students following this pathway study a Foreign Language **and** either Geography or History.

Benefits of the EBacc Pathway

While students may not have decided on their future career path yet, following the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave The Leigh Academy and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

We have identified students who must take the EBacc pathway in order for us to meet Government expectations, and because we value the study of languages in line with our status as an IB World School. However, the opportunity for a LeighBacc student to take the EBacc pathway is also possible - just choose a language from the open subject choice as one of your options.



What is the LeighBacc pathway?



The LeighBacc Pathway

'LeighBacc' is short for Leigh Baccalaureate and enables students to study a combination of traditional GCSE subjects alongside vocational subjects. It is unique to The Leigh Academy and is tailored for those students who would enjoy some of the EBacc subjects (history, geography, French and Spanish) but do not wish to study them all. A LeighBacc student must choose either history or geography and then any other 2 options.

When EBacc students are timetabled on to their language lessons, LeighBacc students will have the following:

- 1 x extra English lesson to further develop their reading and writing skills
- 2 x Digital Information Technology (DIT) lessons to gain a computing qualification ensuring they are developing the skills employers are looking for and helping prepare them for the next stage of their education beyond GCSEs



Choosing the 4 GCSE option subjects

The first thing to understand in this process is that this is not an open choice of any 4 subjects. There are limits around the subjects you can choose for the following reasons:

1. The ambition for our all of our students to leave with a minimum of 6 GCSEs across the academic core of subjects:
English Language
English Literature
Maths
Combined Science (2)
History / Geography
2. In line with government and LAT expectations, at least 75% of students study a language and history or geography at GCSE level
3. Timetabling. We do try and be as flexible as possible, but there are limits to how many students can do each subject. Subjects also need a viable number of students.





Choosing your 4 GCSE option subjects



Choice 1: History or Geography

Compulsory choice for all - think carefully about your decision and talk to the history and geography teachers here this evening about the GCSE courses.

Choice 2:

For EBacc students this is either French or Spanish

For LeighBacc students, this is the compulsory DIT option, with an extra lesson of English taken as well.



What does the Year 10 and 11 curriculum look like?

Choice 3 and 4: Open choice of all other subjects

There is no restriction on the subject choice here, ***apart from separate science***. If you wish to follow the separate science route, you must be on an IB MYP grade of 5 or higher on your Module 3 report. Following this presentation you will visit the **subject marketplace** to help you decide. The GCSE options booklet you received on arrival also has details on every subject, including careers they can lead into.

Choice 5: Reserve choice from all other subjects

Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that students will get their 3rd and 4th subject choices (although we can usually get 90% of first choices). That means you need to choose a reserve subject, and that is the one your child will get if it's impossible for us to give them their first choice.

Choices are submitted on a Google Form which will be emailed to parents tomorrow.

The deadline for form submission is Friday 10th March.

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Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-right: 20px;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 2px solid teal; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>4 = C and above = and above</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 20px;"> </div> </div>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above. ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above. ■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G. 										
A*		A	B		C	D	E	F	G	U
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										



GCSE grade

BTEC grade

9	
8.5	Level 2 Distinction *
8	
7.5	
7	Level 2 Distinction
6.5	
6	
5.5	Level 2 Merit
5	
4.5	
4	Level 2 Pass
3.5	
3	Level 1 Distinction
2.5	
2	Level 1 Merit
1.5	Level 1 Pass
1	





GCSE options tips - some 'Do's' and 'Don't'



Do:

1. Visit as many subjects as possible
2. Be aspirational
3. Ask questions - staff, students, SLT
4. Commit to working hard and get into a GCSE mindset

Don't:

1. Be influenced by your friend's choices!
2. Base choices on your current teachers
3. Go for an 'easy option'
4. Rush the decision - take your time and explore different options.



Next steps...

1. Go on visit as many subjects as possible in the marketplace in the restaurant and winter garden.
2. Discuss as a family the best subject choices to make. Consider current achievement, career aspirations and advice from staff and older students.
3. Tutor time discussions from tomorrow until next Thursday will help finalise your decisions
4. Google Form with choices to be completed and returned by Friday 10th March. The Google Form will be shared with you tomorrow on your parent email.