A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features several thick, curved arrows pointing upwards and to the right. The arrows are in various colors: purple, blue, yellow, and green. Each arrow has a dark circular dot at its base and a rounded, arrowhead-like end.

Year 9 Options Information Session for Parents and Carers

WELCOME!



St. Wilfrid's
R.C. College

Overview

- Importance of the options process
- Our core subjects & types of qualification
- The options routes
- Choosing options – dos and don'ts
- Moving forward
- Questions



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Importance of options



This may be the first time in a student's school career where they ***have taken the lead role*** in deciding which subjects to study.

It's an exciting time, but also one that must be given great consideration – the ***decisions they make now will impact the opportunities available*** to them over the next few years and beyond.



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Our priorities for students in Key Stage 4 at St. Wilfrid's

- To ensure that students are equipped with the *qualifications* to move on and be successful – open doors to higher education and/or employment
- To ensure that students build a range of *transferrable skills* by studying a variety of subjects
- To study a range of subjects that engage and motivate



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Key Stage 4 at St. Wilfrid's



**Core
Subjects**

**Options:
GCSE**

**Options:
Vocational**



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Core Subjects

- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE English Language & Literature
- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE Combined/Triple Science
- A GCSE Humanity (Geography/History)
- Core PE (not examined)



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GCSE Courses



- Graded 9-1
- Assessment is usually terminal in the form of examination papers
- There is a coursework component in a minority of subjects, which is usually completed under controlled conditions
- Require large bulks of knowledge to be recalled and understood



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Vocational Courses

- Graded using a vocational system (Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass), one vocational grade is equivalent to a GCSE
- Assessment is usually a combination of portfolio work and examination papers
- Often work-related, and are valued by further education institutions and colleges



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Curriculum Routes



Students will be allocated a pathway based on their prior performance, teacher feedback and attitude towards subjects – students will find out their pathway on Monday 4th March.



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Route one: EBacc



Route one: EBacc

The desire of the government is to ensure both balance and academic rigour. The aim is to produce well rounded students, with skills in a broad range of curriculum areas.



Why Ebacc?



HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- History or Geography
- A language
Ancient or modern

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The Ebacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school 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.



The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies, August 2017

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. (The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017



Further information
Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

You should also get in touch with your child's school directly – they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.

[DfE EBacc Leaflet.pdf](#)
publishing.service.gov.uk



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Route one: EBacc

Core

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- RE
- Science
- Core PE

*Successful completion of an aptitude test required.

Options

- History
- Geography

Block A

- Spanish

Block B

- 2nd humanity
- GCSE Computer Science*
- GCSE Art & Design – Fine Art
- GCSE Art & Design - Photography
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Business Studies
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- BTEC Sport
- OCR Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture
- OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia
- BTEC Tech Travel & Tourism

Block C

Route two: Humanities



Route two: Humanities



This route combines core subjects, GCSE option subjects and vocational subjects:

- English Language & English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science
- A humanities subject (History or Geography)
- Two other option subjects



Route two: Humanities

Core

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- RE
- Science
- Core PE

*Successful completion of an aptitude test required.

Options



- History
- Geography

Block A

- GCSE Business Studies
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- OCR Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture
- BTEC Sport
- OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Block B

- GCSE Art & Design – Fine Art
- GCSE Art & Design - Photography
- GCSE Computer Science*
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Spanish
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- BTEC Sport
- OCR Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture
- BTEC Tech Travel & Tourism

Block C



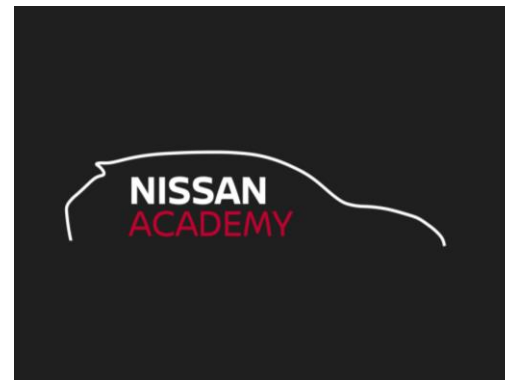
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The Building Careers Programme



The Nissan Skills Academy



The key aspects

- Preparing students for work by ensuring they learn in an environment which mirrors work rather than study.
- Innovative delivery of teaching, learning and assessment.
- Development of the skills that students need to gain employment.
- Meaningful careers advice and high quality work experience.



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The Building Careers Programme



Sunderland council has developed proposals with Sunderland College and the Ministry of Building Innovation and Education to create a £20 million state of the art industry-leading education and skills academy – Housing Innovation & Construction Skills Academy (HICSA).



mawsonkerr



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The HICSA will promote the use of modern methods of construction in the delivery of high-quality new homes.

Internal visualisation



The vision

- Opportunity for our students to gain essential Construction and Digital skills, putting them on the front foot with the region employers, and help close the skills gaps in the construction sector.
- Equipping the region's young talent with the academic and practical skills needed to progress into relevant careers in the Construction employment sector
- Next generation of Construction Managers, Surveyors and Architects.

The Qualifications

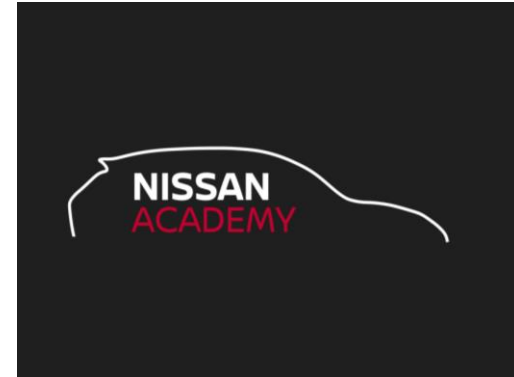
- Year 10 - BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Construction and the Built Environment
 - (1x GCSE equivalent)
- Year 11 – City & Guilds level 2 Technical Award in Constructing and Maintaining the Built Environment
 - (1x GCSE equivalent)
- Pupils build up a BCP Digital Passport identifying all the digital aspects and skills that the pupils have used over the two years including:
 - Time spent in the 360° Immersive Hub
 - A demo and sessions on how drones are used in construction
 - Sessions on elementary Building Information Modelling (BIM)
 - Use of 3D printing and robotics in construction.
- The increased element of Digital Construction leads seamlessly to progression into further and higher education, apprenticeships and employment.



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The Nissan Skills Academy



The Qualifications

- Year 10 and Year 11 – Blended approach
 - Cambridge National Level 2 in Engineering Manufacture
(1x GCSE equivalent)
 - Cambridge National Level 2 in Engineering Design
(1x GCSE equivalent)

The standout feature

- Developing attributes they expect of future employees.
- Build these elements into the curriculum
- Develop the students along skill lines exactly the way Nissan want.

The Nissan Way!

The involvement of Nissan

- Fully committed to the Skills Academy
- High quality work experience at Nissan
- Support in delivering 40 hours per year
- Assist in the course designs.
- Sponsored uniform and PPE
- The carrot...

The logistics of both programmes

Cohort

- Each group to be made up of 12-15 pupils exclusively from St. Wilfrid's in Year 10.
- 3 days at St. Wilfrid's RC College
 - Monday, Wednesday and Thursday – 08:40 to 15:10
 - GCSEs in...English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, Geography.
- 2 days at Sunderland College
 - Tuesday and Friday – 08:45 to 15:10.

The time at Sunderland College

Within the two days at Sunderland College:

- Tutorial session
- Sports Leaders Award
- Employability skills sessions including:
 - Project work
 - Interview preparation
 - CV writing
 - Careers advice
 - Visits / External speakers
 - Work Experience preparation.
- A designated area for the 14-16 learners to go during social times.
- School pastoral systems still apply at the college (Behaviour/attendance).
- Travel – Travel costs paid by school as long as pupils have POP card.
- Uniform - STW uniform in school
 - Building Careers Programme / Nissan Skills Academy workwear at Sunderland College



Choosing options - *do choose* courses if...

- They fit your child's interests
- They think they will enjoy them
- They go well with their other courses
- They link to a career aspiration that they have
- Will support them to continue studying post-16
- Will help them to meet entry requirements for courses post-16



Choosing your options - *do not choose* courses if...

- It's just because their friends are choosing the same ones
- They think it will be easier than another course
- They like the teacher that they have now



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Options: communication

- Option booklets, containing all course information, will be distributed to students on Monday 4th March and can be found online.
- Option routes will be communicated via Group Call on Monday 4th March to parents/carers.
- This text will include a link to the options choices form, to be submitted via Microsoft Form.



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Options: next steps



- Read the options booklet for your child's allocated pathway.
- Have discussions about the subjects that your child might like to choose, using the information provided in the options booklet to help.
- Research the different courses online.
- Think about what might be needed for post-16 study.



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Options: key dates

- Option booklets – distributed to students on Monday 4th March.
- Option forms – link will be sent via text on Monday 4th March.
- Year 9 parents evening – Wednesday 6th March.
- Option forms must be submitted via Microsoft form by Friday 22nd March.
- Confirmation of options will follow via letter. Letters will be sent during the summer term.



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