



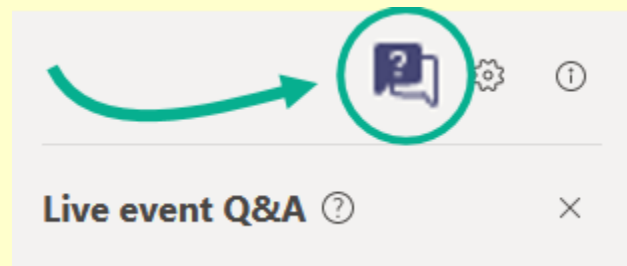
Year 9 Options Evening

2025 - 2027

Questions



- If you have any generic questions that might be relevant to all parents please post them by clicking on link at top right of your screen



Aims



Objectives:

- Reminder about National Context
- How can parents help their child
- Collect information on the subjects available
- Gain advice on how to select the right choices for you
- Understand the timeline and how to submit options
- Understand where to seek further advice from

National Context



Key Stage 4:

- Introduction of 'linear', harder GCSE courses
- Additional content in most subjects (+30%)
- Assessed predominantly through exams – less coursework
- New grading structure: A*-G replaced by 9 (top) to 1 (lowest) ; top grade 9 will be harder to achieve than A*!
- Greater emphasis on memorising facts/formulas/key terms
- Literacy assessed across many subjects not just English (QWC)

New GCSE Grading



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
<p style="text-align: center;">4 = C and above and above</p> <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

The new "good pass" grade will be a 5!
The "standard pass" will be a 4

National Context



Key Stage 4:

- Students have to continue in education or training up to age 18, and to continue to study English and/or Maths if they do not attain a grade 4 or above in Year 11.

National Context



Key Stage 5:

- Introduction of linear A Levels
- Notion of “resitting” gone
- Assessment predominantly through exams
- Still using the A*-E grades
- Vocational education changing

Summary

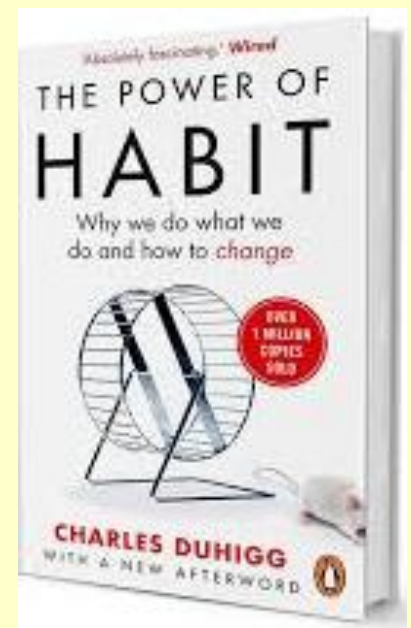


Key Stage 4:

- A time of consolidating on changes
- Rightly or wrongly, the net effect of government policy is to drive schools towards a more traditional, academic curriculum. Government aspiration that 90% of students study the E-Bacc.

What can Parents do to help?

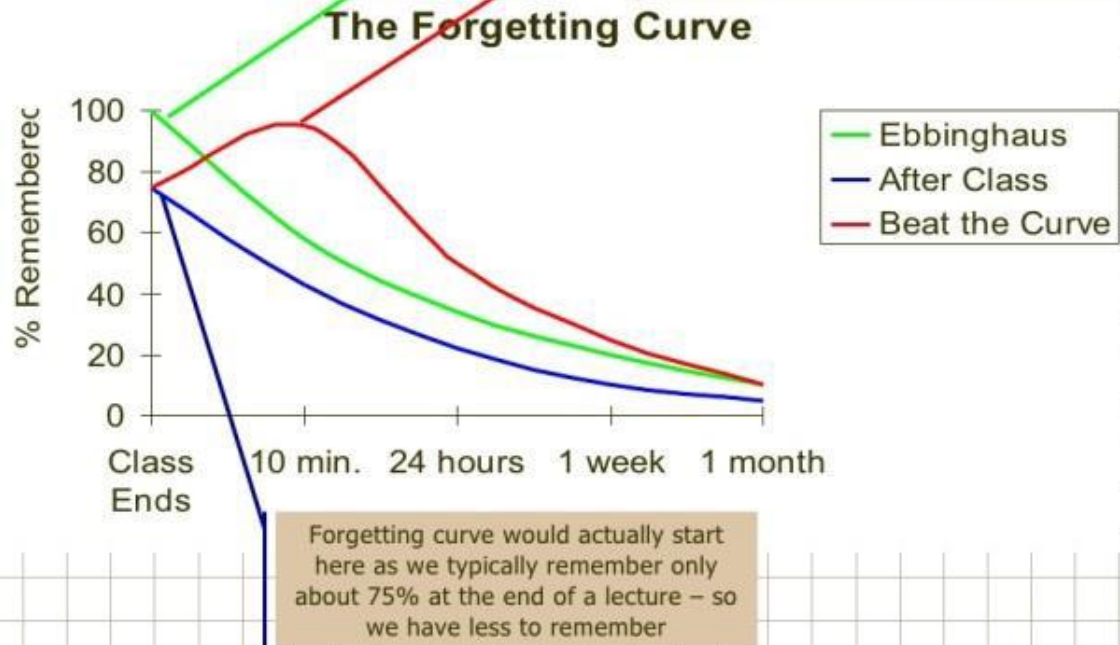
- Create the right environment for study
- Take an interest and get your child to **proofread** their work before handing it in
- Test them on key words regularly – just ask the question even if you don't know the answer!
- Get them into good learning habits



The Act of Retrieval/Recall



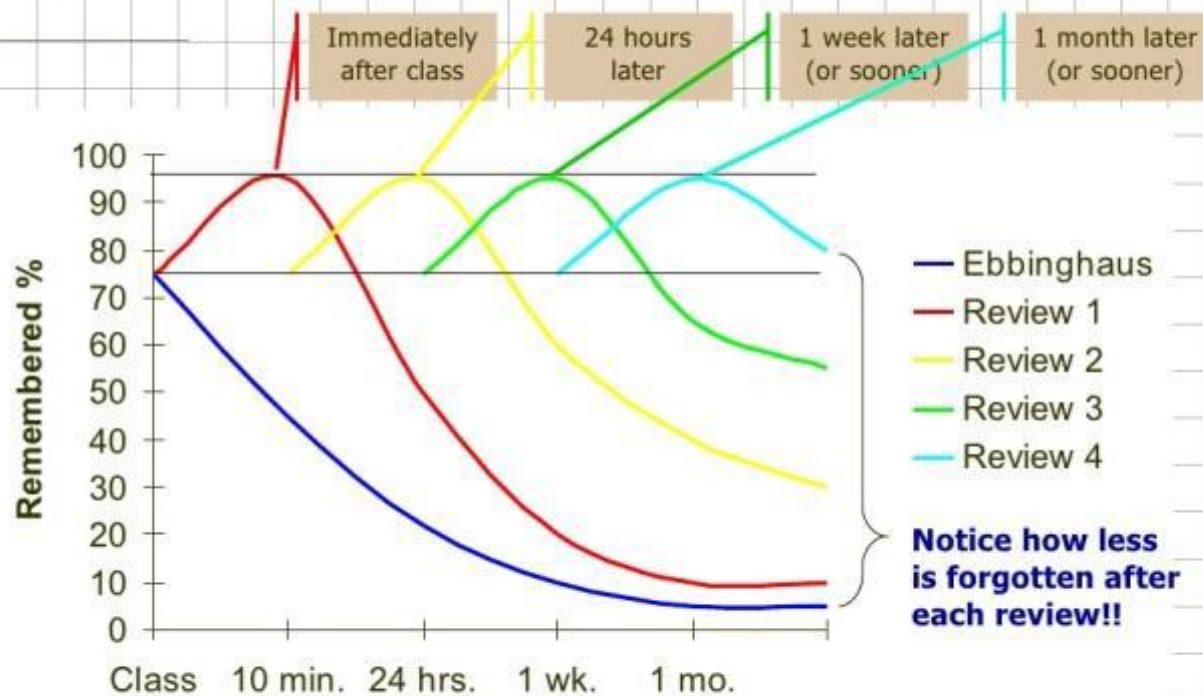
How do we forget?



The Act of Retrieval/Recall



Overcoming the Curve





What Choices are Available?

Compulsory Subjects



- English; Language and Literature
 - Maths
 - Science (Double)
 - PE / Games*
 - PSHE*
 - Citizenship*
- * Non examined

Compulsory Options



- One Humanities Subject
 - History, Geography, Religious Studies
- One modern foreign language;
 - French or German

Even though these subjects are compulsory, please take the time to read the details in the options booklet, as specifications and courses have changed over the last few years.

Select 2 from this list

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Separate Sciences



Science Explained



Double
Science

Biology

Biology1

Biology2

Chemistry

Chemistry1

Chemistry2

Physics

Physics1

Physics2

Separate
Science

Biology

Biology1

Biology2

Chemistry

Chemistry1

Chemistry2

Physics

Physics1

Physics2

Separate Science



- Eligibility for this choice will be based on scientific ability.
- If you decide to opt for separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) this would count as one of your choices.
- This would therefore leave you with only one other option

Additional GCSE subjects



- Latin
- It will not count as one of your choices, however, it will take place as an Extra-curricular activity (staff dependent)

Post-16 education



- The school's Sixth Form is very competitive
- This year nearly 900 applicants for 200 places
- Entry requirements: (currently)
 - At least 44 points from best 8 subjects to study A levels
 - At least 36 points from best 8 subjects to study a BTEC course*
- All courses require students to have achieved at least a 5 in Maths and English
- **Certain subjects open doors to lots of others**

What universities want



- Law – History, English Lit, Languages
- Medicine – Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics
- Physio – Biology or PE
Minimum of 7 GCSEs at 5+, must include English, Maths and Science
- Engineering – Maths + Physics (GCSE 7+)



Advice and the Process

Advice



- Play to your strengths.
- Select subjects that you enjoy.
- Combine choices that will enable you to achieve your best results.
- Keep an eye on your Post-16 goals.

Choose wisely



- Don't "pigeon hole" yourself into one area
- Do what you enjoy and are good at – there are no "easy" options
- Be realistic
- Remember that what you do now does matter in the future but doesn't always prevent studying subjects further – see options booklet p.30

Do nots!



- Do not choose a subject because all your friends have chosen it.
- Do not select an option because you feel you get on well with a particular teacher.
- Do not make an unrealistic selection.

Do!



- Speak to your teachers.
- Talk to your tutor.
- Ask students in Year 10.
- Find out as much information about each course as you can.
- Use the internet;
 - www.tbshs.org
 - <https://www.ychertfordshire.org/careers/>
 - <https://icould.com/explore#subject>

Timeline



- Options Evening – 12th February
- Yr9 Exams 24th – 28th Feb
- Parents Evening – Thursday 14th March
- Deadline for Options – **Tuesday 18th March**
- April/May/June/July – Timetable Construction
- July - Option Choices Confirmed

You will be sent



- A link to the recording of live presentation
- The options booklet
- A copy of the presentation slides used tonight
- The online options submission form

How to submit your choices

Practice Form

Practice Form – Use this form to jot down your current thoughts before filling out the final form online.

Compulsory Subjects

Remember that everybody takes GCSEs in:

English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, at least double Science, an Humanities subject and one Modern Foreign Language. In the boxes below, please indicate your favoured option:

My choice of compulsory Modern Foreign Language is:

French German

My choice of compulsory Humanity is:

Geography History Religious Education

Option Choices – Please select four subjects from the table below and place them in order of preference with 1 – favourite and 4 least favourite. As part of your choices you may choose an additional language or humanity if you wish. Where possible you will get your first two choices.

Options Subjects			
Art		Geography (as second Humanity)	
Business Studies		German (as second Language)	
Computer Science		History (as second Humanity)	
Design Technology		Music	
Drama		Physical Education	
French (as second Language)		Religious Studies (as second Humanity)	
		Separate Sciences	



Submit Online via link

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Browser tabs: Staff Document Centre - 2023-21, Year 9 Options Form 2023
- Page title: Year 9 Options Form 2023
- Form steps:
 1. Please write your full name (STUDENT NAME) *
Enter your answer
 2. Please select your Form Group from the list below: *
Select your answer
 3. Please enter your email address *
Enter your answer
 4. My choice of compulsory Modern Foreign Language is: *
 French
 German

Questions

