**GCSE Options Process: Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Are there ‘blocks’ this year?**

No, students will indicate their choices in order of preference (1-14) and we will build the blocks to accommodate their preferred choices.

1. **Do I have to study triple science in order to then take Science at A-Level?**

No, this is not necessary. All Science A-levels are designed to be accessible to students from either the Combined Science or Triple Science pathways.

1. **Can my child enter the Ebacc?**

Yes! If your child chooses a Language (French or Spanish) and a Humanities (Geography or History) then they will access the EBacc/ Honiton Baccalaureate pathway.

1. **What are the advantages of following the EBACC/ Honiton Baccalaureate pathway?**

The EBacc pathway helps to keep options for young people open. Chosing the EBacc at GCSE gives your child access to a full range of employment options when they leave us and the broad range of 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.

1. **Does my child have to study Geography or History?**

We strongly recommend studying the Humanities subjects because the topics covered are global, affecting us all every day, and they cover foundational skills and knowledge for studying in Further Education and Higher Education.

1. **Does my child have to study a language?**

We are strongly recommending a language for all of our students, especially students who are considering a higher education pathway (DfE guidance on the importance of languages [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761031/DfE_EBacc_Leaflet.pdf)).

1. **Can my child complete Spanish successfully in 2 years?**

Yes. Students will be building on skills already developed through learning French with us in years 7-9. As with any subject, they will need to be passionate and prepared to work hard to be successful. (Photography is also a ‘new subject’ at GCSE but builds on the skills and knowledge from Art in years 7-9)

1. **What experience will the students have of Spanish before they start?**

All of year 9 are now having Spanish lessons so that they have experienced the similarities and differences between learning the languages and can make an informed choice.

1. **Can students choose to study both Geography and History/ French and Spanish?**

The key thing to remember is that we would always recommend that students try to keep a broad and balanced curriculum. Students just need to indicate their subjects in preference order and that can be including, for example, Geography and History high on the list.

1. **When can we find out about English and Mathematics?**

There is information in the Options Guide that has been handed out to all students about GCSE English Literature, GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics. If you have any specific enquiries, please get in touch via [GCSEOptions@honitoncollege](mailto:GCSEOPtions@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk)