



# Option Booklet 2017+



**Barnhill**  
COMMUNITY HIGH  
THE BARNHILL PARTNERSHIP TRUST



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## Personalised Key Stage 4 Education

We believe you achieve better if your education is personalised to you. Like many other schools, we have a **three-year Key Stage 4** that offers you the opportunity to **study your chosen option subjects in depth from Year 9.**

## Study four options quali- fications over three years!

In addition to your **Core subjects**, you will study **FOUR option subjects**. You will be able to choose from a very broad range of subjects that meet your needs and that interest you.

This is an exciting time of year for students about to enter Key Stage 4 at Barnhill. We know you are eager and ready to make choices about what you would like to study, and **with the right information, advice and guidance, you will choose subjects that fit with your goals and needs.**

**Information,  
advice and  
guidance  
to help you  
choose wisely!**

Many of you will study the **English Baccalaureate** which means that some of your options are more guided, but that will not mean you won't be able to study a broad range of option subjects. Having a spread of different subjects across KS4 will help keep your options open for the Sixth Form. The choice is yours but you must think carefully about what you go for.

You are about to make some very important decisions about your next three years of school. We hope you and your parents/carers attended the Options Information Evening, but the information in this booklet gives you most, if not all of the information you need to make your option choices during your Key Stage 4 Options meeting. You will have a personal mentor to help you make the right choices.

## **Preparing to make your option choices:**

Use the time between now and your Options Interview meeting to think about what you want to study and talk to your teachers about those subjects. If the subject is one you have not studied before, then please speak to the Head of the Department or a teacher within that curriculum area.

There are some suggested Dos and Don'ts on page 9 to help you make your choices.

## **How do you make your option choices?**

Students should choose option subjects that interest them as they will be studying these subjects for three years. We expect students to study a broad range of subjects, and students should also consider the balance of academic and more practical subjects.

You must choose **FOUR option subjects** plus **two RESERVE subjects**. Many students will be selecting a modern foreign language and a humanities subject as two of their four options in order to acquire the **English Baccalaureate** (see information on page 7).

**There are no guarantees about which option subjects you study over the next three years.** We will need to decide which you will do, based on what everyone has chosen and what fits. This means you will study any four of the six subjects you choose.

## **Choosing a broad range of subjects:**

We have grouped subjects in such a way to support the principle of studying a broad range of subjects, which we expect of all students.

## Options Interview Meeting:

Each student, will have a personal options mentor. You will be notified of this by letter. In the meeting, your mentor will talk through what you want to do and why. We will make a note of what you want to do.

When everyone has had their interview and all the choices are in, we will look at what students want to do. We will then need to decide which subjects can run in each year and which subjects you personally will study.

New courses will begin in Year 9.

## Options Timeline

<b>Options Student Assembly</b>	<b>Monday 27 March</b>
<b>Options Parents' Presentation Evening</b>	<b>Tuesday 28 March</b>
<b>Each student meets with his / her options mentor</b>	<b>Tuesday 18 April - Monday 27 April</b>
<b>Final deadline for option submission</b>	<b>Tuesday 2nd May</b>

## Core Subjects

There are core subjects that all students must study at Barnhill.

GCSE English Language  
GCSE English Literature  
GCSE Mathematics  
GCSE Sciences (Combined or triple)  
Core Religious Education  
Core Physical Education  
PSHE

## English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate recognises that students have successfully studied a specific collection of subjects: English, maths, sciences, modern foreign languages and humanities. **'Successfully studied'** means that students have achieved grades 5-9 in those subjects.

**At Barnhill, many students will take the option subjects required for the EBacc. However, you do not need to complete the EBacc to go to university or to get into Sixth Form, although it may help.**

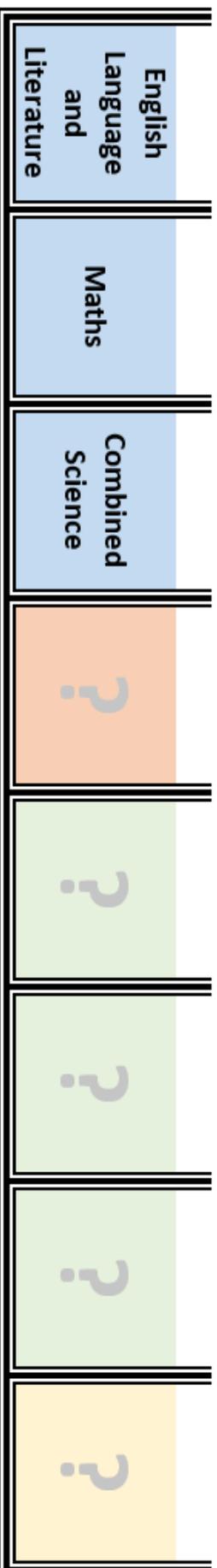
You also need to be aware that you can study a modern foreign language or history or geography without trying to do the EBacc.

English Baccalaureate – Obtain 5 - 9 in the following:	
English Language and Mathematics	<i>Two Sciences:</i> <b>Either</b> Combined Science <b>OR</b> two of: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science
<i>One Modern Foreign Language:</i> French	<i>One Humanities subject:</i> Geography <b>OR</b> History

## Year 8 Key Stage 4 Options - April 2017

*Making the best choices, playing to my strengths.*

These subjects are compulsory – every student takes these.	EBacc subject. You must take at least one.	These are your other options subjects. You can also take Ebacc subjects here.	Core PE OR Dance.
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Notes	EBacc Subjects	Other Subjects		Core PE
<p>Some subjects have entry requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple Science</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• Economics</li> <li>• Design Technology</li> <li>• Food Technology</li> <li>• Physical Education</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Psychology</li> </ul> <p><sup>G</sup> GCSE course  <sup>T</sup> Technical courses                      *Either GCSE or Technical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ French <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Geography <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ History <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Triple Sciences (one choice that includes):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Biology <sup>G</sup> and Chemistry <sup>G</sup></li> <li>○ Physics <sup>G</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Creative Design:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Art <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Photography <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Hospitality and Catering <sup>T</sup></li> <li>➤ Design Technology* <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Food Technology <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Fashion and Textiles<sup>T</sup></li> <li>➤ Business and Computing <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Business Studies <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Economics <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Financial Education <sup>T</sup></li> <li>➤ Computing and ICT <sup>T</sup></li> <li>➤ Physical Education <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Physical Education <sup>G</sup> Sport<sup>T</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Life skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Child Development<sup>T</sup></li> <li>➤ Health and Social Care<sup>T</sup></li> <li>➤ Religious Studies <sup>G</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Performing Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dance*</li> <li>➤ Drama*</li> <li>➤ Music*</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Sciences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Psychology <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Sociology <sup>G</sup></li> <li>➤ Media Studies<sup>T</sup></li> </ul>	<p>All students complete Core PE or Core Dance.</p>



## DO

- Think about what interests you and what you are good at.
- Think about what career or job you might want.
- Think about what you might want to do in Sixth Form and at University as this might influence your choices at KS4.
- Read the course descriptions carefully and ask your teachers if the course is suitable for you and your plans.



## DON'T

- Pick subjects just because you like the teacher – he or she might not be teaching that subject next year.
- Choose a subject because your friends are choosing it - they might not be in the same group as you and what they choose is not necessarily right for you.
- Make choices without fully understanding what the course is about or how you will be assessed.



## THINGS TO NOTE:

- You must think about having a spread of different subjects across KS4.
- You **must** take at least one of: French, Geography or History.
- You may want to study certain subjects in KS4 if you are considering them for Sixth Form study.
- Some options require you to be doing well in English and Mathematics, or the subject directly related to it (eg. Science courses).
- When you have chosen your subjects, we will look at how well you have done this year and what sort of learner you are. Then we will put you on a course in that subject that we think best suits you.



University, a degree and a career may seem a long way off when you make your GCSE option choices, but your choices are important because they can directly impact which paths are open to you later down the line, whether this be applying for:

- Sixth form
- An apprenticeship
- A job

To help you with these decisions, you can discuss your option choices with the School Careers Adviser, Ms M Kindley - Deeks.

Parents can book an appointment by emailing [mkindley-deeks@cfbt.com](mailto:mkindley-deeks@cfbt.com). Alternatively, students may call into the office (F27) to book an appointment.

## **CEIAG provides support in:**

### **PSHE Lessons & Assemblies**

Careers Education is fulfilled during weekly PSHE lessons from Year 8 onwards. Sessions include researching different industries, CV writing and interview preparation.

### **Visits to Local Colleges, Universities and Businesses**

Representatives from local further education colleges, training providers and universities are invited into school to speak to students. Also, we offer visits and internal workshops in collaboration with our partner universities (such as University of West London, Oxford University, Brunel University and Cambridge University) and partner businesses (such as FSL Aerospace, Royal Airforce, RBS, Barclays, Price Bailey Accountants and Fladgate law firm).

### **Practice Interviews**

All Year 10 and Year 11 students have the chance to attend a “practice interview” with an internal or external staff member.

### **Parents’ Evenings**

The Careers Adviser is present at Parents’ Evenings to meet any parents who might wish to receive help, guidance and advice for their child.



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