



MARTIN
HIGH SCHOOL
Lionheart Educational Trust

Year 9 Options Evening

For parents/carers and learners

January 2025



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Aims of this evening

This evening is designed to provide information about:

- The pathways available to learners in Year 9 at Martin High School, including information about the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)
- What GCSE, BTEC and CNAT subject options are available to study in Year 10 and Year 11
- How to find the relevant information about the subjects and making informed choices
- How to complete the online options form to ensure you meet the deadline of **Friday 14th February**



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Learner pathways

Ebacc Pathway

Maths

English Literature

English Language

Science (trilogy)

Humanities (Geography/History)

French

Option 1

Pathway 1

Maths

English Literature

English Language

Science (trilogy)

Humanities (Geography/History)

Option 1

Option 2

The study of Science as 'Separate Sciences' (3 GCSEs) will be made with support from Science teacher in Year 10



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English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

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

The Department for Education recommend these core subjects, which make up the Ebacc:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Maths
- Science
- History or Geography
- Language (at MHS at that is French)

The government's ambition was to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.

From gov.uk website



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English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

- 1. Broad Education:** EBacc covers core subjects, providing a well-rounded education.
- 2. Better Prospects:** Favoured by top universities and employers, enhancing applications and job opportunities.
- 3. Critical Skills:** Develops critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- 4. Language Advantage:** Learning a foreign language boosts communication skills and cultural awareness.
- 5. Global Awareness:** History and Geography increase understanding of the world and current issues.
- 6. More Opportunities:** Keeps future education and career options open.
- 7. Government Support:** Backed by the UK government, ensuring quality education.

English Baccalaureate



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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.

Around 40% of Year 9 learners have been placed on the English Baccalaureate pathway based on their KS2 academic profile.

Those learners will have French pre-selected as one of their options.



Available option subjects

All learners must pick from

Geography	History
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Pathway 1 learners will choose 2, and Ebacc learners 1 from:

Art	iMedia	BTEC ICT	Religious Studies
Drama	Design Technology	Food	
French	Geography	History	
Media Studies	BTEC Music	Textiles	
Sport and Fitness CNAT	Health and Social Care CNAT	Statistics	

All learners will also need to pick 2 reserves



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Curriculum depth

At KS3, we offer the broadest possible curriculum. At KS4, the curriculum is much more specialised with more teaching time in each subject leading to a greater depth of study.

At Martin High School, learners take 8 GCSEs (9 for Triple Science candidates).

Colleges, universities and employers do not require more than 8 GCSEs.

- For university entrance in the UK, most universities typically require at least **five GCSEs at grades 4-9**, including **English and Maths**.
- For local colleges, such as WQE and BCSF, generally you need at least five GCSEs at grades 4-9 (A*-C), including English Language and Maths.



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Important advice and information (Also located on FAQs email)

- Subjects can only operate subject to sufficient numbers picking them
- The system is not run on a “first-come-first-served” basis, it will depend on the combination of subjects chosen
- If a learner does not complete their online form by the deadline we cannot guarantee any of their choices
- In cases where learners are not successful getting their first choice, we will always look to give them their reserve choices where possible

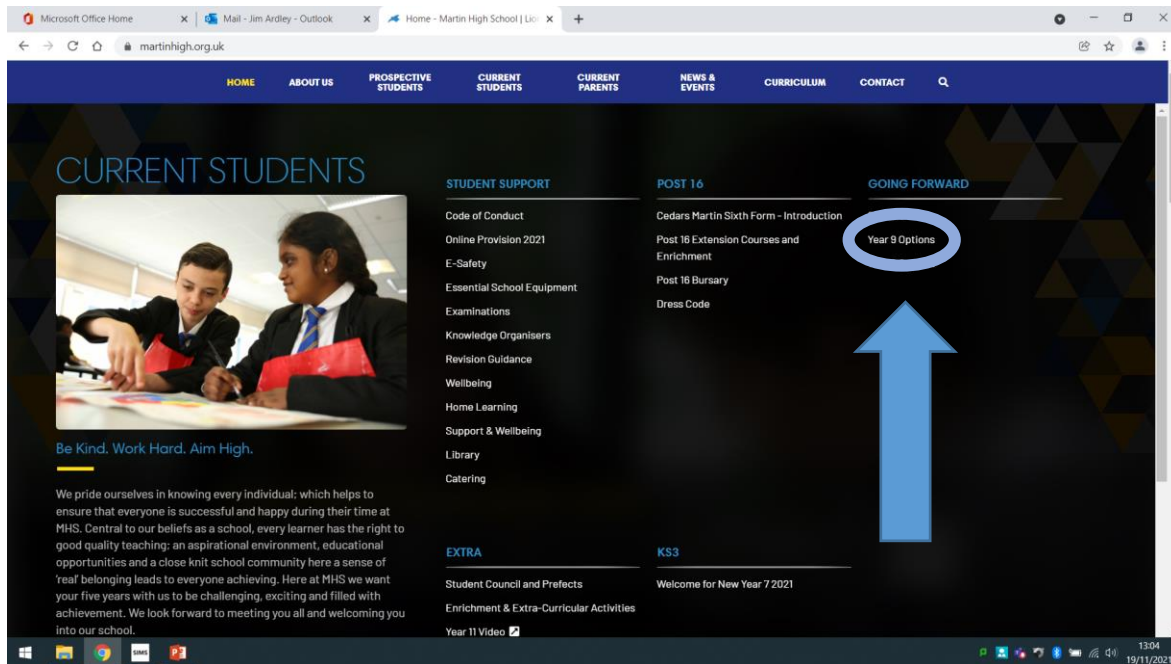


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Key subject information

All option subjects have made videos that can be found online.

Go to MHS homepage, click 'Curriculum' then under moving forward, click the 'Year 9 Options' link



Be Kind. Work Hard. Aim High.



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Tips on making your decisions

- ✓ Think carefully about which subjects you have enjoyed and been successful in so far
- ✓ Use the online videos, the options booklet and conversations with parents and teachers.
- ✓ Think about you're plans post-16 and how certain subjects may complement your A-Level, vocational choices or what apprenticeship or job you may be considering in the future

X Don't just go with what your friends think

X Don't look for an "easy option", it is a myth to think some subjects are easier



Online process

Learners will be sent an invitation email to their MHS learner account. Access using network username and password

- Email access can be found at the bottom of the MHS homepage
- Alternatively you can follow the link on the Year 9 options page on the website

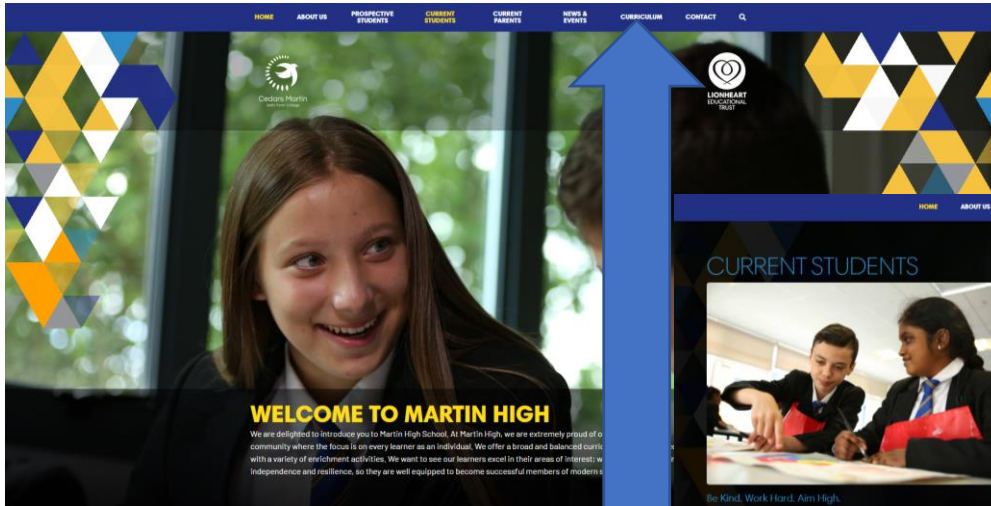
Learners will need to follow link and confirm their DOB to access their SIMS online option page

- From the options page they can then make their choices, click save once complete

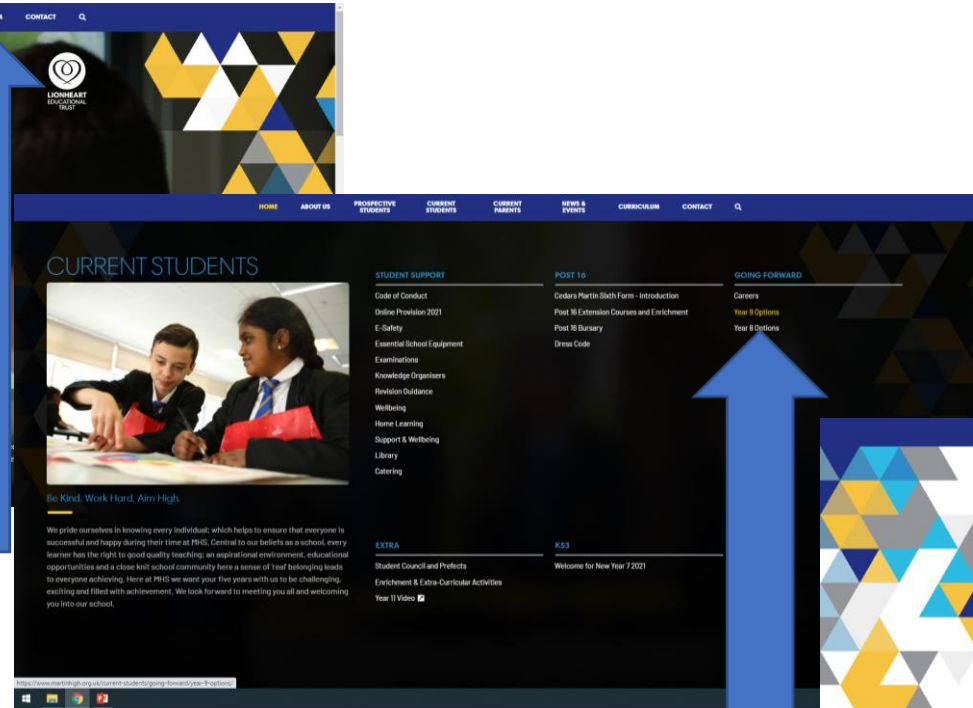


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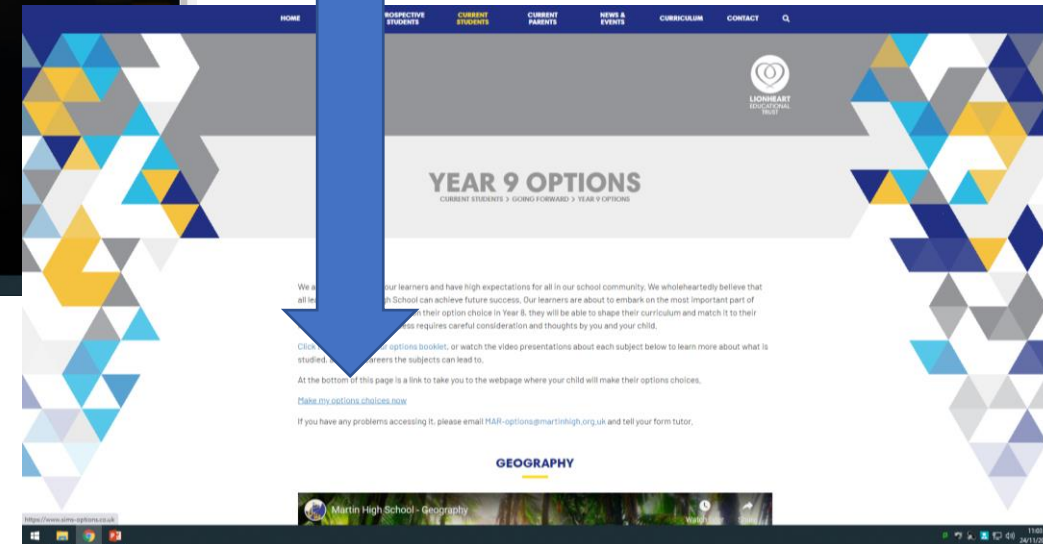
Online process – through website



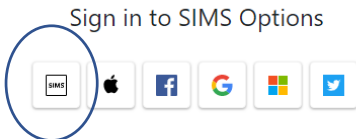
1. Click **current students** link



2. Click **Year 9 options** link



3. Click **make my options choices now**



4. Use **SIMS** to sign in with MHS email and password





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Ebacc Pathway pre-selected option

If your son/daughter has been selected on the Ebacc pathway French will be pre-selected, the info bar will read 'You have chosen 1 of 1'


MHS Language Option

This option has been pre selected for you as you are on the Ebacc pathway.

You have chosen 1 of 1  courses from this list

French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Choice

 This course is also available in MHS Open Option



Picking a Humanities subject

By clicking the appropriate subject the subject will turn blue and will read: 'You have chosen 1 of 1'

MHS Humanities Option

Year 9 MHS Humanities Option

In this option you select either Geography or History as your humanities option. If you want to do both, then the other humanities subject will be available in the Open options.

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses from this list

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>i This course is also available in MHS Open Options</small>	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>i This course is also available in MHS Open Options</small>
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Picking an open subject

By clicking the appropriate subject the subject will turn blue if selected as a choice and orange if selected as a reserve choice

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Design Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>	Reserve
Health & Social Care <small>Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2</small>	Reserve	Creative iMedia <small>Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2</small>	Reserve	It BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Music BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Re GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Sport and fitness <small>Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2</small>	Reserve	Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

To confirm your choice please the save button at the top left of the page



Save

Show Notes

Hide Notes

Please note you do not need to click the Parent/carer approval button



Completed options form

You have chosen **2 of 2** courses and **2 of 2** reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/> <small>i This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>
History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/> <small>i This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>	Health & Social Care Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Creative iMedia Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
It BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Music BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Re GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>	Sport and fitness Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="checkbox"/>		

This is a completed options form for a Pathway 1 learner.

Choices:

- BTEC ICT
- Music

Reserves:

- Drama
- Food



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Next steps

- Your son/daughter should receive their invitation email within the next 48 hours. If this doesn't arrive or you are "timed out" please email the MAR-options email address below
- As parents/carers you should receive an email with this presentation and some support sheets inc FAQs to support you through the process
- Go online to the MHS Year 9 Options page and watch the videos to give you information about the courses offered
- Ensure you have completed the form by Friday 14th February
- Any problems email MAR-options@martinhigh.org.uk or alternatively come to see Mr. Hackett in his office during a tutor time