



17 December 2020

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Dear Parent/Carer

## RE: Key Stage 4 Options Pathways

In January your child will make their first important decisions on their future subjects of study. The Year 9 Virtual Options Evening will run on Thursday 14th January, there will be a number of video presentations for each subject available on our website to view and a presentation to explain the process and next important steps for you and your child. Your child will also receive an options booklet and options form to be completed and returned to their form tutor by Monday 1st February. We would particularly like to provide you with further information about the "English Baccalaureate" or EBacc curriculum in this letter which is a suite of qualifications that provide a strong academic pathway and are promoted by the government as an ideal grounding for further academic study.

Your child would certainly benefit from selecting to follow an Ebacc curriculum. To do this your child would need to select a modern foreign language (French) and a humanities subject (Geography or History) as two of their three options choices. Some reasons to consider the EBacc route are listed below:

- A broad and challenging curriculum that supports progression to level 3 study (6th form)
- A strong CV that will support a broad range of careers in the future
- A range of skills that are highly prized by Universities and Employers
- A range of skills that will support and compliment good progress in other subjects (English, Maths and Science)

We are an inclusive school and provide access to the EBacc curriculum for all students, as well as a broad range of other challenging subjects that are not part of the EBacc measure. We do not insist on all students following the EBacc route but we do strongly recommend this route and hope you will take time to discuss the EBacc curriculum with your child and speak with subject teachers to help make an informed decision.

Further information will be provided through the Year 9 Options videos and presentation, you can also discuss options with Form Tutors, Subject Leaders, Director of Learning or myself via email [Jackie.Smith@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Jackie.Smith@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Ms Jackie Smith  
**Deputy Headteacher**