



# **Option Choices 2019**

## **Mr Flaxman**

**Deputy Head:**  
**Curriculum and Achievement**

# Key Issues to be covered

1. Changing Expectations of Universities: Language at GCSE
2. How does the new Grading work at GCSE?
3. What are “Attainment 8” and “Progress 8”?
4. What is the “EBACC” ?
5. Changes to Option choices in 2019

# Changing Expectations of Universities: Language at GCSE

- **Russell Group:** These are the best 24 universities in the UK and degrees from these are highly valued globally.
- They include many in London such as University College, the London School of Economics, Queen Mary College, Imperial College and Kings College.
- They also include the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Manchester, Warwick and Durham.
- Barking Abbey's aim is to get as many of our students into Russell Group Universities as possible, in order to enhance their future global employment opportunities.

# Changing Expectations of Universities: Language at GCSE

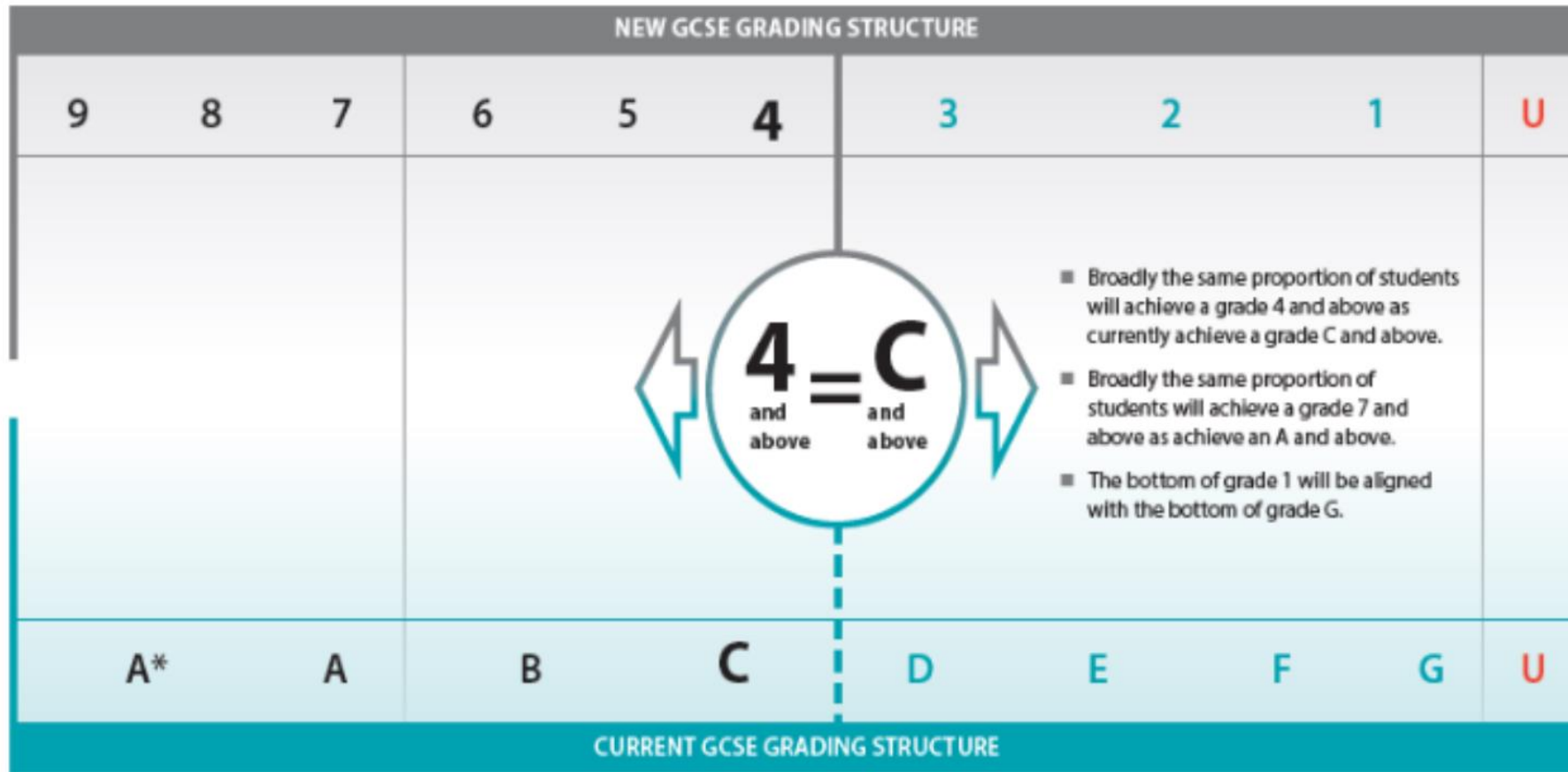
- The Russell Group expect students applying to their universities to have studied from a range of what they call 'The Facilitating Subjects' at A-Level.
- These include English and Maths, Geography, History, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Psychology, Religious Education and **Languages**. They will not need to have studied all these at A-Level but **at least some**.
- Some of our best Universities request the **study of a language at GCSE** as an entrance requirement for certain degrees.
- Many offer the opportunity to spend a year studying abroad under the ERASMUS scheme, e.g. a year in Lyon for Aeronautical Engineering.

The choices your children make now will determine their A-Level choices at the end of Year 11 and subsequently, which universities they can apply for.

# Why study French at GCSE?

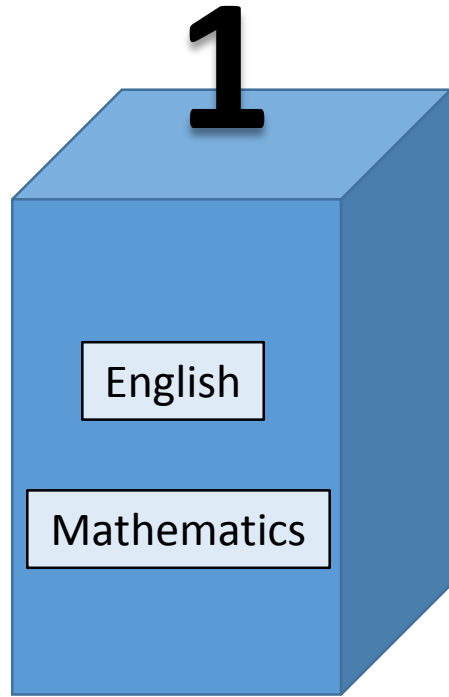
- Modern Foreign Languages is compulsory at Key Stage 2, with French being the language taught in our main primary feeder schools.
- Our commitment is to connect/ support our students' learning across all key stages as much as possible.
- It is clearly an advantage to have French GCSE in order to successfully apply for a university.
- It is the government's ambition that 75% of all pupils should begin studying the full set of EBacc subjects by 2022, in order to increase the number with a Language GCSE.

## 2. How does the new Grading work at GCSE?



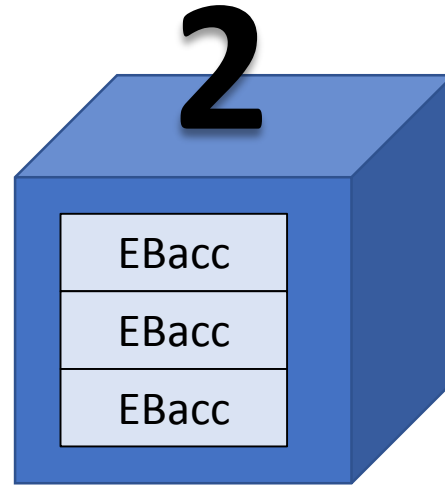
A Grade 4 is classed as a Pass; a Grade 5 a “Strong Pass”. To enter Barking Abbey Sixth Form, students must achieve a Grade 5 and 4 in English and/or Maths.

### 3. What is “Attainment 8”?



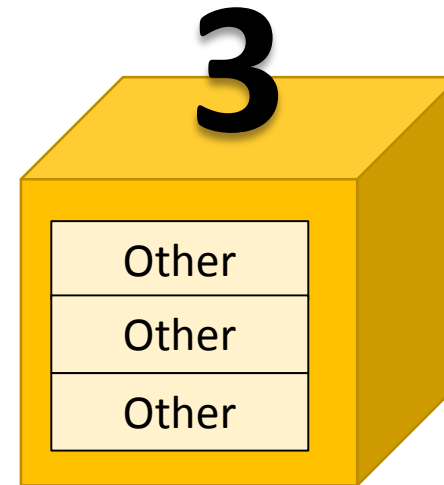
#### Bucket 1

- One slot for English and one for maths; **double-weighted**



#### Bucket 2

- Three EBacc qualifications
- (Sciences, computer sciences, geography, history or languages)



#### Bucket 3

- Three “other” slots
- Any remaining Ebacc qualifications
- Other approved academic, arts or vocational qualifications

## How is Attainment 8 calculated?

- The 8 grades from the three buckets are added together and divided by 10 to produce a student's **Attainment 8** score.
- The maths grade in bucket 1 is given double weighting, as is English if the pupil has taken both English Literature and English Language.
- No matter how full or empty the three buckets are, a student's score is **always** divided by 10 to produce an average score (10 representing the 8 subject slots, with English & Maths double weighted)
- If a student has fewer than 8 qualifications, they will score 0 points for the unfilled slots.



# What is “Progress 8”?

- The Progress 8 score is calculated by comparing each student's Attainment 8 score to those nationally of other students who had the same KS2 SATs results. This is designed to measure how much progress each student has made from Year 6 to Year 11.
- A school's Progress 8 score is usually between -1 and +1. A score of +1 means that pupils in that school achieve one grade higher in each qualification than other similar pupils nationally. A score of -1 means they achieve one grade lower.
- The average Progress 8 score of all secondary schools nationally is 0.

# Barking Abbey Progress 8 Scores

- 2014: +0.31
- 2015: +0.11
- 2016: +0.41
- 2017: +0.29
- 2018: +0.35. This means that students at Barking Abbey do, on average, a third of a grade better in each subject than students of the same ability nationally.

## 4. English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

- The EBACC is not a qualification but a group of subjects which includes the core subjects of English, Maths, Double Science as well as non-core Computer Science, Geography, History and a Language
- English, Maths and Double Science are compulsory and many top set students will study Triple Science, especially if they are aiming for a pathway into Medicine
- Students are also expected to choose either Geography or History and a Language (they can choose both Geography and History)

# 5. Changes to Option Choices

- GCSE Economics has been introduced
- BTEC Health and Social Care has been introduced
- Most students are also expected to choose either Geography or History and a Language (they can choose both Geography **and** History).

# So, to conclude

It is essential that students choose their option subjects for the right reasons:

- Not because a friend is choosing particular subjects
- Not because they like a particular teacher; Key Stage 4 experience may be very different to Key Stage 3
- Not because a brother or sister chose a subject and liked it
- Choose subjects which you and they know will be most suited to the longer term plan and the next pathway when they will be making choices again at the end of Year 11
- Please visit subjects tonight and speak to teachers for more information
- Please stay and ask questions if you are unsure of anything

- Please ensure we have a correct email address for you!
- The Option Form will be sent electronically.

Thank you!

# The Option Blocks 2019

OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D
<b>Geography</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Geography</b>
<b>French</b>	<b>*Triple Science</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>*Triple Science</b>			
Art	Art	Graphic Design	Engineering Products
Business	Business	Health and Social Care	Hospitality
Drama	Economics	BTEC Sport	Religious Studies
Dance	Music	Sociology	Sociology
Religious Studies	Religious Studies		