

## Lord Derby Academy Year 9 Options 2023-2025: Overview

**Rationale:** As a school, we very much hold true to our principles of:

- An **ambitious curriculum for all**, underpinned by the Dean Trust Curriculum Values
- A two-year KS4 (in line with the views articulated by the Chief Inspector of Ofsted Amanda Spielman)
- An aspirational curriculum – with a strong emphasis on the EBACC (In line with the DFE’s view that schools should work towards the long-term target of 95% of the cohort studying an MFL)

### **Curriculum model**

At Lord Derby Academy we aim to provide a curriculum which is appropriate to meet with the abilities and aspirations of the individual child. We expect all pupils to take a minimum of nine GCSEs or equivalent. Following an in-depth analysis of pupils’ academic data, one of two pathways will be followed:

1. **The full English Baccalaureate Pathway which includes a compulsory Modern Language.** The English Baccalaureate is a suite of academic qualifications which includes mathematics, English Language/English Literature, geography/history, science including computer science and a Modern Language.

This pathway means that as part of their **compulsory** education at KS4, pupils will study:

|   |                               |                         |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| GCSE Mathematics  | GCSE English Language         | GCSE English Literature |
| GCSE Science<br>(3 Separate or Double)                  | GCSE Geography and/or History | GCSE Spanish            |
| 2 Option Choices (or 1 if studying 3 Separate Sciences) |                               |                         |

2. **The optional Modern Language Pathway.** This means that pupils on this pathway **do not have to** study a Modern Language but can if they choose to do so. There will be a discussion with between key personnel and parents if a pupil opts to study a Modern Language to ensure this is the appropriate option for the individual pupil. This pathway means that as part of his/her compulsory education at KS4, a pupil will study:

|   |                               |                         |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| GCSE Mathematics  | GCSE English Language         | GCSE English Literature |
| GCSE Science (3 Separate or Double)                     | GCSE Geography and/or History |                         |
| 3 Option Choices (or 2 if studying 3 Separate Sciences) |                               |                         |

In addition to the bespoke pathways within the Curriculum offer, a substantial **Careers Information, Advice and guidance** programme is in place to support pupils' transition into KS4 as part of the Options process:

- Parents and pupils attend Options Evening
- Google Classroom holding central information/notices (GC Code: nibbhm)
- Options Booklet / Subject videos
- All Year 9 pupils receive an individual Careers interview with a specialist Careers Advisor
- A PDC KS3-4 Transition programme is delivered to prepare pupils effectively for the next phase of their education
- GCSE Taster week takes place where pupils are able to sample all subjects at GCSE level
- Options presentations are delivered by all subjects including a focus on Career pathways linked to the subject
- Pupils and parents are invited to attend an individual appointment with a key member of staff to discuss options and receive guidance
- Key focus groups (HA, PP & SEND) will receive additional bespoke support and guidance via key personnel

### **Key staff**

Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher: Rationale / process / model  
 Data Analyst / Assistant Headteacher KS4: Qualifications check  
 DHT (JE) / HOY / PSM / HODs : Pastoral overview / Taster week  
 DHT (JE) / SENDCO: Advice and guidance for SEND pupils  
 Data Analyst: Pathways data  
 AHT KS4: Careers Information, Advice and Guidance  
 Administration team: Database / Options forms  
 Form Tutors: Information and support

### **Timeline**

