



Atlantic Academy Portland

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ASPIRATIONS



Welcome to Atlantic Academy

YEAR 9 OPTIONS PRESENTATION 2022

Principal: Mrs Lesley Bishop

Assistant Principal: Miss Tash Board

Inspiring our students to have confidence, character and commitment.



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WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL YEAR 9 OPTIONS PRESENTATION

We pride ourselves on offering a wide curriculum allowing our students a breadth of opportunity to study the subjects of their choice.

Students are able to choose a curriculum pathway to suit their personal needs and we encourage students to make these choices in close conjunction with experienced members of staff and alongside their parents/carers. We offer a range of courses to suit a variety of abilities through offering GCSEs as well as BTECs and Level 2 Vocationals, all of which have a track record of excellent results.



The Curriculum Offer

In three parts...

1. The compulsory CORE
2. EBacc subject options
3. The Open section



The Rationale

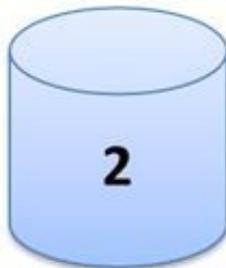
Progress 8 measure



1

English

Double-weighted*



2

Maths

Double-weighted



3

EBacc qualifications

(sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages)



4



5



6



7



8

'Open group'

Remaining EBacc qualifications and other approved qualifications

(GCSEs and other approved academic, arts or vocational qualifications)

*Higher score of English Language or English Literature double-weighted if a student has taken both qualifications



Grading System

In 2017, the new GCSE grading system was introduced, with papers graded from 9-1 rather than A*-G. The new numerical grades now apply to all subjects.

There is no exact equivalence between the old and new GCSEs. However, grades 7 and above are roughly equivalent to the old grades A-A*, and grades 4-6 are roughly equivalent to the old grades C-B.

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017 Ofqual

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
										<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	

September 2014 Ofqual/14/5517



Progress 8

Progress 8 is a measure of the progress children make between the end of primary school and the end of secondary school. It's designed to encourage good quality teaching across a broad curriculum.

Progress 8 and Attainment 8 are based on students' performance in eight qualifications. These are English and Maths, up to three subjects from the Ebacc list, and students' three highest scores from a range of other qualifications, including GCSEs and approved non-GCSEs. English and Maths are given double weighting to reflect their importance.



Atlantic Headline Figures

	Progress 8 score	Attainment 8 score	% of students achieving Grades 9-4 in English and maths GCSEs	% of students achieving Grades 9-5 in English and maths GCSEs
Atlantic 2021 (CAGS)	No measure this year	44	55	31
Atlantic 2020 (CAGS)-	No measure this year	45.0	51	29
Atlantic 2019	0.39	45.3	53	34
Atlantic 2018	0.23	44.6	51	28
IPACA 2017	-0.94	32.6	42	20





The Compulsory Core

There is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all students which is the core subject areas of

- **Mathematics**
- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Science Trilogy (worth 2 GCSEs)**
- **Language- French**

All of the above are studied at GCSE level and this adds up to a total of 6 possible GCSEs in the core area.



The Compulsory Core

There is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all students which is studied, however no qualification is required

- **Core PE**
- **PSHE/ Citizenship/RSE/RE**



The Ebacc Subject Options

The EBacc (English Baccalaureate) is an award which supports students to study specific GCSEs recognised by Russell Group Universities as qualifications which hold a higher academic status.

We encourage students to challenge themselves and to consider subjects that offer them the EBacc to help keep their options open for future courses and careers. To support this, students will choose one of the following:

- **Geography (humanities)**
- **History (humanities)**

(note- there is the option to select both across the option blocks)



Open subjects - Basket 3 options

Students have a wide range of subjects to choose from here. They will be able to choose three vocational /GCSE subjects from the broad list of subjects.

This decision has been made to ensure that all learners have a broad, balanced and manageable curriculum throughout years 10 and 11.

It is this blend of academic GCSEs and more vocational courses which ensures that all students are comfortable with their journey to academic success.

Open Subject Options:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Art | Business and Enterprise |
| Philosophy and Ethics | Health and Social Care |
| Hospitality | Music |
| Computer Science | Travel and Tourism |
| Sport Science | Drama |
| | Psychology (new for 2022) |



How many qualifications will you study in total?

7 x GCSEs

3 x GCSE or Vocational Qualifications

10 GCSE/Equivalents in Total

Where appropriate, some of the external examinations will be sat in Year 10



What are my options?

Block 1 (Core)	Block 2 :Select 1 of the following	Block 3: Select 1 of the following	Block 4 :Select 1 of the following	Block 5 :Select 1 of the following
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Maths<input type="checkbox"/> English<input type="checkbox"/> Science<input type="checkbox"/> French<input type="checkbox"/> Core sport<input type="checkbox"/> PSHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Geography<input type="checkbox"/> History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Psychology<input type="checkbox"/> Sport Science<input type="checkbox"/> Travel and Tourism<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> History<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Social Catering<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality and Catering<input type="checkbox"/> Business Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality and Catering<input type="checkbox"/> Drama<input type="checkbox"/> Art<input type="checkbox"/> Business Studies<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy and Ethics

Everyone studies	Pick 1	Pick 1	Pick 1	Pick 1
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Note* You can only study the subject once. Eg you can not pick History in block 2 and 4, You can not pick hospitality in block 4 and 5 or Business in 4 and 5



Making an Options Choice

Step 3 Making option choices

Click on the name of the subject(s) you wish to choose, do not click on the reserve button yet. A selected choice will be highlighted in blue and appear in the list of choices on the right hand side of the screen:

The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting options. On the left, under 'General Options', there is a grid of subjects. The 'Art & Design: Fine Art' subject is highlighted in blue. Above the grid, a counter shows '1 of 2' courses chosen and '0 of 1' reserves. On the right, a panel titled 'My Choices in Order of Preference' shows '1 Art & Design: Fine Art' as the selected choice. Below it, a panel titled 'My Reserves in Order of Preference' shows 'No reserves selected'.

This section shows how many courses you need to select and how many reserves you need to select.



Making a Reserver Options

Step 4 Making your reserve choice

Once you have made your choices, you need to select a reserve choice. To do this click on the “Reserve” button beside the subject you wish to pick. Reserve choices appear in orange and appear in the “My Reserves” box on the right hand side of the screen:

General Options

Choose two courses from this list and one reserve. Please read the options booklet carefully before making your choices. Please note that it is not possible to study both Fine Art and Textiles, or both BTEC Sport and GCSE PE. You may choose only one of each of these groups of subjects.

You have chosen 1 of 2 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
BTEC ICT: Creative Media BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
PE GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Sociology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
BTEC Health and Social Care BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Religious Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 1)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 **Art & Design: Fine Art**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 **Food Preparation & Nutrition**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options



Step 5 Adjusting order of preference

Option choices appear in the order they have been selected by default. If you wish to emphasise that one option is preferred you can alter the order of preference in the “My choices” box on the right hand side of the screen:

1. Click on History

2. Click on the green box to move History into its new position

3. The order of preference has now been changed

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Art & Design: Fine Art
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options
- 2 History
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Art & Design: Fine Art
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options
- 2 History
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options

Click to move History here.

Click again to deselect or click another course to change preference.

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 History
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options
- 2 Art & Design: Fine Art
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course General Options



Advice to students choosing subjects to study

This is one of the most important moments in your academic career. Take the time to find out as much as possible about all the courses on offer. Seek the advice of others, including students older than you; their experiences can be extremely useful.

Read through the following information on courses and, where you need to make a choice, consider the following:

- Your academic strengths, attainments and interests.
- Your career, employment or further education ambitions.
- Your friends will still be your friends even if they are not in your class; choosing courses just to be with them is not very wise!
- Your parents, your Head of Faculties and your subject teachers can all contribute. Tell them about your ideas and listen to theirs.

We hope that, through partnership with your families and teachers, you will arrive at a meaningful programme of study – an important step towards realising your future ambitions.



IMPORTANT

Please note that we will endeavour to offer students their preferred choices but in some cases this may not be possible. In these cases, we will attempt to match students with their other choices. **It is therefore very important to consider carefully all option preferences and their rank order.**

Alternatives will have to be considered if:

- Too many students opt for a particular course.
- Too few students opt for a particular course.
- We wish to advise a better range of courses to meet a student's needs.



Key information & Deadlines

You pick your choices using the SIMs app- your parents must have this. Please go home and make sure they do. If you have any questions or need support you must speak to Ms Board- without the App you can not pick the choices (If there is no internet access you need to speak with Ms Board before hand to arrange an alternative method)

Options evening- virtual Tuesday 15th February @4pm

Options open- Wednesday 16th February at 8am

Options close -Friday 25th February at 8am

Options are selected on first come first served basis - remember there are caps on numbers in subjects so if you really want it you need to get it in early! (For example only 20 students can do hospitality!)



Careers Advice - Decision Making

1. Consider the issues and goals

- How many options do I have to make?
- Are there career implications?
- What kind of balance do I want to achieve?

2. Get the facts

- What do the courses contain?
- What strengths and skills do I have?

3. Ask advice, consult

- Subject teachers
- Heads of Subject
- Parents
- Students already doing the subject



4. Look at the alternatives

- Would another choice suit my career plans better?
- Am I going to be able to change my mind?
- Could my programme be better balanced?

5. Decide

- Are these choices my own personal decisions?
- Have I any worries left?

I hope that you find this information useful, and that this process is one which gives all students an excitement about their future learning opportunities.



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Thank you !