

KS4 Options

Thursday 16th January 2025

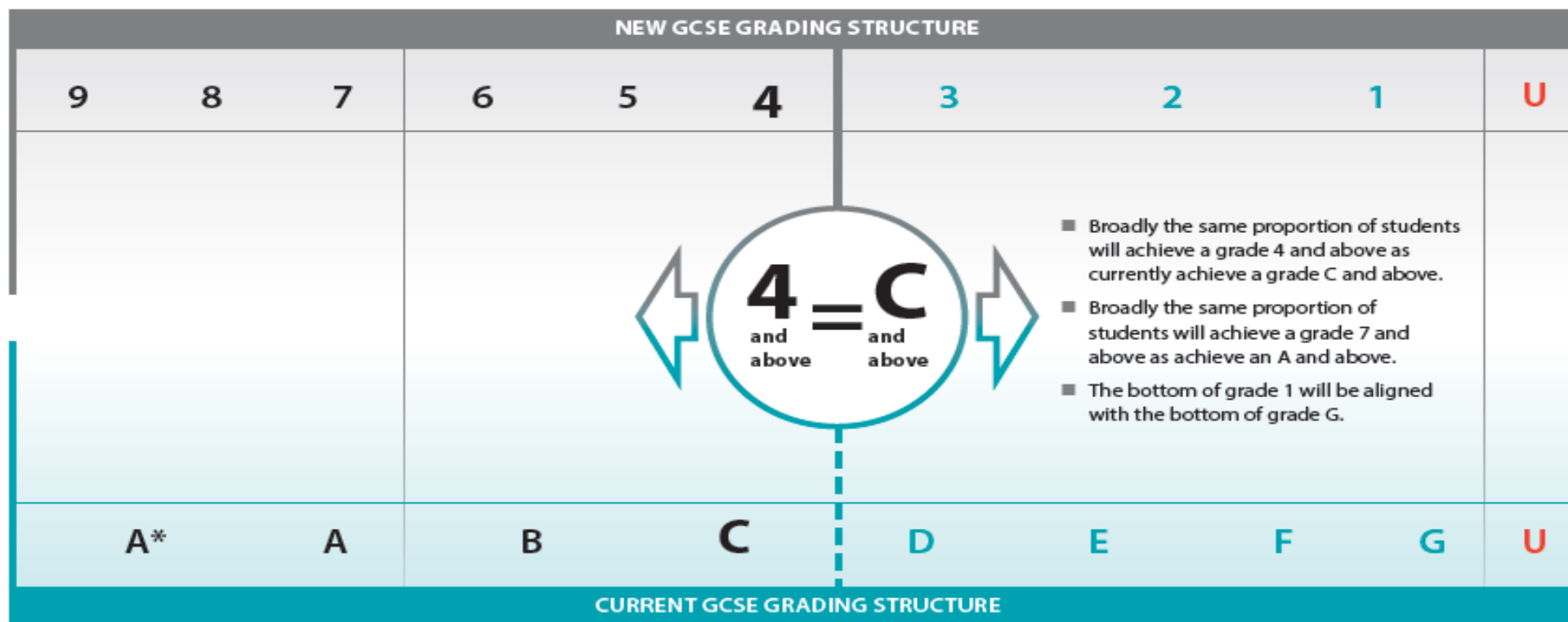


The Process:

- Assembly
- IAG during lesson time
- Options Evening
- Tracking with written comments (w.b. Monday 3 February)
- Parents' Evening (Thursday 6 February)
- MCAS form completed and submitted (Monday 24 February)



Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



September 2014

Ofqual/14/5517



Core Subjects (compulsory)

- English language and English literature
- Mathematics
- A minimum of two Science GCSEs
- RE (short course)
- PE (non-GCSE)



Choosing your Science Pathway:

Two different but equally academic routes to choose from depending on your strengths, interests and future aspirations:

Pathway One:

Choose to study all 3 Sciences as separate GCSEs, plus 3 further options subjects

Pathway Two:

Choose to study the Combined Science: Trilogy for 2 Science GCSEs, plus 4 further options subjects



Additional GCSE Subjects (Student's Choice)

- Art, Craft and Design
- Art, Craft and Design - Graphics
- Art, Craft and Design - Photography
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Design Technology – Design Engineering
- Design Technology – Product Design
- French
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- German
- History
- Latin
- Music
- PE
- Spanish



The KS4 Curriculum

Should...

- Meet the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- Include core subjects and additional subjects.
- Have subjects that enable the school curriculum to be tailored to individual needs.
- Be broad and balanced.
- Enable ALL students to maximise their performance in their GCSE examinations.
- Allow students the opportunity to retain a range of future options for Post 16 study, higher education and employment.



English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

- Not a qualification but an indication of whether a student has studied what is termed to be a 'suitably academic curriculum'.
- To 'qualify' for an EBacc students must have secured good GCSE passes in English, Mathematics, at least two Sciences, Geography or History and a Foreign Language.
- These subjects are proven to leave a greater range of Post-18 opportunities available to students.
- Although Marling does not mandate that all students study a range of subjects that are EBacc qualifying, we do strongly recommend it. You are leaving more potential future pathways open, and you are ensuring that your GCSE qualifications will stand up to comparison with other applicants for courses, jobs etc in the future.



Why study a Modern Language or Latin at GCSE?

It can improve your career prospects

Across all kinds of industries and job roles, employers look for those who can speak multiple languages.

It's recognised favourably by employers - it's a GCSE that requires dedication, independent learning and an outward facing attitude.

Foreign language study enhances one's opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry, marketing, etc.



Why study a Modern Language or Latin at GCSE?

It can improve your soft skills. Learning a new language can help with soft skills such as creativity, problem-solving, and multitasking. Graduates often cite foreign language courses as some of the most valuable courses in college because of the communication skills developed in the process.

It can help you meet new people. Being multilingual means you can meet and converse with people from all over the world, whether in person or online.

It can boost cultural understanding. One key element of language learning is appreciating the culture that it originates from.

It can enhance your brain. Various studies have shown that learning a language can increase white and grey matter in your brain, and may even stave off dementia.

Only 1 in 3 Britons can speak another language

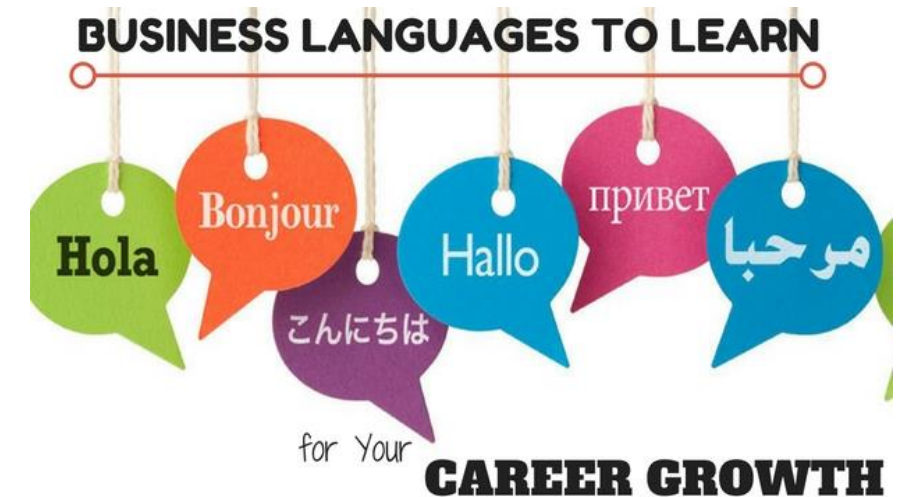
One in four UK adults regret never learning another language | British Council



British Council - 'Languages for the Future'

Rank	Language
1	Spanish
2	Mandarin
3	French
4	Arabic
5	German
6	Italian
7	Dutch
8	Portuguese
9	Japanese
10	Russian

The British Council has identified the ten languages that it sees being most vital to the UK over the next 20 years.



The UK's top 10 trading partners (2023)

Rank	Country	Trade volume	% of Total Trade
1	USA	£310.8bn	17.6%
2	Germany	£149.9bn	8.5%
3	Netherlands	£118.6bn	6.7%
4	France	£105.3bn	6.0%
5	China	£90.2bn	5.1%
6	Ireland	£89.3bn	5.1%
7	Spain	£64.1bn	3.6%
8	Belgium	£57.8bn	3.3%
9	Italy	£50.9bn	2.9%
10	Switzerland	£50.8bn	2.9%

Summarised from
gov.uk Statistics and
Trade Report



MARLING
SCHOOL

Having a language at GCSE keeps doors open for you at A Level and beyond.

Informed Choices | Informed Choices

UCAS



<u>Pot A</u>	<u>Pot B</u>	
French	Art, Craft & Design	Drama
Geography	Art – Graphic Communication	Food & Nutrition
German	Art – Photography	Music
History	Business	Sports Science
Latin	Computer Science	Third Science GCSE
Spanish	DT – Design Engineering (with electronic systems)	
	DT – Product Design	



Choosing Options

- It is strongly recommended that students should select two subjects from Pot A, ideally a Humanity and a Foreign Language, in order to ensure that they are 'EBacc qualifying'. All students must choose one subject from Pot A as an absolute minimum.
- Once the first two subjects have been selected, students can choose a further two subjects from either Pot A or Pot B to complete their preferred curriculum. Students wishing to opt for the separate Science pathway should opt for the Third Science GCSE at this point.
- Finally, choose 2 reserve subjects, from Pot A or Pot B.



Options Form

...must be submitted via MCAS by Monday 24 February 2025

- Numbering of options is important
- Reserve choices are important too
- Confirmation of options – Term 5/6



Frequently Asked Questions

- What happens if I don't want to do two subjects from Pot A?
- Is Combined Science easier than studying separate Sciences?
- Can I still study A Level Sciences if I opt for Combined Science at GCSE?
- How will I know that my options will lead to my future career?
- What happens if I change my mind next September?
- Will I get all of my choices?
- What if demand for the subject is too low?



Individual Advice and Guidance for Students

How to choose your options?

1. Enjoyment – Select subjects that you enjoy.
2. Aptitude – Select subjects that you are good at
3. Independence – Select subjects that you want to do, not because of the teacher or because your friend is doing that subject.
4. Prospects – What are your plans for the future?
5. Balance – Broad and balanced programme of subjects
6. Research – Speak with your teachers, parents and look online.



Individual Advice and Guidance for Students

Get advice from....

Tutors

(They may suggest that some combinations are not suitable)

Subject Teachers

(They know whether your strengths will be suited to a particular subject)

Other sources

(There is information available electronically on useful websites and resources. See P33 of options booklet)



Individual Advice and Guidance for Students

In summary....

- What are **YOUR** future aspirations?
- Which subjects do **YOU** enjoy?
- Which subjects are **YOU** particularly good at?

and....

- Keep your curriculum as broad and balanced as you can.



Completing The Form

...must be submitted via MCAS by Monday 24 February 2025

- Contact the Data Team on data@marling.school if you are having trouble accessing the form.

