

## **Deer Park FAQs**

### **Why do I need to rank order my pathways choices?**

If a subject is oversubscribed we will give priority to students who picked it as their first choice.

### **What happens if a subject is oversubscribed?**

If more students choose a subject in their first two choices than we have places for, we will give priority to students who picked it as first choice. This will all be completed by our online options programme to ensure it is fair and equitable.

### **Why do I have to select a reserve subject?**

Students need to select their pathways options in order of preference (rank ordered). Most students will study the top choices they pick. Occasionally, we cannot offer students all of their preferred choices. This might be because a subject is over subscribed or not enough students choose it so it cannot run. If this happens we will give them priority for their reserve choice.

### **What happens if I get given my reserve choice?**

If you are given your reserve choice as a subject then this is the subject you will be doing. This is why it's really important you pick a reserve choice which you would be happy to do if that situation happened.

### **What is the EBacc?**

The EBacc is a suite of subjects that are most regularly asked for by colleges and universities. Although students do not need to have studied all of these to go on to higher education, having a mix of subjects geared towards the EBacc will help keep your options open.

The Russell Group of Universities (a collaboration of 20 leading UK universities) are not only interested in the results that students achieve at GCSE and A Level, they are increasingly expecting pupils to have breadth of study as well as rigour in what they study. This generally means they consider the traditional academic subjects, such as those included in the EBacc, as more appropriate for entry to their universities. The EBacc subjects keep the Russell Group 'facilitating

subjects' open. Facilitating subjects (English literature, History, Languages, Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Geography) and are helpful for access to the most selective courses and universities at 18.

**Can I take Food and Nutrition and Design Technology (either specialism)?**

No. Due to the high Non Examination Assessment requirements of both these courses in Year 11, students can only study one of these as part of their broad and balanced suite of subjects. If a student has chosen a technology in their top 3 choices they may put the other as a reserve in case they do not get their first choice technology

**Can I take ICT and Computer Science?**

No. Due to the content of the course and ensuring all students have a broad and balanced curriculum students may only choose one of these subjects.

**Can I take both History and Geography?**

Yes. Students must pick one of these subjects but if they would like to choose the other one in their ranked choices they are able to do so.

**Can I change my mind in my choices?**

The options online form does not open until students have had all of the information including parents evening, subject assemblies and taster sessions. The form will remain open until 20th March, up until then students can change their choices. If students are still unsure please ask them to speak to a member of staff before they fill in their form. After 20th March students will no longer be able to change their choices.