



GCSE Options Evening

Mr A. D. Cox - Vice Principal

Enjoy the Evening!

Topics	Speaker	Venue	Talk 1	Talk 2	Talk 3
Options' Guidance	Mr A Cox	School Hall	5:30	6:30	7:30
Media Studies	Mr Jones	G17	6:00	6:30	7:00
Business	Mr A Ruhe	G17	6:15	6:45	7:15
Health and Social Care	Miss Lloyd	G19	5:45	6:30	7:15
Psychology	Miss Silvera	G19	6:00	6:45	7:30
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Mrs Sidhu	G19	6:15	7:00	7:45
Careers' Advice	Learn to Work	Library			

Parents' Evening Appointments run throughout the evening as normal.

Congratulations . . .

Your child is now almost at the end of KS3 and about to enter KS4. They are now able to choose some of their subjects for study at GCSE.

- How does Y9/KS3 prepare my child for GCSE?
- What are GCSEs?
- What is core and compulsory?
- What is Ebacc?
- What does your child need to go on to do A Levels or get into University?



This is about **dreams, ambitions and passions**: your child choosing their own path forward in education for the first time

The Options' Process

- Support will be given through tutor time and VFPD lessons until almost Easter to focus on Options and the decision making process
- A range of information, help, advice and support has been given including the Nishkam Options' Booklet
- Students in Y10 will give an insight into their options (delivered to year 9 during VFPD)
- Some subject teachers will be presenting in detail about GCSEs in their subjects tonight
- Tonight . . . Thursday 8th March 5.00 – 8.00 pm Options' and Parents' Evening.
- Friday 23rd March Deadline for Options' Form return.

This is about your child making the right decision

And asking the right questions...

- Which subjects do I enjoy?
- Which subjects am I good at?
- Which subjects do I struggle in?
- Which subjects will I enjoy for a further two years?
- What kind of career/jobs am I interested in?
- Am I thinking of going to University?
- Which GCSEs will help with the above?

Factors which should not affect decision making:

- Which teachers I like best (no guarantee who will be teaching you)
- What my friends are choosing
- What my brother/sister/cousin chose
- What I think will be the easiest exam

Things you may consider:

- Guidance from family and friends
- Guidance from teachers
- Guidance from students studying GCSEs
- Reading and research into jobs, careers and universities
- Useful websites and software like: Qudos

Changes To GCSEs

- Movement from A*-G system to 9-1 system
- Much greater challenge – some AS content moved into GCSE (some KS3 content moved into KS2)
- Linear two year courses with terminal examinations
- Removal of coursework and controlled assessments from many subjects
- From *September 2017* all GCSEs will be using the new grading system

Equivalence

- Grade 5 is considered to be a “good pass”
- However only the top third of of students gaining an old C grade will gain a 5. The remaining two thirds equate to the new grade 4.
- This demonstrates the increased challenge and rigour with GCSEs and the new grading
- In addition the new grade 9 is higher than the previous A* - this will be for a very small number of students (less than 3%) who will gain the very top grade

Equivalence

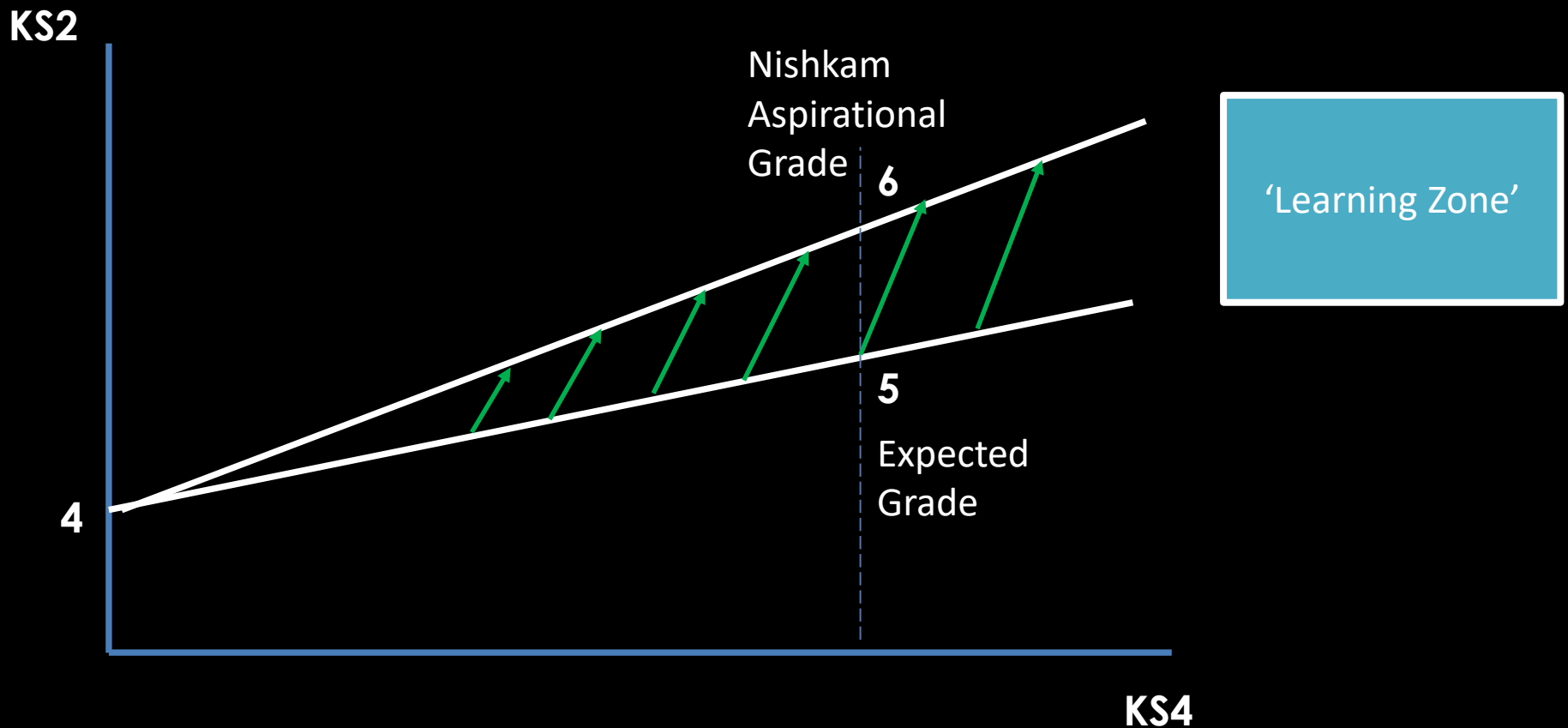
KS2 levels	KS3 Thresholds	GCSE (current)	GCSE (new)	A Level (current)
6c+	Excellence	A*/A+	8-9	A*/A
5c-5a	Secure	B/A	6-7	C-B
4b-4a	Developing	C/B-	4-5	E-C
4c and below	Foundation	G-D	1-3	N/A

Expected Progress
(2017 – P8 = 0.98)

Student with KS2
average of 4b/a

					GCSE	
					9	
					8	A*
					7	A
					6	B
	8				5	B/C
	7				4	C
	6				3	D
	5				2	E
	4				1	F/G
	3					
	2					

Expected versus Aspirational Progress



Core Subjects

All students will study GCSEs in:

- English*
- English Literature*
- Maths*
- Science (Triple or Combined Science Trilogy)*
- Religious Studies

* Ebacc subjects

In addition all students will have **2 lessons of PE and one VFPD.**

We will also run enrichment after school with clubs like the **Young Rep** and a variety of different sports.

More choice for your child:

Core Subjects

- English*
- English Literature*
- Maths*
- Religious Studies
- Science *

* Ebacc subjects

Science Pathways

Triple Science

3 GCSEs in:

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Useful if you are considering science A Level, a degree in a science subject

Combined Science Trilogy

2 GCSEs covering elements from all the triple sciences

Science Pathways

Choosing Triple Science will enable you to choose one subject from Block A, one from Block B and one from Block C.

Choosing the Combined Trilogy pathway will enable you to choose one subject from Block A, one from Block B and two from Block C.

Options

Your child will choose from the following options:

- ✓ Art
- ✓ Business Studies
- ✓ Food Preparation and Nutrition
- ✓ French
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Health and Social Care
- ✓ History
- ✓ Computer Science
- ✓ Media Studies
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Psychology
- ✓ Punjabi

Option A: Ebacc Humanities	Option B: Ebacc Languages
Geography	French
History	Punjabi

Option C: All		
Art	Business Studies	Computer Science
Food Preparation and Nutrition	French	Geography
Health and Social Care	History	Media Studies
Music	Physical Education	Psychology
Punjabi		

Sixth Form at Nishkam High School

- Five GCSE's at Grade 6 or above including:
 - English and Mathematics
 - The subjects to be studied at A' Level
 - A minimum of 96% attendance

Key Dates

- **Monday 12th February**: Invitation Letter and Option Booklet released
- **Thursday 8th March** – Parents and Options' evening
- **Friday 23rd March** – Options' forms deadline