

4. The remaining element contains the three highest point scores in any three other subjects, including English language or literature (if not counted in the English slot), further GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the DfE approved list. **All qualifications in the Fir Vale Guidance Process are from the DfE approved List.**

If a pupil has not taken the maximum number of qualifications that count in each group then they will receive a point score of zero where a slot is empty. This affects the school but not the individual student, who will have a list of their qualifications to take with them to their sixth form or college

The best way to look at option choices is filling the qualifications buckets (*fig 1*). All students do English & Maths. If you do Science, MFL and a Humanities subject, you fill the Ebacc qualifications 'buckets'. Your other best subjects fill the other qualifications buckets. Students look to fill all 8 'buckets' as preparation for sixth form and university.

Referring to the qualification example, the following illustrates the calculation of the attainment 8 and progress 8 score by filling the 'buckets'.



We offer a **Vision to Vocation (V2V)** course that offers a focus on Literacy and Numeracy and an external placement. There will also be the opportunity to take 2 guidance subjects. This is excellent preparation, with qualifications, for further study at College.

There will also be guided support for some students to L1 and Entry level courses. Students will be guided to the courses that are most suitable for them and which will lead them into further study at College.

The guidance process is an important time for all students. The choices made now will lead into Sixth Form or College study, onto University and into employment.

Make your choices count.



A Specialist in Business & Enterprise
Making dreams a reality

THE GUIDANCE PROCESS

Why it matters...

Up to now you have been told what subjects to do at school. This is the same for all schools. Now you have some choice – make these choices count.

You will still do a core of subjects:

English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Science double award, RE, PE.

But now you will have **2** subject choices to make. The blocks are currently being updated, as the government has radically changed the courses that we can offer at GCSE.

Key terms:

- **L2 courses** – GCSE courses or their BTEC equivalents
- **L1 courses** – Non GCSE level courses
- **Entry level courses** – below L1 courses

The key job for all of us (staff, parents and students) is to ensure that you are choosing the right level of courses.

The Government is looking to increase the number of students that do the 'EBacc'.

This is:

English

Maths

Science

A Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish, Urdu or Arabic)

A Humanities subject (Geography or History)

All are L2 courses.

Next steps:

1. Do you know what career you want? If you do work backwards – what GCSE's might you need?
2. If you don't know what career you want, have you been on Kudos to look at possible career paths?
3. Pick the subjects that you want to study, NOT what your friends are studying.
4. Talk to your teachers – ask them about the courses that we offer.
5. Talk to current students – how are they finding the course?
6. Talk to your tutor – they can help you with your choices.
7. Take your time to research. What is best for you?

Key dates:

Spring term	Assemblies on key guidance issues. Research into guidance subjects
Wednesday 8 th February 2017	Y9 Guidance & Progress Event for students and parents (3:30pm – 5:30pm)
9 th February to 3 rd March 2017	Guidance interviews to complete the guidance forms
6 th March to 10 th March 2017	Some re-interviewing of a small number of students to get final choices

Calculating Attainment 8 and Progress 8

There is also a new accountability method that may affect your child's options choices.

Progress 8 is based on a calculation of pupils' performance across 8 subjects, called **Attainment 8**. These subjects are:

1. A double weighted mathematics element that will contain the point score of the pupil's English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Mathematics qualification. All students will study Mathematics.
2. An English element based on the highest point score in a pupil's EBacc English language or English literature qualification. This will be double weighted provided a pupil has taken both qualifications. All students will study English language. Some students will study English literature.
3. An element which can include the three highest point scores from any of the EBacc qualifications in science subjects, computer science, history, geography, and languages.