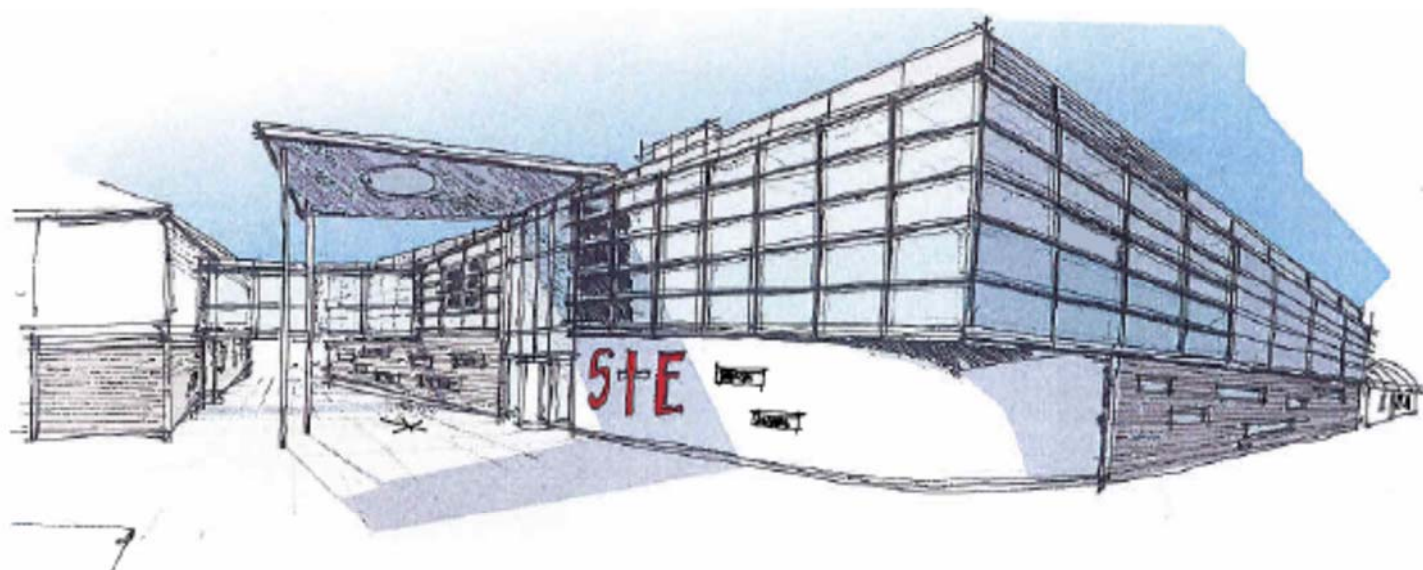


Year 9 Options Booklet 2024




Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



**SLOUGH
& ETON**

Church of England
Business and Enterprise College



Work Hard

Be Nice

No Excuses



Foreword from Mr Collins, Headteacher

In Year 9 students make decisions about the subjects they will study during Key Stage 4. The school will ensure that whatever choices they make they will have a broad and balanced curriculum that allows further options later in their lives. By this stage of their education we hope that all of the students have started considering future careers and we know that, for some the choice of subjects may reflect a particular career choice. However, we also know that a choice of career in Year 9 can change by the time Year 11, 12 or 13 comes around and so we try to ensure students do not commit completely to one type of career or curriculum at such an early stage. My advice to students choosing options is to select subjects they enjoy and are interested in. Over the next two years we want students to look forward to their lessons and work hard to be successful. I hope parents support this view.

During the course of the options process every Year 9 student and their parents will meet with a senior member of staff to discuss their aspirations and their subject choices. I hope that all parents will want to take up this opportunity.

There is plenty of information online, via our website and in this booklet to help support your child's decision making. Please contact us at any point if we can help in any way.

Mr P Collins

Headteacher

INTRODUCTION

To Students

You will soon be ending your time at Key Stage 3 and moving onto Key Stage 4 otherwise known as Years 10 and 11. In Years 10 and 11 you do not study all of the same subjects you do at the moment, although some are the same. You will have to choose which optional subjects you study and that decision is one of the most important you will ever make. The option choices you make now could affect the rest of your life so it is essential that you get it right, for you. This booklet is designed to give you as much information as possible about the choices you are about to make but if there is anything you do not understand then it is important you ask. When making your option choices it is vital to take a lot of things into consideration including what you are good at, what you enjoy and what you want to do when you finish Key Stage 4. Do not make your choices because your friends have chosen them or because you like a particular teacher. What may be right for your friend, may not be right for you.

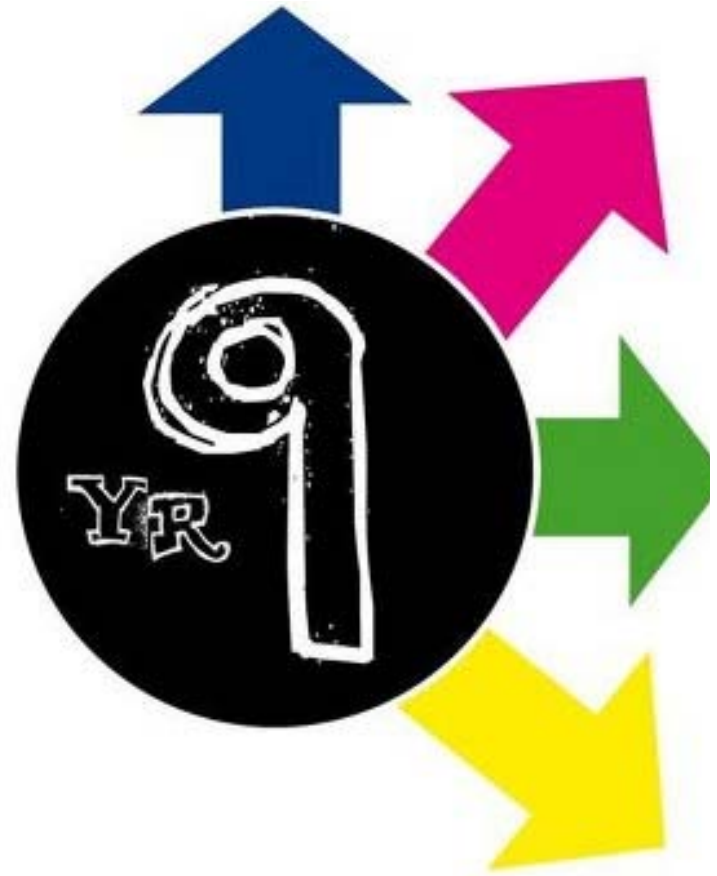


To Parents

Your son or daughter will soon be choosing the option subjects they will be taking in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). It is important that they make informed decisions through consultation with the school and with you. This booklet is designed to contain as much information about the options process as possible. However, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. At the back of this booklet are the contact details of the Curriculum Leader for specific subject related issues as well as for Mr Bhatti (Head of Year 9) and for Mr Thatcher (Deputy Headteacher) who oversees the options process.

The Options Process at Slough and Eton

At Key Stage 4 students are required to take English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, RE, PSHE, and Core PE. The remaining subjects students choose as their options. The options are arranged into 3 separate blocks and consist of 3 (50 minute) periods across the week. They could consist of a double and a single lesson. The students have been given information about individual option subjects during a week of assemblies earlier this month. The Options Evening for parents and students is an event that should be seen as an opportunity to gather as much information as possible. Year 9 students and parents will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their options. The Options Form will be handed out and should be completed in the meetings with SLT on Tuesday 26th March. The final deadline will be Thursday 28th March. Following this, the option subjects will be allocated and individual students will be spoken to, if there is an issue with their option choices. Final option decisions will be made by the end of May.



Time Frame and Important Dates

Year 9 Options Presentations in Collective Worship	Week beginning 26th February 2024
Option Evening and Grade Card	Thursday 29rd February 2024
Year 9 meetings with Senior Leadership Team	Tuesday 26th March 2024
Option Form Deadline	Thursday 28th March 2024
Option subjects allocated and alterations discussed	May 2024
Options confirmation letter sent to parents	June 2024

DIFFERENT TYPES OF COURSES

There are a large range of optional subjects on offer at Slough and Eton. Option subjects may be examined in different ways and be awarded a different qualification. This can be very confusing for students and parents alike so below is a short piece about each of the qualifications our students can study.



GCSEs

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most students will study for GCSEs in the core subjects and many of the option subjects are also examined by taking a GCSE. In some subjects, there are two different 'tiers' of examination offered:

- ⇒ Higher, where students can achieve grades 4-9 (old C to A*)
- ⇒ Foundation, where they can achieve grades 1-5 (old G to C/B)

Most GCSE subjects are examined by a mixture of timed exam papers, coursework and in-class controlled assessment.

Grading System

- ⇒ A grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade. This will allow greater differentiation between students and will help distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions.
- ⇒ Assessment is mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- ⇒ There is new, more demanding content which has been developed by government and the exam boards.
- ⇒ Courses are designed for two years of study – they are no longer be divided into different modules and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.
- ⇒ When your son or daughter sits their examinations at the end of Year 11 all subjects will be graded under the new framework.

This table shows how the new GCSE grades relate to the old ones:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	C
2	
1	
U	U

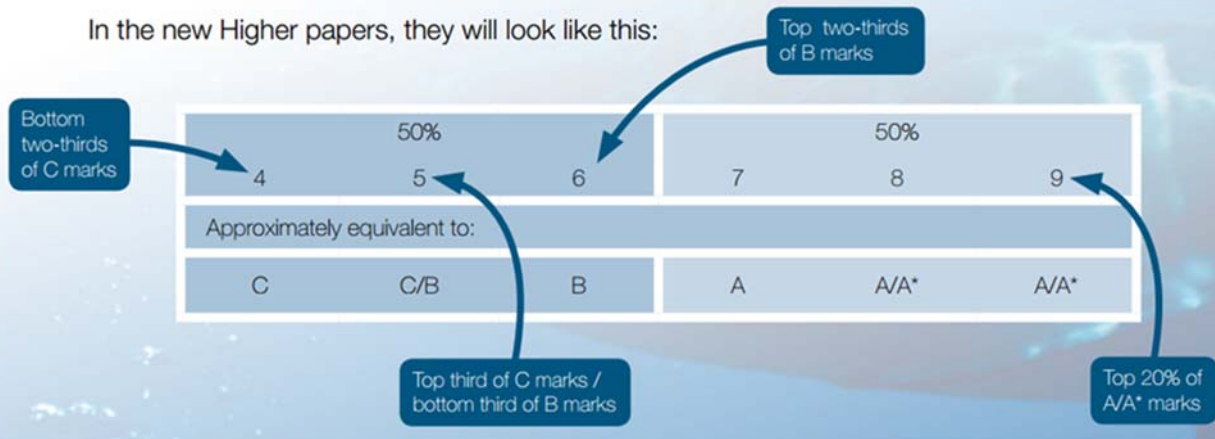
GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

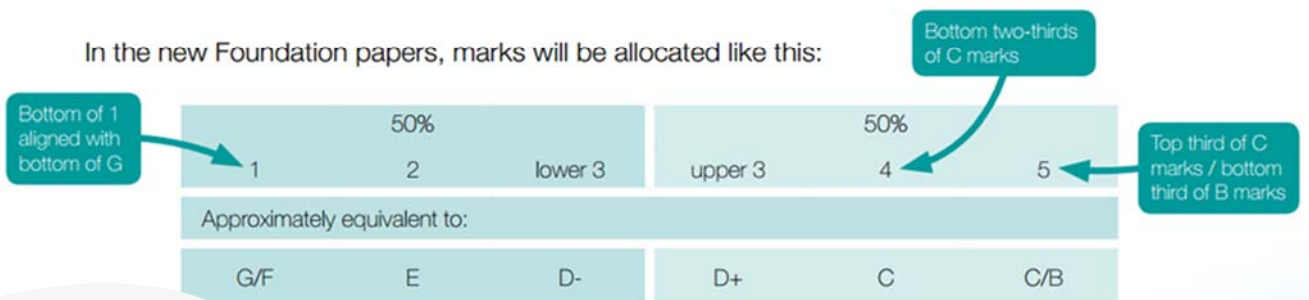
AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above

In the new Higher papers, they will look like this:



In the new Foundation papers, marks will be allocated like this:



Vocational Courses



Business and Technology Education Council qualifications are undertaken mainly in vocational subjects. They are equivalent to other qualifications such as the GCSE (levels 1 to 2), A Level (level 3) and university degrees (levels 4 to 6) but one difference is that they tend to be more heavily weighted towards practical work or coursework rather than timed examinations, although they do incorporate this element after a recent change to their structure nationally. Students in Key Stage 4 will be taking BTEC Level 1 and 2 qualifications.

v.certs

V Certs are technical alternative qualifications to GCSEs at Key Stage 4. V Certs are appropriate for students aged 14-16 who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and through content which is concrete and directly related to those experiences. They offer equivalent levels of rigour and challenge to a GCSE with clear progression routes and career pathways.

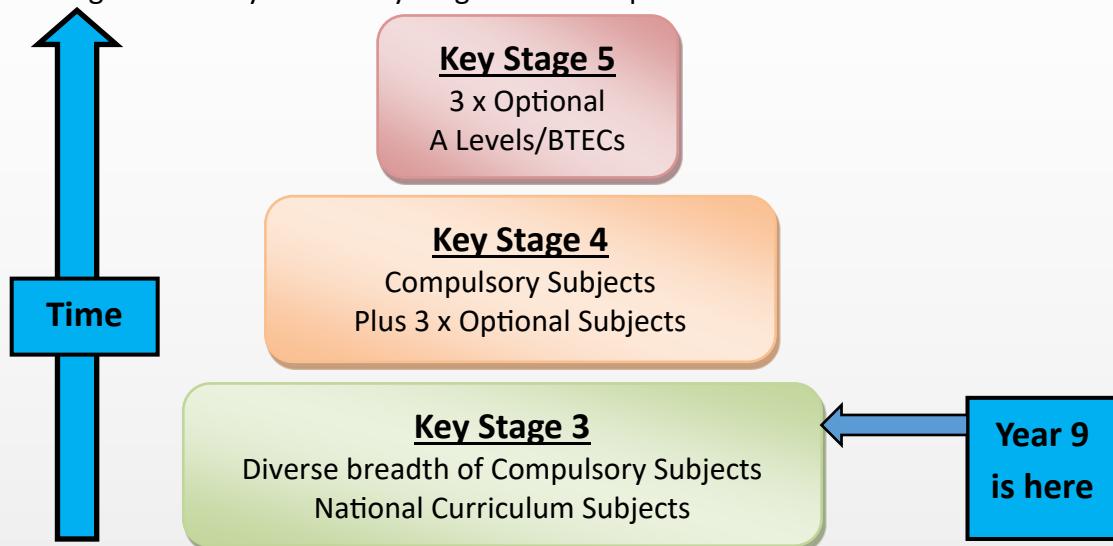


Cambridge Nationals are vocationally-related qualifications which were officially launched by the OCR Exam Board in September 2004. These qualifications are designed to meet the needs of those seeking vocational education in place of the traditional, theory-intensive, academic route. Cambridge Nationals are equivalent to GCSEs depending on the level reached.

Considerations When Choosing Options

Progression

As students progress through their education they have different choices to make at the beginning of each Key Stage. Now they have to make very important decisions regarding Key Stage 4 options and it is important to understand where these decisions lie in context. Below is a diagram showing the progression through secondary school Key Stages and the options that can be taken.

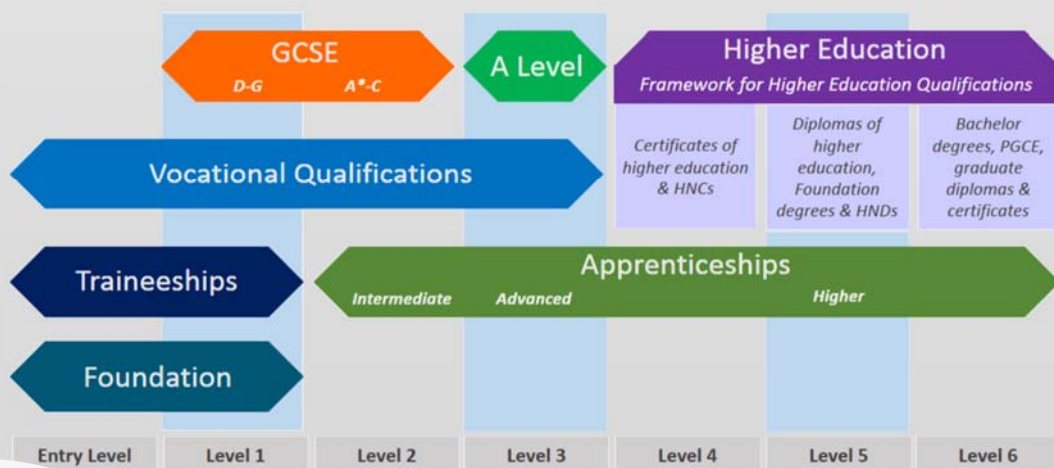


Why Are Options and Exams So Important?

GCSE qualifications (and their equivalents) are the currency all students need for the next stage of their lives. The grades that they receive at the end of Year 11 could lead to a place at Sixth Form or college, an apprenticeship, employment with training or, further in the future, Higher Education. Whilst grades at English and Maths are a staple of most application processes, some courses at university demand evidence of successful studies in certain option subjects, so this must be considered too.

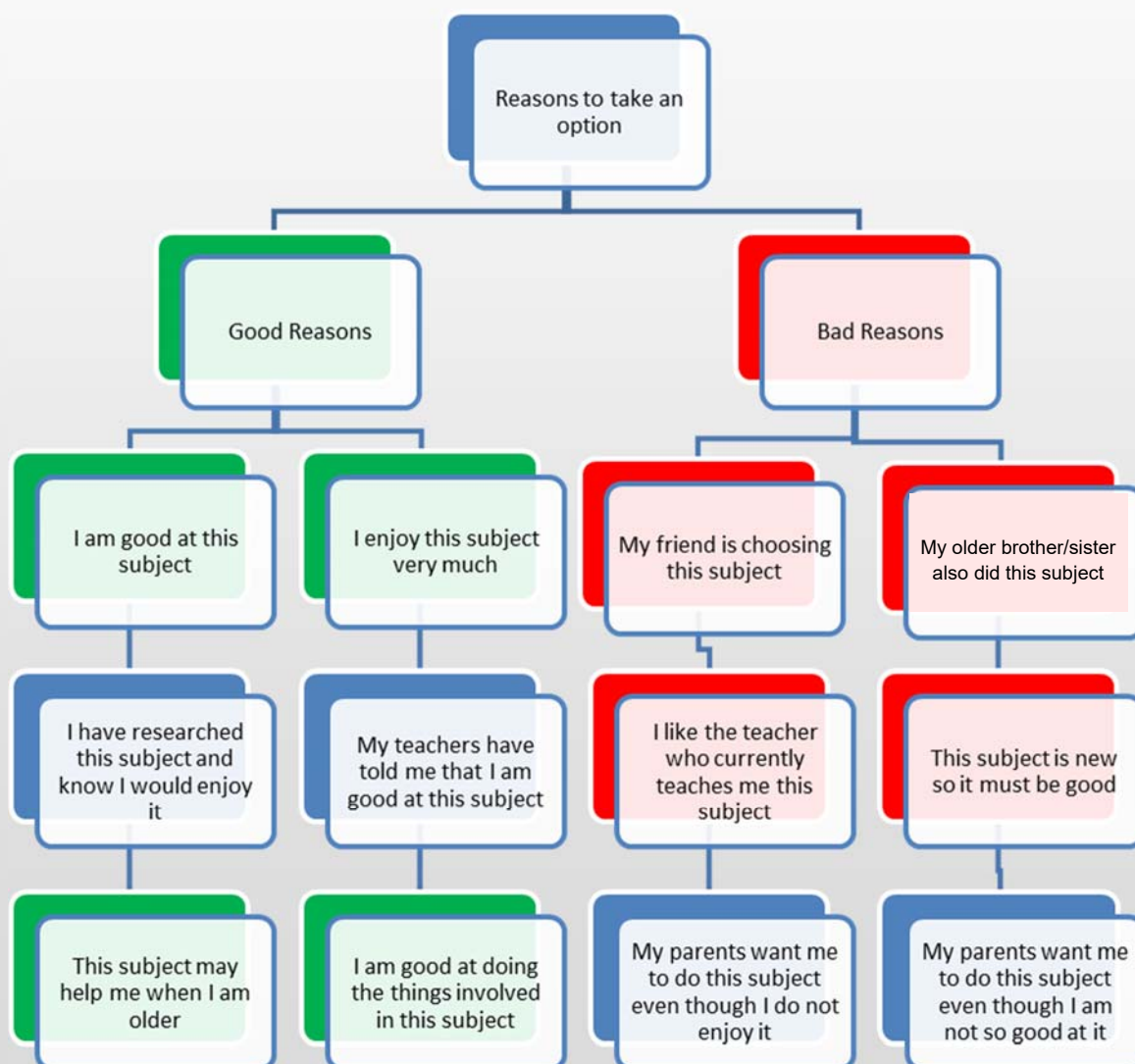
Which Qualifications?

Use the chart below to find which level you are at and where you can go next



Good and Bad Reasons for Choosing Options

There are many reasons why you may choose a certain option and it is important that you choose an option for the right reasons. You will have to study this subject for 2 years; you should not base your choice on things that may change.



Contact Information

If you require further information on any aspect of the options process, please do not hesitate to contact the school. To better help you solve your problem there is a table of information below to direct you to the person best placed to help you.

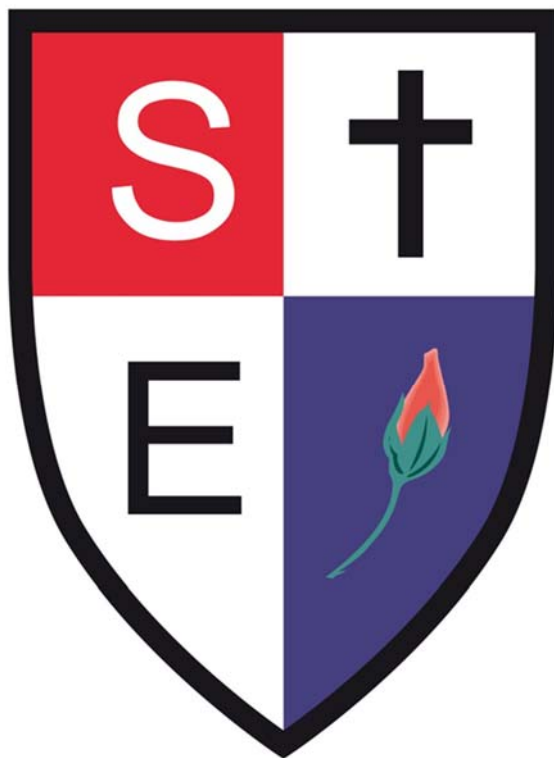
Option Process	Mr S Thatcher	Deputy Headteacher	stt@slougheton.com
Year 9 Queries	Mr A Bhatti	Head of Year 9	abh@slougheton.com
Achieve	Mrs N Sandhu	SENCO	nsa@slougheton.com
Art and Design	Miss F Loughrey	Curriculum Leader for Art	flo@slougheton.com
Business Studies	Mrs M Davey	Curriculum Leader for Business Studies	mda@slougheton.com
Design Technology	Miss D Horn	Curriculum Leader for Technology	dho@slougheton.com
Drama	Miss C Miller	Curriculum Leader for Drama	cmi@slougheton.com
English	Mrs N Afraoui	Curriculum Leader for English	naf@slougheton.com
IGCSE ESL and ESOL	Mr J Ziomek	Curriculum Leader for EAL	jzi@slougheton.com
Food Studies	Miss D Horn	Curriculum Leader for Technology	dho@slougheton.com
French, Spanish, Urdu	Mrs A Bokenda	Curriculum Leader for MFL	abo@slougheton.com
Geography	Mr B Jones	Curriculum Leader for Geography	bjo@slougheton.com
Health and Social Care	Mrs E Culkeen	Curriculum Leader for Social Sciences	ecu@slougheton.com
History	Mr A Byrne	Curriculum Leader for History	aby@slougheton.com
ICT and Computer Science	Mrs S Fearnley	Curriculum Leader for ICT and Computing	sfe@slougheton.com
Mathematics	Mr S Ahmed	Curriculum Leader for Maths	sah@slougheton.com
Music	Mrs M Donnet	Curriculum Leader for Music	mdo@slougheton.com
Photography	Miss F Loughrey	Curriculum Leader for Art	flo@slougheton.com
Physical Education	Miss E Kelleway	Acting Curriculum Leader for PE	eke@slougheton.com
PSHE	Miss D Lombard	PSHE Co-ordinator	dlo@slougheton.com
Psychology	Mrs E Culkeen	Head of Social Sciences	ecu@slougheton.com
Religious Education	Mrs N Ali	Curriculum Leader for RE	nal@slougehton.com
Science	Dr S Patel	KS4 Curriculum Leader for Science	spa@slougheton.com
Sociology	Mrs E Culkeen	Curriculum Leader for Social Sciences	ecu@slougheton.com
Study Plus	Mrs N Sandhu	SENCO	nsa@slougheton.com



Work Hard

Be Nice

No Excuses



**Slough and Eton
Church of England
Business and Enterprise College**

Ragstone Road
Chalvey, Slough
SL1 2PU

T: 01753 520824

www.slougheton.com