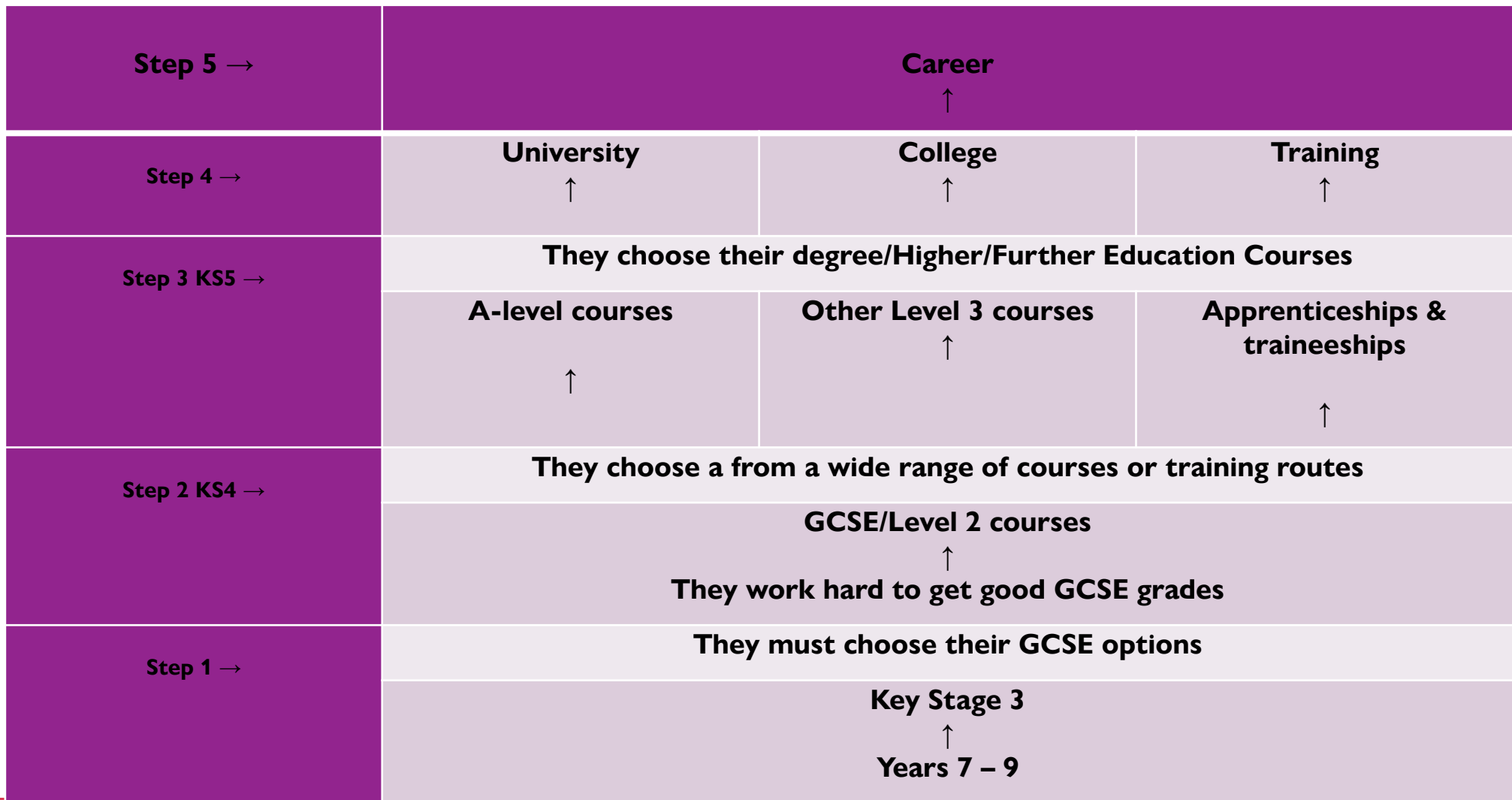




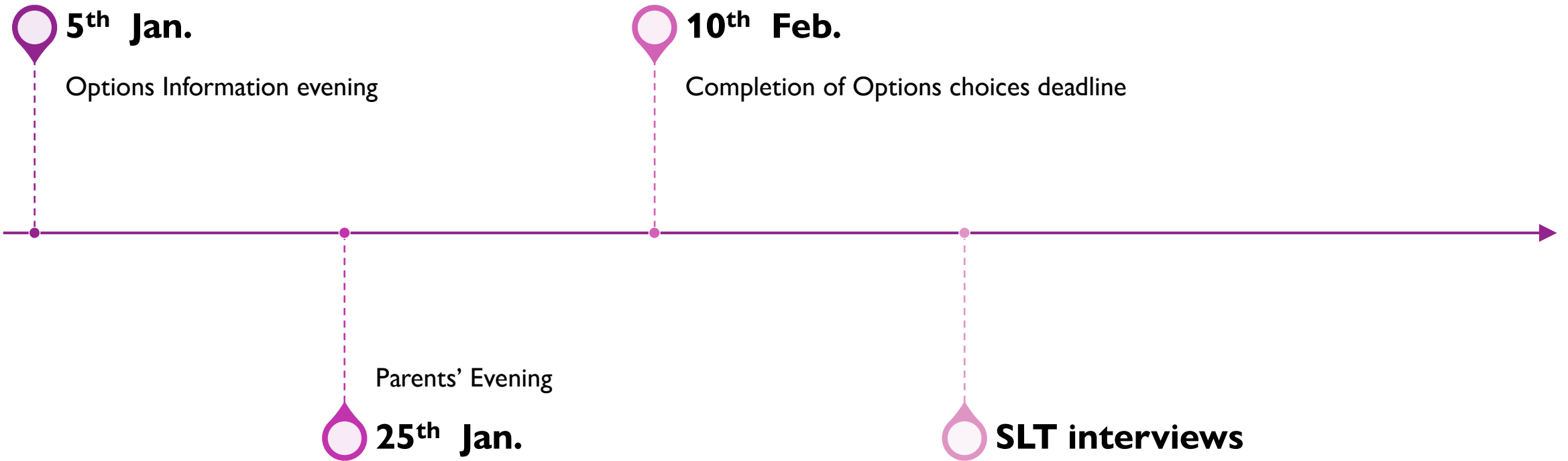
King's
School

THE OPTIONS PROCESS



THE JOURNEY

TIMELINE



HOW WE HAVE DECIDED THE SUBJECTS

Government guidance e.g. EBACC

Experience from RET (our family of schools)

The school's ethos and character - RP

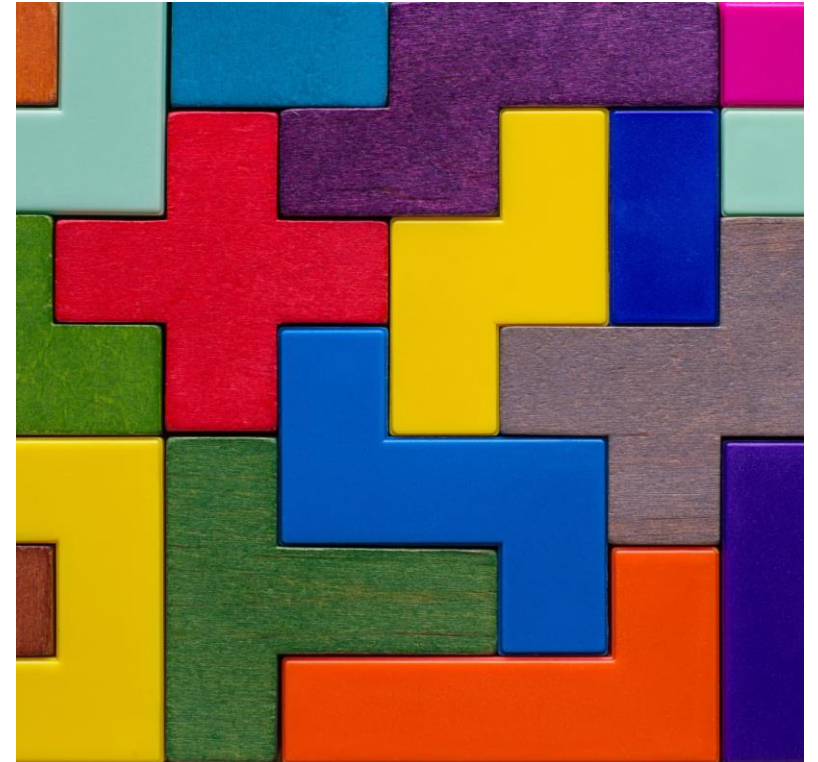
University entrance and ambitious careers

A broad curriculum

Opportunities to study the arts and practical subjects

WILL ALL STUDENTS GET THEIR FIRST CHOICE?

- We will try our utmost
- We have not created blocks ahead of options choices
- It may not be possible
- That is why we ask for a reserve option – please take this choice seriously!



HOW TO DECIDE

Good reasons to choose a course

- I am good at this subject
- I enjoy this subject
- I am interested in this subject
- This subject enables me to do well in the future

Bad reasons to choose a course

- My friend is choosing it
- I like the teacher
- I don't like the teacher
- It sounds easier

CORE CURRICULUM AND OPTIONS

G E O G R A P H Y
H I S T O R Y
M E D I A
M U S I C
P H Y S I C A L E D U C A T I O N
S P A N I S H

The core curriculum studied by all students will be:

- English and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (double or triple)
- Religion and Philosophy

- PSHE – Non-Examined
- Core PE – Non-examined
- Daily Worship – Non-Examined

= 6/7 GCSEs

The majority of students will then choose 3 subjects from the list below.

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

This means most students will complete 9/10 GCSEs

Pathway	Core curriculum	Set option subjects	Options to choose
1	Main core curriculum	Free choices	3 (We strongly recommend 1 language and 1 Humanities subject)
2	Main core curriculum	Core skills – additional Maths and English	2 (We recommend 1 EBACC subject)
3	Main core curriculum	A Plumpton College or MET vocational course for 1 day a week	2

PATHWAYS AND BLOCKS

THE CHOICES WILL LOOK LIKE THIS

Preference 1	We strongly recommend French or Spanish
Preference 2	We strongly recommend Geography or History
Preference 3	
Reserve choice	

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

THE EBACC – A BROAD CURRICULUM

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- **English language and English literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science**
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- **History or Geography**
- **A language**
Ancient or modern

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

WHY IS THE
EBACC A
GOOD
OPTION FOR
MOST
STUDENTS?

- A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.
- Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>

WHY IS THE
EBACC A
GOOD
OPTION FOR
MOST
STUDENTS?

Some statistics the government give to encourage students to choose EBacc subjects:

- In 2012 92% of those who entered an undergraduate course at Oxbridge had studied a language ... and 88% had studied a humanities subject.
- For Russell Group Universities 82% of those who entered an undergraduate course at a Russell Group University had studied a language and 82% had studied a humanities subject.

WHY LANGUAGES?

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

- Languages are rewarding subjects that broaden horizons and give travel and employment opportunities.
- It is normal for a student to feel they are not as good at languages compared to other subjects – they have usually been studying them for less time.
- Employers and Universities really value languages and studying a language can help open doors.

WHY LANGUAGES?

“Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you’re applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer.”

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities.

(The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

“Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers.”

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

IMPLICATIONS FOR CHOICES

- We strongly recommend that most students study a humanities subject and a language unless there is a clear reason to choose other subjects instead
- This still leaves one other free choice
- It is possible to choose 2 languages, or History and Geography, or any combination of 3 of these subjects
- We recognise the EBACC is not best for all students. We will discuss this when we interview students.
- We expect every student on pathway 1 to take at least 1 EBACC subject
- It is not necessary for students to take subjects at GCSE to go on to study them later or have careers in related fields.

WHAT NEXT?



Discuss with your child



Read the options booklet carefully



Make appointments for year 9 parents' evening based upon your possible subject choices



Complete the options form together when they receive it and hand in to the office by half term