



Your pathway to the future

Key Stage 4 Options Booklet 2018-2020

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Welcome

January 2018

Dear Student

Re: YEAR 9 OPTIONS: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Year 9 options is one of the most exciting times in your education as it gives you your first real opportunity to select some of the subjects that you will study for the next two years. It also marks the start of planning for your future; the decisions that you make now will have an impact on post 16 and career choices.

At The Holt, our aim is to offer all students a broad, well balanced and relevant learning programme.

All of you will continue to study the examined 'core' subjects of: **English, English literature, mathematics, science (triple or combined)** and **philosophy of religion**.

You will also study courses in **physical education and personal, social and health education (PSHE)**.

In addition, as a Specialist Language College, most students will follow a course in at least one modern foreign language (**French, German** and or **Spanish**).

Opportunities exist for you to study a range of other GCSE and non-GCSE courses.

Every effort is made by your subject teachers, form tutors, Head of Year and the Senior Leadership Team, to offer you information, advice and guidance in the weeks leading up to this time of choice.



Ben Adams

Assistant Headteacher

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

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FAQs for students

WHO chooses my options?

Basically YOU choose your subjects. You should talk things through with your parents and you will also be helped by your teachers.

WHY is my choice important?

You are making a two year commitment and it is vital that you enjoy what you are doing.

You are preparing yourself for both working and leisure time in the future; you should consider both aspects. Your choices now may well make a big difference to which courses you can take in Years 12 and 13 and later, at university, or at work.

HOW do I make my choice?

DO:

- Find out exactly what each course involves by reading the details in this booklet.
- Consider how well you will cope with the demands of the subject. Ask your teachers for help.
- Consider the entrance requirements of any area of employment you are interested in.
- Be careful not to close any doors at this stage because you may well change your mind about jobs later.

DON'T choose a subject because:

- Your friend is doing the course
- You like the teacher
- You think it will be easy

WHICH courses must I take?

Some of your curriculum is compulsory. You will continue to take English, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language, PE, philosophy of religion and PSHE.

In addition you choose 3 subjects from the options blocks.

How many examination subjects will I take?

Most students take a minimum of 7 separate GCSE subjects and a maximum of 12.

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Key stage 4 Pathways

What might my curriculum look like?

EBacc	NON EBacc	ENGLISH PLUS PATHWAY	ICA PATHWAY
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
English language	English language	English language	English language
English literature	English literature	English literature	English literature
Triple or combined science	Triple or combined science	Combined science or biology	Biology
MFL French/Spanish/German	MFL French/Spanish/German	MFL French/Spanish/German OR Learning Link support	Learning Link support
PoR—Sat in Year 10	PoR —Sat in Year 10	PoR—Sat in Year 10	PoR non-examined course
PE GCSE or core PE	PE GCSE or core PE	PE GCSE or core PE	PE GCSE or core PE
PSHE	PSHE	PSHE	PSHE
History or geography	3 GCSE or non-GCSE options	English Plus course	English Plus course
2 other GCSE options		2 other GCSE or non-GCSE options	ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, Health and social care (level 1), plus one option
10-12 GCSEs plus EBacc	10-12 GCSEs	7-10 GCSEs	5-7 GCSEs

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GCSE Options

The open choices comprise a comprehensive range of GCSE subjects based on the following areas: **arts, humanities, technology** and **languages**.

We strongly recommend a balanced range of options which would include a subject from **arts (art, drama, music)**, **humanities (history, geography, business)** and **technology (food and nutrition, graphics, resistant materials, textiles)**, with a language choice being compulsory. However, if you have a particular interest or aptitude in languages, you may wish to take more than one modern foreign language.

It may be helpful for you to understand that from 2011 the Government introduced the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). They believe that schools should offer students a broad range of academic subjects to age 16, and that the EBacc promotes that aspiration. It is not a new qualification in itself, but will recognise students' achievements across a core of selected academic subjects. The EBacc is awarded for achievement of a 9 - 5 grade in the following GCSEs: English, maths, science and a language (i.e. French, German or Spanish) and either history or geography. As you will see, our options system allows all students to opt for programmes to qualify for the EBacc award if they wish.

In September 2015, new GCSE courses were introduced for maths and English. The rest of the GCSE subjects have now come on board with these changes. Therefore, your daughter will sit 'new style' exams and be awarded grades by number 1- 9 in all GCSE subjects.

The new GCSE grades explained

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

The key changes from the old style GCSE are:

- A new grading system ranging from 1-9 with 9 being the highest grade awarded
- Assessment is normally by external exam only

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Careers Education & Guidance

The choices that you make now are very important as they can affect the range of options available to you at the end of Year 11. To help make the right choices in Year 9, students are provided with reliable and timely careers information.

The Holt School provides:

Year 9

- Careers lessons in PSHE
- Computer software to match strengths and preferences to occupations
- Specialist lessons/assemblies focusing on option choices
- Careers guidance from specialist staff at school and at options/careers evening
- One-to-one interview with a member of the senior leadership team
- An opportunity to visit a careers convention/job fair

Year 10 and Beyond

- A Citizenship programme that focuses on preparation for career management and exploration
- One day of enterprise skills workshops
- Guest speakers in a number of occupational areas from industry
- Help with career decisions at 16+
- Use of drop-in career clinics

Students are reminded that they can help themselves by:

- Looking out for lunchtime careers seminar dates on daily briefing.
- Researching career options on the careers pages on FROG. Go to Departments/Careers and click on the link for Career Companion Online.
There is a tab for each year group containing relevant resources appropriate to your key stage.
- Visiting the careers library in the careers resource centre in the English block at break or lunchtime.
- Using careers related computer software such as www.fasttomato.com (login is HOLW).
- Talking about their career ideas with their teachers to connect what they are learning with job roles.

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Core Subjects—Course Descriptions

Examination courses

English Language & English Literature 11

Mathematics 12

Modern Foreign languages

French 13

German 14

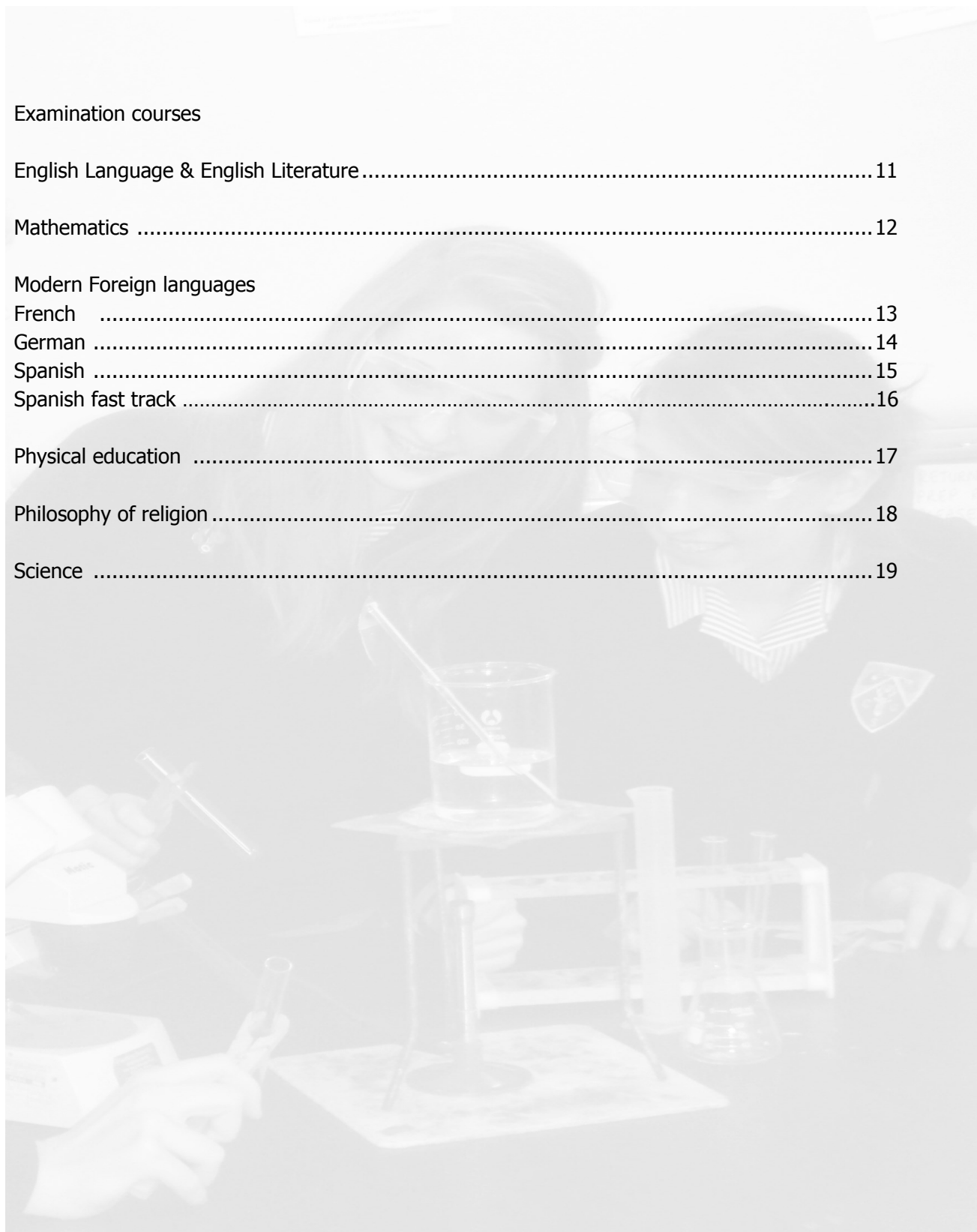
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English Language & English Literature

WHAT are these subjects about?

In English language and literature lessons you will be taught to read fluently and write effectively. As well as developing a confident control of standard English, you will learn to write grammatically correct sentences, deploy figurative language and analyse texts. You will be taught to respond to, and to write for, a range of audiences and purposes to provide information, entertainment and persuasion. In addition, your paragraphing, sentence structure, variety of expression and correct spelling and punctuation will continue to be assessed.

The courses will allow you to develop your ability to read, understand, enjoy and respond to all types of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. You will study poetry, prose and drama, including Shakespeare. There will also be an emphasis on developing your insight into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. You will therefore develop an awareness of personal, social, cultural and historical significance in literature. You will be encouraged to read widely, independently and critically, making informed comparisons between writing.

The GCSE English Language and English Literature courses are inter-related and are not taught as separate entities.

You will also have an opportunity to develop your ability to formally present ideas and arguments using standard English.

WHY do I study these subjects?

The English teaching in Years 10 and 11 is guided by the requirements of the AQA GCSE specifications. All students will be entered for both GCSE English Language as well as GCSE English Literature, which is a separate qualification.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

English Language: 100% examination at the end of Year 11 (two final papers: one on explorations in creative reading and writing, and the second on writers' viewpoints and perspectives)

English Literature: 100% examination at the end of Year 11 (two final papers: one on Shakespeare and a 19th century novel and the second on modern drama and prose, poetry and unseen poetry)

Spoken English: assessment throughout the course (to be separately certificated)

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Everyone is building on the skills they have learned throughout Key Stage 3 in the areas of reading, writing and spoken English. These skills will ensure every success for committed students.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

These skills are essential for those wishing to continue with English at the next stage of A level. GCSE English is welcomed by employers as essential to their requirements and will take you into any area for future study across the whole range of subjects available at university and college.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Ms N Hunt, Acting Head of English

"You need to get involved in understanding the poetry and plays on the course: there are so many interesting ideas to consider."

Azin

"English GCSE encourages you to explore your independent viewpoints and express your ideas in new and perceptive ways."

Erin

"It's fun to read and write a wide range of texts and lose yourself in them."

Betty

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Mathematics

WHAT is this subject about?

Maths covers the six areas of number, algebra, geometry, ratio, statistics and probability. The course aims to give you the skills and fluency to be able to cope with mathematical problems in everyday life, as well as to develop logical reasoning and problem solving ability.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Maths is not optional; all students will take this subject in KS4. However, a good pass in maths is essential to get onto nearly all college courses after Year 11 and also to get a place at university. Some university courses are now asking for higher grades in Maths to get onto them.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Maths is a linear course, which means that you have to do all the exams at the end of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment, just three exam papers in June of Year 11. One paper is non-calculator. The papers will all be 1 hour 30 minutes long, regardless of the tier of entry. During the two years you will do regular assessments so that you can see how you are progressing towards your target grade.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Maths has links to many other subjects. The most obvious of these are the sciences, especially physics, but many others such as geography, business, computer science and music can also contain elements of it.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

In sixth form study you can take an A level in maths, or further maths (if you really enjoy the subject) and then study it at university. If you take science or geography A levels, then maths will support your learning in these subjects. Many universities like to see that you have studied maths as it indicates a logical mind.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Talk to any maths teacher or see Mrs Tearle, Head of Mathematics.

"My teachers taught me how maths can be both important in everything I do (especially my A-levels) and can be very enjoyable."

Mercy

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Modern Foreign Language - French

WHAT is this subject about?

Over the two years you will learn how to speak French more confidently by studying three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

You will build on what you have learnt already and develop your skills further in listening, translating, reading and writing as well as speaking. You will also learn more about the culture and traditions in French speaking countries.

WHY should I choose this subject?

French was recently voted the most useful language by businesses in the UK (CBI Skills Survey 2017). The ability to speak the language will allow you to communicate with other nationalities across Europe and the French speaking world. The French language will also give you the key to a rich cultural heritage – literature, films, music and art.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The GCSE with AQA is assessed by final end of course exams in the four skills in either foundation or higher (no mixing of tiers).

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have an interest in the way the French language works and in the culture of French speaking countries.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

France and the other French speaking countries make up an economically successful part of the global economy so French speakers are highly sought after by British employers. If you learn French, being able to speak the language will put you in high demand when you look for a job in the future. Careers for which being a French speaker would be an advantage include: medical assistant, doctor, receptionist, personal assistant, human resources manager, social worker, teacher, private tutor, Border Agency staff, journalist, civil servant and flight attendant to name but a few! Being able to offer French as a skill will open up many more opportunities for you.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Davis, Miss Howgill and Mrs Pearce will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE French course.

"I was originally going to do French to AS only and continue to A2 with maths but in the end, I chose to continue with French to A2 because I loved the course and being able to speak the language much more fluently. I have combined it with business studies and was delighted to successfully get a place on my chosen university course."

"I have always enjoyed learning languages and think that doing a language module at university will give me the advantage over other applicants for jobs later on."

"I love France and French music, and want to spend a year abroad when I am studying French and Spanish at university."

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Modern Foreign Language - German

"Learning German makes you very employable as well as giving you access to a rich culture. It will give you opportunities to look at life outside the 'Wokingham bubble'. Although it is an academic subject the lessons are fun and interactive and the German department is very supportive."

Charlotte

"I decided to study German as I enjoyed it in previous years. I think that it is important to study a language as it makes you stand out from everyone else."

Louise

"The quality of teaching is excellent and plenty of support is given to all students."

Chloe

WHAT is this subject about?

Over the two years you will learn how to speak German more confidently by studying three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

You will build on what you have learnt already and develop your skills further in listening, translating, reading and writing as well as speaking. You will also learn more about the culture and traditions in German speaking countries.

WHY should I choose this subject?

German is one of the most commonly spoken languages in Europe with more than 100 million speakers and it is the second most popular foreign language to learn in this country. Being able to speak the language will allow you to communicate with other nationalities particularly in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Lichtenstein and will also give you the key to a rich cultural heritage – literature, films, music and art.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The GCSE with AQA is assessed by final end of course exams in the four skills in EITHER foundation or higher (no mixing).

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have an interest in the way the German language works and in the culture of German speaking countries.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Germany has the largest economy in Europe and Germany is one of Britain's biggest trading partners so German speakers are highly sought after by British employers. If you learn German, being able to speak the language will put you in high demand when you look for a job in the future. German is an academic subject which is highly regarded by the top universities and can be a valuable contrast to scientific subjects.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Bell and Miss Dovaston will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE German course.

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Modern Foreign Language - Spanish

WHAT is this subject about?

Over the two years you will learn how to speak Spanish more confidently by studying three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

You will learn how the Spanish language works and develop your skills in listening, translating, reading and writing as well as speaking. You will also learn more about the culture and traditions in Spanish speaking countries.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language globally with more than 400 million speakers. Being able to speak the language will allow you to communicate with people of other nationalities particularly those from Spain and countries from the American continents. The Spanish language will also give you the key to a rich cultural heritage of literature, films, music and art.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The GCSE with AQA is assessed by final end of course exams in the four skills in EITHER foundation or higher (no mixing of tiers).

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have an interest in the way the languages work and in the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Spain and the other Spanish speaking countries make up a vast Hispanic global economy so Spanish speakers are highly sought after by British employers. If you learn Spanish, being able to speak the language will put you in high demand when you look for a job in the future. Being a Spanish speaker would be an advantage for virtually any career you can think of, so we will not limit your imagination by listing jobs here. Suffice to say, along with a set of skills which employers look for, if you have English as a mother tongue and some competency in Spanish, you will be much in demand in the jobs market .

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Stoker, Ms Wood, Mrs Bellis and Mrs Pearce will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE Spanish course.

"I chose to continue my studies of Spanish at GCSE because I find the structure of the language interesting. Spanish is a very useful language, being the world's 3rd most widely spoken language and it will be invaluable for my future employability.

Learning Spanish has opened my eyes to other cultures, the culture of Spain and Latin America too. It has encouraged me to be more broadminded and consider the issues that face people living in other countries."

Amy

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Spanish Fast Track

"Fast track Spanish is great for people that are passionate about learning new languages and can pick them up easily.

Although it may seem quick at first, it is all for your benefit when it comes to the exams.

To say that you have learnt a language in two years is a fantastic achievement! I do not regret choosing fast track Spanish as I still thoroughly enjoy it and want to continue learning it at A level. We are also lucky to have the opportunity to go on so many trips."

Megan

WHAT is this subject about?

Spanish fast track takes you from beginner to GCSE in two years and is for those students on the German half of the year who wish to switch to Spanish GCSE. You will find the learning is fast paced, and so this course is suitable for confident linguists who enjoy learning vocabulary and studying. Over the two years you will learn how to speak Spanish more confidently by studying three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

You will learn how the Spanish language works and develop your skills in listening, translating, reading and writing as well as speaking. You will also learn more about the culture and traditions in Spanish speaking countries.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language globally with more than 400 million speakers. Being able to speak the language will allow you to communicate with people of other nationalities particularly those from Spain and countries from the American continents. The Spanish language will also give you the key to a rich cultural heritage of literature, films, music and art.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The GCSE with AQA is assessed by final end of course exams in the four skills in EITHER foundation or higher (no mixing).

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have an interest in the way the languages work and in the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Spain and the other Spanish speaking countries make up a vast Hispanic global economy, so Spanish speakers are highly sought after by British employers. If you learn Spanish, being able to speak the language will put you in high demand when you look for a job in the future. Being a Spanish speaker would be an advantage for virtually any career you can think of so we will not limit your imagination by listing jobs here. Suffice to say, if you have English as a mother tongue and some competency in Spanish, you will be much in demand in the jobs market.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Stoker, Ms Wood, Mrs Bellis and Mrs Pearce will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE Spanish course.

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Physical Education

What is this subject about?

Physical education aims to instil the necessary skills and knowledge to lead a lifelong active and healthy lifestyle. GCSE PE is suited for those who have an interest in sport as well as how the body works and current issues surrounding sport, such as violence and drugs.

"I have enjoyed the opportunities given to us in GCSE PE, as it provides us with more knowledge on health and fitness."

Amber

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Component 1 and 2 - Theory of PE (60%)

Two written exam papers:

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Component 2: Health and Performance

"I enjoy GCSE PE because I have got to work in a team with people who I wouldn't have typically interacted with and have made some great new friends along the way."

Component 3 - Practical (30%)

Students will perform in three sports.

Component 4 - Personal Exercise Plan (10%)

Students apply their theoretical knowledge to plan, deliver and analyse a personal exercise plan to improve aspects of their fitness in one of their three sports.

"PE GCSE has provided me with lots of new skills that I will take forward to A-levels and future life."

We STRONGLY advise that students selecting this course participate in at least one sport outside school.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students choosing to follow the GCSE full course would be supported by high attainment levels in science, particularly biology.

Kate

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Physical education leads to A level PE and a variety of career paths including: physiotherapy, sports development, sports law, sports science, psychology, sports coaching, teaching, exercise science, medical professions, nutrition, sports agency.

"I enjoy the science behind sports performance. I like learning about the rules and I have the chance to develop my ability in sports I wouldn't usually take part in."

Please note: Students who do not opt for GCSE PE will participate in a core Sports Leader Course. This involves learning how to lead others in various sports and culminates in planning and delivering a multi-sports festival to primary school students as well as organising a High 5 netball tournament. Students will also take part in new practical activities such as lacrosse, tag rugby, trampolining and fitness.

Yasmin

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss A Godfrey, Acting Head of Physical Education

Miss G Elford, Teacher in charge of GCSE Physical Education

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Philosophy of Religion - Full Course

At the end of Year 9, students will have already completed a year of the GCSE syllabus and will be sitting the GCSE exams in the summer of Year 10.

WHAT is this subject about?

The GCSE course looks at a range of moral and ethical issues. Students examine how these issues are viewed by Muslims and Christians as well as by non-religious people. Some of the issues covered are marriage, crime, human rights and euthanasia. Students will look at these topics from the perspectives of Muslims and Christians.

WHY should I choose this subject?

It is a legal requirement that students participate in some form of Religious Education. Full course PoR will provide you with an extra qualification and allow you to learn about, discuss and evaluate a variety of ideas, both religious and non-religious. In the modern world it is important that you are able to understand different cultures and traditions and that you can evaluate the views and beliefs of others.

The ethical topics covered in this course mean that it links closely with other subjects such as psychology, sociology, history, politics and law as well as science subjects. Religion has been a major factor in recent history, and it is increasingly important that people who are involved with the international community have an understanding of the religions and cultures among which they are working. PoR is both academically challenging and inspiring. It is taught by knowledgeable and passionate teachers who use a range of teaching methods.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Students will have two exams at the end of Year 10. The marks for both papers will be added together to form an average, which will then be used to give an overall grade. These exams will be graded 1-9.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

It would be useful to have ability in literacy based subjects such as English and history, but is more important that you are able to listen to and evaluate the views of others in a balanced way.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

PoR opens the door to an incredibly diverse range of courses and careers. The ethical nature of the course makes it ideal for people going on to study subjects such as law and medicine as well as some of the most academic degrees, such as PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). In addition to this the fact that it gives students a deeper understanding of the two largest religions in the world would be extremely useful for those intending to enter careers that involve working with people from different backgrounds, such as social work, diplomacy, nursing or teaching.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Barker, Head of Philosophy of Religion

Ms Wilkinson

"PoR is a great subject as it helps you understand the diversity between humans."

Ellie

"Studying for PoR lets you learn about other peoples beliefs around the world. It also makes you aware of problems that we face in society."

Lucinda

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Science

What is this subject about?

Students will follow the OCR Gateway programme. Most girls will take the combined science course, this course is worth two GCSEs. Some students will study the OCR triple award course, this course is worth three GCSEs. Entry into the triple award course is based on Year 7 to end of Year 9 achievement.

The combined science course will be taught as the three separate strands of biology, chemistry and physics and will be taught by three teachers who are subject specialists. The triple award course will also be taught by subject specialists. Either course will allow entry to any of the A level sciences for students who meet the entry requirement.

The content for both combined and triple science will include topics such as cells, co-ordination and control, ecosystems and inheritance in biology, particles, elements, mixtures and compounds, chemical reactions and rates of reaction in chemistry and matter, forces, electricity and magnetism in physics.

Why should I choose this subject?

Science is a compulsory core subject.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The combined science course is assessed by six written papers, each 1 hour and 10 minutes in length, examined at the end of Year 11. There are two biology, two chemistry and two physics papers.

Separate biology, chemistry and physics are also examined at the end of Year 11. Each subject has two written papers, each 1 hour and 45 minutes in length.

There are no controlled assessments.

All subjects are offered at foundation and higher tier levels.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You need to have a curiosity about the world around you and enjoy problem solving. Science involves logical thought, mathematical skills and practical work. You will need the ability to be able to work independently and as a team member.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Science is a core subject and is often a requirement for entry onto many post 16 courses. Science GCSEs (triple or combined science) also lead on to A level studies in biology, chemistry or physics which then open the doors for many careers.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Nayyar, Head of the Science Faculty

"Thorough and engaging."

Isobel

"Good supervision, constantly checking that we are keeping up to date and are not falling behind."

Cordelia

"It's great, I made sure that I understood by asking and I did well."

Maisy

"It was fun, there was lots of practical work."

Catherine

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Option Subjects—Course Descriptions

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Computer Science.....	26
Design & Technology	
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Food Preparation and Nutrition.....	32
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Health & Social Care	34
History.....	35
Music.....	36
English Plus	37
Learning Link (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness / Alternative Provision)	38

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Art & Design

WHAT is this subject about?

The aim of the GCSE Art and Design course is to develop your confidence and existing knowledge, building on existing skills and introducing you to a wide range of new techniques in a variety of two and three dimensional media. You will also study the work of artists and craftspeople from different cultures and produce a diverse and exciting portfolio of work.

WHY should I choose this subject?

You will be making art and design decisions throughout your life; the vast majority of careers consider creativity to be a great asset. Having a creative confidence also provides great personal enjoyment and a diverse cultural appreciation, and allows you to access a huge variety of pastimes.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio

During Years 10 and 11, you will be working on various projects that will form your portfolio. There is no restriction on the scale of work, media or materials used. Portfolio work will be marked throughout the year but will be formally assessed once it is submitted at the end of Year 11. You are able to choose your best pieces of work for the portfolio ensuring the quality of the submission is of the highest standard possible. Component 1 provides 60% of the available marks for the GCSE.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Work takes place in lesson time at the end of the course over a maximum of 10 hours and represents 40% of the marks. You will produce a book of preparatory work to support the final piece and will experience a mock exam under exam conditions in the spring term of Year 10.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

We expect students to have a genuine interest in art and design with a willingness to practise, experiment, research and explore. There is an expectation that every student will spend two hours per week on their set home learning task or on completing classwork. There is not an expected level required to join the GCSE course however your suitability will very much depend on your attitude and progress grades during Year 9.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Having taken GCSE Art, the next steps to establishing a career in one of the many creative industries is to study art at A level and then go onto a foundation course and/or a degree. However, with such high university costs now, many are opting for work placements and apprenticeships where you can hone a skill, and learn on the job. Careers may include graphic designer, corporate advertising, photographer, fashion and retail, product design, illustration, publishing, primary and secondary education, art therapy, architectural concept design, theatrical make-up, set and costume design, TV and film.....the list is endless.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Skeates, Head of Art

"Art is a chance to switch off from other stresses and let your imagination run wild."

Emily

"Art is always a lesson I look forward to—definitely worth the hard work!"

Rachel

"Art is a relaxing break from my academic subjects. I have improved because of the help I have been given by my teacher and I enjoy every lesson."

Eve

"Art is a great subject. It lets me express myself and use my imagination freely. The classes are really relaxing and there's a good balance between set work and working freely."

Tierney

"I feel that Art is an option that balances out my timetable and gives me a chance to relax."

Ariana

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Business

"Business is incredibly useful for general knowledge about the business world as well as very interesting. The course is extremely fun as well. It will be beneficial for later life and will open many career doors for you."

Yahvi

"Business is a great opportunity to learn about the world around you and how it works in the financial and business world. It is interesting and fun!"

Amy

"Taking business has boosted my confidence as it is a challenging but rewarding subject, everything we learn is interesting and useful for later life."

Katie

"If you want to understand how different businesses run in the world and how everybody can set up a business - take business studies! It has helped me acknowledge what entrepreneurs have to go through in order to succeed."

Chloe

"Business can be used in everyday life and is beneficial to understanding the wonders of possibly starting your own business. It is very interesting to learn about what you put into a business and then what you can get out of it."

Bethany

WHAT is this subject about?

This course aims to enable you to gain a critical understanding of the business environment that affects your daily life. By the end of the course you will be able to appreciate what is happening in the business world and why it is happening.

This course looks at business in the real world and influences on business and focuses on the 4 main functional areas of business, operations, human resource management, marketing and finance; looking at how each is managed in the real world and the influences on them.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Business is a constantly changing subject and is happening around us all the time. You will be able to use your own experiences from everyday life, the knowledge and skills of your family and things that you watch on TV to bring the subject to life and make it relevant to you.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will sit two papers, each worth 50% of the final grade. The first paper is influences of operations and human resource management on business activity. The second is influence of marketing and finance on business activity. Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes and has a mix of multiple choice, short answer questions, case study and data response questions.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You need to be able to perform simple calculations and use formulae.

You must be interested in what is happening in the business world and be prepared to keep up to date with business news.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Business goes well with many other GCSE subjects across both sciences and arts. Many of our students continue with business at A level or move into economics.

Business combined with other A levels is an ideal foundation for a variety of degree courses. This can then open the door to a wide range of professions including accountancy, banking, insurance, marketing, personnel, operations, retail management, journalism and events management.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Styles, Head of Economics and Business

Mrs Vaughan, Teacher of Economics and Business

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Child Development, Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

WHAT is this subject about?

You will learn the essential knowledge and understanding for child development covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety. You will also gain an understanding of the equipment needs of babies and young children. You will gain knowledge of nutrition and hygienic practices. The course also focuses on developmental norms for children up to the age of 5 years.

WHY should I choose this subject?

This qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development. If you enjoy working with children this course would be suitable for you. You have the opportunity to be inspired and motivated by independent application of the centre assessed tasks. You should have the commitment to work hard and the desire to be successful.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This is not a GCSE course but a Cambridge National qualification which can be sat at Level 1 (Foundation - equivalent to grades 1-3 at GCSE) or Level 2 (Higher - equivalent to grades 4 - 9 at GCSE).

You will be assessed in two ways.

Two centre assessed tasks:

R019 - Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.

R020 - Understand the development of a child from birth to 5 years - this will include practical tasks; you must have a child under 5 years of age to study.

A written paper of 1 hour 15 minutes taken at the end of Year 11:

R018 - Health and well-being for child development, a written paper of 1 hour 15 minutes taken at the end of Year 11.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The qualification is complemented by a range of GCSEs including biology, sociology, maths and English. It also compliments creative subjects such as art and design and computer science.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This course is an excellent foundation for nursery nursing, infant teaching, nursing, social and community work .

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Arter, Head of Department

"I chose child development as it will benefit me in the future as I would like to be a midwife. I don't regret it as I find the subject really enjoyable and the lessons are always filled with excitement."

Katie

"I am very glad I chose child development as one of my options. Every lesson is very enjoyable and interesting. I feel this course will be very beneficial for me in the future."

Sarah

"I chose child development as a GCSE because I love being around children and I wanted to learn more about them and the way in which they think. I can also use this in the future to do jobs such as working in a nursery or babysitting."

Libby

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Computer Science

"I really enjoyed it at KS3 so I chose to continue it at GCSE. Although it can be challenging, computer science is really enjoyable and rewarding and I have a much better understanding of computers as a result."

Kayleigh

"I chose computer science because it seemed like an interesting subject. It can be challenging at times but when you get something right and overcome a problem, you feel a real sense of achievement."

Nithyashri

"I chose this subject because it seemed like an interesting option that could open lots of doors for me with future careers. I have enjoyed learning about how the different components work and interact with each other"

Amy

"I chose computer science because I was really enjoying programming in previous years and felt that I was okay at the subject. I also enjoyed the taster day and decided it would be a good subject to continue. At the moment I am enjoying the practical side of the subject which allows me to show my knowledge, creativity and perseverance."

Jasmine

WHAT is this subject about?

The course gives you a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from your other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming. You will develop your programming skills and use them to solve tasks both in the examination and programming project.

WHY should I choose this subject?

As technology is constantly changing there are always new topics up for discussion and new areas to explore. This specification encourages you to acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts. You will look at the use of algorithms in computer programs, develop computer programs to solve problems as well as evaluating the effectiveness of solutions and the impact of computer technology in society.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The OCR Computer Science course has three components. Components 1 and 2 are written examinations together worth 80% of the overall qualification which you will take in the summer of Year 11. You will cover the theory required for the examination across the two years. Component 3 is a programming project worth 20% of the overall qualification. The programming project tasks are set by the exam board.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have a keen interest in computing and programming, as well as current and emerging technologies and how they work. You should also be able to work independently on tasks to interpret a scenario and then apply your knowledge and skills to solve problems in the controlled assessment units. In order to help you with this, you will develop skills in designing algorithms and computer programming throughout the course.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving you a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course provides excellent preparation for those of you who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Dearing, Head of Computer Science

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Design & Technology - Graphics

WHAT is this subject about?

The new GCSE Design & Technology course will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in our increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from the wider influences on design & technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental, mathematical and economic factors as well as new emerging technologies.

You will get to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical skills to all your work. You will learn core technical, designing and making principles and how to apply the iterative design process to problem solving using a wide range of materials, techniques and equipment. You will then study specialist principles in graphics in greater depth.

You will learn a wide range of drawing, presentation, modelling and illustration techniques. These will include two and three dimensional drawings, such as isometric, orthographic, perspective, planometric and geometrical constructions. You will learn how to use and apply 2D/3D CAD and CAM, as well as focusing on industrial manufacturing techniques. You will also study printing methods, advertising techniques, sustainable design and smart materials and will then study the environmental impact of waste produced in packaging.

This is a course aimed at potential graphic and product designers; there is a large emphasis on producing finished 3D products by modelling them in graphic materials such as card, thin sheet plastic, foam board and other suitable materials. The difference between resistant materials and graphics is that final outcomes in graphics will relate more to packaging, promotion, conceptual modelling or advertising and will be of a prototype nature using mostly semi-rigid materials.

"Graphics is a fun subject where you can be free to do your own work and create really individual products. I would recommend taking it for your GCSEs."

Alex

WHY should I choose this subject?

This is an exciting and hands-on course for those who enjoyed designing and making products in Key Stage 3 and who found the designing element really appealing.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There is a non-examined assessment (NEA) which is one project making up 50% of the final grade. It will be a substantial project covering four key assessment criteria: investigating, designing, making and evaluating.

There will be a 2 hour written examination at the end of Year 11 making up the remaining 50% of your final grade.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students who choose to study D&T should be interested in products around us, inquisitive into why products are designed the way they are, be a keen designer or interested in design in general, be creative, be interested in research and a keenness to make a difference.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Students who have studied D&T have often then moved on to study college and university courses in product design, engineering, interior design, graphic design, marketing and advertising. The sheer nature of the subject - creative and problem solving - means that it is a life skill, so this is a very rounded subject, useful in any future career.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Williams, Head of Design & Technology or Mrs Padrick, Head of Graphics

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Design & Technology - Resistant Materials

WHAT is this subject about?

Design & technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in our increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from the wider influences on design & technology including historical, social, cultural environmental and economic factors. You will get to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical skills. You will learn core technical and designing and making principles including a broad range of design processes, material techniques and equipment. You will then study specialist principles in resistant materials in greater depth.

"In RM my favourite thing is you get to be creative and have control over what you do. It isn't essays and writing, it is practical based, different from every other subject."

"I enjoy making and designing new and inventive products."

"I have really enjoyed resistant materials, producing models and final designs."

Students will study the design and manufacture of products using a number of different materials such as woods, metals, plastics, composites and smart materials. All of the basic hand making techniques will be covered in theory and in practice, as well as common cutting, joining and finishing methods and, by engaging in a number of set focused tasks, these lead up to controlled assessments at key points in the course. Students will also learn how to use selected machines such as lathes and CNC equipment; they will study industrial processes and are, throughout, encouraged to show creativity, ingenuity, skill and sensitivity towards design.

WHY should I choose this subject?

This is an exciting and hands on course for those who enjoyed the taste of designing and making products in Key Stage 3 and would like to extend their knowledge in this area further.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There is a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is one project making up 50% of the final grade. It will be a substantial project covering the four key assessment criteria: investigating, designing, making and analysing and evaluation.

There will be a 2 hour written examination at the end of Year 11 worth 50% of the final mark.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students who choose to study D&T should be interested in technology and the way in which things work, should have a reasonable ability to draw and sketch and should be prepared to try ideas out and to not be too afraid to make mistakes.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Students who have studied D&T have often then moved on to study college and university courses in product design, engineering, civil engineering, jewellery design and architecture.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Williams , Head of Design & Technology or Mrs Padrick

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Design & Technology - Textiles

WHAT is this subject about?

Design & technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in our increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from the wider influences on design & technology including historical, social, cultural environmental and economic factors. You will get to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical skills. You will learn core technical and designing and making principles including a broad range of design processes, material techniques and equipment. You will then study specialist principles in textiles in greater depth.

This exciting and hands on course gives the opportunity to design and create innovative products in both fashion and interior design. It enables you to experience a wider range of textile techniques in the production of clothing, furnishings, decorative items and accessories. The course will also consider issues related to the environment, moral and social aspects of fashion.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Textiles is a varied and interesting course which gives you the opportunity to develop the skills you acquired in Key Stage 3. The designing is less structured at GCSE and gives the opportunity for individuality in all aspects of product development.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There is a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is one project making up 50% of the final grade. It will be a substantial project covering the four key assessment criteria: investigating, designing, making and analysing and evaluation.

There will be a 2 hour written examination at the end of Year 11 worth 50% of the final mark.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

This course is suitable if you are interested in designing, experimenting with design ideas and have an interest in fashion, textiles, fabrics and decoration. Enthusiasm, an openness to new ideas and a willingness to learn are essential to success in this subject. Although a talent for art can be useful, it is not absolutely necessary as high grades can be achieved without drawing ability.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Following this course can lead to careers in fashion design, retailing, journalism, advertising and buying, theatre costume and interior design. It also supports careers needing manual dexterity including dentistry and medicine.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Williams, Head of Design & Technology

"Following my first half term of pursuing textiles as a GCSE option, I have progressed so much and gained so many qualities that I otherwise would not possess.

"My organisational skills have substantially improved and I have produced some work I am very proud of (and so have all the other students). Taking GCSE textiles involves hard work and concentration and if you have determination, it is very rewarding and fun as well."

Olivia

"Textiles allows you to be creative and visualise your ideas through interesting pieces, it is very different to essay based subjects, which is great!"

Jess

"Textiles is 10/10 because you get to create products that are unique to you."

Ellie

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Drama

"I love drama! You get to express yourself and use your imagination. It makes you more confident in your abilities and talking to others. It is a very safe and acceptable environment and you're bound to do well!"

Amber

"By taking GCSE Drama, I have improved my confidence and public speaking skills. Also, I have worked with people I would not usually work with and made more friends. As well as this, I've improved my drama skills and have had many opportunities to go on theatre trips."

Olivia

"GCSE Drama has given me so many new skills, such as working with people and performing in front of an audience. I have developed skills such as improvising and thinking on my feet, as well as devising and creating. Drama GCSE has been such a valuable subject for me and one of the only ones I have never regretted taking."

Jessica

"I'm so glad that I chose GCSE Drama. It has helped boost my confidence levels so much and I have made great friends because of it!"

Isobel

WHAT is this subject about?

In drama, you are taught a variety of different performance styles and acting skills which you can then apply to your own devised drama work. You also perform a range of scripted plays, which are sometimes comedies and sometimes tackle more serious subjects. You also study how music, sound effects and lighting can create a brilliant performance and you get plenty of opportunities to perform a wide range of theatrical pieces.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Drama is a great choice for anyone wishing to enter the acting industry but it goes far beyond that too. You learn design skills, learn to manage long term projects and work in a variety of teams, experience different theatre styles by performing in them or seeing them live on stage (with plenty of theatre visits organised for you!). If you enjoy performing, working in groups and thinking creatively, this is a fantastic course for you.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

40% of your final grade comes from performing in a group devised piece and the completion of a written journal reflecting on your devising process. This will be assessed by your drama teacher. You will also perform two extracts from a play script that will be assessed by a visiting examiner from AQA and this is worth 20% of your overall grade. There is one written exam at the end of Year 11 which forms the other 40% of your GCSE grade. This exam will test your theatrical knowledge of a play you have seen live and your ability to write about a set text that you will have studied during the course.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

People with all sorts of different skills and abilities can benefit from drama. You may be good at English, but if you don't feel that's your strength, don't worry! People with creative talents such as music, dance and art also enjoy the subject. This subject is popular because such a variety of people take the course. As long as you come to every lesson willing to work hard and get stuck in to all tasks, you are sure to do extremely well.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

People with drama GCSE go on to be actors, solicitors, events organisers, musicians, teachers, designers, journalists and TV presenters, business managers etc. Due to the wide range of skills that the subject teaches you, it's an excellent qualification to have.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Turley, Acting Head of Drama, or Mr Anders

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Economics

WHAT is this subject about?

You will work towards gaining an understanding of the issues taking place in the real world of economics. This will include studying both micro and macro economic concepts. These include how price is determined in markets, how businesses operate, market structures, why markets might fail, the policies used by government to control inflation and unemployment, the purpose of taxation and how and why the UK trades with other countries.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Economics plays an important part in everyone's life, from the decisions we make as individuals to the policies made by government. Studying this subject will help you appreciate what is happening in the world around you and will help you to make informed decisions.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two exams covering how markets work and how the economy works, each are 1 hour and 30 minutes and are worth 50% of the final mark. There will be a mix of multiple choice questions, short answer, calculation and extended response questions.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You will need to be on track for a grade 7 in your maths GCSE. You must also be interested in current affairs and be prepared to follow the news.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This subject goes really well with a variety of different subjects in both sciences and arts, both at GCSE and A level. Economics is also an ideal foundation for a variety of degree courses such as economics, modern languages, geography, history, law, business, accountancy, maths or management. These degrees open the door to a wide range of professions including accountancy, marketing, politics, journalism, teaching and even becoming an economist.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Styles, Head of Economics and Business

Mrs Vaughan, Teacher of Economics and Business

"If you are interested in current affairs and news this is the subject for you. I'm really enjoying Economics at the moment, it has so far proved to be an enjoyable and useful subject for today's society."

Jude

"I really enjoy it and I feel so much smarter already - you actually learn about life for the first time in school - there's lots of discussion but even the writing bit is fun."

Niyati

"Economics is very interesting and fun as you are talking about things that are really relevant in the world at the moment (and even in the past)."

Simran

"Economics is really interesting and enjoyable. I've learnt so much about the world and it is my favourite subject. I'm considering my future in economics."

Jemima

"I was cautious of taking economics and was nervous that it would be too difficult. But it's one of the best choices I've made, it's beyond interesting and the lessons are something I often look forward to. The teachers are amazing and I already feel like I have more knowledge about the world around me."

Molly

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Food Preparation and Nutrition

"I love my food, preparation and nutrition lessons; they are always fun, interesting and useful in everyday life."

Hannah

"It opens my mind by challenging me to think outside the box with my choice of recipes."

Millie

"Food, Preparation and Nutrition is very interesting and fun. I love doing the practicals as it is a great way of making new foods."

Emily

WHAT is this subject about?

Everything we do is about improving lives through better knowledge of food, where it comes from and how it affects our bodies. This course will motivate you to develop a high level of knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. You will have the opportunity to understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health. You will learn about environmental, economic, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability and production processes. Through practical application you will learn to plan, prepare and cook using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment.

WHY should I choose this subject?

This course is contemporary and exciting. It allows you to develop a high level of knowledge, understanding and skills to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It allows you to explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions, giving you the opportunity to produce innovative food products.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will be expected to complete two assessments which are together worth 50% of your final result.

One will be conducted in Year 10. This will assess scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food, and is worth 15% of the total marks.

One will be conducted in Year 11. You will be expected to prepare, cook and present a menu of three dishes within 3 hours. This is worth 35% of the total marks.

You will also take one terminal examination at the end of Year 11 worth 50% of your final grade.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

This subject would be suitable for you if you wish to be inspired, motivated and challenged. You should have an interest in food related issues as well as having the desire to extend your practical application. You should show enthusiasm and willingness to learn and to be totally committed to working hard to achieve your personal best.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This course will allow progression into higher education through general or vocational qualifications and into a career relating to the food industry.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Arter, Head of Department

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Geography

WHAT is this subject about?

Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human worlds. It develops knowledge of places and environments throughout the world, an understanding of maps, and a range of investigative and problem solving skills both inside and outside the classroom. It is also an important link between the natural and social sciences. As students study geography, they encounter different societies and cultures. This helps them realise how nations rely on each other. It can inspire them to think about their own place in the world, their values, and their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment.

The topics you will study are: volcanoes and earthquakes, weather and climate, glaciation, coasts, ecosystems, tropical rainforests, hot deserts, population, urban issues, and resource management.

WHY should I choose this subject?

You should study geography for GCSE at The Holt because:

- It is very well taught by experienced staff.
- The results are excellent. It is not uncommon for two thirds of the students taking geography to receive either an A* or A grade.
- There is a great variety of different teaching techniques used in the lessons.
- You have the chance to carry out your own fieldwork.
- You have the chance to go on trips such as Iceland, The Olympic Park and Swanage.

“Geography opens opportunities and develops personalities.”

Katie

“Geography has taught me skills that I can apply across my subjects and is thoroughly enjoyable.”

Emma

“In our Geography lessons the teachers are always supportive and I look forward to the subject.”

Phoebe

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will sit three examination papers in June of Year 11

- Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment – 35% (1h 30 min)
- Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment – 35% (1h 30 min)
- Paper 3: Geographical Application – 30% (1 hour)

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

There are no required areas of aptitude for geography.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future? If you are interested in any of the following careers then geography is a suitable GCSE to take: law, banking and finance, environment agency, marketing, accountancy, surveyor, architect or any management position.

Statistics show that compared to other subjects, geography graduates are among the most employable. This is presumably because they possess the skills that employers look for. In part this is because the subject is a combination of the facts of science and the understanding of the arts. Geography gives a balanced viewpoint which is a good preparation for the world of work.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Marrison, Head of Department, or your geography teacher

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

BTEC Tech award in Health and Social Care

"I have enjoyed learning about how a person develops over their life, and how that development can be affected by life events."

Erin

"I like health and social care as I really enjoy learning about different life stages and how an individual develops physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially in each life stage."

Emily

"In health and social care I managed to turn my struggle into a success and this is because of supportive teachers."

Fatima

What is this subject about?

Health and social care is study of health and wellbeing. The aim is for you to learn about the important stages of physical and emotional development and gain some understanding about the importance of relationships and life events on an individual's health. The subject also provides the opportunity for students to examine the factors that have an effect on a person's self-concept and how people react to change in their lives.

Why should I choose this subject?

Many students with qualifications in health and social care go on to have interesting and successful careers in childcare, nursing, midwifery, social work, teaching, paramedics, counselling and health visiting.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This will not be a GCSE course but the certificate can be sat at either a Level 1 (equivalent to GCSE grades 1 - 3), or Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE grades 4 - 9). The qualification consists of three components and components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Component 3, which provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification, is assessed externally.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Suitable candidates will be able to use computers for research and use the extended writing skills developed in English, such as expressing ideas and information clearly; for example when creating a health and wellbeing improvement plan. You will also need to be able to work independently, demonstrate excellent social skills, listen with respect and empathise with others.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Study of this qualification will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will generally depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who achieve at Level 2 might consider progression to A levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects, or study of a vocational qualification at Level 3 which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of health care.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs M Dakovic, Head of Social Sciences

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

History

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

Historians are often asked: what is the use or relevance of studying history? The answer is that history is inescapable. It is the study of the past, and the legacies of the past, in the present. It connects things through time and encourages its students to take a long view of such connections. All people and peoples are living histories. So understanding the links between past and present is absolutely basic for a good understanding of the condition of being human. That, in a nutshell, is why history matters. Knowledge of it is not just 'useful', it is essential.

WHAT do I learn about in this subject?

The choice of topics are relevant, interesting and varied, meaning there is something for most historical interests. The topics that will be studied are:

- America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality
- Causes of World War Two, 1918–1939
- Britain: Migration, empires and the people, c790 to the present day
- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

You will learn how to organise and structure a logical, well-supported argument that is accurate and gets your point across. You will learn how to question and evaluate different pieces of historical evidence, to assess different perspectives and then give your own. These sorts of skills and the ability to communicate effectively are highly important and will certainly help you with other subjects.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two exams for GCSE History which the students will take in the summer of Year 11; both examinations are 1 hour and 45 minutes long. The exams constitute 100% of the overall grade. We study the course offered by AQA.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

There are no special requirements to have a certain skill or aptitude in another subject. However, as you can expect to be undertaking long, extended pieces of writing, it would be advantageous to have strong literacy skills.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Where can't it take you? History as a subject makes you very versatile and links with most other subjects in one form or another. Many people who take history at GCSE, A level and then at university go into a wide range of careers. For example, many of the skills people learn when studying history enables them to become lawyers or gain jobs in the business world. Historians develop many analytical skills, so lots of students of history go into working as journalists, the media and working to help create the news. Lots of different people who take history work in museums, local newspapers, some become teachers or researchers at university. Many famous people have studied history from Sasha Baron-Cohen (Ali G) to Chris Martin (Coldplay) and Jonathon Ross (TV).

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr J Furlong, Head of History

"History has developed my understanding of the world around me."

Tara

"History makes us more aware of the lessons of the past, to help us in the future."

Rosie

"I enjoy history as our lessons are enlightening and thought provoking."

Emily

"History is the best, it has moulded me as a person."

Molly

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Music

WHAT is this subject about?

Music at GCSE involves listening, performing and composing.

Listening:

The listening is based on studying two pieces of music from four areas of study. The two pieces in each area are really interesting and you will learn about a wide variety of styles, some of which you will never have heard before!

Performing:

During the two year course you must record yourself performing a solo piece on your chosen instrument or voice and an ensemble (group piece). To gain the maximum marks for this you need to perform to a standard of grade 3/4. It's perfectly okay to perform something easier though.

Composing:

Over the two year course you will be taught how to compose using computers and you submit two compositions as coursework at the end of Year 11.

WHY should I choose this subject?

You will enjoy this course if you:

- Enjoy performing and can play an instrument or sing to a good standard
- Are open minded about listening to a wide range of music styles from club dance to Mozart
- You would like the opportunity to perform in class and at other concerts during the year
- You like creating your own music in any style.
- You enjoy learning about a wide variety of musical styles by studying set pieces of music

You will also be expected to take part in at least one extra-curricular music activity weekly.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This course is 60% coursework - 30% performance and 30% composing. This must be completed by the end of the spring term in Year 11. There is a solo performing exam in the January of Year 11 and the ensemble performing exam in March of Year 11. With the composition coursework, one piece will be finished at the end of Year 10 and the other in Year 11. The listening exam (written) is held in the final exam session and is worth 40% of the marks.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

All you need for this course is to enjoy music, be a self-motivated, independent learner, and work well on your own or in a group. You should, ideally, have some knowledge of music theory (reading the music) and be having lessons or looking to start lessons on your instrument/voice. All of this will help you to do well in music at GCSE. If you cannot read music to start with, we can help you improve. You are **not** expected to be able to compose music straight away but you must be willing to try out ideas at first.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

These subjects offer a variety of career paths from professional performers, composers to teachers, sound engineers and music producers or working with media – BBC, radio, TV, internet etc. When applying for degree courses, universities like students who have studied music. Musicians are able to demonstrate lots of good qualities – dedication to practising their instrument, showing independent learning skills and self-motivation, team work and presentation skills (from experience of performing to an audience). Universities consider music A level as an academic, all-round subject and will accept it when you make a UCAS application.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to either Mr Gray or Ms O'Reilly if you have any queries or questions about the course.

"I chose music because I have a creative personality and I love to express myself. The set works are really interesting and great to listen to out of lessons as well. The classes are loads of fun!"

Catherine

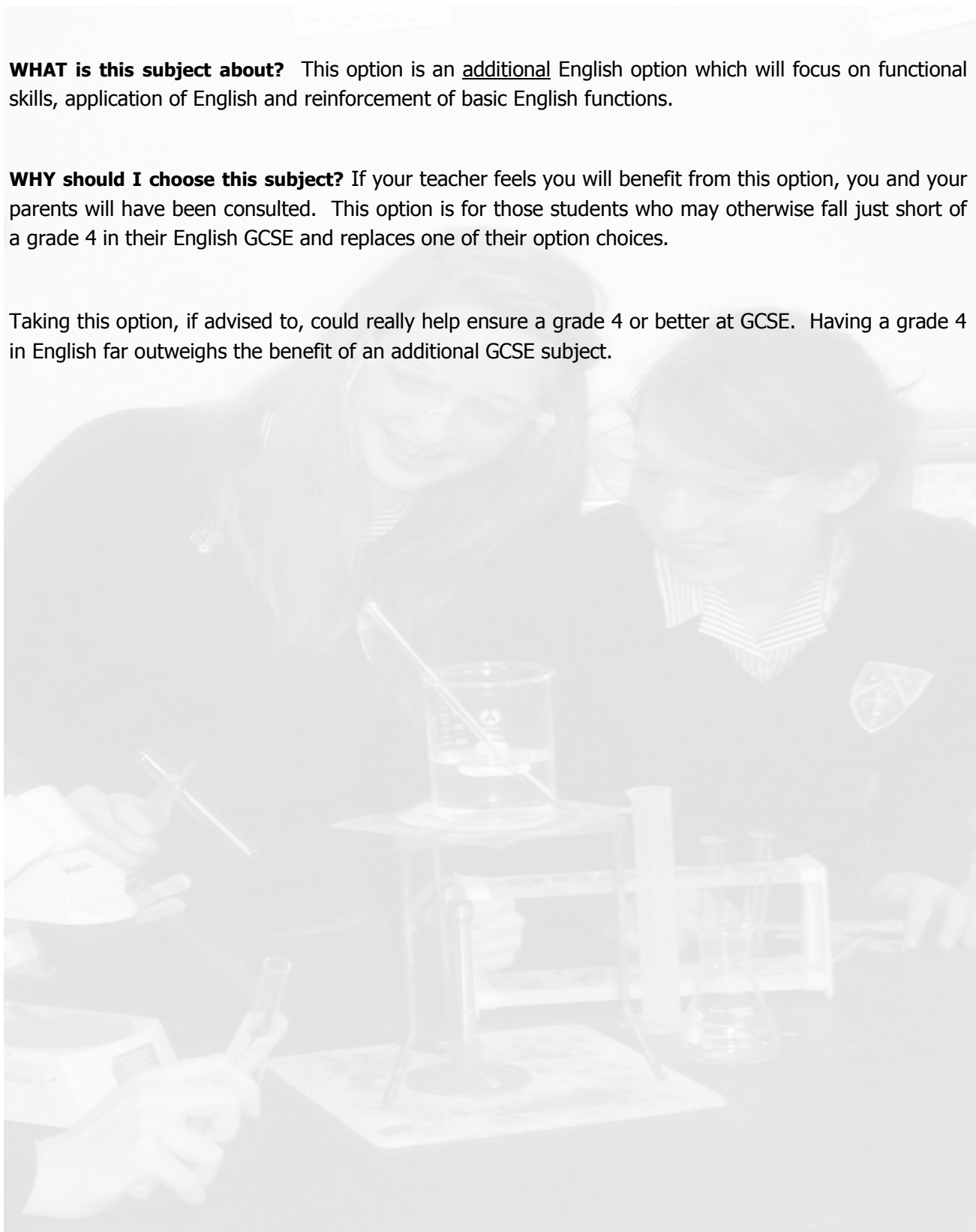
Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

English Plus

WHAT is this subject about? This option is an additional English option which will focus on functional skills, application of English and reinforcement of basic English functions.

WHY should I choose this subject? If your teacher feels you will benefit from this option, you and your parents will have been consulted. This option is for those students who may otherwise fall just short of a grade 4 in their English GCSE and replaces one of their option choices.

Taking this option, if advised to, could really help ensure a grade 4 or better at GCSE. Having a grade 4 in English far outweighs the benefit of an additional GCSE subject.



Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

The Learning Link

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness / Health and Social Care

"We have done so much in ASDAN. A babysitting course, food safety, healthy eating, and organising a toddler group Christmas party. I have really enjoyed setting up our café for staff and volunteering at the Foodbank."

Chloe

"CoPE allows young people to be recognised and rewarded for their individual talents. It teaches important life skills, including teamwork and self confidence. Students develop the skills employers are looking for."

Mrs E Griffiths

ASDAN Co-ordinator

www.asdan.org.uk

WHAT is this subject about?

The ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) is a pathway tailored for students who may achieve a grade 3 or below in English or maths at the end of Key Stage 4. The CoPE course is designed to promote confidence, independence and give guidance towards future career goals of students taking the course. Students will also study BTEC Health and Social Care (level 1) alongside the CoPE.

WHY should I choose this subject?

In taking this course, students will have the opportunity to gain skills in a wide range of curriculum areas and work experience placements. The course offers a very 'hands on' approach to learning, allowing students to develop many transferable skills to their chosen post 16 destination.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Teachers will select challenges from the CoPE levels 1 and 2 student book. The challenges are split into 12 modules:

Communication, citizenship and community, sport and leisure, independent living, the environment, work experience, health and fitness, enterprise, science and technology, international links, expressive art, beliefs and values.

Students will be required to build a portfolio of evidence as they complete the challenges. The skills that will be developed are:

- * Working with others in different environments
- * Improving personal learning and knowledge
- * Planning and completing research
- * Communicating using different forms, e.g. discussion, email, letter
- * Planning and presenting work

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This subject provides an excellent foundation into the world of working or into the student's chosen pathway at college. Regular work experience at local businesses and the wide range of activities undertaken as part of the qualification will ensure that students are confident about their future career choice.

CoPE level 3 is available as a post 16 qualification

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Martin will speak to you about your suitability for this option choice.

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

What Happens Next?

1. Individual student interviews

Following the KS4 information evening on Thursday 18th January, every student will have an options discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Year to discuss possible choices.

2. Taster Day

On Friday 2nd February, every student will have the chance to have a 'taster' lesson in the GCSE subjects they are considering.

3. Parents' Consultation Evening

At the parents' consultation evening on Thursday 22nd February, appointments can be made with subject teachers for students and their parents to discuss suitability for GCSE options as well as progress in general.

Choose your options by ticking one subject in each block on the form on the back page of this booklet.

**ALL OPTION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO RECEPTION BY
TUESDAY 6th MARCH 2018**

Then What?

No news is good news. When the forms are submitted, the school will then start to process them. Our aim is to give you the subject choices you want. Please do not keep asking your teachers or Head of Year about your choices as this can be a very slow process, and it will take some time before we are able to confirm your options. **Where possible, we will try to ensure that every student receives her first choices. However, on very rare occasions this may not be possible. For example, if a group size is too small, it will not run and students and parents will be informed. If a group is too big, a ballot will be drawn to ensure group sizes does not exceed 30. If this situation occurs then all students and parents concerned will be informed.**

Key Stage 4 Options 2018-2020

Options Timeline

Thursday 18th January 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Options Information Evening

Friday 2nd February - Periods 1-4

GCSE Options Taster Day

Thursday 22nd February - 4.15pm - 6.45pm

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening

Monday 5th February - Friday 23rd February

Student options interview with Senior Leadership Team

Tuesday 6th March

Signed Option form returned to Reception

April

Students/Parents contacted in the event of 4th choice being necessary

Year 10 options form 2018–2020

Name :	Form:
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All students in KS4 will study the following core examination courses:

- English/English literature
- Mathematics
- Combined/triple science or single science (biology)
- Philosophy of religion—exam in Year 10
- French or Spanish or German
- GCSE PE or PE sports leader course

1. Students will also choose 3 further options by ticking one subject in each block.

For a balanced curriculum, we advise you choose an arts subject (art, drama, music), a humanities subject (business, geography, history) and a technology subject (cooking and nutrition, graphics, resistant materials or textiles).

To achieve the EBacc, you must choose either geography or history for one of your options.

Block A		Block B		Block C	
Art		English Plus		Art	
Business Studies		Art		Business Studies	
Food Preparation and Nutrition		Business Studies		Child Development (vocational)	
Drama		Computing		Drama	
Economics		Food Preparation and Nutrition		Geography	
Geography		Geography		History	
Graphics		History		Textiles	
Health & Social Care (vocational)		Music		French (dual linguists)	
History		Resistant Materials		*Spanish Fast Track	
Textiles					

2. Choose one modern foreign language. Learning Link support is offered to selected students only.

(Please tick the box below)

	GCSE
French	
German	
Spanish	

OR

Learning Link support

*Spanish Fast Track is for students on the German side of the year wishing to take two languages

3. Choose your Physical Education option.

GCSE full course		Sports Leader course	
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Parent / Guardian Signature:	Student Signature:
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