



Options 2025

READY RESPECT SAFE



Key Changes for 25/26

- Our students currently take 10 GCSEs
- This puts our students in the top 12% nationally for the number of subjects taken
- The average number of GCSEs taken nationally is 7.81
- We will be reducing the number of subjects studied at GCSE by 1
- We will be increasing the amount of teaching time in each Option subject by 1 hour per fortnight
- This will give students the equivalent of an extra 14 weeks of lessons compared to the current cohorts



Why are we doing this?

- We believe that students will be more successful – they are more likely to achieve grades that will allow them to make their desired next steps, whatever these may be
- 9 qualifications is the 'norm' across the majority of comprehensive schools, and still above the national average
- We believe that students will receive a more enriching experience
- We believe that the workload expectation is more reasonable



Your Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science (2 GCSEs)
- Sport or Dance
- Option Subject 1
- Options Subject 2
- Option Subject 3

These are compulsory



Options Subjects

- Art
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- **Computer Science**
- DT
 - 3D Design
 - Graphics
 - Textiles
- Drama
- Food Tech
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- ICT
- Media Studies
- Music
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Triple Science

You must pick at least one of the bold subjects in italics

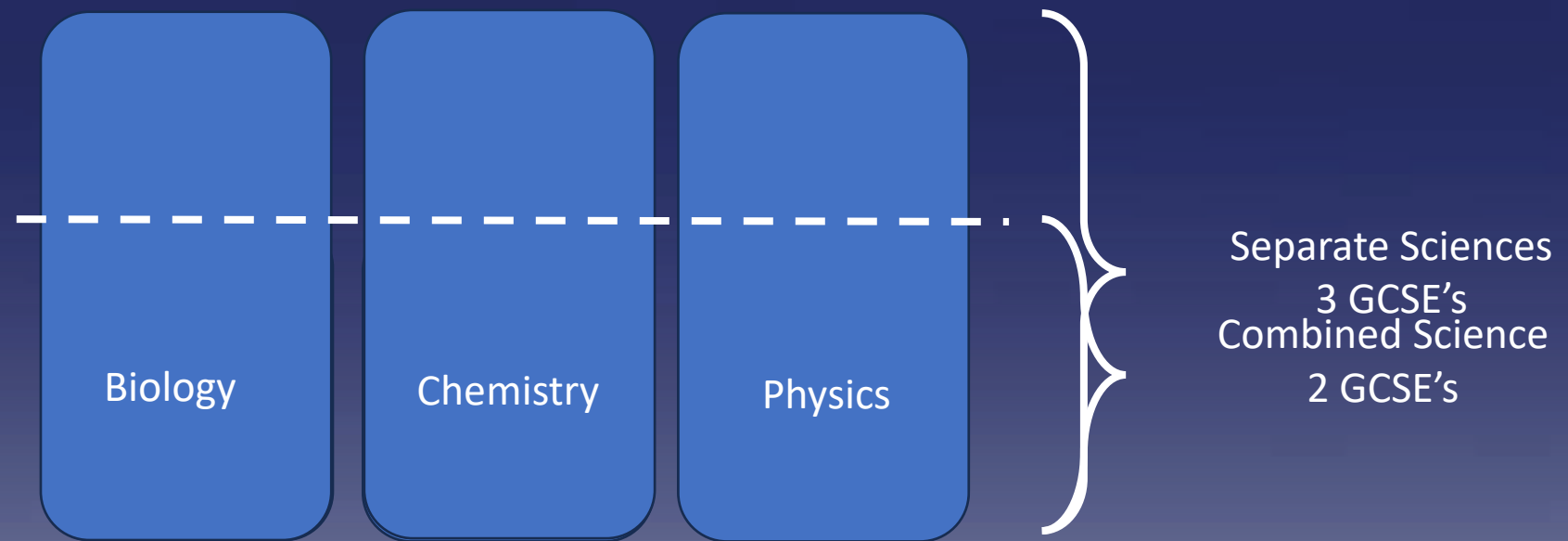


The EBacc

- You may have heard of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- This consists of taking, History or Geography, and a MFL alongside the compulsory subjects.
- The Government aim to have 90% of students taking the Ebacc by this year
- Our priority is you, not a Government target. The Ebacc is open to those who wish to pursue it, but it is not compulsory
- It is not an 'extra' qualification, and you will receive no formal recognition
- No universities specifically state it on their entry requirements



Science Combined Vs Triple





MFL

- Studying a modern foreign language is not compulsory
- It is highly recommended, and can open doors for you in the future
- A language is open to all students, regardless of ability.
- Some establishments (e.g. University College London) state a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language as an entry requirement



English & Maths

- If a student does not achieve at least a Grade 4 in English (either Language or Literature) and Maths, they must resit.
- They will do this at their post 16 provider.
- This is not limited to schools/colleges, even students undertaking an apprenticeship must resit.
- You have to resit until you gain a Grade 4 or above, or turn 18



GCSE Grades

A 'Good' Pass
A 'Strong' Pass

New Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Old Grades	G/F-	F/E	E+/D	C	C+/B-	B/B+	A	A*	A**

	Level 1			Level 2			
Grade	Pass	Merit	Distinction	Pass	Merit	Distinction	Distinction*
GCSE Equivalent	1.25	2	3	4	5.5	7	8.5



When choosing subjects...

- DO Consider what subjects will facilitate your next steps
- DO NOT choose based on the teacher, or your friends
- DO Consider the type of qualification and if this would play to your strengths
- DO speak to your teachers
- DO ensure that you fully understand the contents of the course, and what you will be studying



Reserves

- You will be asked on your options return form to indicate two reserves
- These are selected in order of preference
- No options process is perfect
- Do not expect to receive all first preferences
- This means there is a fair chance you may be allocated one of your reserve subject



Reserves

- If a class is oversubscribed, in the interest of fairness a random number generator will be used to decide which students are offered that class
- We will endeavour, **where possible**, to ensure that a student receives no more than one of their reserve subjects
- All forms received before the deadline will be treated equally



Blockings

- You may hear the term 'blockings' or 'Options Blocks' a lot
- Every student in the year must have one subject, and only one subject in each block.
- All the lessons in a block will all run at exactly the same time
- You can see that some subjects have multiple classes, and some only have one class.
- There are some clashes, so if a student had selected these subjects, they would not have been able to do both, and would have had to pick another one.
- This is just an example, the blocks are decided after the Options forms are returned in order to maximise the number of students who can receive all their first choices

Block A	Block B	Block C
3D	Food	Textiles
Food	3D	Graphics
French	Art	Triple Sci
His2	Triple Sci	Bus
Child Dev	Bus1	Geog1
Comp Sci	Bus2	Geog2
Bus	Drama	His1
Media	Media	His2
His1	Phil & Eth	Music



Options Itinerary

- ~~Week Beginning Monday 20th January – Options Dry Run (Form Time)~~
- Thursday 27th February – Year 9 Options Evening & Marketplace
- Week Beginning Monday 3rd March – Guided Choices Commences Assemblies
- Thursday 20th March – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Friday 4th April – Year 9 Options Forms Deadline



The Options Form

- This will be sent via email
- You will follow a link to a Microsoft Form
- You will be asked to login. You do this using your child's school email and password
- The deadline for this is Friday 4 April
- All returns before the deadline will receive equal priority
- There will be a small number of students who may be offered alternative pathways such as time at the Vocational Educational Centre, or support in the SSC. These students will be spoken to individually.



Options Allocations

- Provisionally students will receive a letter at the end of May/beginning of June with their subject allocations
- Any student who has not been allocated their first choices will be spoken to individually and supported through the process
- All students must continue with all subjects to the end of the academic year, even if they know they will not be continuing with it in Year 10