

# Subject Choices for Year 10 2024-25



# Breadth and Flexibility

- Every pupil takes at least 10 I/GCSE qualifications and thereby continues to study a broad set of subjects.
- The flexibility and large range of choices that we offer demonstrate our commitment to individual choice and opportunity.

# All pupils take:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies (short course)
- A modern foreign language (French, German or Spanish)
- All three Sciences (either as “Double” or “Separate”)
- Three optional subjects
  
- non-examined PE
- Q

# Options (three are chosen)

Art and Design (Fine Art)

Art and Design (Textiles)

Art and Design (3D Design)

Classical Civilisation

Computer Science

Drama

Food Preparation & Nutrition

French

Geography

German

History

Latin

Music

Physical Education

Separate Science

Spanish

# Combined Award / Separate Science: the implications

- **Either:**

Combined Award Science



**TWO** IGCSEs across  
Biology, Chemistry and  
Physics

- **Or:**

Separate Science



**THREE** IGCSEs, one each in  
Biology, Chemistry and  
Physics

# Combined Science or Separate Science?

- You will have Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons taught by specialist teachers irrespective of whether they choose “Combined” or “Separate”.
- For a Separate Scientist, science occupies around 30% of your timetable (i.e. 6 double periods every week). This is twice that in Year 9.
- Separate Science is for keen scientists. It is the obvious choice if you are likely to do a science subject at A Level. However, you can still do a Science A Level from Combined Science.

# Modern Foreign Languages

- You will study one of French, Spanish or German as your compulsory language.
- In addition, you may also choose another language from the options list.

# Religious Studies

- All pupils take this “half GCSE” given:
  - the founding Christian ethos of our School;
  - this ensures that all pupils are taking at least one Humanities subjects (Geography and History being optional).
- Christianity, Islam, Humanism and Atheism are studied and the course is excellent preparation for the popular A Level course.
- As a “half GCSE” there is only one double period each week and so it is NOT possible to choose another optional subject instead.



# Art and Design

- Three options are available:
  - Fine Art
  - Textiles
  - Three Dimensional Design
- These involve considerable coursework, often completed outside of lesson time.
- If you are thinking of taking two of these, you should discuss the coursework implications with your teachers.

# Physical Education

- All the pupils have one double and one single period of “non-GCSE” PE each week.
- In addition, you can choose PE as one of your GCSE options.

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

- Places for this course are limited, on the basis that we have one specialist teaching room.
- If we are over-subscribed, we will take into account:
  - your attitude to Year 9 Food lessons;
  - your overall profile and ambitions and which set of options might suit you best – your individual careers interview with Mrs Hayes will provide input here.
- This will not be a “first come, first served” situation; however, if options are submitted after the deadline, you will not be given priority.

# Twilights

- Twilight lessons offer flexibility, enabling study for additional GCSE qualifications after school.
- Twilights in Classical Greek and Latin may be available, **although depend on demand.**
- Twilights are suitable for a minority of pupils. A high degree of independent learning is required and the lessons can clash with extracurricular activities and impinge upon leisure time.
- Interested pupils should talk to relevant subject teachers and then have a discussion with the Director of Studies. **You must be committed to studying their twilight for the full two years through to GCSE.**
- If you choose to take a twilight, your commitment to studying it through to the GCSE exam in Year 11 is expected.

# Twilights (Additional Maths)

- A Free-standing Maths Qualification in Maths (FSMQ) is also available and will involve one twilight lesson per week in Year 11.
- No decision on this is needed at this stage; however, keen mathematicians should bear this likely commitment in mind if they are also considering other twilights, because doing two twilights is very challenging and not encouraged.
- Consider your co-curricular commitments (the school play, music, sport etc.) before committing to any twilights.

# Common pitfalls

- Choosing a subject because your friends have chosen it.
- Trying to gain as many I/GCSE qualifications as possible.
- Choosing a subject because you think your teacher would like you to take it.
- Choosing a subject because you think a particular teacher will teach you.

# Underlying principles

- The Year 10 timetable is built in the light of your chosen subjects. Subjects are not "pre-blocked".
- If, despite best efforts, we are unable to timetable your chosen subjects, we will consult with you and your parents to discuss compromises.

# Advice and Consultation

- The “I/GCSE Choices” Booklet.
- PSHEE.
- Parents’ Evening. Potential choices should be discussed with the relevant subject teachers.
- Mrs Hayes, Careers Coordinator, is interviewing each pupil prior to the deadline for choices.
- Ongoing:
  - Ad hoc conversations between pupils and staff are vital.
  - Form tutors, subject teachers, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hofmann, and the Director of Studies are all available to advise and assist.



# The process once the Options Form has been submitted

- “Option Blocks” for next year’s Year 10 timetable are designed, with the intention of catering for all pupils’ requests. These are finalised by the end of the Spring Term.
- If you change your mind after the Option Blocks have been finalised, your new choice can only be accommodated if it “fits” the Option Blocks and if class sizes permit. You would need to discuss this with your Form Tutor and then email Ms Evernden to ask whether a change is possible.

# Submitting choices

- The deadline for choices is Friday 2nd February.
- The Options Form will be made available electronically in January.

# Once Autumn Term of Year 10 is underway...

- If you are having problems with one of your subject choices it is important that this is raised and discussed at the earliest possible opportunity.