

Year 9 Options



Year 10 and 11 Curriculum

The subject's students study in Year 10 and 11 can be split into two groups – 'Core Subjects' and 'Option Subjects'. The 'Core Subjects' are ones all students study, the 'Option Subjects' are the ones where there is choice. There are two types of options – 'EBacc Option' and 'Open Option'.

Core Subjects

These are the subjects all students will take; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Science. They all lead to a full GCSE qualification. All students study Physical Education and Religious Education (Short Course GCSE). Students can opt to study Physical Education and Religious Education in more depth – leading to a GCSE qualification.

EBacc Option

EBacc stands for English Baccalaureate, this is the name given by the government to a suite of subjects which includes English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities. To ensure engagement with these subjects, students will have to pick either a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish), History or Geography. They can pick two or all three by using one or two of their 'Open Options' (see below)

Open Option

Students can pursue a range of subjects in the areas of Technology, the Humanities, and the Arts. There are also courses available which are new to the students, for example in Psychology. Students will choose three subjects. We will endeavour to give as many students as possible their preferred three choices; however, constraints like class sizes and staffing may mean this isn't possible.

Short Course GCSE RE

All students have to study RE in Year 10 and 11, therefore it seems logical to gain a qualification in the process. It has around half the content of a full GCSE. All students have two hours of Religious Education per fortnight; this is not enough time to deliver a full GCSE. If you opt for RE Full Course, there is an additional five hours of study per fortnight.

Science Curriculum

All students will have nine hours of science per fortnight. This leads to a GCSE in Combined Science and the curriculum covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The qualification is worth two GCSE's (due to the amount in it) and students get a double grade, for example 77, this is 'seven seven' not 'seventy-seven'.

Students can study Science in greater depth by following the 'three sciences' route. In addition to the nine hours, they would use one of their three options to study for an additional five hours per fortnight. This would lead to three GCSEs qualifications - hence the 'three sciences' route. The qualifications are GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. The demands of the 'three sciences' route means students will need to have reached a certain level of attainment to follow it.

Similar Subjects

The content of the subjects below have some similarities, as such only one can be chosen:

- One of the 'D & T' subjects
- Business or Enterprise and Marketing
- Creative Media Production or Media Studies
- Drama or Performing Arts (Drama Option)
- Physical Education or Sports Studies (Sport Option)

With Drama or Performing Arts, you will opt for 'Performing'. We will then decide which course is best for the students based on their attainment in KS3 Drama. The same applies to Physical Education and Sports Studies. You will opt for 'Sport' and we will decide which course is best suited for each student

When a course won't run

Due to financial constraints, if the number choosing a subject is too small, the course will not run. When you choose again you won't be limited to those subjects where there is space. You will be contacted and have a choice of all the subjects we offer.

If a course is oversubscribed

This happens if we don't have enough specialist staff or facilities. Preference will be given to those who return the form on time. Then we will approach parents and students to let you know it is oversubscribed. This can lead to some choosing a different option as they were thinking of changing anyway. Failing this, names will be drawn at random. The exception is the Three Sciences and the additional Mathematic qualifications; the demands of this course mean we will select based on attainment.

Timetable of Events

7th January

Assembly to explain the Options Process to students

13th January – Options Evening

Evening for Parents to find out about the Options Process and speak to subject staff

27th January – Taster lessons

Students won't follow their normal timetable for lessons 1 to 4. Instead they will select 4 subjects from the list of options subjects to have a taster lesson in.

Thursday 30th January – Parents Evening

An opportunity to hear about your son's/daughter's progress in the various subjects they take. Students will also attend

1st February

Options Form will go live

14th February

Deadline for the completion of the Options Form.

March onwards

You will be contacted if there is a problem with the choices.

May

If you have not been contacted at this point about a problem with the choices then you can assume you have got your preferred choices.

At any point during this time you can contact Mr Fenwick if you have a general question about the options process or the head of department if it is about a specific subject. Contact the school and they will put your call or email through to the appropriate member of staff.