

Year 8 Options 2021



Year 8 students are now at a point where they need to start to consider their option choices which they will start in Year 9. Up until now the subjects they have followed have been chosen for them. This is now changing and they have some choice about what they will study in years 9, 10 and 11. The choices include subjects they have taken before and there will also be some new subjects available.

The curriculum has been designed to give them the best possible chance of success no matter what their strengths are, and enable them to achieve their ambitions and meet their potential. It is broad and balanced and will provide the basis for future progression.

The deadline for them to have made their decision about their option choices is **Thursday 4 February**. Over the next few months there will be opportunities for both parents and students to find out information about the curriculum for years 9, 10 and 11.

When making their choices students need to consider their ability, interest/motivation and any ideas they have about their future education and career. They should read the options information booklet (which can be found by following the link below) carefully to help them with this and discuss their choices with parents, teachers, older students and others before making their final decision.

All Option Information

All options information, including the following, can be found using the link below:

- Options Presentation
- Options Booklet
- Options Preparation Letter
- Link to Google Pre-Option Survey Form

<https://www.spexe.org/638/guided-options>

Key Dates

Tues 8th Dec 2020	Curriculum/Options Introduction Information available on the school website.
January 2021 (ongoing)	Students will have presentations from option subject leaders outlining details of various option subjects.
Weds 20th /Thurs 21st Jan 2021 3.30 – 6.30pm	Parent/Subject/ Progress Evening Opportunity to speak to staff about current progress and suitability for option subjects.
Week Beginning Mon 25th Jan 2021	Options Interviews – Advice and Guidance with SLT/Head of Year
Thurs 4th Feb 2021	Options Form Deadline Completed forms should be submitted on a google form.
April 2021	Processing and Confirming Options
Summer Term 2021	Options Offer A letter will be sent out confirming the Options offer for Year 9.

Core Curriculum

All students will study the **Core Subjects** which are compulsory. These are:

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Separate Science	Religious Education	Core PE (non-exam)
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Option Choices

In addition to the Core Subjects studied you have three option choices which are as follows:

Option 1

You must choose **one subject** from History, Geography, Computing or a Modern Foreign Language as listed below:

History	Geography	French	Spanish	Computing*
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Options 2 and 3

You must also choose **two subjects** from those listed below:

Design Technology	French	Music
Drama	Geography	Photography
Fine Art	Graphic Design	PE
Food and Nutrition	History	Spanish
Computing*	Maths - FSMQ	Travel and Tourism BTEC
Digital IT BTEC	Maths - Statistics	Vocational Award in Engineering

- *In order to opt for **Computing** there is an expectation that you are working at a Maths grade 6. Subject leaders will also use their professional judgement and knowledge of your learning to advise and guide on course suitability.
- If opting for a **Modern Foreign Language**, it must be the one you have studied throughout Year 7 and 8.
- You **cannot** opt for both Fine Art and Graphics

Making the Best Selection for You

Choosing the subjects you want to study in Years 9, 10 and 11 takes time and needs careful thought. Your parents, your tutor, your teachers, your friends, careers advisors and others will all help you with your decisions. You will need to do some research and we can help you with that. Our advice when considering your subject choice is to choose subjects that:

- You are most likely to work enthusiastically in, perform best in and succeed at.
- You think you will enjoy and you feel you are good at.
- Provide a balance and variety. By keeping a balance at this stage, you will not close off future options.
- You may need for your future education and/or career path.

If you want to find out more about careers, go and see our careers coordinator Mrs Teisina whose office is in the library, she will be able to advise you.

SOME DOs and DON'Ts

- Do talk to parents, subject teachers, your form tutor, Head of Year, older students, careers staff—they are all here to help.
- Do read the subject details in the options booklet carefully and ask if you need to know more.
- Do opt for a balanced choice of subjects to keep open future careers and study options.
- Do choose subjects you enjoy.
- Don't choose a subject just because you like a particular teacher or avoid a subject because you dislike a teacher (you may well have a different teacher next year).
- Don't choose a subject because your friends are choosing it. You are deciding about **your** future and they may not be in the same group as you.
- Don't choose a subject because you think it is an easy choice.