

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 8 students,

### Key Stage 4 Option Subjects

In September 2026, your child will start their new GCSE courses which they will see through until their public exams at the end of year 11. We offer a wide range of courses, both academic and vocational, ensuring that students can build on the breadth of our curriculum offer at Key Stage 3. This is an exciting and very important stage in school life, and we will provide advice and guidance throughout the process to make sure that students choose subjects which enable them to progress to Sixth Form and beyond.

The recent findings of the government's Curriculum and Assessment Review outline a vision for a revitalised arts curriculum giving equal status to creative subjects. The changes are very much welcomed by our school, where we have always valued the arts as equal and our commitment to offer a range of qualifications which inspire students and speak to their strengths. We should rightly be proud that our offer reflects the planned changes as part of the government's bid to have a "World Leading Curriculum".

Alongside the Core Curriculum, students will choose an additional four subjects, two of which must come from categories A, B and C in the green box below. It is compulsory for students to choose a subject from two different categories, e.g. A & B, A & C or B & C. For example, Geography (A) and Textiles (B), Music (B) and French (C) or Drama (B) and Spanish (C). Students will then have a free choice of any two further subjects from the yellow box.

<u>Core Curriculum</u>	<u>It is compulsory to choose at least two subjects from two of the following categories:</u>	<u>All GCSE &amp; L2 Subjects offered additional to the Core Curriculum</u>
GCSE Mathematics GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Combined Science Personal Development Physical Education Religious Studies	<p>Category A - Humanities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geography</li> <li>History</li> <li>Religious studies</li> </ul> <p>Category B – Creative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> <li>Music</li> <li>Drama</li> <li>Design and Technology</li> <li>Photography</li> <li>Textiles</li> </ul> <p>Category C - Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> <li>Spanish</li> </ul>	All GCSE & L2 Subjects offered additional to the Core Curriculum GCSE Art* GCSE Art and Design: Textiles* GCSE Business Studies GCSE Citizenship GCSE Computer Science Level 2 Creative iMedia GCSE Design and Technology: Graphics* GCSE Design and Technology: Product Design* GCSE Drama GCSE Film Studies GCSE French GCSE Geography GCSE History Level 2 Hospitality and Catering GCSE Music GCSE Photography GCSE Physical Education GCSE Religious Studies GCSE Spanish GCSE Triple Science  *Students may not choose: 1. Art <b>and</b> Art and Design: Textiles 2. Design and Technology: Graphics <b>and</b> Design and Technology: Product Design

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Examples – 9 qualifications in total:

Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Subject 7	Subject 8	Subject 9
English Language	English Literature	Maths	Combined Science	Combined Science	History	Art	Spanish	Drama

Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Subject 7	Subject 8	Subject 9
English Language	English Literature	Maths	Triple Science Biology	Triple Science Chemistry	Geography	Spanish	Music	Triple Science Physics

Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6	Subject 7	Subject 8	Subject 9
English Language	English Literature	Maths	Combined Science	Combined Science	Music	French	Computer Science	Citizenship

Date	Focus
9 <sup>th</sup> February and 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Heads of Subject to present at Year 8 assemblies
Week beginning 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	1:1 options and post-16 guidance meeting for all students
Week beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Subject information and guidance published on SNS website
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 8 options evening
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 parents' evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Link to online options form sent to parents and carers
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Deadline for completion and submission of online options form

A guidance booklet and subject information will be published via the school website. You can also find Key Stage 4 curriculum information [here](#). The options information evening, taking place in school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 5:00pm to 6:30pm, will provide an opportunity to meet representatives from each of our options subjects in the theatre, and also attend a 30-minute presentation by the Deputy Headteacher. Please use this [link](#) to book a place at one of the Deputy Headteacher's presentations which will take place in the library at 5pm, 5.30pm and 6pm.

The options process has been designed to ensure that students have access to a wide range of subject combinations. We always aim to give first choices but cannot guarantee this.

We look forward to seeing you at both our options information and parents' evenings.

Yours faithfully,

Lucy Bryant

Deputy Headteacher responsible for curriculum

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