



Stoke Newington School
& Sixth Form

Stoke Newington School and Sixth Form

Online KS4 information meeting

3rd March 2021



AIMS

1. To outline the reform of GCSE qualifications
2. To present guidance for parents and carers about curriculum content
3. To offer guidance about the process and provide any necessary support



GCSE REFORMS – 2017 onwards

- Grading system with 9 to 1 replacing A* to G
- Removal of early entry opportunities and no taking exams more than once
- New and more challenging content
- Removal of controlled assessment for non-practical subjects
- Written examination element in all subjects but art, with various weighting depending on course
- A return to linear examinations with maths, science and MFL offering tiered papers (“higher” grades 9 to 4 / “foundation” 5 to 1)

GRADE REFORMS

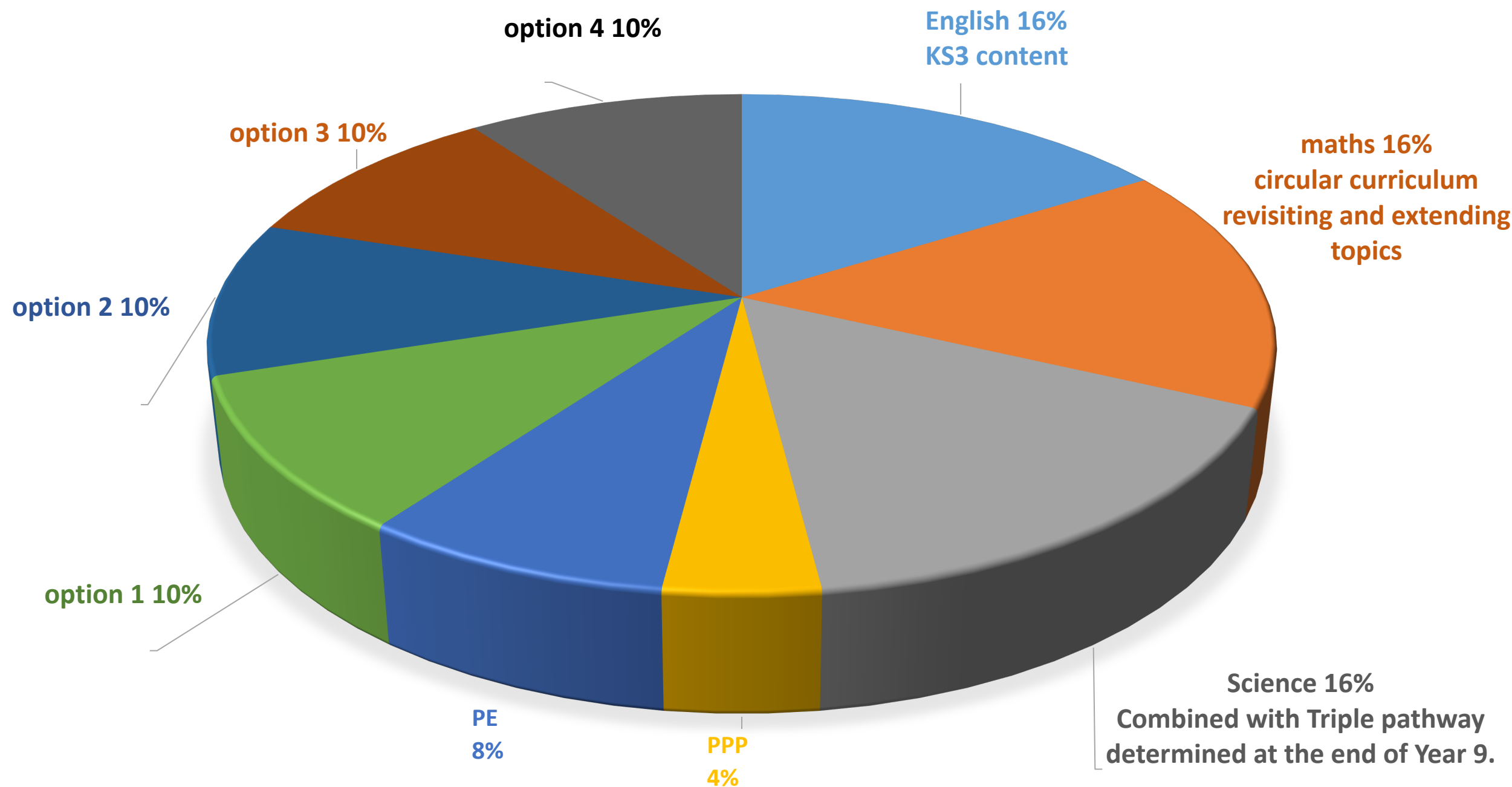
Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

GCSE grading	Vocational grading
9	Level 2 Distinction *
8	
7	Level 2 Distinction
6	Level 2 Merit
5 STRONG PASS	
4 STANDARD PASS	Level 2 Pass
3	Level 1 Distinction
2	Level 1 Merit
1	Level 1 Pass
U	

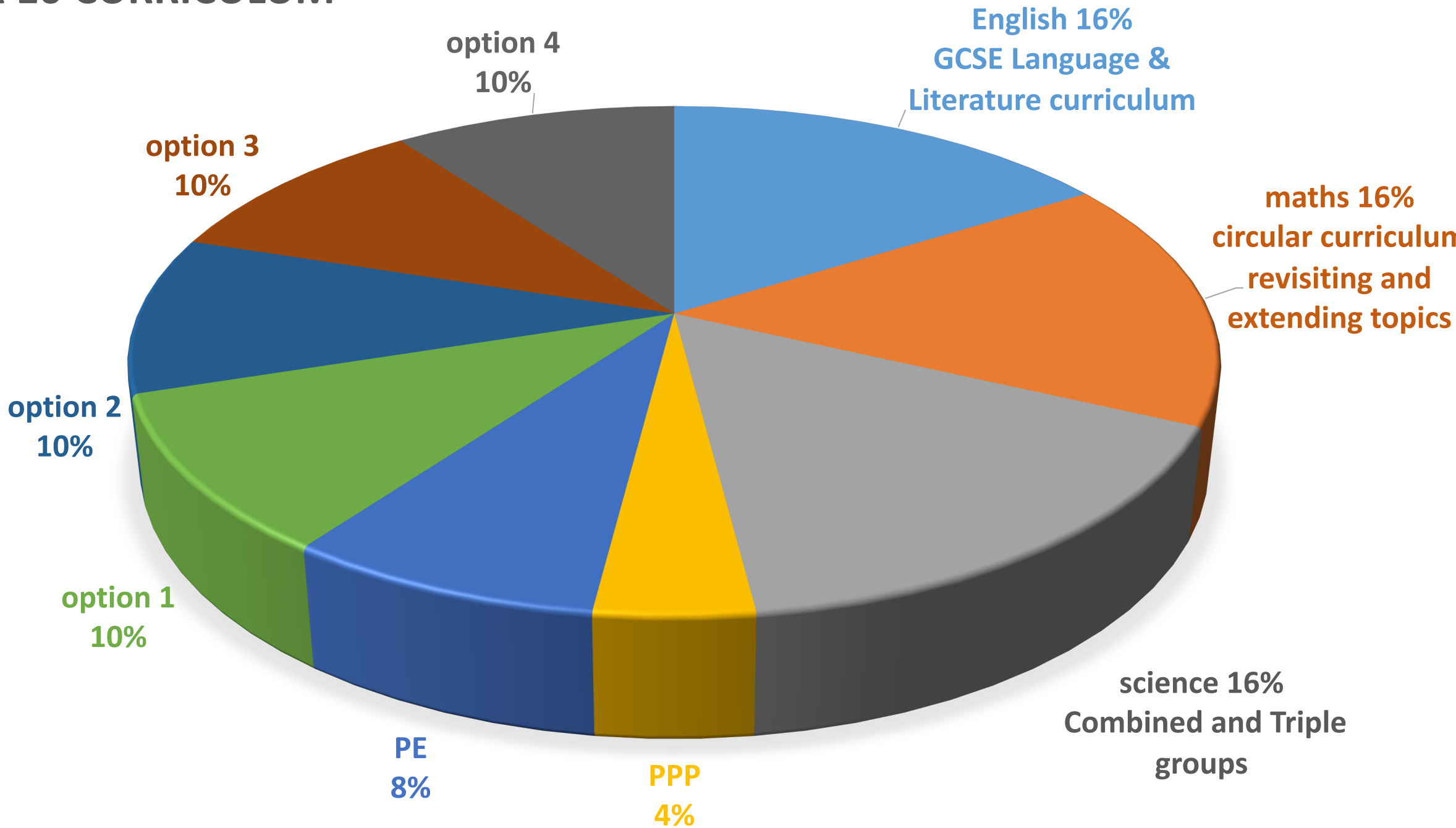
SUBJECTS OFFERED

Core	Compulsory option subjects (minimum one)	Wider option subjects
English language	Computer Science	Art
English literature	Geography	Citizenship
Mathematics	French	D&T: Graphics
Science*	History	D&T: Resistant Materials
<i>Personal, Political & Philosophical studies</i>	Spanish	Drama
<i>Physical education</i>		Hospitality & Catering L2 award
		Creative iMedia & Film*
		Music
		PE & Sport L2 award*
		Photography
		Religious Studies
		Textiles

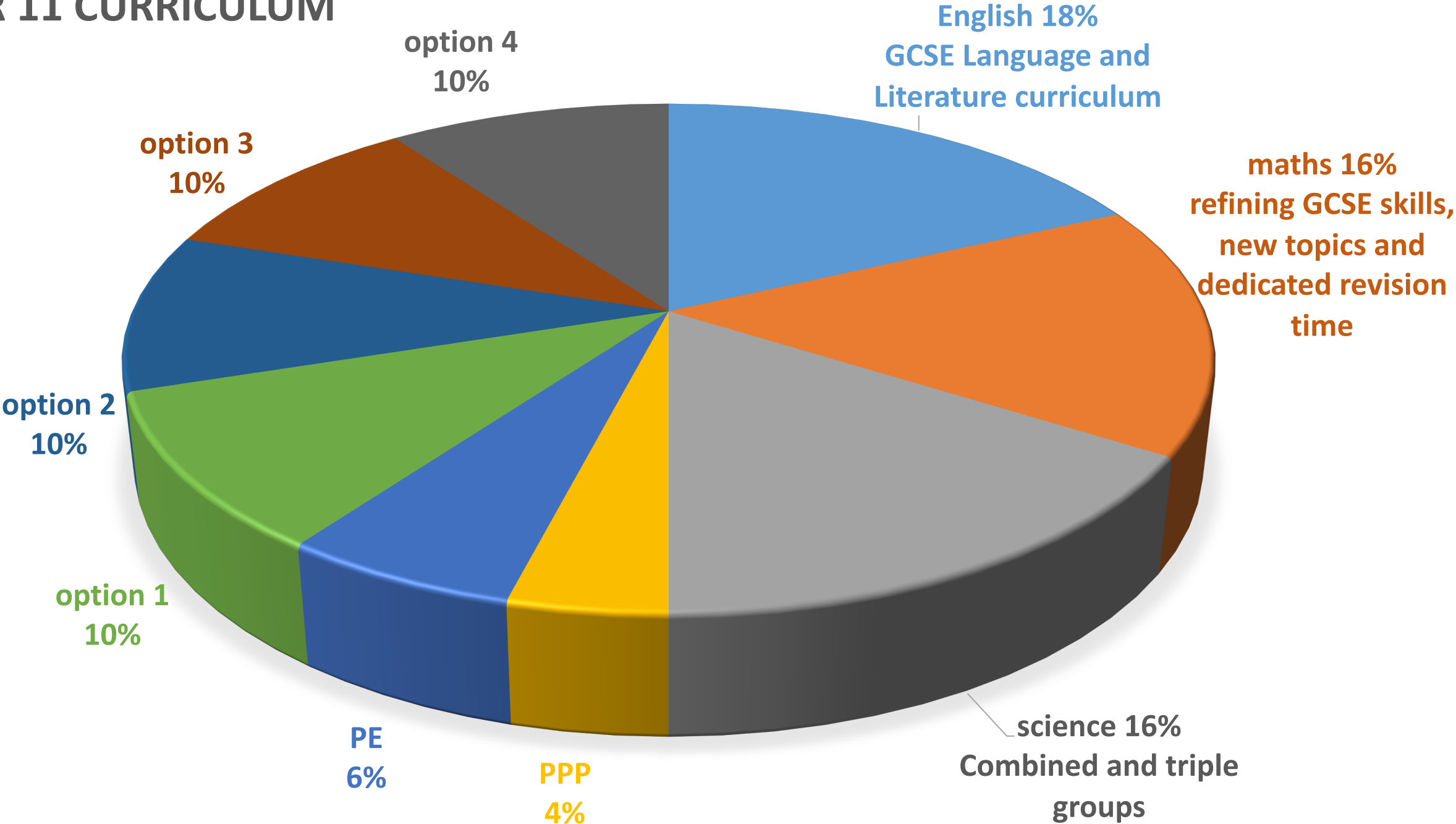
YEAR 9 CURRICULUM



YEAR 10 CURRICULUM



YEAR 11 CURRICULUM



MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

1. Do chosen subjects link to your potential post 16 plans, post 18 plans and possible career choices?
2. Before making decisions, do plenty of research making sure that you have a wide knowledge of entry requirements for a range of potential 6th form courses
3. Consider your strengths and what you enjoy
4. Keep your options open and choose a broad range of subjects
5. Don't make choices based on friendships

You must choose **one** subject from each block and **at least one** of those subjects must be highlighted in green.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
History	History	History	History
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
French	Computer Science	Spanish	French
Spanish	Spanish	French	Spanish
			Computer Science
Art and Design: Textiles specialis	Drama	Photography	Art
Drama	PE & Sport*	Hospitality and Catering Award L2	Drama
Art	Photography	Art	Design & Technology: Resistant Materials
Music	Citizenship	Creative iMedia & Film*	Design & Technology: Graphics
Photography	Design & Technology: Resistant Materials	Drama	Citizenship
Citizenship		Music	Music
Religious Studies			

Write your chosen subjects in the 4 boxes below. Choose **one** subject from each option block above making sure you choose **at least one** of the subjects highlighted in green at the top of each block.

Due to the nature of the courses being similar, students may not choose:

- Design and Technology: Graphics Specialism **and** Resistant Materials Specialism
- Art **and** Art and Design: Textiles Specialism.
- *choice of pathways from Year 10 – see Options Subject Information Booklet

Make sure that you don't choose graphics & resistant materials or art & textiles as these are prohibited combinations. Write your chosen subjects in the 4 blank options block boxes below.

Block 1 choice	Block 2 choice	Block 3 choice	Block 4 choice
CITIZENSHIP	SPANISH	GEOGRAPHY	DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: GRAPHICS

Choose three back-up subjects and write them in the boxes below.

- These will be used if for any reason one of your first-choice subjects does not run or is oversubscribed
- You should place them in order of how much you would like to do them
- They can be from any block but not subjects that you have already chosen above

Choose 3 additional subjects as back-up. They can be from any block but not ones chosen already. Write them in the boxes below.

1st		2nd		3rd	
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Name: **Complete online options form between 25th March and 1st April. There is only one opportunity to submit so please plan carefully.**

Tutor group:

We will do our utmost to fit all students into their preferred choices, but this cannot be guaranteed. This is why we ask students to provide three back-up choices, in rank order, and not subjects chosen in the four boxes. Where we are unable to allocate a first choice, we will work down the rank order list and allocate to the first available subject. The reasons a student may not get their first choice include:

- **Insufficient numbers for the class to run** – too few students have opted for the subject. If the subject is being run in another block we will look to move block choices to accommodate. If it is not, then we will use the back-up choices.
- **Oversubscription** – too many students have opted for the subject. The number of spaces in each subject is decided using the maximum class sizes set by the head teacher and governors. Practical and computing subjects will have smaller class sizes than other subjects. When there are too many students opting for the number of spaces available, students with an EHCP are allocated first and then remaining students are randomly selected from all those who requested the subject. Where students are not selected, we will use their back-up choices. All students have an equal right to be selected and we do not use attainment or behaviour to decide. The random selection process is overseen by two senior members of staff to ensure fairness.
- **Unforeseen staffing changes** - rarely, a staffing change may mean that a subject has to be withdrawn from the option blocks. If this happens we will use back-up choices.
- **Late return of options form** - if we do not receive an options form by the deadline published (1st April 2021), a first choice cannot be considered if it is for an oversubscribed subject and back-up choices will be used. (See page 6 of guidance booklet)

PROCESS AND KEY DATES

- 5th February - information letter sent to parents and carers
- Weeks beginning 8th and 22nd February - heads of subject present at Year 8 assemblies
- Week beginning 8th February - 1:1 guidance meeting for all students
- 25th February - careers guidance event
- 1st March – subject information booklet, guidance booklet and options form on SNS website
- 3rd March - Year 8 online options evening
- 24th March - Year 8 online parents' evening
- 25th March – online options form available
- 1st April - deadline for completion of online options form (single submission)
- June - letters sent home with confirmation of allocated subjects