



January 2025

Dear family,

Options 2025

Transitioning to Key Stage 4 is an exciting and significant milestone for a young person. For the first time, young people will have the opportunity to choose the subjects they want to study, allowing them to follow a personalised curriculum. These choices will also allow young people to concentrate on specific subject areas they might wish to pursue further in higher education and future employment.

To prepare for this, Year 9 students will be studying Careers as part of their L4L theme and will have a focus day on Wednesday, 5 February. This day will give them the opportunity to explore our online Options site, where they can learn more about various subjects and start considering their choices. Additionally, there will be a 'Taster Day' on Friday, 7 February, where students can participate in lessons from different subjects to explore them.

To help students understand how their subject choices relate to future career paths, they will be working with 'Dupoto' on Monday, 10 February. This session will support them in aligning their strengths with subjects, enabling them to excel. We will then invite you for a face-to-face meeting with Senior Staff on Thursday, 13 March, to assess the suitability of their final subject choices, with the final submission of choices to be made on that day."

The following key questions will help you understand the selection process and the entry criteria for each subject:

How many subjects do I choose?

There will be three option blocks, and students will choose one subject from each block.

Why are some subjects coloured gold or blue on the options site?

Gold subjects include History and Geography. We encourage students to select at least one of these. Blue subjects have entry requirements and are among our most academically challenging courses, making it crucial to ensure your child can meet the demands of these subjects. The table summarises the entry criteria for these subjects:

Subject	Entry Requirement
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Mathematics in the most recent assessment point report
Triple Science	Requires a grade 6 in both Mathematics and Science in the most recent assessment point report
Languages	Have a target grade of a 5 or be achieving a grade 5 or above in the most recent assessment point report

What subjects are compulsory and therefore will automatically be studied?

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (unless Triple Science is picked)
- PE (non-qualification)
- Personal Development

When is the final deadline for me to make my choices?

- Thursday, 13 March on Options Evening. A letter will come out to you about more details of this event.

Why is making the correct choice important?

- This is the first step into starting to work towards future aspirations
- Once final choices are made there is no changing as these numbers are what the school will use to create the timetable and allocate staffing.

Advice On How to Make Your Choices

1. Speak to subject staff about subjects that interest you. You can also visit subject staff on Thursday 13th March during Options Evening.
2. Think about where your strengths lie and what skills you need for subjects.
3. Ask yourself- "what ideas do I have about my future career at the moment"?
4. Discuss choices with your parents/carers
5. You can still study sciences at A level even if you do not pick Triple Science at GCSE.
6. Do not pick a subject because of your friend. You are not guaranteed to be in the same class.
7. Do not pick a subject because you think there is less homework. All subjects will have homework.
8. Do not pick a subject because of the teacher, as you are not guaranteed to be taught by that teacher.
9. **Every effort will be made to allocate you to the subjects you have chosen. However, we cannot guarantee that all subject combinations of choices will be available if there is not sufficient demand from students.**

Summary of Key Dates:

- **Wednesday, 5 February** - L4L Careers theme and exploring the Options Site
- **Friday, 7 February** - Taster Day where students get try out subjects (this does not mean this is your final choice)
- **Monday, 10 February** - Dupoto workshops to support students with aligning their strengths to subjects
- **Thursday, 13 March** - Options Evening. Face to face meeting in school to submit final choices.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we look forward to welcoming you on **Thursday, 13 March**.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Kaur
Assistant Principal



Tom Daly
Associate Principal