



**2023**

**The Options Process**

During January and February, you will need to make important choices about the subjects you will study in years 10 and 11 so you can hand in your final options form in March.

This booklet helps with the thinking you will need to do if you are going to make sensible, informed choices.

You will work through this booklet at home during registration time starting on Thursday 2nd February. Each day you will have different activities to complete that will help you to reflect on your areas of strength and interests. On Friday 3rd February, you will have another assembly that will tell you information about the curriculum at Key Stage 4, the subjects you have to study, and the options available to you. On Wednesday 8th you will have Options Hour, which will provide you with the chance to speak to Year 10 pupils about the options you are thinking about studying and finally on Thursday 9th you will have Options Evening where you can into school with your parents and speak to teachers and students about the different options available.

Your choices form will need to be returned no later than **Friday 10th March**. An electronic form will be shared with you to complete closer to the time once you have had your options interview with a member of the Senior Team. Make sure you use the time between now and then to think very carefully about what might be the best courses for you.

This booklet will start you on this process.

After the deadline date of

**Friday 10th March,**

you will not be able to change your mind.

It is important for you to realise that it may not be possible for you to do all of the subjects that you choose.

**ACTIVITY 1: Thursday 2nd February**

**What does and what does not matter most when I make my choices?**

Look at the list below and read through the reasons for choosing a subject.

Rank order them. Put 1 by the reason which you think is the most important for you to consider when choosing a subject. Put 2 by the next most important, and so on, down to 8 by the least important reason.

Don’t forget to give a reason why each one is important or not.

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason** | **Rank Order** | **Why is it important/not important?** |
| **I like the subject** |  |  |
| **I need it for my career** |  |  |
| **I’m likely to get a good grade** |  |  |
| **My friend is doing it** |  |  |
| **It suits my learning style** |  |  |
| **I like the teacher** |  |  |
| **I think it looks interesting** |  |  |
| **My teacher thinks I should do it** |  |  |

**When you are making your mind up, do not be influenced by the things that do not matter and do not ignore the things that do matter.**

**ACTIVITY 2: Friday 3rd February**

**Today’s activity is to look through your Curriculum Booklet and to ask yourselves the following questions:**

1. Which subjects did you want to look at straight away?
2. Did any courses surprise you in how they are assessed?
3. Have you read through all the subjects?
4. Have you changed your mind about any of the courses?
5. Which courses are you going to speak to your parents about?
6. Have you got any questions that you might like to ask?

**ACTIVITY 3: Monday 6th February**

**Which subjects will suit me most?**

This task asks you to reflect on yourself a little bit more and the strengths that you have as a learner. Some students might enjoy practical activities more, so subjects like PE or Drama might be better for them. Others might enjoy more creative activities, so subjects like Art or Design Technology might be a sensible choice.

Look at the questions below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Questions to consider | What about me? |
| Do you like practical subjects? |  |
| Are you creative? |  |
| Are you good at revising for written exams or prefer more coursework based subjects? |  |
| Are you academic? Do you think learning a foreign language would be useful to you? |  |
| Do you enjoy science? Are you in sets 1 or 2 and would like to do science more than once each day? |  |
| Which subjects do you like most? |  |

**ACTIVITY 4: Tuesday 7th February**

**Preparation for Options Hour**

Tomorrow you will have a chance to speak to students about the courses available to you to choose for your GCSE’s.

It will be really important for you to go and talk to as many different people in your 15-minute slot as possible. You may have some ideas of subjects you would like to talk to more than others, but it will be important for you to go to as many as possible so you get a good idea of everything available to you.

Use your time today to think about some questions you might like to ask. **Don’t forget you can ask teachers at Options Hour on Thursday 9th February.**

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Questions to ask students:

Questions to ask staff in options evening:

Subjects or Courses that you are particularly interested in:

**ACTIVITY 5: Wednesday 8th February**

**Where am I now?**

Before you decide what you want to do, it is useful to find out where you are now. Start with a review of your schoolwork by filling in the tables below from your latest Progress Check report.

**Start to get a clear picture in your mind of which subjects you are best at.**

**What grades does my Progress Check say I will get in these subjects?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Predicted Grade** | **On course to meet target?** | **Effort** | **Would this be a suitable subject for me to study in Year 10 and 11?** |
| **Art** |  |  |  |  |
| **DT** |  |  |  |  |
| **Drama** |  |  |  |  |
| **English** |  |  |  | **Everyone studies this subject** |
| **Geography** |  |  |  |  |
| **History** |  |  |  |  |
| **ICT** |  |  |  |  |
| **Languages** |  |  |  |  |
| **Maths** |  |  |  | **Everyone studies this subject** |
| **Music** |  |  |  |  |
| **PE** |  |  |  |  |
| **RE** |  |  |  | **Everyone studies this subject** |
| **Science** |  |  |  | **Everyone studies this subject** |

**What realistic targets can you set yourself?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **GCSE Grade** |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| **English Language** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **English Literature** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Maths** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **RE** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Science** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **French/German** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **History** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Geography** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Computer Science** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**ACTIVITY 6: Interview Preparation**

**Justification Sheet**

**In the five boxes below, you are going to explain why you have chosen your options in the order that you have. It is important that you give as much information as is possible as, during your interview with a member of the senior leadership team, you will be expected to discuss these reasons in detail.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EBacc Subject Choice:** | **Why?** |
| **Free Option 1:** | **Why?** |
| **Free Option 2:** | **Why?** |
| **Free Option 3:** | **Why?** |
| **Free Option 4:** | **Why?** |

**Checklist:**

Tick off each of these tasks once they are completed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Completed?** |
| Listened to Assembly 1 on Options |  |
| Completed the Which Way Now Booklet |  |
| Studied the Curriculum Booklet |  |
| Listened to Assembly 2 on Options and Careers |  |
| Attended Options Hour |  |
| Attended Options Evening |  |
| Done my research and prepared for interview |  |
| Asked my parents for advice |  |
| Completed and returned electronic options form |  |

