

Y10 Options 2021



Over the next few weeks and months your child will be making important decisions about which optional subjects to study in Years 11 and 12 for GCSE / Level 2.

Pupils may opt for a total of 9 courses which will be either:

- ✓ 9 GCSEs (one of which must be English Literature)
- ✓ 8 GCSEs + 1 Additional Qualification or Short Course

Why do we have option 'blocks' – why can we not just have an open choice?

Unfortunately, to have a workable timetable, it is impossible to avoid blocks of classes which all run at exactly the same time. If a student were allowed to pick two options that run at the same time, they obviously could not be present in both classes.

Pupils will be given a lot of information, advice and guidance to help them make this decision in the form of Careers classes, class talks given by subject specialists and the Year 10 GCSE Options Booklet 2021/22 which will be published and available on the school website. Due to Covid 19, it will be impossible to conduct face to face interviews this year, however the final options form will give each student a Personalised Option Pathway to assist you and them in making final choices. Parents can also be proactive and get information, advice and guidance from the school website in addition to asking your child about subjects that they may be interested in and may like to study to GCSE / Level 2.

When making choices with your child, please consider their strengths and attributes in addition to their overall attainment in academic subjects. If you need to discuss options with a senior member of staff, please do not hesitate to contact the school and someone will call you back when possible.

Below you will see a list of potential GCSE / Level 2 options. Please discuss the choices with your child. It is important to choose subjects that they find enjoyable and can achieve success in, but also to keep a good balance of options.

All students must take:

4 Compulsory subjects at GCSE level:	
1 GCSE English Language	3 GCSE Single Science <i>or</i> Horticulture (there are some students for whom the horticulture option gives the optimum opportunity for success).
2 GCSE Mathematics	4 GCSE English Literature OR one Additional Qualification/Short Course

All students must also choose:

5 Optional subjects (entitlement areas):	
Arts	Art and Design, Creative Arts, Music, Drama, Digital Media, English Literature.
Sciences & Design and Technology	Double/Triple Science, Technology, Motor Vehicle Studies, Food & Nutrition, Child Development, Further Maths, Catering, Joinery & Metal work, CAD and Electronics, Digital Technology, IT Applications, PE, Sport & Leisure
Humanities	History, Geography, Learning for Life & Work, Religious Education, Travel & Tourism, Office Technology, Business Studies, Office Procedures, Health & Social Care
Modern Foreign Languages	Spanish

It is not essential for your child to choose one subject from each area, but remember that studying a broad range of subjects at this stage is useful so that pupils have a wider base of options for later study and career choices. Further information about these subjects can be found in the Y10 options section of the school website.

In order that we try to create a timetable that matches student ambitions, please select 5 subjects on the attached sheet numbered 1 – 5 in order of preference with an additional R for a reserve.

Please note that we will endeavour to match student requests as much as possible but it is a 'best fit' process so you may not get all of the options that you prefer.

The GCSE / Level 2 choices that are available for optional study for the academic years 2020 – 2022 are as follows:

	NOTES
GCSE Art & Design	
GCSE Business Studies	
GCSE Child Development	
GCSE Digital Technology	Cannot be taken with OCN Certificate in IT Applications
GCSE Double Science (combined with single science, worth 2 GCSEs)	In order to be considered for the GCSE Double or Triple Science course, students should be attaining an average of 70% in their Y10 Science assessments. Y9 Science assessments will also be used in the event of the course being over-subscribed or to ascertain suitability for the course.
GCSE Triple Science (individual study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3GCS's))	
GCSE Drama	
GCSE English Literature*	In order to be considered for GCSE English Literature, students should be attaining an average of 70% in their Y10 English assessments. Y9 English assessments will also be used in the event of the course being over-subscribed. Students who choose to study English Literature will study this alongside their GCSE English Language.
GCSE Further Mathematics	In order to be considered for GCSE Further Mathematics, students should be attaining an average of 70% in their Y10 Mathematics assessments. Y9 Mathematics assessments will also be used in the event of the course being oversubscribed. This subject is particularly recommended for those interested in A Level Mathematics or in pure Science or Engineering courses.
GCSE Geography	
GCSE Health & Social Care	
GCSE History	
GCSE Home Economics Food & Nutrition	
GCSE Learning for Life and Work	
GCSE Motor Vehicle Studies	
GCSE Music	
GCSE Physical Education	You must regularly take part in a minimum of 2 different sports at club or school team level
GCSE Religious Studies	You cannot choose both GCSE Religious Studies <i>and</i> short course GCSE RE
GCSE Spanish	
GCSE Technology & Design	
BTEC Travel & Tourism	
BTEC Creative Digital Media	
OCN Certificate in IT Applications	Cannot be taken with Digital Technology.
Occupational Studies Contemporary Cuisine, Patisserie & Baking	Occupational Studies courses are usually only offered to those students who in the careful consideration of the College would benefit from this type of course. Due to the heavy practical content of these courses, student numbers are normally capped and therefore classes are small.
Occupational Studies Horticulture	
Occupational Studies Joinery & Hand Fitting	
Occupational Studies Computer Aided Design & Electronics	
Additional Qualifications and Short Courses*	
A. OCN NI Vocational Studies in Creative Arts B. OCN NI Vocational Studies in Sport & Leisure C. Occupational Studies Office Procedures and Office Technology D. Short Course GCSE Religious Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are not choosing English Literature*, you <u>must</u> choose one of these four options. You cannot select more than one. You cannot select Creative Arts with GCSE Art You cannot select Sport & Leisure with GCSE PE You cannot select Short Course Religious Studies with GCSE RS

Please note that courses will run only if sufficient numbers of students apply for that course to be viable. In addition, if any course is over-subscribed, student assessment attainment, benchmarking data and student's skills and aptitudes in that subject will be taken into consideration when classes are finalised.