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Welcome!

Years 10 & 11 Curriculum 2024-26

For parents of Year 9 students

10 Jan 2024

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Aiming to cover....

- Context
- Year 10 & 11 curriculum outline
- Support for students' decision making
- Next steps option choices
- Thinking further ahead careers & higher education

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Introductions

David Harding Deputy Headteacher

Sophie Howard *Yr 8/9 Phase leader*

Stacy Mason Yr 8/9 Phase leader

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Questions?

Please use the chat facility to ask questions which would be of *general interest* to all parents.

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Context

David Harding

Deputy Headteacher

We support our students to become...





Confident Well-rounded

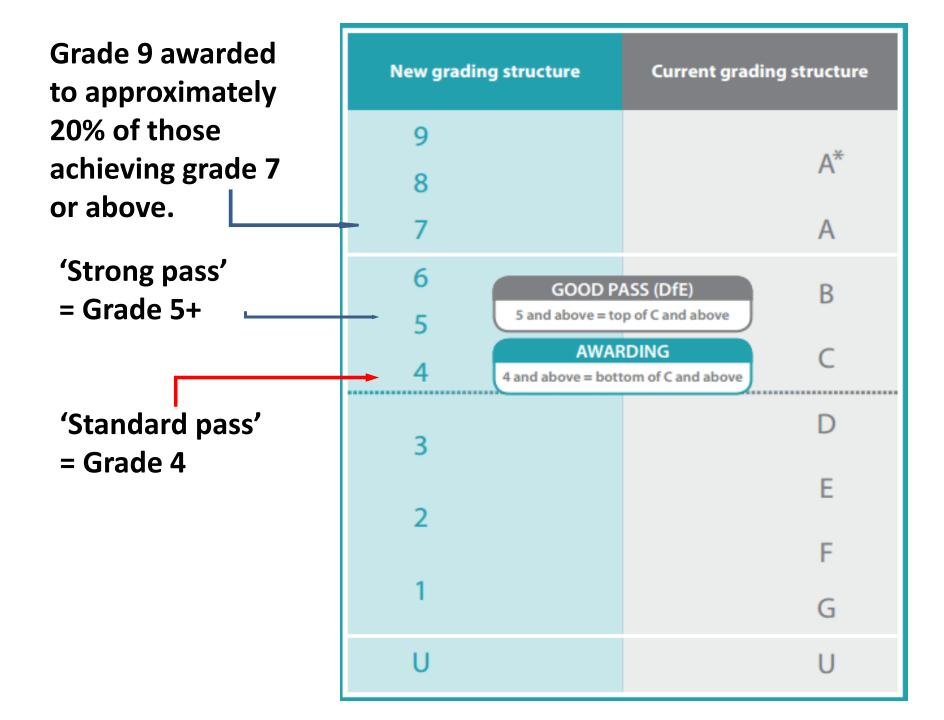
Independent Creative

Responsible Caring

GCSE qualifications Key features



- GCSEs are **content-rich** qualifications
- Non-practical courses are **fully linear** all assessments take place at the end of the course.
- Different **grading system** grades from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest



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The Year 10 & 11 curriculum

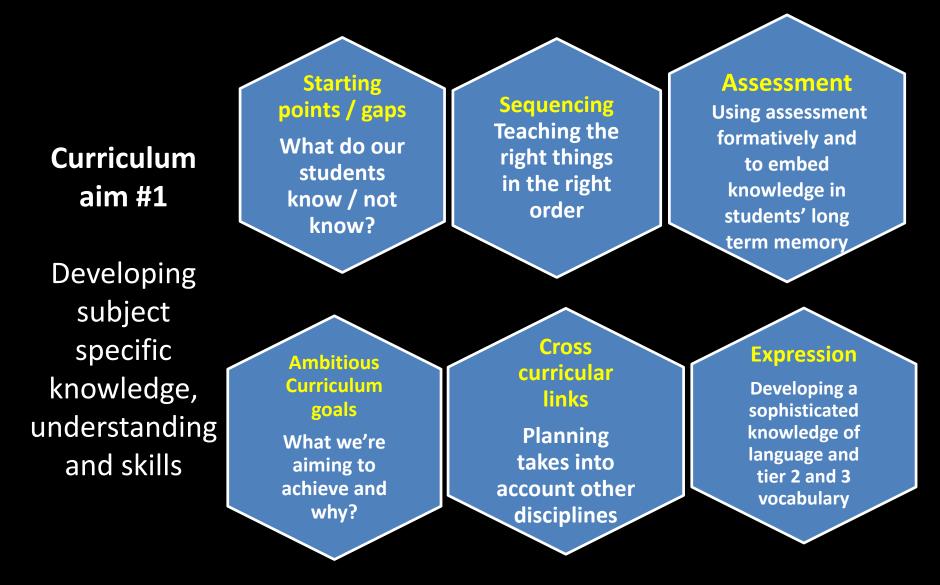


Our aims



In Years 10 & 11 we aim to:

- provide an enjoyable, engaging and challenging academic curriculum, which is broad and balanced and develops students' subject-specific knowledge, skills and understanding;
- promote students' wider personal development, to help them develop the skills, attributes and cultural awareness to thrive as individuals, citizens and members of communities in their adult lives.



Core Curriculum

Non-examined courses



– 2 hours of core PE per week

Personal and Citizenship Studies (PCS)

 Key themes of Careers, Relationship and Sex Education, Citizenship, Health and Wellbeing with additional elements

• Philosophy & Ethics

Ethical themes examined from the perspectives of different religions



Core Curriculum



- English
 - Two GCSEs Language <u>and</u> Literature
- Mathematics
 - GCSE Mathematics
 - Certificate Level 2 Further Maths for more able mathematicians
- Science
 - Separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, Physics
 - A small students may ultimately be entered for GCSE Combined Science examinations
- A modern foreign language French or German

Optional GCSE subjects

Three subjects chosen* from

- Art (2 pathways)**
- Art Textiles**
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Drama
- French
- Food & Nutrition
- Geography

- German
- History
- Music
- Religious Studies (2 pathways)
- Physical Education
- Product Design (Design Technology)

*Subject to sufficient numbers and staffing capacity

** Students may <u>not</u> choose both Art and Art Textiles as they both lead to the same qualification – GCSE Art



The alternative pathway



- Students study **one fewer** GCSE subject.
- The time gained is used to receive additional teaching in mathematics, science and English, and support in other GCSE subjects as appropriate.
- We will be in contact with you if we believe being on the 'alternative pathway' could be in your son or daughter's best interests.

How much time in Year 10?

In a week...

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Modern language
- Other GCSE options
- PE
- Philosophy & Ethics
- PCS

- 4 hours
- 3 hours
- 6 hours
- 2 hours
- 3 x 2 hours
- 2 hours
- 1 hour
- 1 hour



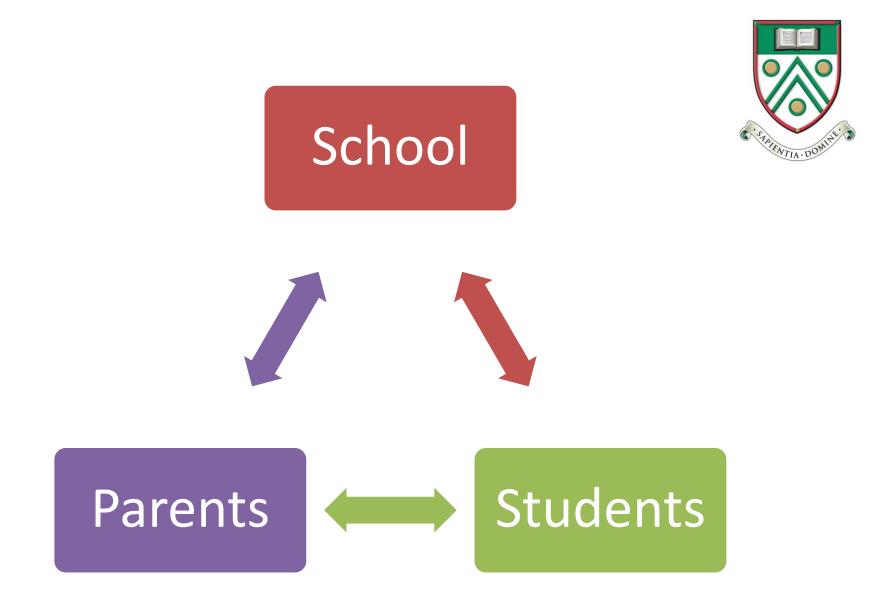
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Support for students

Stacy Mason Yr 8/9 Phase leader





Choosing: advice to students



- Choose subjects you are confident with, and believe you will enjoy
- Consider the <u>essential</u> requirements of any future study or career plans
- Aim for a **balance** of subjects and workload
- Think of the ways you like to work
- Talk to the teachers of subjects you are considering

Balance...



- Yes it's good to have a good balance of subjects but...
- It's also OK, for example, to take two practical subjects or both history and geography, if you feel you have the **interest** and **capability** in the subjects.
- Remember the aim is to gain the highest grade possible in a subject **you will enjoy.**
- Universities and employers want to see a good range of GCSEs – but grades also matter! So don't go for a "strong" subject against your better judgement.

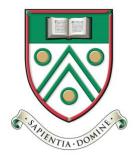
Choosing: try to avoid





"It looks like an easy option

Choosing: try to avoid



"I've been told that subject is not useful for anything."

What do you want to do that for?

That won't lead anywhere....

All GCSE subjects are useful.

Frequently asked questions



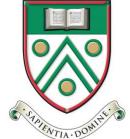
- Can I do more than three options?
 - No, the timetable does not have the space for this
 - Students are already taking enough GCSEs!
- Do I have to continue with French or German?
 - Yes, we want all students to have a GCSE qualification in a modern language
 - We believe this is necessary for a broad and balanced academic curriculum
 - Universities appreciate a wide-ranging field of study at GCSE

Frequently asked questions



- Can I choose a second language?
- Students are free to choose a second modern foreign language (i.e. French or German)
- However, we would only advise this where a student has a particular interest in and aptitude for languages and has developed sufficient competence in the second language to be confident of success at GCSE.

Frequently asked questions



- Can I change my mind about my options?
 - Initial choices are used to make decisions about numbers of sets, staffing requirements and if subjects are viable
 - Changes can **usually** be accommodated until timetabling starts in April.
 - Requests to change from April onwards will be considered, but may not be possible
 - Changes requested at the start of Year 10 will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances
 - We **do not** consider requests to change subjects after the end of September in Year 10.
 - If a change is requested it should be for well thought out and substantive reasons

Making decisions

Sophie Howard *Yr 8/9 Phase leader*

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Decisions to make



Option 1 Option 2 Option 3

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Plus reserve choices.....

Mentoring support



- Teaching staff act as mentors and allocated to each student
- Students to meet mentors 1:1 or in small groups for discussion of choices
- Mentors and parents must sign-off final choice of subjects

GCSE options - implications for A Level choices at *our* Sixth Form



<u>Essential</u> to have taken GCSE		essential <u>but</u> clearly s for A Level study
French	Art	Geography
German	Drama	History
Computing	Religious Studies	Product Design (Design Technology)
	Music	Physical Education
	Business Studies	

Choose subjects you are **confident** with <u>and</u> believe you will **enjoy**!

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Next steps

Sophie Howard *Yr 8/9 Phase leader*

Timeline

12 January	Y10/11 curriculum & options – presentation to students
12 – 26 January	Students research options. Departmental presentations for new subjects Students make provisional choices, discuss with subject teachers, parents and tutor. They complete Side A of the Options Form in preparation for meeting with mentor.
29 January – 9 February	First mentoring fortnight – students meet with staff mentors to discuss options
19 February – 1 March [21 February]	Students meet with mentors a second time to confirm choices and complete Side B of the Options Form. Students ensure that their Options Form is fully completed including the relevant signatures. Year 9 PTC - further opportunity to discuss options with teachers
4 March	<u>Final deadline</u> for return of Options Forms. Students hand in to form tutors.

Year 9 Options programme

Complete this side by 3 February.

Options Form Side A



Name:	Form:	
Staff mentor:	Form tutor:	

Possible options

Subject	Reasons for choosing it	Mentor's comments

Possible higher education or careers?

2020 2	ge 4 025		Form Side B	CARLING - BURNER
Name:		Form:		
Art GCSE co which also le Students opti Students opti	you have a free choice of si urse. We offer two pathway ads to a GCSE in Art. ing for a GCSE Art course r ing for GCSE Religious Stu the Christianity with Islam.	vs with Art: photography need to specify below wi	y, fine art along hich of the path	with GCSE Art Textiles, ways they wish to take.
4.5	Option 2			
(b)	Option 2			
Alternative (Option 3			
	Choices Iternatives please)			
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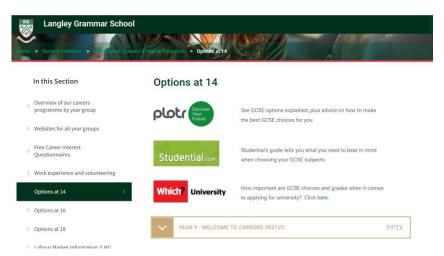
Thinking further ahead

David Harding

Deputy Headteacher

Careers advice, information and guidance

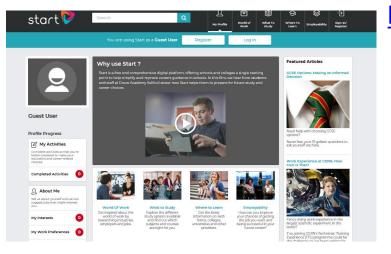
- A wealth of resources on our careers section (under student activities) on our school website.
- Students all have access to 'Unifrog' – a web-based platform with lots of information about choosing GCSE options.
- Pages 'Options at 14', 'Websites for all year groups', 'Resources for Parents' and 'Free Career Interest Questionnaires' are particularly useful.



NTIA . DC

Other free online tools: *Target careers* and *Start*





https://www.startprofile.com/

- Free online platform students and parents can register to use the resources available
- Students can answer a few questions about themselves and their interests to generate information and links to potential careers and subjects to consider.



https://targetcareers.co.uk/

- Free online platform –
- Designed to help school leavers make decisions about their future. Explore options for careers, university or apprenticeships and get help applying successfully.

Introduction to Careers and Options



- Each form group will have a one-hour introduction to careers education including resources available to them
- Takes place in PCS lessons with Mr Devani, our Careers education and guidance adviser
- Supports the options process alongside the use of other resources and opportunities available to student

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Final comments

David Harding Deputy Headteacher

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Thank you for attending