

Year 8 Options Frequently Asked Questions

Can students select whatever subjects they want to?

Students can choose the subjects they want to do at Key Stage 4, however the number of subjects they can select is based on the curriculum pathway (Red, Blue or Green) they have been advised to take. There are also some subjects such as GCSE Statistics and GCSE Computer Science which have a minimum requirement in GCSE Maths (see below). Any student not meeting this minimum requirement will not be accepted on to the course and should therefore not select it as one of their options.

Can students change their options pathway?

Students have been advised on the most suitable pathway for them based on both their target and predicted data. This decision has been carefully considered to provide all students with the best opportunity for success at the end of KS4. However, there may be some scenarios where it is in the best interests of the student to follow a different pathway. For example, a student who has been advised to follow the Red pathway, but does not want to take a language, would be allowed to change to a blue pathway, where they would select one of the humanities subjects and two other options.

Do students need to meet certain requirements to opt for some subjects?

There are no entry requirements to take any of the subjects with the exception of the following subjects:

GCSE Statistics - students must be predicted a grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths

GCSE Computer Science - students must be predicted a grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths

GCSE French/Spanish – students must have taken the subject at Key Stage 3

Why do all students have to study the Religious Studies GCSE?

Religious Studies and PSHE will soon be a statutory component of the school curriculum. All the students will now have the opportunity to gain a qualification in Religious Studies. This does not take the place of another GCSE option as students will be allocated one lesson a week to study the course. They will also receive additional tuition through the PSHE and assembly programme in Years 9, 10 & 11.

When is the deadline for options to be selected on Insight?

The option subjects must be selected on Insight by the end of Thursday 14th February.

Can students change their options after the deadline?

As much as we want students to make the correct choices during the options process we accept that there will be a few who may change their mind once they start their subjects in Year 9. If a student realises soon after starting the course that the subject is not suitable for them they can request to change subjects, although this will be dependent on the timetable allowing it and class sizes not being at capacity. Therefore, it is imperative that students make as informed a decision as they possibly can when they input their option choices in Insight.

Are students guaranteed to do the subjects they opt for?

We will make every effort to accommodate the first choice options of every student, however this is not something that we can guarantee. Students are asked to select a back-up option which they would like to do in the event they are unable to do one of their first choice options.