



Year 10 Subject Choices

February 2018



Support for Year 9 option choices

- IAG lessons
- Advice from staff and in the options booklet
- On-line guidance
- Careers advisor
- Taster sessions



How can parents help?

- Support research at home and discuss what students want
- On line careers advisors via the direct.gov website
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

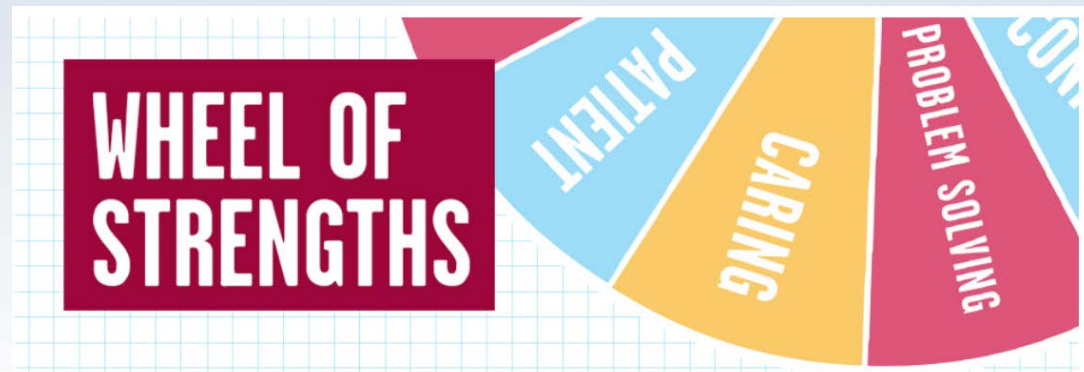


Researching Options Online

<http://careerpilot.org.uk/info/your-choices-at-14/gcses-compulsory-and-optional/>

Barclays LifeSkills -

<https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-to-choose-my-next-step/school/wheel-of-strengths#form1>



Wheel of Strengths

Choose the strengths, interests and personality traits that best describe you. Then discover the types of jobs you are suited to and use this as a starting point in your job search.

From I want to choose my next step



Thinking about the long term?

- Sixth form prospectus
- FE colleges
- University prospectus



The Timescale

- Reports
- **1&2 February** Learning Review and careers fair
- **Tuesday 6 February** Options Information Evening
Options booklet online - hard copy on request from your child's tutor
- **Monday 19th February** Options form issued to students
- **Thursday 22nd February** Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Tuesday 6th March** Options form returned to tutor
(this is not 'first-come, first served')



Qualifications explained

GCSE


BTEC

Vocational qualifications



How the grades work

- GCSEs – All GCSEs will be on the 1-9 scale; the same as is used on our data reports home now.
- BTECs are graded Distinction, Merit, Pass (Equivalent to 9-5 at GCSE).

New GCSE Grading Structure 

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DFE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above



The EBacc

- The English Baccalaureate (**EBacc**) is a performance measure for schools, awarded when students secure a grade 5 or above at GCSE level across a core of five academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language. It is not a qualification in itself.
- The Ebacc combination of GCSEs
 - English
 - Maths
 - Science
 - Geography or History
 - French or Spanish
- ‘This combination of subjects gives pupils an excellent grounding to continue to higher education...We want to improve take up even further.’



Reading, thinking and honest discussion

- Talk the options through carefully.
- Make sure that you understand what each course will require.
- Think hard about those subjects you are likely to do well in.
- Read carefully the description of the subjects. It makes sense to choose:
 - The courses you are good at
 - The courses you will enjoy
 - The courses you may need in the future



What not to choose

- A subject just because a friend is doing it
- A subject because you like the teacher (the teacher may not be the one you are expecting!)
- You will not be given your choices automatically. Your options may depend on:
 - how well you have achieved in a particular subject at Key Stage 3
 - recommendation by a member of staff following discussion with your parents
 - group size



Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Studies (RE)
- Physical Education (PE)
- IAG
- History or Geography
- French or Spanish



How many lessons?

There are 50 lessons every fortnight

- English - 6
- Mathematics - 8
- Science - 10
- Religious Studies (RE) - 2
- Physical Education (PE) - 2
- IAG - 2
- History or Geography (Option 1) - 5
- French or Spanish (Option 2) – 5
- Option 3 – 5
- Option 4 - 5









Number of options

- There are 4 option choices
- You will be given 5 option choices so that there is a reserve subject.
- It is really important to put your choices in order of preference.
- You can choose a second humanities and/or a second language in the options section if you wish.
- We will try to meet students' specific needs








Example 1

Example 1	Subject	Code	Qualification	Clocks	Preference
Language	French/Spanish	4569	GCSE		2
Humanity	Geography/History	4528	GCSE		3
	Drama	4507	GCSE		1
	Sport	7658	BTEC		5
	Resistant Materials	4560	GCSE		4
			Total		



Example 2

Example	Subject	Code	Qualification	Clocks	Preference
Language	French/Spanish	4583	GCSE		4
Humanity	Geography/History	4667	GCSE		1
	Childcare	1888	CACHE		2
	Art	4681	GCSE		3
				Total	



Your choices

Preferred set of choices

	Subject	Code	Qualification	Clocks	Preference
Language	French/Spanish*				
Humanity	Geography/History*				
<i>*Please delete as appropriate</i>				Total	



Try not to make decisions straight away

Year 9 parent teacher meeting – 22nd February
2018

Tuesday 6th March – deadline for options form.