

## GCSE Options

Please also refer to the Options Booklet



# KEY DATES

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Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening & Options talk.
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students' instructions on accessing the Online Options system sent to all Parents/Carers and students.</li><li>• <b>Online Options opens.</b></li></ul>
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# The Core Subjects

- GCSE English (Language and Literature)
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science (Combined or Separates)
- GCSE RE (Short Course) **or** Higher Project
- Core PE (Non Exam)
- PSHE inc: SMSC, Citizenship & British Values. (Non Exam)

Subject	Year 10	Year 11
English (lang. & lit)	7hrs	7hrs
Mathematics	7hrs	7hrs
Science	See next slide	See next slide
GCSE RE Short Course	2 hrs	N/A
Core PE & Activities	4hrs	4 hrs
PSHE & Citizenship	2 hrs	2hrs



# Decision 1

## Key decision:

**Combined Science: Trilogy**  
(nationally – 73% of students)

[worth 2 GCSEs]

**OR**

**Separate Sciences**  
(The King's - c.40% of students)

[worth 3 GCSEs]

Teaching time [2 week timetable]

Science route	Year 10	Year 11
Combined Science: Trilogy	8hrs	10 hrs
Separate Science	13 hrs	15 hrs



# Trilogy Science

Core  
subjects

+

Combined  
Science:  
Trilogy

+

4 option  
subjects

GCSE English (Language and Literature)  
GCSE Mathematics  
GCSE Science (Trilogy or Separate)  
GCSE RS (Short Course) *or* Higher Project  
PE (Non Exam)  
PSHE and Citizenship (Non Exam)



Preference  
order 1-4

**Total GCSEs: 9.5**



# Separate Sciences

Core  
subjects

+

Separate  
Sciences

+

**3** option  
subjects

GCSE English (Language and Literature)  
GCSE Mathematics  
GCSE Science (Trilogy or Separates)  
GCSE RS (Short Course) *or* Higher Project  
PE (Non Exam)  
PSHE and Citizenship (Non Exam)

↓  
Preference  
order 1-3

**Total GCSEs: 9.5**



# Decision 2: The Option Subjects

Teaching time: 5 hrs/fortnight.

<b>Art</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Computer Science</b>
<b>Dance</b>	<b>Drama</b>	<b>D&amp;T Textile Design</b>
<b>D&amp;T - Electronics &amp; Mechanisms</b>	<b>D&amp;T- Materials</b>	<b>Food Preparation &amp; Nutrition</b>
<b>French</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>IT Technical Award - Digital Applications</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>
<b>Religious Studies</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Skills for Learning courses (by Invite only)</b>



## When helping your children choose their options. Useful questions.

It may be useful to read through [Parents Advice for Career Conversations - Talking Futures](#)

Below are some useful questions to ask:

- Which are **their strongest** subjects?
- Have they maintained a **balance**?
- Have they **read** what the course is really about/**spoken** to teachers?
- Have they read the Option booklet.
- Do they have **firm/fixed** ideas about A Levels or **post 16** education?
- Do they wish to go to **university**? If so, do they know what they would **like to read**?
- Have they **watched** the **Unifrog** video?
- Have they looked at all the links on **Student Choices** part of the website: [The King's School - Student Choices](#)

Try to ensure that they aren't picking a subject for any of the following reasons:

- I like my teacher.
- My friends do this subject.
- It's easy/I don't think it will involve much work.
- I like the sound of the course but don't know what it is really about.





# Some examples of where students haven't chosen wisely.

Scenario	Issues – all avoidable by looking at the resources/chatting to teachers.
<p><b>History:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like finding out about the past – especially WW1.</li> <li>• Not too keen on writing lots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They didn't look at the <b>content</b> – the modern depth study starts in 1918.</li> <li>• 100% exams based with <b>3 written papers</b> – all lots of writing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Separate Sciences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Couldn't think of a 4<sup>th</sup> option and doesn't mind science.</li> <li>• Dislikes maths.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking separate science means <b>c.30% of timetable is in science.</b></li> <li>• <b>Maths</b> skills make up <b>10%</b> of the Biology paper, <b>20%</b> of the Chemistry and <b>30%</b> of the Physics paper.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expressive Arts - e.g: Drama:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoying year 9 drama with Mrs...</li> <li>• Doesn't like performing in front of others.</li> <li>• No interest in the theory side.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Didn't look at the course content – <b>Performance is 60%.</b></li> <li>• 40% is a written exam where <b>theory must be applied.</b></li> <li>• Ends up getting taught by <b>another teacher</b> – no choice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PE GCSE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes sport –as fun.</li> <li>• Dislikes science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>60%</b> = 2 x written papers <b>applying theory</b> including anatomy and physiology.</li> <li>• Practical component is <b>skills based</b> not just fun.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New, different, easy subject.</li> <li>• Dislikes maths.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maths</b> is an <b>integral</b> part of the course.</li> <li>• Two papers at the end of the course where <b>theory must be applied.</b></li> </ul>

Reason why students in the past haven't chosen a subject they liked.	Reality
<p>No friends were taking it – chose a subject that they didn't like as much to be with their friend(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two years – 5 periods/fortnight – a lot of lessons to be in a subject that they don't like.</li> <li>• Everything mixed up in year 10 to allow options to work. They could choose all the same subjects as their friend(s) and not end up in the same groups.</li> </ul>
<p>It sounded like a lot of work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All GCSEs are academic. All are Level 2 courses.</li> <li>• Some more exam-based other subject pressures come at different times through NEAs etc. No easy option!</li> <li>• Have they really looked at what the course involves?</li> </ul>
<p>Didn't get on with the teacher in year 9.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have no control over who teaches you in year 10</li> <li>• In a group with other students who want to do the subject their rapport with the teacher could change.</li> <li>• They must pick the subject <b>NOT</b> the teacher.</li> </ul>
<p>Never thought that the subject would be useful later on.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim for a broad, balanced range of subjects.</li> <li>• Picking a humanity, a science, a practical subject and a language will never hold you back.</li> <li>• 14 is very early to close the door on any career path.</li> </ul>



# Option combinations - EBACC

It is the government's national ambition that 90% of Year 10 students in state funded mainstream schools should be studying EBacc GCSE courses. The EBACC is: English language and literature, Maths, the Sciences, Geography or History and a Language.

**Whilst we do not insist on every student fulfilling the EBACC requirements, we strongly recommend that you consider studying either History or Geography and a Language alongside other subject choices.**



# Expressive Arts

GCSE Art

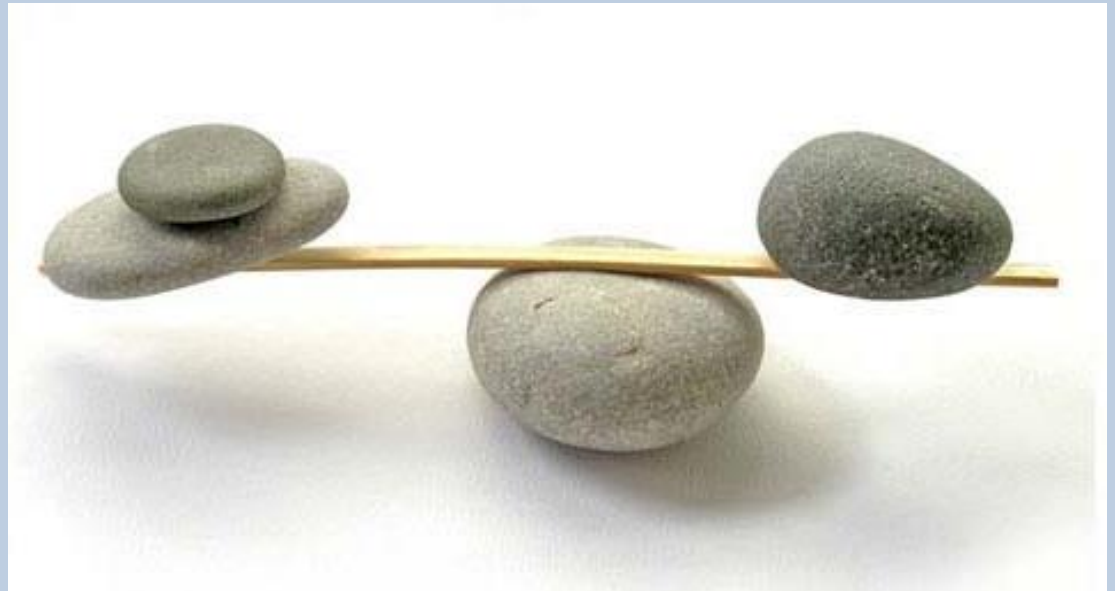
GCSE D&T Textile Design

GCSE Dance

GCSE Drama

GCSE Music

Only one of these two options can be chosen



# The Humanities

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Religious Studies (Full Course)

Full course RPE students also complete the Higher Project

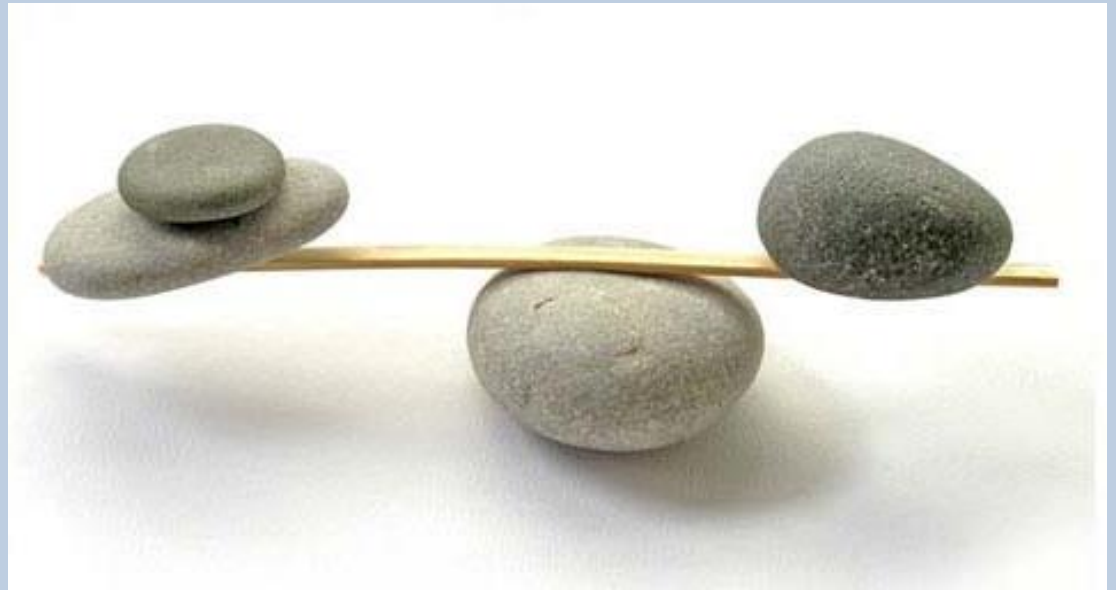


# Languages

GCSE French

**or**

GCSE Spanish



# DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

## Design & Technology Group 1:

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

## Design & Technology Group 2:

GCSE Design & Technology: Materials

GCSE Design & Technology: Electronics & Mechanisms

**ONLY ONE OF THE SUBJECTS  
FROM GROUP 2 CAN BE CHOSEN!**



You **CAN** select Food Preparation & Nutrition **AND** a Design technology GCSE. You are **UNLIKELY** to get both.



# Other subjects

GCSE Business

GCSE PE

GCSE Computer Science

IT Technical Award in Digital Applications





# Reserve choices – Child's instructions

- Options form is a 'free choice'.
- But:
  - Some options may not run if there are too few people who choose it
  - Some options may become full.
  - Some subjects could clash when they are put into blocks.
- Select **TWO** reserve choices.
- Think carefully about your reserve choices.
- Put your reserve choices in order of preference.



# Completing online Options

- Full **step-by-step** instructions will be sent out for students via EduLink. Please follow the instructions carefully.
- Students will need to access their **school email** [www.office.com](http://www.office.com) and they will be the ones selecting their options and their reserves.
- **Parents/Carers** will be sent an EduLink survey to **approve** your option choices. They will need their child's online options before completing the survey.



# Students: Please read the onscreen instructions!

## Your Options

Please read these notes carefully before making your options:

1. Make **4 option choices** and **2 reserves**. Make sure that you put them in **your order of preference**.
2. The government would like most students to take EBacc GCSE courses. Whilst, unlike many schools, we don't insist on this we **strongly recommend** that you take: **Geography or History and French or Spanish**.
3. You **cannot** take **Art and Art Textiles** nor can you take **Materials and Electronics** as these are seen as the same qualification.
4. If you want to do **Separate Sciences** rather than **Combined Science: Trilogy** you need to choose the **Triple Science** option here. The differences between the courses are shown here:

Name	Course content	Hours/fortnight
Separate Sciences	You study: <b>Biology; Chemistry &amp; Physics.</b>	Year 10: 13 hrs
(Triple Science on this form)	You gain <b>3 separate GCSE grades.</b>	Year 11: 15 hrs
Combined Sciences: Trilogy	You study: <b>Biology; Chemistry &amp; Physics.</b>	Year 10: 8 hrs
(This is what you will take if you don't opt for Triple Science on this page)	As you don't study each subject in as much depth you get <b>2 GCSE Grades.</b>	Year 11: 10 hrs

Click on the subject to select it as your main option. Click on it again to cancel it

Click on 'Reserve' to put a subject as your reserve option.

You have chosen 0 of 4 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list

Art GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Art Textil GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Business S GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Dance GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Informatio GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE Full Course	Reserve	French GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Geography GCSE Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Music GCSE Full Course	Reserve	P.E.Studie GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Religious GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Triple Science GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Spanish GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Food GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Materials GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Electronic GCSE Full Course	Reserve				



## My Choices in Order of Preference

(Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

**1** Geography  
GCSE Full Course Options Subjects

**2** Music  
GCSE Full Course Options Subjects

**3** French  
GCSE Full Course Options Subjects

**4** Computer Science  
GCSE Full Course Options Subjects

## My Reserves in Order of Preference

(Total Reserves: 2)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

**1** Informatio  
GCSE Full Course Options Subjects

**2** Materials  
GCSE Full Course Options Subjects

Please note the order of preference. Follow the instructions if you wish to change the order



[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)

- Once you have registered, by going to this website address students can make/amend their options.
- Parents/Carers must complete their EduLink survey having seen the chosen options.

**Deadline - 30<sup>th</sup> January**

- After this date changes will:
  - have to go through Mr Twelves;
  - will be harder as Option blocks will be created based on your initial options.



# Who to speak to.....

- Your teachers- subject areas will be giving presentations in lesson time.
- Tutors
- Parents/carers
- Mrs Farrand
  
- Mr Twelves - please direct any queries about the process to Mr Twelves ([ntwelves@thekings.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ntwelves@thekings.devon.sch.uk))



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