

*'Making the right choice for together'*



**Mr D Tully - Deputy Headteacher**

“The choices you make now, the people you surround yourself with, they all have the potential to affect your life, even who you are, forever.”

*Sarah Dessen*

# The reality is...

For lots of secondary school students, making GCSE options choices is one of the first “adult” decisions they have to make...

...for some students the decision can be overwhelming!



# What do GCSEs do?



GCSEs prepare you for life in one of several pathways:

- Sixth Form
- Further Education at college
- Apprenticeship
- Employment
- Armed Forces

# Compulsory Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE
- PSHE



# Compulsory Subject - Science

All students will study Combined Science in Year 10

In Year 11 you will take:

Separate Sciences– Physics, Chemistry and Biology

OR

Combined Science



# English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) Subjects

## What is it not?

Not a qualification

## So what is it?

Collection of subjects

Maths, English, Science, MFL,  
Geography, History, Computer  
Science

## Why might it be useful for me?

Greater choice at University

Open more degree doors than  
other subjects

# Reasons to choose a subject:

- You like the subject!
- You find it interesting
- You enjoy and want to be successful in it
- You have some skill in the subject
- Resource requirements/commitments and costs
- It's right level of qualification / learning style for you
- It is something you might want to study in 6<sup>th</sup> Form
- It relates to a career you are interested in
- English Baccalaureate (Humanities and Language)
- It's a good reserve choices in case your preferred choice does not run

Interesting  
Career Plans  
Enjoyable  
Success



# How NOT to make a good choice!

Do not pick an Option to be with your friends.....it's YOUR future not theirs!



Take your time to make the right choice

# How do you make a decision?

- Research the subject topics for GCSE (GCSE fortnight)
- Options Evening
- PSHE lessons
- Talk to your tutor, Teachers, and ADSD/DSD
- Talk to your parents and older students
- Think about what careers you might be interested in
- Request a Careers Advice Meeting (Ms Nyakeru or Ms Richardson)
- Read the Options Booklet sent to you in December (also on the website)
- Options and career research on the internet - [National Careers](#)

# Subject Interest - SURVEY ONLY

Only subjects  
with enough  
student interest  
will run

This means that  
not all subjects  
may run

I understand that this is a survey and does not reflect the final options choices I will make after half term \*

Yes

No

The first subject I am thinking of doing is... \*

Choose

The second subject I am thinking of doing is ... \*

Choose

The third subject I am thinking of doing is ... \*

Choose

The fourth subject I am thinking of doing is ... \*

**Deadline: 12th February**

**We ARE Preston Manor**

Ambition | Responsibility | Excellence

All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers and staffing

# Option Subjects:

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Food
- French
- Geography
- Graphics
- History
- IT (*Cambridge National*)
- Media
- Music
- PE (GCSE)
- Dance (GCSE)
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sociology

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	History
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
French	French	French	French
Business	Business	Business	Business
Computer Science	Computer Science	Information Technology	Information Technology
Graphics	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Art & Design	Art & Design
Religious Studies	Graphics	Religious Studies	Music
Drama	Media	Performing Arts/Dance	Media
PE GCSE	PE GCSE		PE GCSE
	Personal Development & Employability *	Personal Development & Employability *	English as a Second Language <b>OR</b> ELC Step up to English*
Study Support (AQA UAS) *	Study Support (AQA UAS) *	Study Support (AQA UAS) *	Study Support (AQA UAS) *

**By invitation only:**

- English as a Second Language
- Study Support (Functional Skills)
- Personal Development and Employability

# Vocational Courses



- Information Technology Cambridge National

Value

# Important information

Some combinations are not allowed:

- Art and Graphics
- ICT and Computing



# Guidance

- Options Assembly
- PSHE lessons
- Guidance from home
- Guidance from Form Tutors
- Guidance from subject staff
- Options Interviews

Talk  
Talk  
Talk



# Supporting your child's next steps

Careers education helps students understand their **strengths, interests, and options**

## Students learn about:

- Different subjects and where they can lead
- Careers, pathways, and future opportunities
- Skills needed for work, further education, and life

## We encourage students to:

- Keep options open
- Choose subjects they enjoy and can succeed in
- Ask questions and explore possibilities

## How parents and carers can help at home:

- Talk about options at home
- Encouraging questions and exploration
- Supporting informed decision-making

## Useful resources:



### School careers page

Links to information and career resources for students and parents



### National Careers Service

Clear information on jobs and pathways



### Labour Market Information

Local jobs and future



### Careerpilot

Information to help parents and carers support young people in making an informed decision



# The Options Process!

- Options Assemblies
- GCSE lessons - 2nd February to 13th February
- Options Evening - 4th February
- Options Survey deadline - 12th February
- Options Interviews - w/b 2nd March
- Provisional Offer Letter - early May
- Confirmation Letter - early July

This is where you confirm your choices with a member of SLT or Year 9 Pastoral Leader

No changes are allowed after this date

*Only exceptional educational reasons will be considered*

# Next steps...

Name:

Form:

## STAGE 4 OPTION CHOICES FORM 2024- 2025

(YOUR COPY – BRING TO YOUR OPTIONS INTERVIEW)

PLEASE MAKE 2 CHOICES IN EACH OPTION BLOCK. WRITE '1' FOR YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> CHOICE, '2' FOR YOUR 2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE SUBJECTS

Option Block A		Option Block B		Option Block C		Option Block D	
Geography		Geography		Geography		Geography	
History	1	History		History		History	
Spanish		Spanish	1	Spanish		Spanish	
French		French		French		French	
Business		Business		Business		Business	1
Computer Science		Computer Science	2	Information Technology		Information Technology	
Graphics		Food Preparation & Nutrition		Graphics		Art & Design	
Religious Studies		Graphics		Religious Studies	2	Music	
Drama		Media		Performing Arts/Dance		Media	2
Sociology	2	Sociology		Sociology		Sociology	
PE GCSE				PE GCSE	1	PE GCSE	
*Personal Development & Employability		Personal Development & Employability *				English as a Second Language <u>OR</u> ELC Step up to English*	
Study Support (AQA UAS) *		Study Support (AQA UAS) *		Study Support (AQA UAS) *		Study Support (AQA UAS) *	

\* subjects can only be chosen by invitation only and approval from SENEAL Departments

Staff Signature	
Date	

**You will be unable to choose the following combination of subjects:**

- Graphics and Art & Design
- Computer Science and IT

- 8 different subjects
- 4 first choices
- 4 2nd choices
- A 1st and 2nd choice in each option block
- Bring this sheet to the Options interview
- Staff will sign similar to a receipt with the final choices
- Keep it safe in case there is any issue on future correspondence of the selected choices.