

Idsall School



Welcome to Year 9 Options Presentation

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E Glandibus Quercus

“Great oaks from little acorns grow”

Options Process Timeline

6/1/23	Options booklets handed out Straw poll link sent to Parents
10/1/23	ID Lesson – p4 Assembly with process explained to students.
12/1/23	DCA – Briefing to Parents via Teams This will be recorded and put on website. Parents will be invited to email questions to careers@idsall.shrsophire.sch.uk Questions will be addressed at briefing on Monday 16/1/23 & a FAQs sheet will be emailed to Parents following this second briefing.
13/1/23	Deadline for Straw Poll responses
16/1/23	LKE – Advice and Guidance for Parents via Teams This will be recorded and put on website.
16/1/23- 20/1/23	TEACHING STAFF – Explain GCSE Course options to students in lessons this week, answer student questions
18/1/23	ID Lesson - p4 Psychology/ Business Studies/ Health & Social Care/ Construction – Opportunity to present to students
23/1/23	Options form on SIMS opens for student choices
26/1/23	Year 9 Parents Evening
17/2/23	Deadline for Options choices via SIMS



Key Dates for
your Diary

Thursday 26th Jan
Parents Evening

Monday 23rd Jan to Friday 17th Feb
Options Selection (Online)



Exams change...

...but school is
still school!

The world beyond Idsall School

- Your children will have to remain in Education or training until they are 18.
 - The Government believes that adults will be 22-23 years old before they embark upon a career.
 - As adults your children will probably change career 2-3 times during their adult lives and have 10-14 jobs by the age of 38. They will work to the age of 70+ before retirement.
 - The days of a lifelong career with one company or within one industry have gone.
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Curriculum Intent

All students at Idsall are entitled to a curriculum that is:

- **Broad and Balanced**
- **Relevant**
- **Challenging**
- **Enjoyable**

Subjects your child must take: The Core

English
Maths
Science
PE
PSHE

4 x OPTION SUBJECTS	10 hrs
MATHS	4 hrs
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	2.5 hrs
ENGLISH LITERATURE	2.5 hrs
COMBINED SCIENCE (Double Award)	5 hrs
I.D.	standalone
P.E.	1 hr

“Blended choice”

We want students to be able to choose between a wide range of subjects on offer:

- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Computer Science**
- **Separate Sciences**
- **MFL**
- **Art**
- **Drama**
- **Music**
- **Health & Social Care**
- **ICT**
- **PE & Sport**
- **Food & Nutrition**
- **Product Design**
- **Business Studies**
- **Psychology**



You MUST choose one subject from each column (block) A, B, C and D

At least one of your four choices MUST be from the top, shaded section of any block.

OPTION BLOCKS 2023 - 2024

A	B	C	D
Geography	Computer Science	Geography	French
History	Geography	History	German
	History		Geography
	Separate Science		History
			Separate Science
Construction (BTEC)		Art	Art
Drama	Business Studies (GCSE)	Business Studies (CNAT)	Business Studies (GCSE)
Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Business Studies (CNAT)	Food & Nutrition	D&T: Product Design
ICT (BTEC)	D&T: Product Design	ICT (BTEC)	Food & Nutrition
PE (GCSE)	Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Music GCSE	PE (GCSE)
Psychology	Religious Studies	Psychology	Sport (BTEC)
Sport (BTEC)			

- **Construction** requires two blocks (A and B).
- **Business Studies** and **PE & Sport** have two possible pathways, GCSE or BTEC/CNAT. Both routes in each subject lead to A level.
- If you want to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as 3 separate GCSEs you must take Separate Science.

GCSE or BTEC?

GCSE

- Linear exam at end of year 11
- Only able to resit English and Maths post 16)
- No coursework except in a few subjects (The Arts, Design Technology, Graphics, Food etc.)
- **Grading system 9-1**
- Grade 4 ('standard pass') and 5 ('strong pass') in English and Maths

BTEC/Cambridge National

- Mix of coursework, internal assessment, exams
- High-quality, career-focused qualifications
- Grounded in the world of work.
- Courses retain some elements of controlled assessment, but *all* have an examination element too
- **Grading system – pass, merit, distinction**

The Ebacc:

English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

- **It is a collection of subjects a student can study.**
Achieved when:
- Grade 5 (or above) in English, Maths, Two Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography

‘The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a School performance measure, not a qualification. *It is not compulsory*’ DfE

Our view on the Ebacc

- We support the idea of a **broad and balanced curriculum** that has some flexibility to meet the needs and aspirations of all our students
- We want students to have choice
- Studying the EBacc subjects alongside one of the Arts and a Technology subject would provide breadth and balance

We ***will not*** insist on students doing the full suite of Ebacc subjects

however.....

- Students should consider studying the Ebacc suite of subjects if they are thinking about **some** higher education courses in the future as they are seen by many as more 'academic'.
- They can study these subjects **if they want to.**



Science

- We highly recommend that all students considering an A-level science should opt for separate sciences . This will give three separate GCSEs in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
- Students could do an A-level science with a good grade (9-6) in Combined Science, but it does not give the same preparation/depth of study as the single science courses.

Languages

We highly recommend that all students in top sets for languages should seriously consider continuing to study French or German at GCSE level.

WHY?

A qualification in a different language shows employers that you have something special to offer and that you are an articulate and confident individual with excellent problem solving and critical thinking skills and someone who is sensitive to cultural difference.

We live and work in a global marketplace with clients expecting that their partners will use their language to do business. To succeed in the 21st century business world requires companies to be mindful of opportunities all across the world and the need for speakers of other languages has never been more relevant.

Brian Stobie, International Durham

- **Languages are optional** for the current Year 9 cohort

Skills Centre courses

- 4hrs of lessons per week

Take up TWO option blocks

- Very practical in nature and often lead to students taking further courses when they get to 16
- Approximately 7 places per course
- ***Selection process is managed by Mr. Northall.***



DO:

- **Take your time.** Making hurried choices could mean making the wrong choices.
- **Think** about which subjects you are good at and look at your performance in these subjects up to now.
- **Consider** your behaviour and effort in the subject – has it been good? Have you worked to your best ability?
- **Do you enjoy the subject?** If you enjoy it, you are more likely to work hard and gain good grades

Think ahead:

- Do you want to do A levels/Apprenticeship/L3 BTEC?
- Do you want to go to university?

Do you know what you want to do after year 11?????

Do not choose courses because :

Their friends
are doing
them

They like
their current
teacher

They think it
sounds good



What if you don't know what you want to do in the future

Many Year 9 students have no idea what career they might eventually go into, and if this is the case, it makes sense for your child to choose as broad a range of subjects as possible.

A good rule of thumb to keep your future options open is to take at least one subject from each of the four entitlement areas, on top of the core subjects.

Universities often prefer applicants who have a wide range of GCSEs in conventional subjects such as history, geography and the sciences, rather than more specialist subjects like media studies or psychology.

What to do if you do know what you want to do in the future

If you do already have a career in mind or are leaning towards studying a certain subject at GCSE, encourage *look at the entry requirements for a university course or other training in that area.*

Taking specific subjects may put them at an advantage when they're applying for further education.



Making the
Wrong
Choice

Personal Details

Preferred Forename

Preferred Surname

Photograph



Gender

Date of Birth

Year Taught In

Registration Group

House

Admission Number

Enrolment/Admission Status

SEN Status

Options

This page lets you make your 4 option choices. Some subjects are compulsory at Key Stage 4 and will be studied alongside your options. They are:

English Language GCSE; English Literature GCSE; Maths GCSE; Science - either the default Combined Science (2x GCSEs) or Separate Sciences (3x GCSEs) as an option; Core P.E.; Individual Development (I.D.)

As well as your 4 option choices, you also select a **Reserve** in each option block. This is effectively a backup subject, should your option choice not be available.

To choose an option, click on a **subject name** to select it. It will then turn blue.

As well as your 4 option choices, you also select a **Reserve** in each option block. This is effectively a backup subject, should your option choice not be available.

Click on **Reserve**, next to the subject name, to choose it as a Reserve, which will then turn the subject name orange.

Option Block A

You **must select at least one** of the following subjects amongst your 4 option choices:

Computer Science	French	Geography
German	History	Separate Sciences

Construction counts as **2 choices** (1 in Block A and 1 in Block B).

You can only choose to do either **P.E. GCSE** or **Sport BTEC**, not both, as one of your 4 option choices.

You have chosen **1 of 1** courses and **0 of 1** reserves from this list

Construction (1 of 2)
BTEC Award Level 1 & 2

Reserve

This course is also available in Option Block B

Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

This course is also available in other lists.

History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

You have selected this course in Option Block C

Health & Social
BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

Reserve

This course is also available in Option Block B

Information Technology
BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

Reserve

This course is also available in Option Block C

PE (GCSE) GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

This course is also available in Option Block D

Psychology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

This course is also available in Option Block D

Sport BTEC 1st Award
BTEC Award Level 1 & 2

Reserve

You have selected this course in Option Block D

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 Business CNAT**
Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 Option Block B
- 2 Information Technology**
BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Option Block A
- 3 Sport BTEC 1st Award**
BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 Option Block D
- 4 History**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option Block C

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 0)

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

No reserves selected.