

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS EVENING

- What lies ahead?
- Opportunity to find out more about Options Subjects – some have been studied in the A Year, some have not.
- Before you leave the Hall, we'll tell you a little about what is compulsory...

Subjects your child must take: The Core

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PE (Core PE for all students)

Further core elements in PSHCRE days including: Citizenship, Sex and Health education, Finance and RE.

Plus **four OPTION courses.**

English

English lessons prepare students for two GCSE qualifications.

We follow the AQA specifications for both English Language and English Literature.

The English Language qualification is assessed through two written exams. Students must also undertake a short spoken language assessment which is delivered to their teacher and a small group of students.

The English Literature qualification is assessed through two written exams.

The results of the two GCSEs are completely independent and students can achieve different grades for Language and Literature.

English

- We use A Year attainment data and classwork to form the classes for I and E Year.
- There will be a set one and then four mixed ability groups for each half of the year. All students will cover the same texts and be entered for the same exam at the end of Year 11.
- Students can move into and out of set one to ensure the classes meet their needs both in terms of challenge and support.
- Texts studied for English Literature:
 - An Inspector Calls
 - A Christmas Carol
 - Macbeth
 - Power and Conflict Poetry (AQA anthology)

Copies of the texts will be provided for the students.

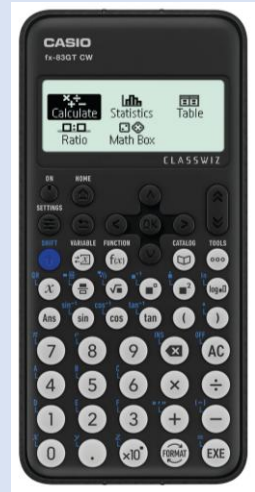
Maths

- We study AQA GCSE Maths
- Content continues and expands Year 9 material
- Foundation GCSE covers Grades 1-5
- Higher GCSE covers Grades 4-9
- Final decision on tier of entry is made during Year 11
- We provide extra support in Year 11 in the form of in-school targeted topic sessions and after-school revision groups
- In Year 10 we enter a selection of students for the Intermediate Maths Challenge
- In Year 11 students some students are offered the chance to study Additional Maths, an introduction to A Level Maths

Maths

- We set students originally based on A Year attainment and classwork
- Groups are fluid – we move students often to ensure they are in the best place for support and challenge
- Set 1
- Set 2
- Set 3
- Sets 4 and 5 are parallel to each other

- Students **must** have a calculator at every lesson. We mandate the Casio fx-83GTCW
- Please contact the business manager if this could be a problem



Science

- We follow the **Edexcel** specifications for Combined Science and Separate Sciences
- Students will continue to be taught in mixed ability groups until the end of year 10.
- They will be taught the Combined Science course until this point (with some Separate content, where appropriate)
- They will then be set into **Combined Science and Separate Science** groups for year 11.
- Setting into Combined v Separate Science will be based upon:
 - Year 10 mock results
 - Previous test scores
 - Teacher input

Combined Science leads to 2 GCSE grades in Science
(e.g. 4,5 in Combined Science)

Separate Science leads to 3 GCSE grades
(e.g. 4 in Biology, 5 in Chemistry, 5 in Physics)

All students sit 2 exams in each science at the end of year 11
(6 exams in total)

Combined and Separate Science can both be sat at:
Higher (grade 9 to 4) or
Foundation tier (grade 5 to 1)

Tier of entry decisions are made after E year December mocks and
fine-tuned after E year March mocks

Options

- Tonight is your opportunity to find out more about what each subject involves.
- What are the “new” subjects like?
- Is there coursework? If so, what’s it like?
- Do students need specific skills to do well in a course?

(This is particularly true for subjects like: PE/Sport Studies, Music, Computer Science and Drama)

- But not...

- Information about how your son/daughter is getting on in that subject.
- That's all covered in the Consultation Evening.

Subject combinations your child will not be allowed to choose

1. Art + Photography
2. GCSE PE + CTec Sport Studies
3. Design Technology + Food Preparation and Nutrition

Things to think about this evening.

Choosing lots of coursework-heavy subjects can lead to problems.

Things to think about this evening.

Drama

- Ms Wallace is away on maternity leave but will be back next year so you can be confident if you want to choose it.
- Mrs Todd, who used to be our Head of Drama, has kindly offered to be available to answer questions tonight.

Things to think about this evening.

Students should not be influenced by:

1. Friends
2. Liking a teacher
3. Thinking that any course is easy... they are all **demanding**

Things to think about this evening.

Usually, we can't offer all students all of their top choices, so we have asked them to make reserve choices on the Options Form.

So, it's a good idea to visit plenty of subjects – they may end up being a reserve choice.

And remember...

- Students shouldn't make up their mind straight away; there is plenty of time.
- And they need to ask if they are not sure about anything

Dates

CONSULTATION EVENINGS

(Subject teachers – Online via SchoolCloud)

26th Feb for learning groups ACLSU
or 3rd March for learning groups EINRT

OPTIONS MEETINGS

(With senior staff - at Freman)

w.b. 9th March