

KS4 Options Frequently Asked Questions

What if I can't do the subject combination that I wanted to do?

Please select subjects from the blocks as they are and write your preference in the notes box at the bottom. If there is an unexpectedly high demand for a subject then we may look to add an additional class in another block which may create additional combinations. However, until we receive the option requests from all pupils we will not know this.

If a subject is over-subscribed, how will you decide who gets priority?

We will look at the priority order that pupils have chosen the subject and prioritise those who chose the subject as one of their highest ranked choices. For example, if a pupil puts a subject as their highest priority, it is highly likely that they will get to follow that subject, if there were too many pupils wishing to do the subject and we are unable to create an additional class then those who placed the subjects as 4th or possibly 3rd choice may miss out.

Once I have submitted my options form, am I guaranteed to study those subjects?

No. Sometimes it is not possible to timetable particular combinations of subjects. Sometimes subjects may be undersubscribed and it will not be viable to run as many teaching groups as we would like. We obviously try to limit the impact of such changes. In such cases, we will make use of reserve choices if necessary. Where this isn't possible, we will contact home and re-interview the pupil.

I would like to take Separate Science or Computer Science but don't meet the criteria.

In this case we will look at your progress in your subjects and speak to those teachers to see if there are any exceptions that mean that you may be suited to these courses. We have used the MEG as a guide based on how students in previous cohorts have performed and to try and ensure that all pupils follow a curriculum that is suited to their needs.

What is the difference between GCSE and BTEC/Cambridge National qualifications?

A GCSE is a General Certificate of Secondary Education. It is an academic qualification and normally ends with final exams that judge the breadth and depth of your understanding.

A BTEC or Cambridge National are vocational qualifications. These also include an exam, but this is normally only about a third of the assessment and can happen at any point in the course. The other two-thirds of the assessment aims to show how you can apply your learning through coursework.