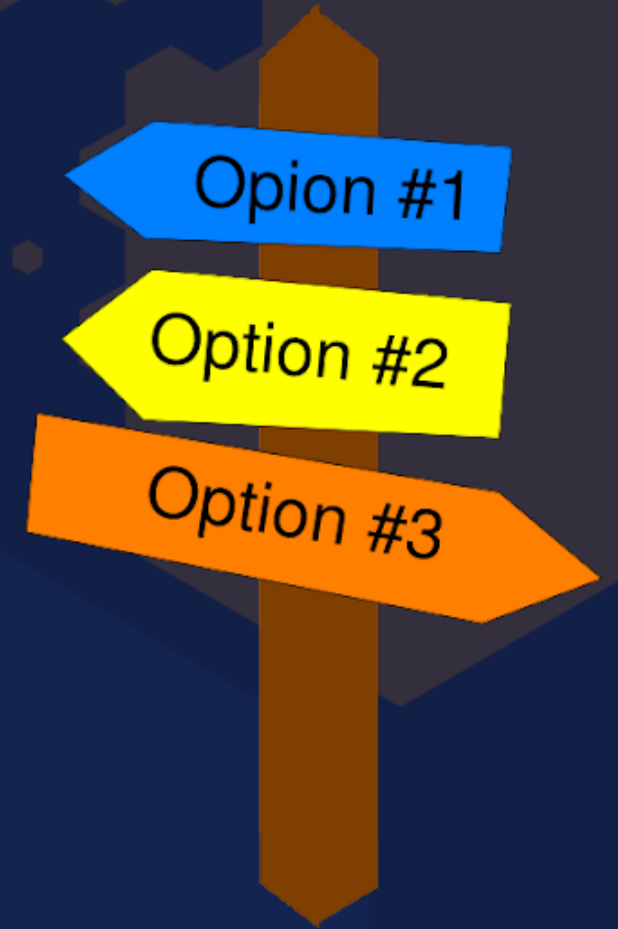


Options

2021-22

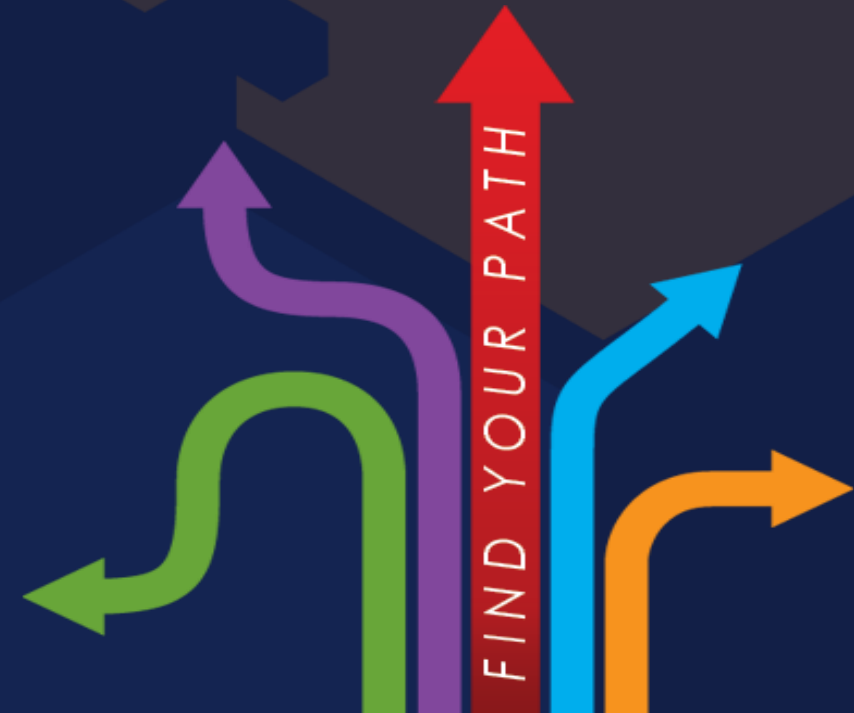
Options

- At the start of Year 10, you will begin the courses that will result in you gaining your first set of formal qualifications.
- These will help you move onto the next step towards achieving your dreams and aspirations.
- We want you to leave Year 11 with the best set of qualifications that you can and this is the first stage of the process; helping you choose the right subjects.



Pathways

- You may be aware of the “English Baccalaureate” and how this standard can be met. We will encourage a high proportion of our students to follow the English Baccalaureate pathway by choosing to study a modern foreign language, plus either history or geography in addition to English, mathematics and science.
- The importance of studying the “Ebacc” subjects has increased for pupils wishing to pursue an academic route in their future education and career.
- As a result, we have introduced a pathways curriculum model that values the differing needs of our pupils and will guide them to a collection of subjects that will best suit their learning styles and future aspirations. We have called these pathways: **Ebacc, Core and Progress.**



Pathways

All pupils will study English Literature/Language, Maths and Science, plus:

Ebacc Pathway

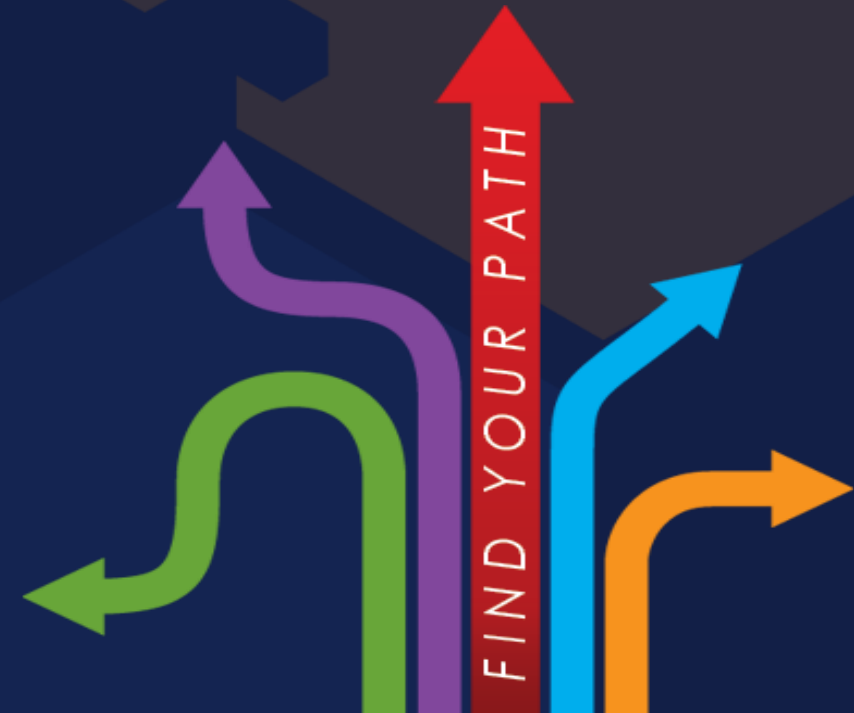
- History or Geography
- Spanish
- Two open choices from a range of GCSE and Technical qualifications.

Core Pathway

- Geography, History or Spanish (Separate Sciences/Computer Science)
- Three open choices from a range of GCSE and Technical qualifications

Progress Pathway

- Geography, History or Spanish
- Two open choices from a range of GCSE and Technical qualifications
- Study Support program



Option Subjects

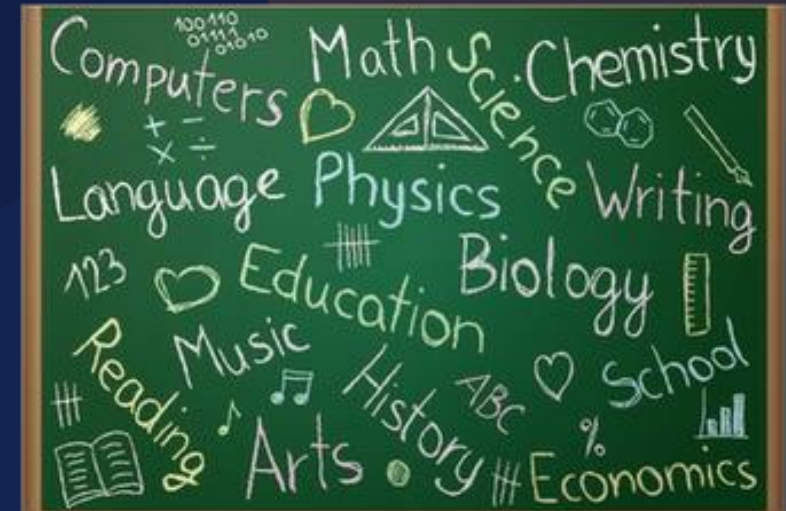
GCSE

- History
- Geography
- Spanish
- Art and Design
- Religious Studies
- Computer Science
- Separate Science

Technical

- Sport Studies- OCR CNAT
- Performing Arts (Drama)- BTEC
- Engineering- BTEC
- Health and Social Care-BTEC
- Hospitality and Catering- BTEC
- Imedia- OCR CNAT
- Enterprise (Business) BTEC
- Music- Vocational
- Performing Arts- Dance**

Separate Sciences and Computer Science are only allocated as an option to pupils who meet a certain criterion, due to the academic nature of the qualification.



How can I decide what subjects are best for me?

- ‘What do you enjoy most?’ is your first question.
- ‘What am I best at?’ is your next.
- You will also want to strongly consider what you want to do post 16 and post 18.



Who/what can help me decide what to choose?

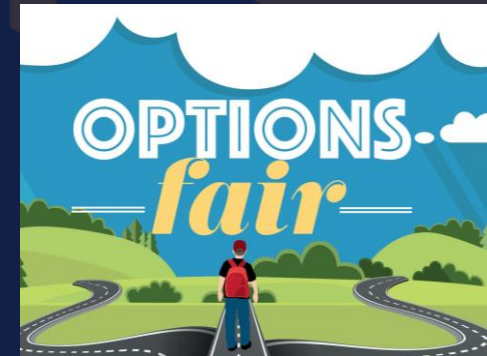
- Options assembly/meeting, options/careers fair and parents evening are all sources of information to help you make informed choices.
- You should also listen to advice from your parents/carers, teachers, friends, older brothers and sisters, but at the end of the day make sure you make the final decision.
- Don't pick a subject just because...

... your friend is doing it. You may not be in the same group and they are very likely to have different tastes to you.

... you like a teacher. You may not get the same teacher in KS4.

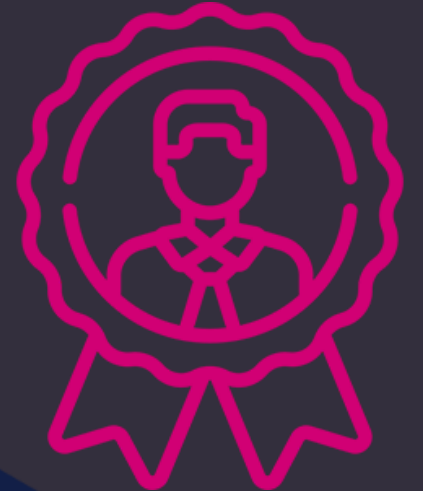
... you haven't fully researched the subject and you are unclear what the subject will demand of you. It could be a different experience in KS4 to your experience in KS3.

- You need to think carefully about which assessment method suits your preferred learning style: is it 100% exam or a mixture of assessment and exam? What has shown success for you at KS3?



What is a Level 1/ Level 2 Qualification?

- Level 1 Qualifications are anything from a Grade 1-3
- Level 2 Qualifications are Grades 4 and above
- For Technical Qualifications it is simply:
 - Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction
 - Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction (*)
- Post-16 you can make the progression from a level 2 qualification to a level 3 qualification (A-level or vocational)
- If you do not achieve a level 2 qualification in English and/or Maths, you will have to re-take these post-16.



What are Technical qualifications? (BTEC, OCR CNAT, WJEC CBAC)

- These are technical/vocational qualifications. These courses are designed to offer a more practical approach to examinations.
- Typically, Technical Qualifications include controlled assessments (coursework) alongside examinations.
- Each of the qualifications is of equal value to a GCSE qualification and has been approved by the Department for Education as being of equal value.
- Technical qualifications are graded; Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction and Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* and will be matched across to the equivalent 9 - 1 grades in GCSE courses – with a L2 Pass being the equivalent to a grade 4.



What if I don't like the pathway you have suggested for me?

- We have chosen a pathway that will maximise your chances in a range of subjects which will, in our belief, lead to future success and fulfilment for you
- However, if you are not happy with the choices available, please do not hesitate to write into school requesting a change in options.
- All requests will be carefully considered and responded to. Requests must be made in writing and addressed to Mr J Swingler



Am I guaranteed to get the subjects that I choose?

Unfortunately, if there are not enough students choosing a course, we cannot run it - therefore, you may not get your first choice. Normally this doesn't happen to many students. It may be the case, that two of the subjects you choose have to run on the timetable at the same time and this will mean you will have to choose between them. Again, this doesn't happen often.

- All courses need enough students to run.
- There are limited places in some subjects. As a result, we cannot guarantee that students will automatically be given all of their first preferences.
- Information in the booklet is accurate at the time of writing but the introduction of new national regulations may mean that amendments are made at a later stage. This is out of our control.
- Once your online form has been returned they will be checked individually to see that each student has chosen courses which are challenging and that offer a chance of success.
- This process does take some time and final confirmation of choices will be made before the end of the academic year.

Can I change courses after starting Year 10?

Students will not be allowed to change courses after week 3 of Term 1 in Year 10. Students cannot usually 'drop courses' in Years 10 or 11. This will only happen in highly exceptional circumstance such as the need to meet a student's medical requirements.

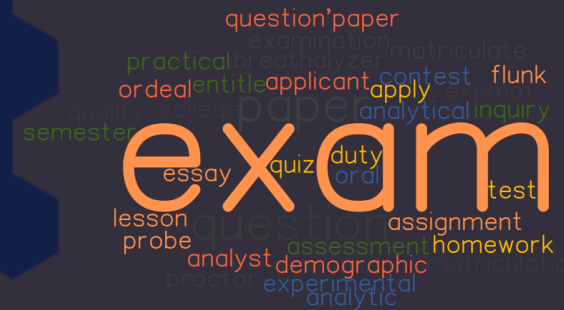


Technical/Vocational Changes

The DfE released new guidance for Technical Qualifications which start teaching in September 2022. The main changes are:

- ‘The proportion of the qualification’s content that is assessed by examination, and the associated contribution to the overall grade, must be at least 40%’. Previously, Technical Qualifications have been as little as 25% examination, meaning that the exam now carries more weight than before.
- ‘An assessment by examination must be taken at the end of a pupil’s course of study (“terminal assessment”).’ Previously examinations for Technical Qualifications could be taken before the end of Year 11 and potentially pupils could be entered for a re-sit in the Summer of Year 11. This will not be the case moving forward.

At the moment all of the technical qualification to begin in September 2022 are still in the ‘sample’ stage and are yet to be ratified. All of the information in this booklet is the most up to date information we can provide.



Monday 10th January

Pupil assembly in school and options information meeting (Virtual) – Pupils will attend an assembly during the school day and parents will have a virtual presentation/Q&A with Mr. Swingler, Mr Thompson and Mrs Wallis on the evening. This will be via Zoom and an invite will be sent via email. We anticipate this presentation starting at 6:00pm and will last up to 60 minutes. Students and parents are informed about their option choices, the process and the range of courses and qualifications available to them.

Tuesday 11th January

Options fair on school site 4:00-6:00pm. Pupils and parents will be able to visit individual subjects to explore and discuss the qualifications on offer. This is the same evening as the Careers fair for Year 11, meaning Year 9 parents and pupils can also visit the careers fair to collect more information about their future pathway. The careers fair will run from 3:30-6:00pm. As the parking on site is limited, we would suggest that you park in the surrounding roads, and politely ask that you do so considerately. However, if you require a disabled parking space, please email admin@perrys.org.uk with your car registration details and make/model of car, this will be passed on to the site team, and they will reserve one of the disabled parking spaces for you near to the reception entrance.

Thursday 13th January

Parents evening 4:30-6:30pm to discuss general progress and option choices with in individual teachers and subject areas. A separate letter will be sent outlining the details for parents evening.

Friday 18th February

Final deadline for options to be selected. These will be selected via an online submission, details will be released when necessary.

Monday 28th February Onwards

Options to be processed and any issues addressed. Option choices will be confirmed to pupils before the end of the academic year



Information

- All of this information has been emailed to all parents and pupils
- It is available on the school website under *parents- Year 9 options*
- It has been uploaded to ClassCharts
- Pupils have physical copies



Next Steps

- **Attend the options fair tomorrow evening**
- **Attend parents evening on Thursday**
- **ICT Teachers will show you the email**
- **Start to have discussions with relevant people about your options**
- **Submit online form before Friday 18th January (sent via school email)**

The online form can only be submitted once, so please take your time to get it right.

If a mistake is made or something changes before the deadline, pupils can request that their submission is deleted so it can be re-submitted (deadline still applies).

After the submission deadline has passed, option choices will be processed and any issues addressed.

All pupils will have a meeting following their initial choices, where discussions will take place and recommendations made about final choices. You will be consulted if there are any issues.

Option choices will be confirmed to pupils before the end of the academic year

