

# Options month

## SECTION 1

## Timeline of the Options process

1. **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of January** Yr. 9 Options process begins
2. **Wednesday 21<sup>ST</sup> January** South Wing extended Period 1 and VT assembly, where Depts. at KS4 talk through their 'new subject areas' to the year group
3. **From Monday 19<sup>th</sup>** during VT - Options and decision making resources available through Heads of College to get you thinking and clarifying courses.
4. **26<sup>th</sup> January - 6<sup>th</sup> February** Options guidance meetings
5. **10<sup>th</sup> February** Options Evening 6.00 prompt
  - An opportunity to ask questions about individual subjects
  - Senior staff around to help with advice and decisions
6. **11<sup>th</sup> February** Option forms handed out
6. **26<sup>th</sup> February** Option form deadline to tutors.

## Who is teaching the course?

Subject teachers are not allocated their groups until June / July so it can be any teacher in the department. Teachers **cannot** guarantee that you will be taught by them. Think carefully and choose the subject over the teacher.

## Can I be in a group with my friends?

Again we **cannot** guarantee you will be in a teaching group with your friend. Think carefully and choose the subject over your friendships they are important to you now but perhaps in 5 yrs. time when you know more about what you want to do you will regret it!

**I have heard that certain subjects clash and you can't always take the subjects you chose?**

This is why we ask you to think **very** carefully and choose 6 subjects you would like to take. The allocation of subjects in columns very much depends on the year groups demands. An example might be that last year we put on two groups of Photography as the demand was high and there were enough students for two feasible groups, however the year before there was only one small group.

**What order do I put my preferences in?**

There is no correct order we do try to accommodate the top four choices in past years this has been around the 82-85% of the cohort—obviously there will be some clashes and if this happens the student will be fully consulted with

## **What are Controlled Assessments?**

These are pieces of coursework that are set by either the teachers within exam board guidelines or by the board themselves. There are three levels of Controlled assessment and it is dependant on the course which level work is pitched at.

## **What is the percentage of practical work vs. written work in creative GCSEs?**

In light of the changes to GCSEs recently this is still being decided on in some creative subjects—however all creative GCSEs require an element of written work and also include a written paper which account for around 40% of the mark—please see option booklet and ask subject areas for details.

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Uploaded on You Tube late 2014

Remember **you** are our future!

Shift happens

# SECTION 2

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## Choosing **your** options

January 2015



...learning on the hill



All students must take the CORE subjects .....but what are the

**CORE** subjects?

## The “Core”

- Maths
- English - Language & Literature
- Science - Double or Triple science depending on Yr. 9 end of year performance
- PE
- Wellbeing
- ICT - in all lessons

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## Core Subjects

Core subjects **do not count** towards your Option choices.

Option choices cover a range of choices of GCSEs and Vocational subjects you have done before to new experiences.

You will receive updated data during the Guidance meetings to help you with your choices.

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## During the options process .....

Please refer to the KS4 options booklet available on the website and talk to family / friends / older students if you know them.

There will be an opportunity to talk to Students in YR11/10 during your VT session - they are important people to talk to as they will have 'insider knowledge' which teachers do often not know!

**Then ask yourself these important questions.....**

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- What am **I** really interested in?
- What am **I** good at?
- What do **I** enjoy doing?
- What is relevant to **my** future
- Do **I** have a good balance?

# SECTION 3

## Options booklet

Is available on the website with **all** the details of the courses and what they entail.

Fortismere website -Students / carers / parents -  
Curriculum - KS4 Curriculum - Options

On this page all other information for options will also be placed.

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## The “Options”

The options part of the KS4 curriculum has been designed to offer a *wide* range of opportunities to suit **all** students.

This includes a Modern Languages dual option and vocational courses alongside conventional GCSE courses.

Keeping your ‘options’ open! You should aim to choose a range of subjects.



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## English Baccalaureate

An initiative introduced by the Government. It states that you should choose a broad range of subjects

- English
- Maths
- Science
- A Modern Language
- A Humanity (Geography or History)

Pass all of them with a C and above..... And you will also receive a qualification called the English Baccalaureate. This *may be* something that top universities will look for if you are going to apply to them in the future.

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## Modern Languages

All students in sets 1 and 2 are taking two languages as part of the 'fast track' process. You should choose double pathway languages as an option. This will lead to a full GCSE in both languages and will count as **1** option.

All students in sets 3, 4 and 5 are encouraged to take the language that they have studied since year 7.

## Vocational courses - what are they?

They are courses which have an element of *more* practical work in them.

An example is Music BTEC where less theory is needed on the course and a wider knowledge of the application of technology would be needed.

### Vocational courses available

Music BTEC

Princes trust

Subjects		Subjects	
Art and Design	GCSE	History	GCSE
Business Studies	GCSE	ICT	GCSE
Computing <b>level 6 + in Maths needed</b>	GCSE	English / Maths / Booster	GCSE support
Dance	GCSE	Princes trust	Vocational
Drama	GCSE	Media	GCSE
D& T Product Design	GCSE	Music	GCSE
D&T Graphic Products	GCSE	Music BTEC	BTEC
D&T Resistant Materials	GCSE	Physical Education	GCSE
D& T Product Design Textiles	GCSE	Photography	GCSE
Economics <b>level 6 + in Maths needed</b>	GCSE	Religious Studies	GCSE
French		Spanish	GCSE
French and German	GCSE	Spanish and German	GCSE
French and Mandarin	GCSE	Spanish and Mandarin	GCSE
Geography	GCSE	Sociology	GCSE

**28 subjects. 6 CHOICES - CAN BE ANY COMBINATION**

# SECTION 4

## Filling in your options

Your timetable will include compulsory subjects (English, Maths, Science, PE and Wellbeing) plus four subjects that **you** choose.

You need to indicate **6** preferences on your form **in preferential order**

We will make the final form based on all of your options – **we cannot guarantee your first four but will try to make the best fit for the year group**

## Helpful information

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

Click on job profiles and go through some job outlines

*And you could also*

arrange an appointment with our careers officer. Speak to your tutor and/or co tutor to do so.

During options evening the career officer will also be available to talk to.

## Deadline

get your forms in by

✓ **26<sup>th</sup> February!**

~~First come, first served?~~

We will then process your preferences to come up with your final options

**Good Luck!**