



# Year 8 Option Choices

[options@perins.hants.sch.uk](mailto:options@perins.hants.sch.uk)

## Why make GCSE option choices now?

- To enable deeper learning over time.
- Become more familiar with the soft skills necessary for GCSE exams.
- Time to learn and retain subject knowledge and skills and the demands of the GCSE syllabus.
- **Aiming for good quality GCSEs**



All students take  
**Non-Examined Compulsory Subjects**

Core Physical Education

two lessons per week

Life Studies

one lesson per fortnight in Year 9

Religious Education

one lesson  
per fortnight

## ALL students will be examined in the Compulsory Subjects

**English** – English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)

**Maths** - Two calculator, and one non-calculator exams (1 GCSE)

**Science** – Combined Science (2 GCSEs) *OR* Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs)

- In Year 9 all students will study the same material based on the Combined Science specification.
- At the end of Year 9, trial exams, along with other assessment data will determine those students who will follow the separate science courses and those who will remain on the combined science course.



## Students choose five subjects

Humanities	Language	Three others	
Geography <i>or</i> History	French <i>or</i> Spanish	Art Business Studies Child Development Computer Science Dance Design Technology Drama Food Preparation & Nutrition Media Music Music Technology Photography GCSE PE GCSE Religious Studies Sport Studies Structured Support*	May also include additional language or humanities courses: Geography History French Spanish

\*This option will be available by invitation following individual conversations with the appropriate students and their parents.

## Examples

	Student A	Student B	Student C	Student D (4 GCSE choices)
Humanity	Geography	History	History	Geography
Language	French (studied in Years 7 & 8)	Spanish (studied in Years 7 & 8)	French (studied in Years 7 & 8)	Spanish (studied in Years 7 & 8)
Choice 3	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Business Studies	Photography	Sport Studies
Choice 4	Spanish (2 <sup>nd</sup> Language)	Geography (2 <sup>nd</sup> Humanity)	Computer Science	<i>Structured Support</i>
Choice 5	PE	French (2 <sup>nd</sup> Language)	Design and Technology	Child Development

\* Please note that some subjects listed in our 'straw poll' are subject to a sufficient number of students choosing the course. We will keep you updated on this throughout the process.

## Languages

- Students will continue to learn the language they are currently studying.
- Anyone wishing to study an additional, second language, must discuss this with Mr Eastham ([Eastham@perins.hants.sch.uk](mailto:Eastham@perins.hants.sch.uk)) first, as this will require approval.

## What happens after Year 9?

- There will be a process towards the end of Year 9 to reduce the number of subjects taken from 5 to 4 for Years 10 and 11.
- Students will be asked to input, and the final decision will be made with them, by members of staff.
- We will be looking at the broader picture using all relevant data and information.





## What should you choose?

- **Come to the Year 8 Options Evening at school** and bring your parents too. *Ask lots of questions; what's involved in a course? Does it look like something you'd enjoy for three years?*
- **Talk to your parents, tutor and teachers for advice** *and anyone else you know who has taken a similar course.*
- **Aim for a balance.** *How do subjects link together? Are you looking towards a particular career, Have you thought about which subjects are more practical and which have more written work?*

## When shouldn't you choose a course?

- Just because you heard it's easy
- Someone else wants you to do it
- Just because you like the teacher
- Just because your friends are doing it!



# OPTIONS TIMELINE

Date	Activity
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Tutor session with Year 8 groups to explain process and timeline <b>Year 8 Options Fair</b> 5pm to 6.30pm in the Main School Hall. Students and parents can meet subject teams and ask questions.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Options Information will be signposted on the Perins website and intranet Options site for students. Key subject information, presentation material and links to submit will be available as well as how to access advice and guidance.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Options indication collection.</b> This is a straw poll where we ask students to indicate the subjects they might choose. There is no commitment at this stage. We're gathering the information we need to put together the options choices offer.
<i>ongoing</i>	Life Studies lessons: Career, CV's, Job applications, and trial Interviews. A closer look into the Options process.
<i>ongoing</i>	Opportunities for students to ask questions during their normal lessons
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Straw poll submission deadline</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term Break
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Options submission process opens.</b> Login information will have been sent in advance.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Year 8 Options deadline</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March -	We will begin to process choices and have individual conversations where necessary.
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Break
April/May 2024	Timetabling takes place. Email confirmation of choices prior to May half term

## Options Fair – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Subject teams will be available to provide information and answer questions on their courses

## Digital Information

- All the information you will need for making your options choices
  - Timeline + deadlines
  - Reminder of the choices processes
  - Details of each subject
- Available now on the Options page on sharepoint
- and the school website



(for students)



## Any questions?

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

If you have any questions or would like help or advice about any aspect of the options choices process, please speak to your tutor or subject teachers.

Parents please email [options@perins.hants.sch.uk](mailto:options@perins.hants.sch.uk) and your inquiry will be forwarded to the most appropriate person for response.

## STRAW POLL – opens Friday 2nd February

- All Year 8 students will be sent an email
- This will contain a link to a questionnaire
- We ask for 5 subject choices that you would make if you could at this stage. *This is to help the process of timetabling, and help decide how many teachers we might need for each subject. It will help us decide which subjects to offer.*
- These are not necessarily the subjects we will be offering.
- **THESE ARE NOT YOUR FINAL CHOICES!**

**Complete by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

## Final Options Form Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

- We will send a link to an online data collection called TOOLS.
- Discuss and agree choices together with your child.
- By the deadline -Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, students must have completed the TOOLS submission to select their final choices.

**OPTIONS DEADLINE – Friday 8th March**

## Changing Your Mind

**Don't get anxious if you think you have made a mistake!**

- You must contact us via the options@ email address as soon as possible.
- Requests to change in September or later will be considered individually and will depend on a number of factors including:
  - Individual circumstances
  - Disruption it may cause
  - Class sizes
  - Timetable





# Visit Sharepoint/Perins website

If you have any questions,  
speak to your tutor or  
contact:

[options@perins.hants.sch.uk](mailto:options@perins.hants.sch.uk)

# External links to advice and guidance

Useful sites with information about education pathways, choices and careers

Informed Choices (post 16 but useful to look at pathways)

Career Pilot

BBC Bitesize

Oxbridge

National Careers Service

iCould