

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Question: How can I decide which subjects to choose? I don't know where to start!

Answer: Start by asking yourself these questions: Which subjects am I most interested in? Which ones am I best at? Are there any new subjects I'd like to take up?

Choosing subjects to study for KS4 is perhaps the most important life decision your child has had to make so far. Mrs Reid and the Year 10 tutor team will be providing a lot of support though advice sessions during registration. Also speak to the relevant subject teachers, they are the experts!

Question: I know what kind of career I want. Which will be the best subjects to study for it?

Answer: Have a chat with Mrs Reid she is our careers expert. Mrs Reid will be able to give you independent and impartial Careers Advice and Guidance.

Question: But what if I change my mind in a year or so about what career to do?

Answer: Well ... you might! A lot of people your age do. You can't be sure how you will change as a person over the next few years. You may find new things which interest you or develop new skills. And, you can't be sure how technology and the working world will change and exactly what job opportunities there will be when you are older and are going for a job. That's why it is a good idea not to specialise too early. A balanced choice of subjects is the best bet as it is likely to leave doors to lots of different careers open.

Question: My problem is that I've got no idea of what I want to do when I leave school. Does this matter?

Answer: No. It's a good idea to start thinking about what you may be interested in now but you don't have to make any definite plans. Go for subjects you are interested in and are good at. Try to keep your future choices open by choosing a range of subjects. Avoid too many similar subjects.

Question: I don't think that I'll start a job at the end of Year 12. What options should I choose now?

Answer: Even if you think you know what you want to study further, remember that colleges and universities expect you to have a good general education at Key Stage 4. If you follow your interests and abilities but keep a balance, you should be OK.

Question: Can I change my mind after the deadline?

Answer: No. You will not be able to change your mind as the options are timetabled based on the choices received. If the School have concerns about your choices we will arrange to see you, with parents, if required

Question: Some subjects are compulsory for me - can I change this?

Answer: The selection of options is personalised to ensure all students have a broad and balanced curriculum that suits their individual needs. We believe that for most students these subjects will provide a good foundation for further study and allow them to compete with students from all types of schools when applying to post 16 providers or vocational programmes. What is compulsory for you is shown on the form and cannot be amended.

Do's and Don'ts

- Do choose subjects that you are interested in, do well at and enjoy.
- Do choose a range of subjects so that you keep your choices open for the future.
- Do research what your preferred career path requires in terms of subject choices.
- Do consider the hard and soft skills that your subject choices could provide you with and how these may help for the future.
- Don't choose a subject because your friends have. This is a very easy mistake to make. If you are hoping to be in the same group as them, you probably won't due to timetable matters. Anyway, we are all different so choose for yourself, not for someone else.
- Don't choose a subject because you like a particular teacher. You may not get the same teacher next year.
- Don't link all your option choices to a single career or interest. You might change your mind later on. You need your choices to be balanced so you are open to a variety of career opportunities.
- Don't panic if you don't know what you want to do when you leave school. Most students in Year 10 have no idea and the ones that think they have can often end up doing something completely different. The important things are to follow the advice you have been given and then do as well as you can in all of your studies.