

YOUR OPTIONS, YOUR CHOICE

TIPS FOR CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS

Together with your teachers, family and friends you will be involved in making some important decisions over the next few months regarding your subject options at school. Even though we are not able to visit you in school at the moment, we are still here to help you make the right decision for you.

Below are some helpful hints and questions you may want to ask yourself before making your choices. We hope these will help you to decide what subjects suit you best and what subjects will help you continue your learning journey after school.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

DO SOME RESEARCH

Firstly you need to do a little bit of research about your option subjects. Some of them you may not have heard of before like Sociology, Psychology or Business Studies. Ask your teachers what these subjects involve, what types of things you do in the lesson and how they are assessed. You can also ask family, friends and students who are already taking the subject to get an idea of what it is like. If you would like to choose a subject you already study, ask your teachers what you will learn about in this subject at GCSE, for example, what periods will you study in GCSE History? Also, take the time to look at College prospectuses and the subjects which you don't currently study at school. If you're interested in these, consider the entry requirements for these courses, this may influence the decisions you make for your GCSE options.

HOW DO YOU LEARN BEST?

We are all different so will learn in different ways, you need to have a think about how you like to learn. Do you prefer hands on, practical ways of learning, using your hands to make things, or are you someone who likes to listen and then read text to get an understanding of what you need to do? Think about whether you prefer doing exams or whether you would rather do a subject which is coursework-based or has practical elements such as performances or creating artwork.

WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU ENJOY AND WHICH ARE YOU GOOD AT?

Think about why you like those subjects and why you are good at them. Do they give you an opportunity to talk and debate things? Does it involve a lot of group work or do you like the subject because it involves some really good problem solving and working out of answers? Do you prefer creative subjects or more logical, analytical subjects? The answer to these questions may help you decide what type of options subjects may suit you best.



DO NOT COPY WHAT YOUR FRIENDS ARE DOING JUST SO YOU CAN BE IN THE SAME CLASSES

You may want to be with your friends in all your classes and end up copying what they are doing, BUT this will not be the best choice for you! These are subjects you will be taking for the rest of your time at school and will end up being your final qualifications when you leave. They are important as they will determine what you can do next after school. So choose options for YOU not anyone else.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

Think about what you want to do in the future. Consider what jobs, careers, university courses, apprenticeships you are interested in. Which college courses might be necessary for you to achieve this? Bear this in mind when choosing your options.

MIX IT UP A BIT!

Maybe think about mixing up the option subjects a little bit so that you do not have too many 'academic' subjects and think about combining them with something a bit different but that you still enjoy. For example sport, or a creative subject. This can just take the pressure off you a bit and may help your mind to relax and learn in a different way.

DON'T PANIC!

The main thing is not to worry too much about what options you choose, any option is good as long as you enjoy it!



Find out more about HSDC at hsvc.ac.uk.

DIFFERENT COURSE TYPES AT COLLEGE



These give you an idea of what types of learning you can move on to after school. It will be worth thinking about these when choosing your options to see what types fit you best.

A LEVELS

These are ideal if you want to study more than one subject and keep your options open. You can pick three different subjects, these courses last for two years and you will be assessed via exams at the end of the two years.

T LEVELS

These are a brand new qualification and you will spend 80% of your time in a classroom and 20% on a work placement over a two year period. T Level qualifications are equivalent to three A Levels and are assessed through coursework, exams and a work based project. These are available in specific pathways and have been created to get you ready to work in the industry of your choice.

VOCATIONAL

These qualifications are great if you are a hands-on learner and want to specialise in a single subject. They involve both practical and classroom learning. Vocational subjects are mainly assessed through coursework, and are available on a variety of levels, the level you enter at will depend on the grades you achieve at GCSE.

APPRENTICESHIPS

This allows you to earn money whilst gaining a qualification in the area you are working in. Typically you will spend four days in a place of work and one day studying at College. You will be assessed through a portfolio of work.

GOOD LUCK

with your options and we hope to see you all soon!