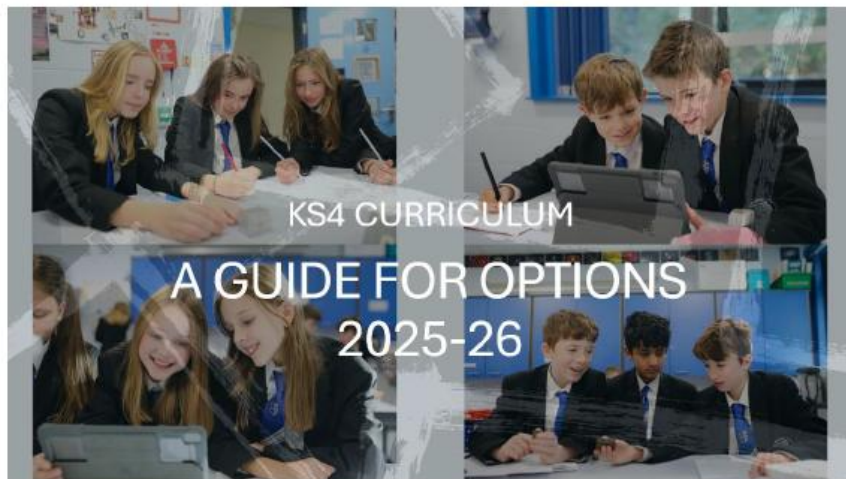




Year 9 Options 2025

The best choices will allow you to achieve
to the very best of your ability



Gemma Cloughton

Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education

YEAR 9 CORE PROGRAMME:

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
RE/PSHE	Computing	PE	MFL	

In addition, there are **six** option blocks from which students have a choice:

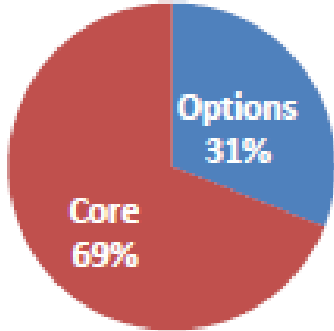
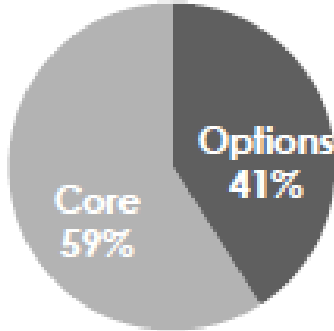
YEAR 8 into 9 OPTIONS PROGRAMME:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Technology	Creative Arts		Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C
↓	↓		↓	↓	↓
Electronics Food Resistant Materials Textiles Hospitality & Catering Engineering	Art*** Drama Music Photography*** Media Studies***	3 choices from: A 2 nd language (NB: this takes up 2 free options) A 2 nd or 3 rd specialist technology A 3 rd creative art Computer Science Introduction to Business Studies Introduction to Law Philosophy and Ethics Pre-GCSE PE Digital IT Preparation for Adulthood ** (guided option) Accelerated Literacy (AL)**** (guided option)			

CORE + OPTIONS = A BROAD AND BALANCED CURRICULUM

YEAR 9 v YEARS 10/11

Year 9 Curriculum			→	Year 10/11 Curriculum	
10 core subjects				6 core subjects	
CORE				CORE	
English	Maths	Science		English Language Maths	English Literature Combined Science
RE, PSHE, Citizenship	MFL	PE		RE, PSHE, Citizenship	Core PE
Geography	History	Computing			
6 option choices				4 option choices	

Curriculum Overview		
 <p>A pie chart representing the Year 9 curriculum. The chart is divided into two segments: a large red segment labeled 'Core 69%' and a smaller blue segment labeled 'Options 31%'.</p>	→	 <p>A pie chart representing the Year 10/11 curriculum. The chart is divided into two segments: a large grey segment labeled 'Core 59%' and a smaller dark grey segment labeled 'Options 41%'.</p>

Qualifications are the Keys to Your Future



THE CORE CURRICULUM AT KS4

All students will spend nearly 60% of their timetable on the core curriculum. This will lead to 5 GCSE qualifications in:

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Graded 9 to 1)

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE (Graded 9 to 1)

GCSE MATHEMATICS (Graded 9 to 1)

GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE*: TRILOGY (WORTH 2 GCSEs graded 9-1)

**unless taking GCSE Separate Science as one of your options which leads to 3 separate science qualifications*

Core PE, RE and PSHE are not accredited courses.



WHICH PATHWAY IS RIGHT FOR YOU?



PATHWAYS AT IGS

Academic Ebacc PATHWAY

I: Academic Ebacc Pathway

Guided Option 1: EBacc Humanities
History or Geography

Guided Option 2: EBacc MFL
French or Spanish

Open Options 3 and 4
2 further choices from a range of options. To ensure you follow a broad and balanced curriculum we recommend one of your choices should be a practical/creative subject.

The English Baccalaureate

English	Maths	2 x Science	Language	History Or Geography
Grades 9-5				

This is not a new qualification in itself but recognises students achieving 6 GCSE grades 9-5 in the above academic subjects.

It is a traditional, academic pathway and is recommended for most of our learners, especially those who are considering further and higher education.

Students will already access the English, mathematics and science element of the Ebacc through the compulsory core.

Qualifications that are classed as science are GCSE Combined Science, GCSE Separate Science in biology, chemistry and physics, Computer Science.

Only GCSE History and GCSE Geography are recognised as Humanities subjects.

Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish) are available as an option. We have always advised students that the continuation of a language is highly recommended.

The English Baccalaureate combination is appropriate for a most IGS students

The English Baccalaureate

“We acknowledge that certain academic subjects studied at A-level are more valued by Russell Group universities than others. The EBacc is founded on that **university-based curriculum.**”
Education Select Committee

What the Department for Education (DfE) says:

The English Baccalaureate is a measure of success in core academic subjects. These are subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most doors open

“It is also a benchmark for universities to check that applicants have a **solid academic foundation on which to build.”**

A study by the **UCL Institute of Education** shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with **greater opportunities in further education** and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying **the EBacc can help improve a young person’s performance in English and maths.**



www.parliament.uk

- The English Baccalaureate is a core set of academic subjects which are shown to enhance pupils' chances of progressing onto further study
- The government intends that at least 90% of pupils in mainstream secondary schools will enter the EBacc.



Pupils must study the key English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects of English, maths, science, history or geography, and a language at GCSE. This will make sure that pupils get the rigorous academic education they need to succeed - whether that is getting a place at university, starting an apprenticeship, or finding their first job.

PATHWAYS AT IGS

2: Comprehensive Pathway

Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography	French	Computer Science
History	Spanish	Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

Open Options 2, 3 and 4

3 further choices including any EBacc subject not selected as Option 1 or from the range of options choices.

3: Technical GCSE Pathway

Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography	French	Computer Science
History	Spanish	Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

Guided Options 2 and 3

2 choices from:
Technical or BTEC courses/
practical/creative subjects.

Open Option 4

Open choices from a range of subjects including any EBacc subjects not selected as Option 1.

OPTIONS CHOICES

Creating a Broad and Balanced Curriculum

Option 1: EBACC CHOICE

Choice from:

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science
- Separate Science

Option 2

Choice from a range of
options subjects

Option 3

Choice from a range of
options subjects

Option 4

Choice from a range of
options subjects



Why is an EBacc Subject Choice Compulsory?

Option 1: EBACC CHOICE

Choice from:

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science
- Separate Science

1) ... so that all students have 6 more traditional “academic” qualifications as is strongly recommended in today’s educational and economic climate.

2) ... to keep options open post-16. All the EBacc subjects, with the exception of computer science, are what has been previously known as the “facilitating subjects” at A-level (subjects which are highly valued by many universities and will allow students a wider range of degree courses from which to select). Russell Group universities still value a language for example, but there’s no entry requirement of this qualification for these universities.

PATHWAYS AT IGS

SUPPORTED Pathway

4: Supported Pathway

Guided Option 1: Functional Skills English

This course is designed to develop written and verbal communication, and students can have the opportunity to gain additional qualifications such as Functional Skills English as part of this option. More generally, this option works in parallel with GCSE English and provides students with additional practice and literacy support. Students taking the Functional Skills option continue to work towards their GCSE English and English literature in their core English lessons. Students are assessed through an ongoing process for Functional Skills. It is delivered in a small group environment through the Inclusive Learning Department. There is opportunity for careers guidance as part of this course.

Guided Options 2 and 3

2 choices from BTEC/technical qualifications, and a range of practical/creative subjects.

Open Option 4

Open choice from a range of subjects.



OPTIONS CHOICES

Tick four subjects from this group and mark your reserve choice using "R". You must select at least one of the EBacc subjects which are in bold and in a shaded cell (unless you are following the Supported pathway).				
Humanities subjects	GCSE Geography	✓	GCSE History	
	GCSE Philosophy & Ethics	✓*	GCSE Business Studies	
MFL subjects	GCSE French	✓	GCSE Spanish	
Creative/Practical subjects	GCSE Art, Craft and Design		GCSE Photography	
	GCSE Drama		GCSE Music	✓
	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition		GCSE Textiles	
	GCSE Electronic Products		GCSE Resistant Materials	
	GCSE Media		GCSE PE	
Sciences	GCSE Computer Science		GCSE Separate Science – biology, chemistry, physics	
Technical / Practical	Digital IT	R	Engineering Design Award	
	BTEC Health & Social Care		BTEC Performing Arts	
	WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering		BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sport	
Inclusive Learning Guided Option	Supported Pathway: Functional Skills English Students will develop written and verbal communication skills and may complete the Functional Skills English qualification.			

OPTIONS CHOICES

Humanities subjects:

- **GCSE Geography (EBacc subject)**
- **GCSE History (EBacc subject)**
- GCSE Philosophy and Ethics
- GCSE Business Studies

Creative/practical subjects:

- GCSE Art, Craft and Design
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Food & Nutrition
- GCSE Textiles
- GCSE Electronic Products
- GCSE Resistant Materials
- GCSE PE

Inclusive Learning Guided Option:

- Functional Skills English

MFL subjects:

- **GCSE French (EBacc subject)**
- **GCSE Spanish (EBacc subject)**

Sciences:

- **GCSE Computer Science (EBacc subject)**
- **GCSE Separate Science (EBacc subject)**

Technical/Practical:

- Technical Award ICT
- Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

OPEN OPTION CHOICES

You may choose your open option from any of the choices in:

- ☐ The Creative/Practical section
- ☐ The Humanities section
- ☐ The Modern Languages section
- ☐ The Science section
- ☐ The Technical/Practical section
- ☐ The Guided Option Inclusive Learning section (*this is a guided choice*)



IN SCHOOL PRACTICAL/TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS?

BTEC IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- ❖ This is a BTEC level 2 course
- ❖ It is worth the equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4-8.5)
- ❖ More information from Mrs Marshall in Technology

TECHNICAL AWARD ICT (Digital IT)

- ❖ This is a level 2 qualification equivalent to GCSE grades 4-8.5
- ❖ More information from Miss Brides or Mr Khan

ENGINEERING DESIGN AWARD

- ❖ This is a level 2 qualification equivalent to GCSE grades 4-8.5
- ❖ More information from Mrs Marshall and Mr Ibbertson

IN SCHOOL PRACTICAL/TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS?

WJEC AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

- ❖ This is a recent level 2 qualification equivalent to grades 4-8.5
- ❖ More information from Mrs Druett and Mrs Marshall

BTEC IN PERFORMING ARTS

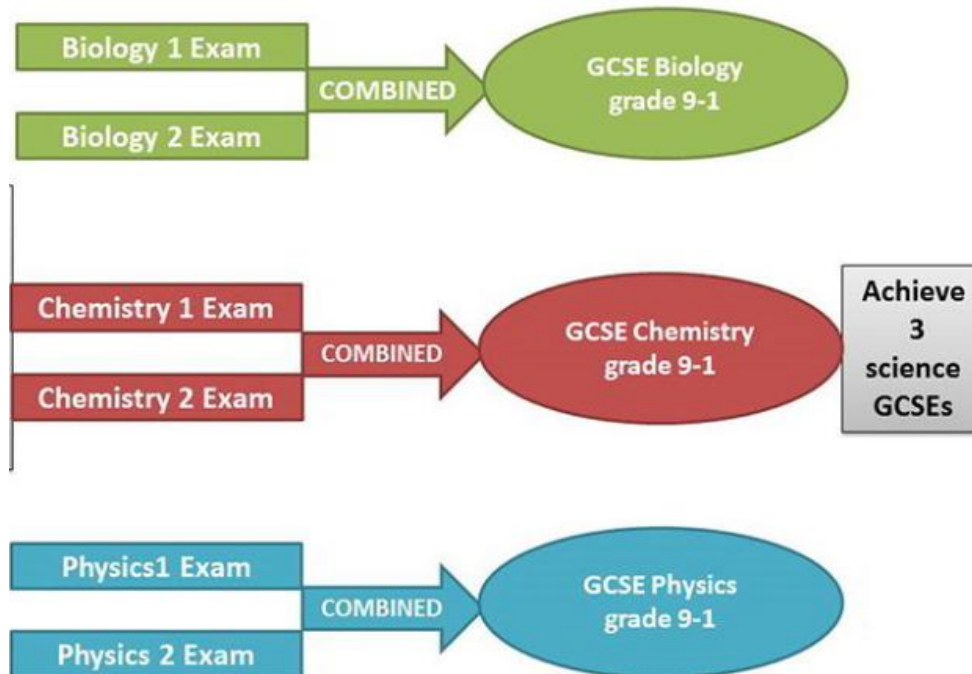
- ❖ This is a BTEC level 2 course
- ❖ It is worth the equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4-8.5)
- ❖ More information from Ms. Ramrattan and Miss Clift

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

- ❖ This is a BTEC level 2 course (a new qualification running this year)
- ❖ It is different from GCSE PE (this includes less practical elements but 2 components of 'internal assessment', so fewer exams)
- ❖ This is equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4-8.5)
- ❖ More information from Mr Burton in PE

SEPARATE SCIENCE

- ❖ Select extra science as one of your options (6 extra lessons in addition to your lessons in the core)
- ❖ It will result in a qualification in 3 separate sciences: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics
- ❖ Places may be limited.
- ❖ You can progress to A-level sciences without having studied Separate Science.



THE OPTIONS PROCESS

Year 9	
PROCESS	DATES
Year 9-10 Options Assembly Launch Distribution of options booklets electronically	Wednesday 22 nd January 2025 during PBT
Year 9 Parents' evening	Thursday 30 th January 2025
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 29 th January 2025
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 29 th January and Wednesday 5 th February 2025
February half term	17-21 st February 2025
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 12 th March 2025
Optional drop in meetings with Leadership Team	Monday 10 th February- Friday 14 th February 2025
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	Friday 14 th March 2025

THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

- You will be sent this form by John Henney on **29th January 2025**
- You will need to go through the **Options Form Guide** first with your tutors- this will be attached to the email
- You will need to **save a copy of your choices once submitted**- your tutors and Head of Year will monitor the completion of your online Options form
- You can submit more than once, if you change your mind, but please note, **we will take your final submission of choices as your confirmed options**
- You cannot change options after the options **deadline on 14th March 2025**



The screenshot shows a digital form titled "Ilkley Grammar School Options Y09 - Y10". The form is set against a dark blue background with white text. It includes a date "14 Jan 2025" and a welcome message: "Welcome to Options at Ilkley Grammar School". Below this, it explains the purpose of the form: "This form is where you will select your subject choices for years 10-11. Over the next few weeks, you will receive lots of information to help you make your choices. This year you will select 4 option". A "Start now" button is located in the bottom right corner of the form area.

Ilkley Grammar School
Options
Y09 - Y10

14 Jan 2025

Welcome to Options at Ilkley Grammar School

This form is where you will select your subject choices for years 10-11. Over the next few weeks, you will receive lots of information to help you make your choices. This year you will select 4 option

Start now

OPTION COMBINATIONS EXAMPLES

Mrs Purnell*

History	French	Spanish	Drama
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Mr Ford*

French	History	Computer Science	Philosophy
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Ms Hodgson*

History	French	Drama	PE
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Mr Calvert *

Separate Science	Computer Science	French	Geography
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Mrs J Allan*

Music	French	History	Media
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Mr Faulkner

Geography	Business	Electronics	BTEC Sport L2
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Mr Gutch*

French	History	Resistant Materials	Art
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Mrs V Marshall

Geography	Food Prep and Nutrition	PE	Performing Arts
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* = English Baccalaureate combination

FORBIDDEN COMBINATIONS

You can't take the following combinations of subjects:

Two technology courses from DT Electronic Products, DT Resistant Materials, DT Textiles

GCSE Drama and BTEC Performing Arts

GCSE PE and BTEC Sport L2



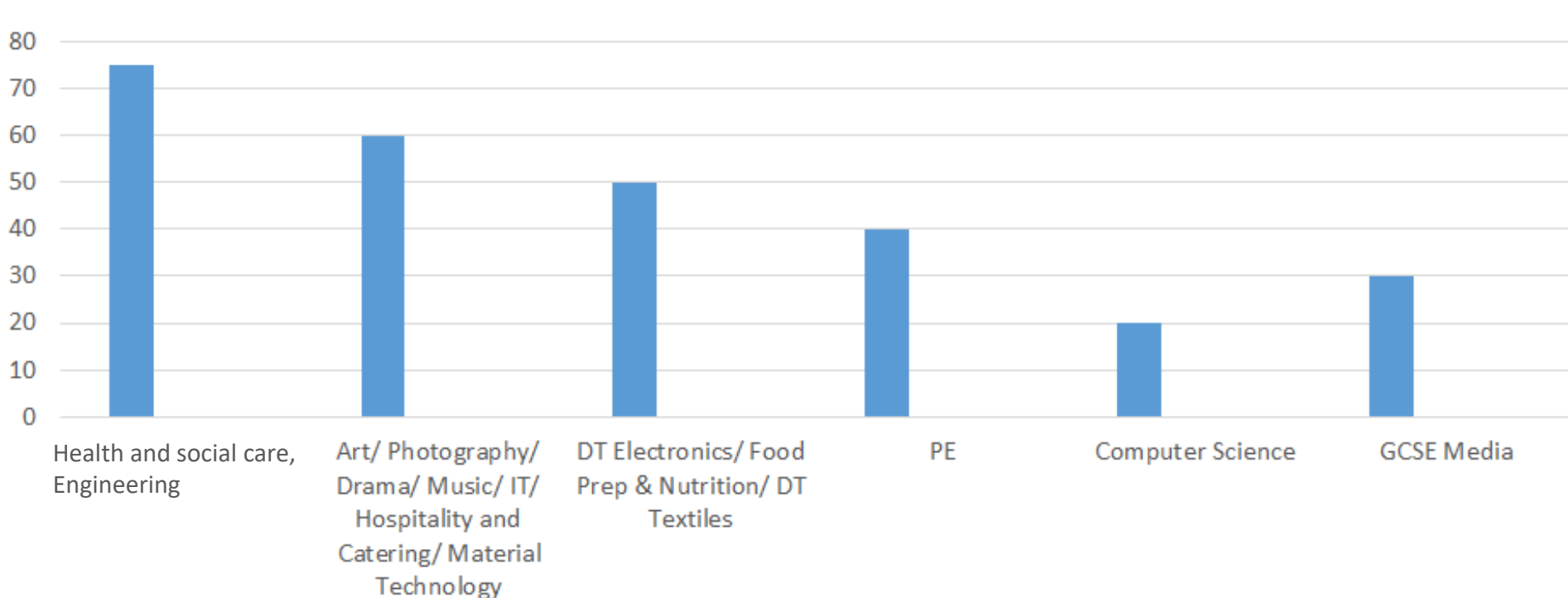
THE NATIONAL PICTURE

Linear assessments

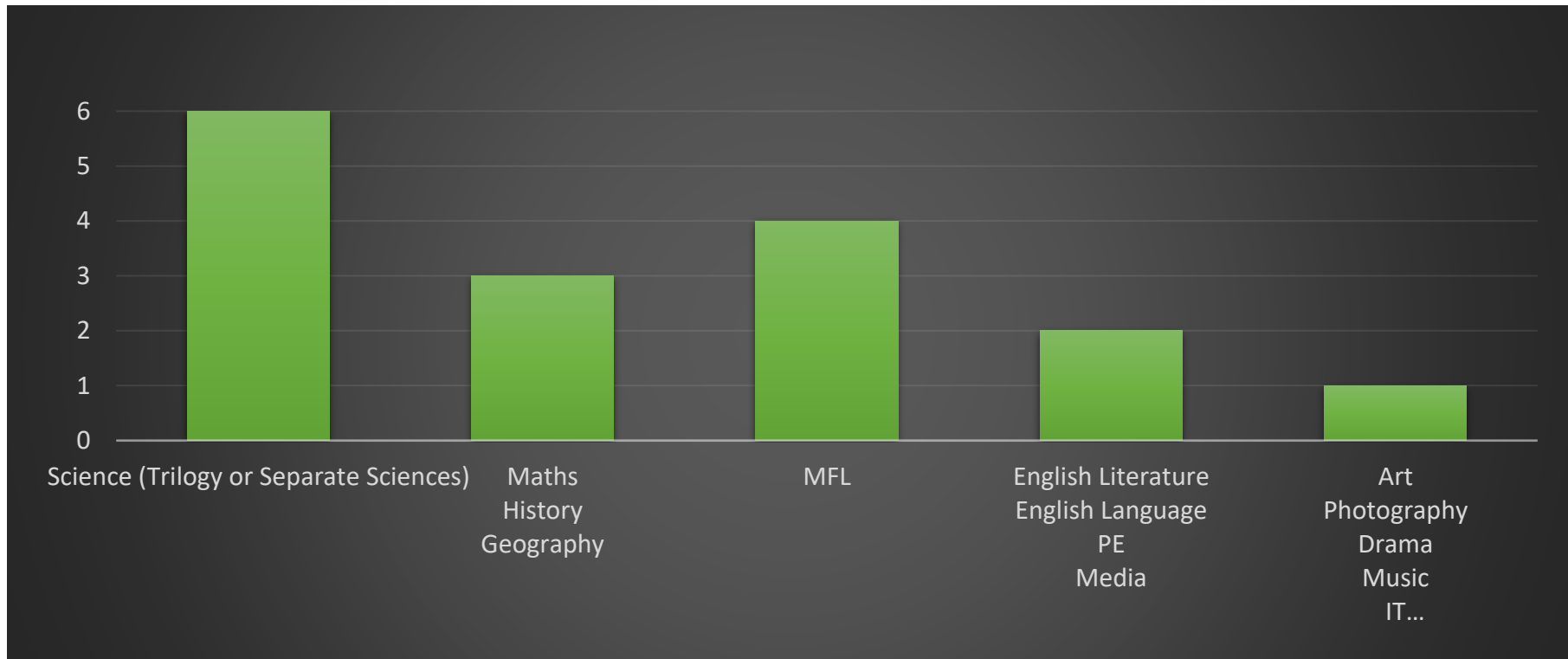
- All GCSE examinations have to be taken at the end of the course which means there will be a lot more examinations in Year 11.
- Therefore, some of you might want to consider which subjects are exam heavy and which have more controlled assessment included.

THINGS TO CONSIDER (controlled assessment load)

Controlled Assessment Load



Number Of Exams At The End of Year 11



Making Informed Choices

X Don't make choices based on the fact that you like your current teacher. We will not be able to tell you who will be teaching you next year.

X Don't choose a course based on what your friends are doing.

X Don't assume some courses will be easier than others – all require hard work and homework.

X Don't choose before studying the booklet, gaining more information and attending the year 9 Options Evening

✓ Consider what might be your future career but remember most people change their minds. It is best to aim as high as possible. Don't close doors for yourself.

✓ Make sure you understand what each subject involves. New subjects may look attractive at first glance. You may think you know what an 'old' subject involves. Read the booklet.

✓ Be realistic/honest with yourself.

Remember it is very difficult to make changes once you have submitted your forms and it is virtually impossible from September.

Options 2025

The best choices will allow you to achieve to the very best of your ability

- 1. Do I like the subject?**
- 2. Will I do well in the subject?**
- 3. Am I specialising too early?**
- 4. Will the type of assessment suit my learning style?**
- 5. Will the qualifications I choose support progression to education or training beyond 16?**
- 6. Which subjects do I need for my possible career?**



ANY QUESTIONS?

You can ask members of Leadership Team during your tutor group sessions.

OR EMAIL:

year9options@ilkleygs.co.uk

OR book a drop in meeting...

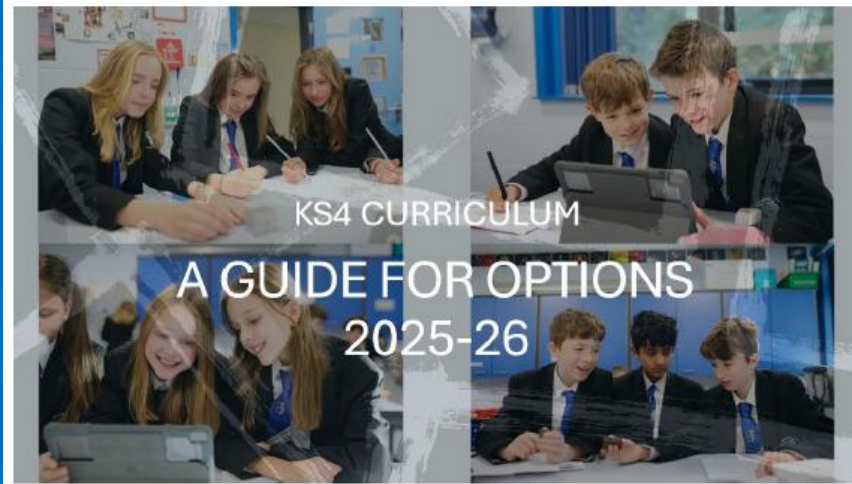
**Drop in Options
meetings
with senior
leadership team**

10th February – 14th February 2025

Year 9:

TG	Room	Wed 29 th January PBT	Wed 5 th February PBT
9JNB	R5	LBC	LBC
9LJD	E1	FMM	FMM
9CCM	C4	DJK	DJK
9JLL	K1	FMM	FMM
9ALN	M3	JCB	JCB
9GMS	K3	DJK	DJK
9BET	P1	GLC	GLC
9PDH	N12	JCB	JCB
9SP	T2	VEB	VEB
9JDA	M13	GLC	GLC
9IFL	Q6	LBC	LBC

Year 8, 9 Options Evening: Wednesday 12th March 2025



A chance to look around the curriculum areas and find out what choices are available to make informed decisions on your options

- Year 8 Presentations at : 3.45, 4.45 and 5.45pm
- Year 9 Presentations at 4.15 5.15, 6.15pm