

Submit any enquiries  
to: [Year9Options@ilkleygs.co.uk](mailto:Year9Options@ilkleygs.co.uk)



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

# YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

## Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Carly Purnell- Headteacher

Ms. Gemma Cloughton- Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education



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Choices now lead to **qualifications**



Qualifications are the **Keys to your future**



Open **doorways** for **Post 16 and beyond**








**Stepping stones** to the next stage of  
education, training and future careers



## YEAR 9 CORE PROGRAMME:

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
RE/Citizenship	IT	PE	MFL or Literacy*	

## 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
					
<b>Electronics</b>  <b>Food</b>  <b>Resistant Materials</b>  <b>Textiles</b>  <b>Essential Technology</b>  <b>Event Management/ Catering**</b>  <b>Maintenance/ Trade Skills**</b>	<b>Art***</b>  <b>Drama</b>  <b>Music</b>  <b>Photography***</b>  <b>Media Studies***</b>		<b>3 choices from:</b> <b>A 2<sup>nd</sup> language (NB: this takes up two options)</b> <b>A 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> specialist technology</b> <b>A 3<sup>rd</sup> creative art</b>  <b>Computer Science</b> <b>Introduction to Business Studies</b> <b>Introduction to Law</b> <b>Philosophy and Ethics</b> <b>Pre-GCSE PE</b> <b>Specialist IT</b> <b>Skills For Success**</b>		

**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 Trilogy Science												
RE/PSHE	MFL	PE		RE/PSHE	Core PE												
Geography	History	Computing															
6 option choices				4 option choices													
Curriculum Overview																	
<table><tr><th>Category</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Core</td><td>69%</td></tr><tr><td>Options</td><td>31%</td></tr></table>			Category	Percentage	Core	69%	Options	31%	→	<table><tr><th>Category</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Core</td><td>59%</td></tr><tr><td>Options</td><td>41%</td></tr></table>		Category	Percentage	Core	59%	Options	41%
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- Fewer **core subjects**
- **Fewer options**, but they **make up more curriculum time** than ever before
- This supports you to **fulfil requirements of the qualification**

# MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

Research shows that that a curriculum designed by student choice encourages motivation, achievement, direction and success.

SUBJECT	PROGRESS SCORE 2024	SUBJECT	PROGRESS SCORE 2024
Biology - separate	+.79	History	+.96
Engineering	+1.05	Photography	+1.12
Spanish	+.96	Trilogy Science	+.81
Philosophy	+.61	Technology- Textiles	+1.39
		Technology- Resistant Materials	+1.22
Art	+.64	Geography	+.66
Business	+.64	Music	+.94
Drama	+1.4	Physics	+.65
Media	+.85	Cs	+.92
Digital IT	+.83	Performing Arts	+.81
English Literature	+.69	French	+.64

# 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:

1: **GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE** (Graded 9 to 1)

2: **GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE** (Graded 9 to 1)

3: **GCSE MATHEMATICS** (Graded 9 to 1)

4: **GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE\*\*** (Graded 9-1) This leads to two science qualifications, but students study all three sciences

(\*\*unless taking Separate Science as an option which leads to 3 separate science qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics)

**CORE PE and PSHE** are not accredited courses



# 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.



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# The English Baccalaureate

English	Maths	2 x Science	Language	History Or Geography
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## 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 many of our learners, especially those who are considering further and higher education.

The vast majority of students can access the English, mathematics and science element of this qualification through the compulsory core.

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

Currently, 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 large majority of IGS students**





# 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.



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# 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 option compulsory for all students?

- Ensure an **appropriately broad, academic curriculum**, while leaving **space and opportunity for personalisation** and supporting individual **next steps**
- Ebacc subjects are **highly valued by universities** and can 'unlock' a wider range of degree courses later down the line
- E.g. **Russell Group** universities still value a language for the study of some **competitive courses**



# PATHWAYS AT IGS

## 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

## Humanities subjects:

- GCSE Geography (EBacc subject)
- GCSE History (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Religious Studies
- 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 Sport Level 2



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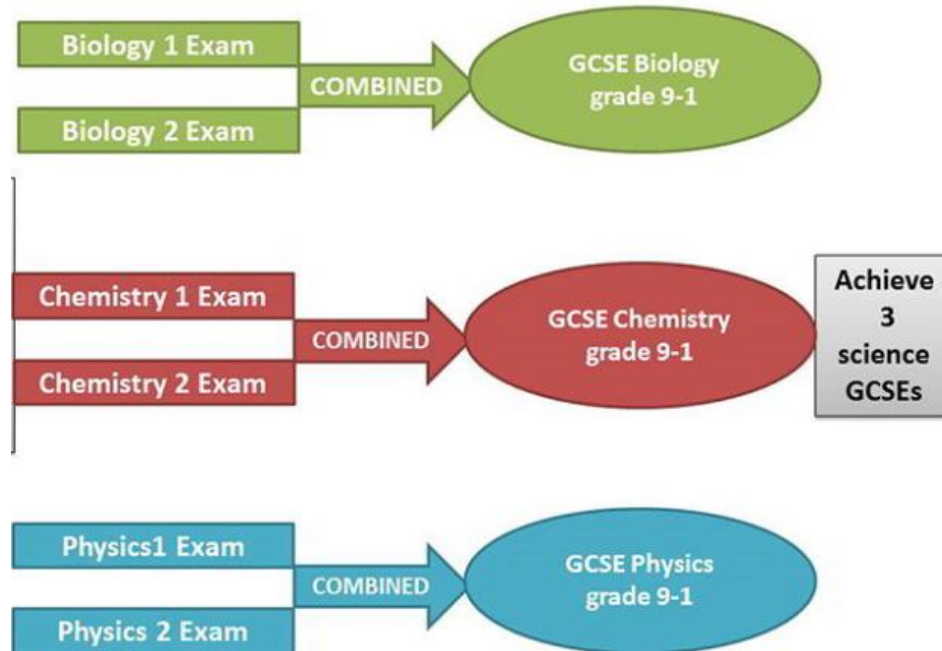
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# SEPARATE SCIENCE

- ❖ **Select extra science as one of your options (6 extra lessons in addition to your lessons in the core)- it takes up a full option (which is additional to your core science lessons: leading to 15 lessons in year 10 and 18 in lessons in year 11)**
- ❖ **It will result in a qualification in 3 separate sciences: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics**
- ❖ **Particularly appropriate for students in top set science with a strong interest and aptitude for the sciences**
- ❖ **You can progress to A-level sciences without having studied Separate Science.**



# THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

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



# 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**

**BTEC Sport and GCSE PE**



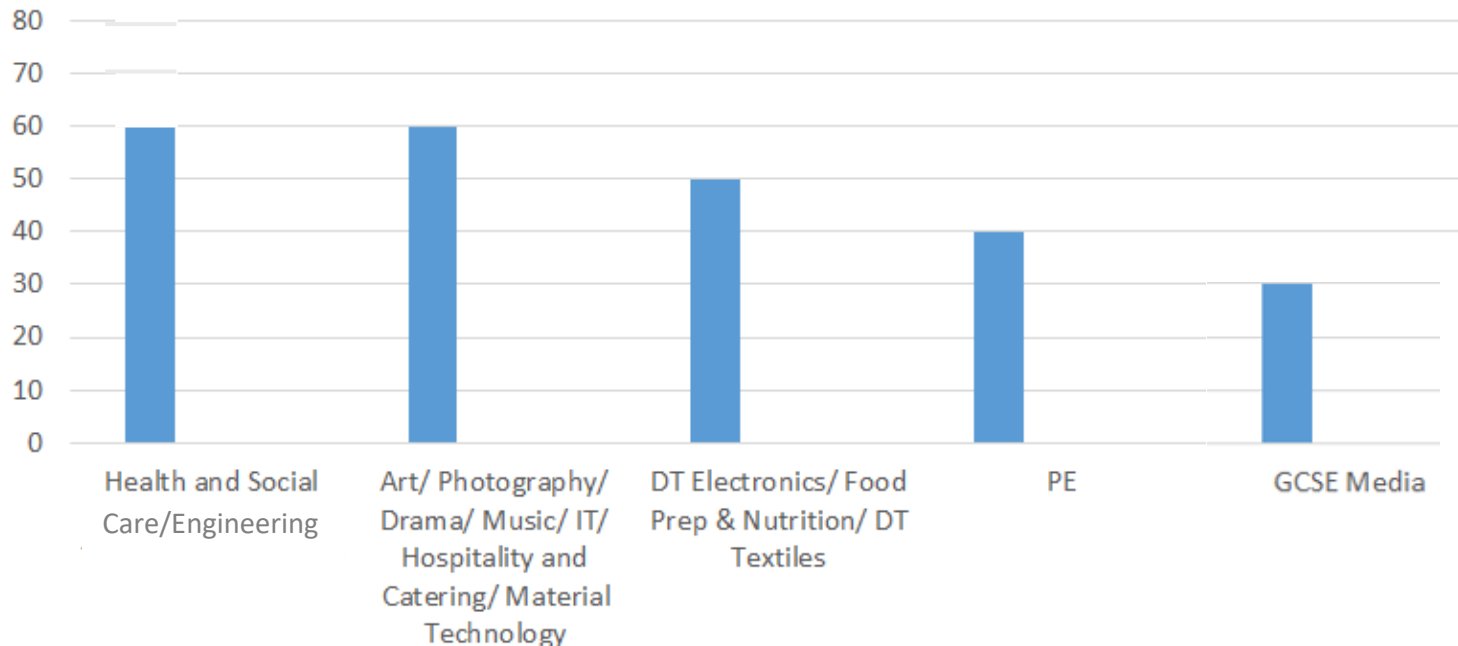
# THE NATIONAL PICTURE

## 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



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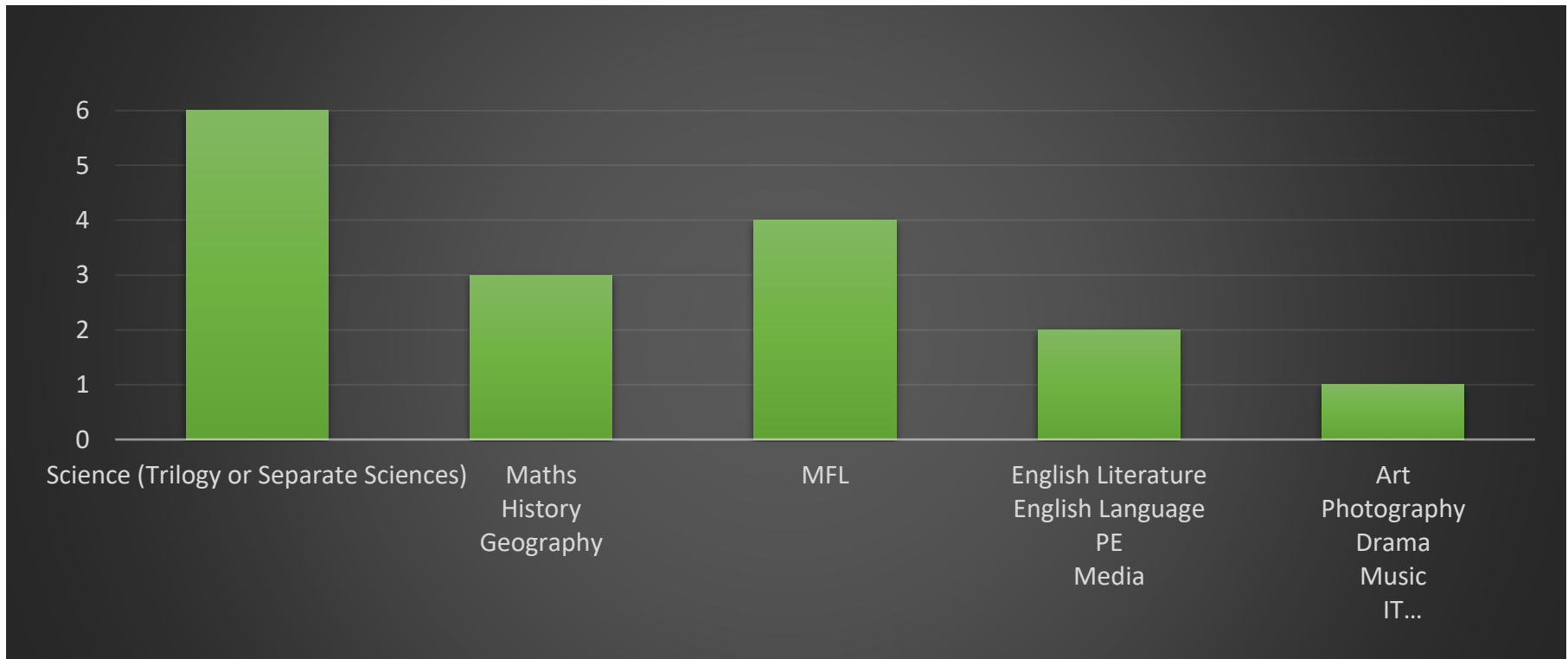
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# Number Of Exams At The End of Year 11



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# TERMINAL EXAMS v 'BANKED' ELEMENTS

## ALL TERMINAL EXAMS

Maths

English Language

English Literature

Separate/Combined Science

French

Spanish

Geography

History

Computer Science

GCSE Religious Studies

Business Studies

## SUBJECTS WITH 'BANKED' ELEMENTS

Art (60%)

GCSE Media (70%)

Drama (60%)

DT Electronics (50%)

DT Resistant Materials (50%)

DT Textiles (50%)

Engineering Design (75%)

Food and Nutrition (50%)

Health and Social Care (75%)

Hospitality and Catering (60%)

DIGITAL ICT (60%)

Music (60%)

PE (40%)

Performing Arts (60%)

Photography (60%)



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# Advice Given To Students: 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 Choices 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.**



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# THE OPTIONS PROCESS

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

# ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

If you would like to ask a specific question which you do not feel has already been answered or require further information, please email:

[year9options@ilkleygs.co.uk](mailto:year9options@ilkleygs.co.uk)

OR

See a member of **Leadership Team in B10** this evening/ **Inclusive Learning and Careers in the Library.**

**Many Thanks**

