

Submit any enquiries to:
Year8Options@ilkleygs.co.uk



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

YEAR 8 OPTIONS EVENING

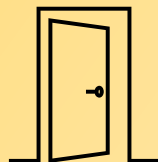
WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 2025

Carly Purnell- Headteacher

Ms. Gemma Cloughton- *Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education*



Why an options process for year 8?



Broad and balanced and does not close doors



A chance to **personalise**



Gain initial **grounding** in main principles and key knowledge before choosing for GCSE

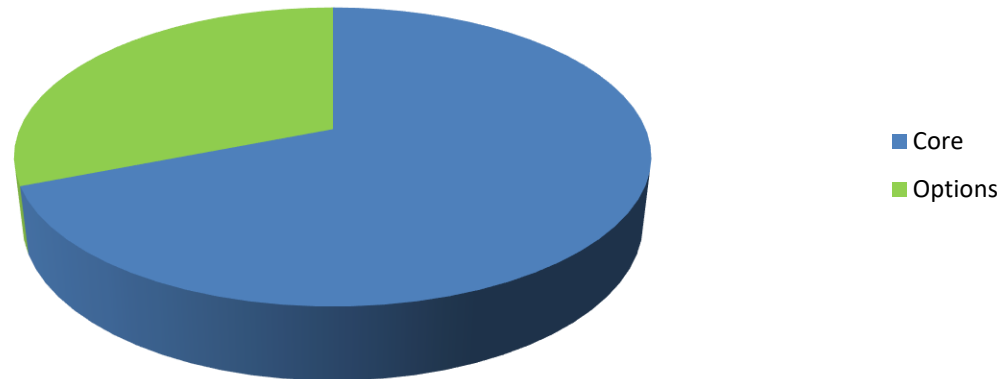
IT IS NOT STARTING GCSEs EARLY, BUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN CORE CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT UNLOCK LATER UNDERSTANDING.



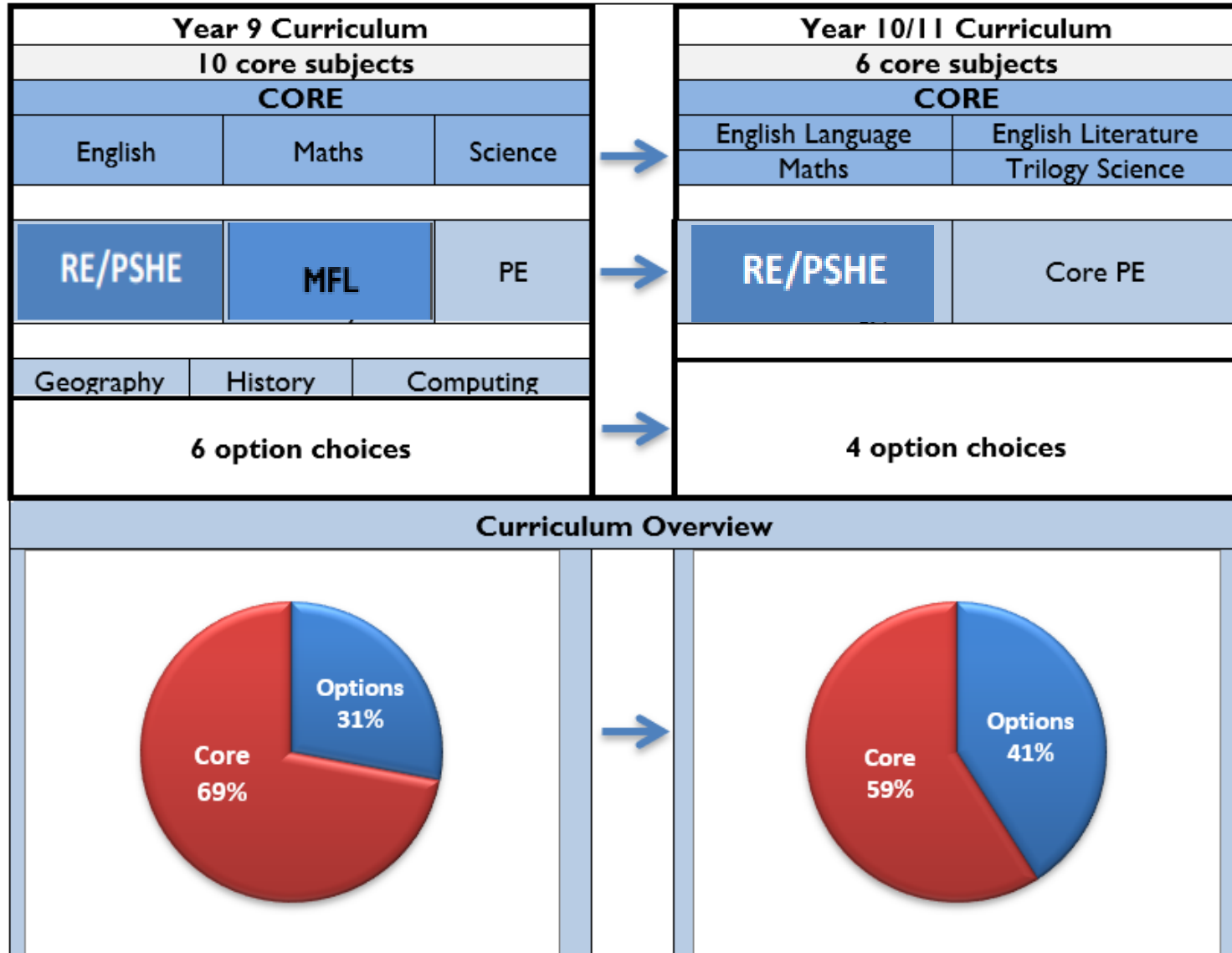
THE YEAR 9 CORE CURRICULUM 2025-6

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
7	7	9	3	3

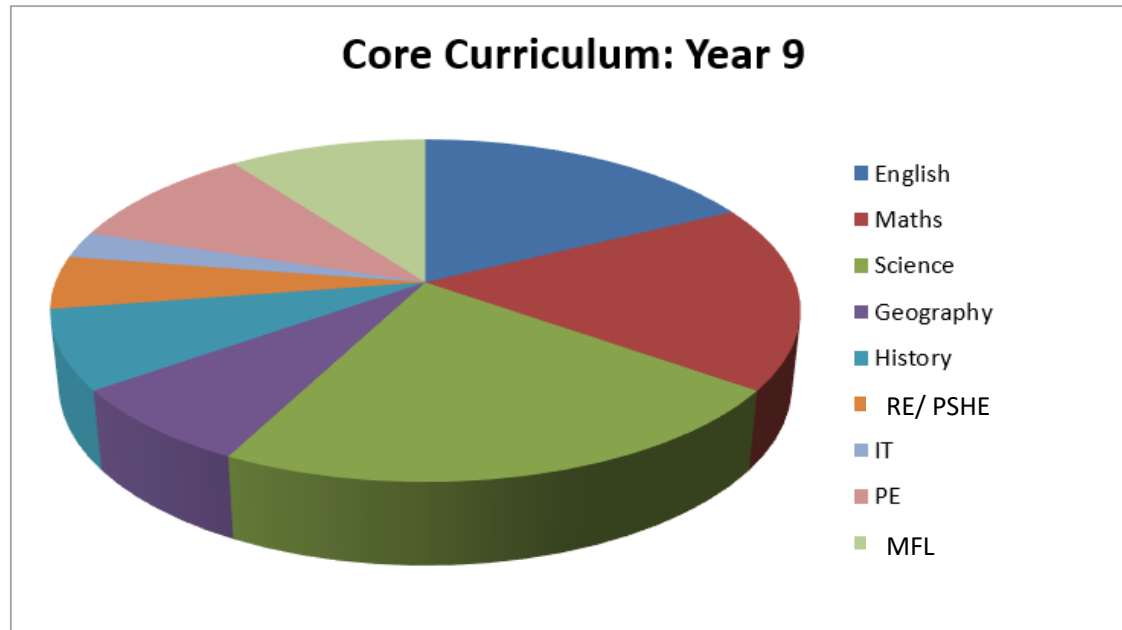
RE/PSHE	Computing	PE	MFL
2	1	4	4



AVOIDING NARROWING TOO MUCH TOO EARLY



WHY ARE ALL THESE SUBJECTS CORE?



- 1) **English, maths, science and RE are statutory** in all schools until the end of Key Stage 4
- 2) **PSHE helps to develop** active, informed and **responsible citizens**, who stay **healthy** and are prepared for **life in modern Britain**, gain **relationships and sex education** and understand **protected characteristics**.
- 3) **PE provides opportunities to become physically confident** which supports health/ fitness.
- 4) **IT** develops skills for life in a **modern, digital world**.
- 5) **Geography and history are both EBACC subjects** and support the development of literacy.
- 6) **MFL: In a global society**, the ability to speak another language is a recognised and valuable skill. A language is also an essential component of the **EBACC**.



The English Baccalaureate - GCSE

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

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

The English Baccalaureate is a combination of 6 traditional academic subjects.

Currently, only History and Geography are recognised as Humanities subjects.

Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish) are both available at KS4, although you only need to select one as part of the English Baccalaureate. There is a new structure to the specifications in these subjects for first teaching in 2024 and first exams in 2026.



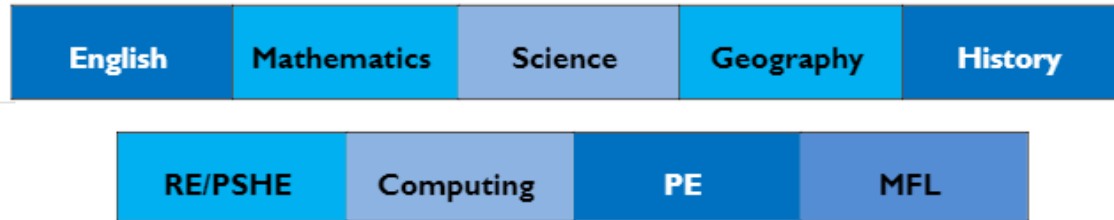
WHY HAVE OPTIONS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO YEAR 9?

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

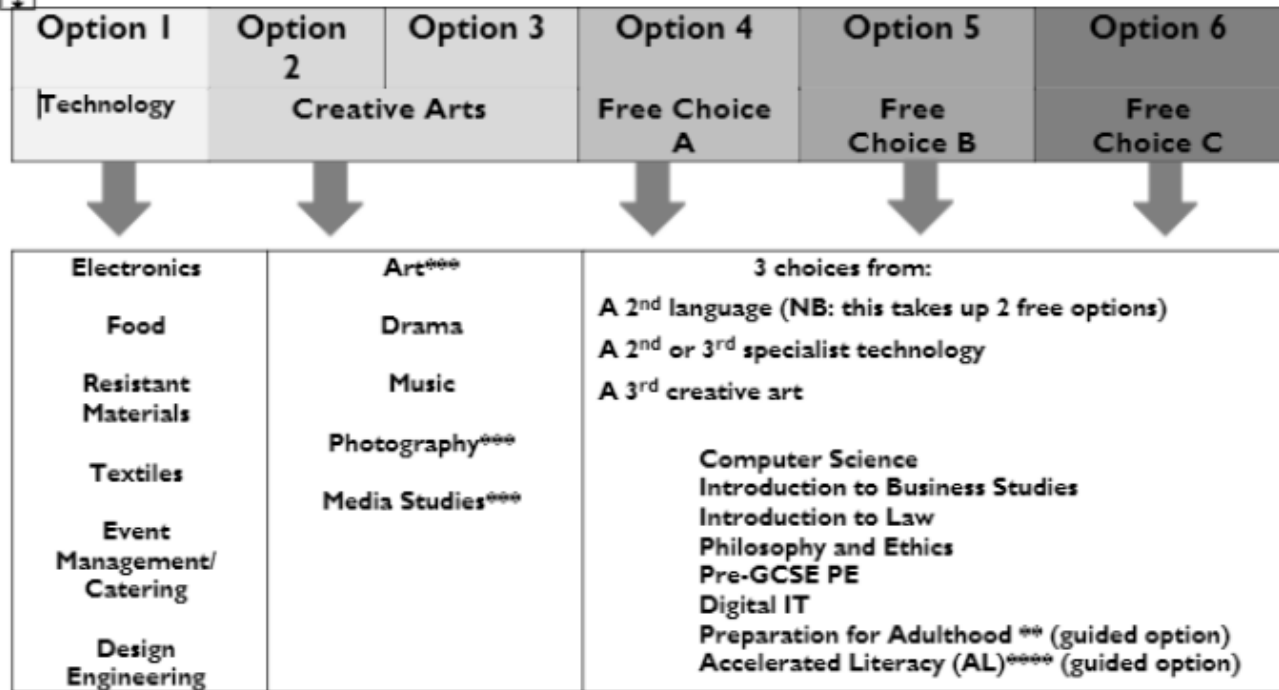
SUBJECT	PROGRESS SCORE 2024	SUBJECT	PROGRESS SCORE 2024
Biology - separate	+.79	History	+.96
Engineering	+1.05	Photography	+1.12
Spanish	+.96	Trilogy Science	+.81
Philosophy	+.61	Technology- Textiles	+1.39
		Technology- Resistant Materials	+1.22
Art	+.64	Geography	+.66
Business	+.64	Music	+.94
Drama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

THE OPTIONS CURRICULUM

YEAR 9 CORE PROGRAMME:



YEAR 8 into 9 OPTIONS PROGRAMME:



CORE + OPTIONS = A BROAD AND BALANCED CURRICULUM

TECHNOLOGY

Specialist Technology Option:

A choice from:

**FOOD
TECHNOLOGY**

TEXTILES

**RESISTANT
MATERIALS**

**ELECTRONIC
PRODUCTS**

**IF YOU CHOOSE A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY, YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE A
SECOND OR THIRD SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY AS PART OF YOUR FREE
OPTIONS**



SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

DESIGN ENGINEERING

Available to all, but some students may be also 'guided' to these more practical options where appropriate.



THE CREATIVE ARTS OPTIONS:

2 choices from:

**ART
OR
PHOTOGRAPHY***

DRAMA

**MEDIA
STUDIES***

MUSIC

NB: You can choose both art and photography, but one of them must be one of your free options

****You can choose both media and photography, but one of them must be one of your free options**



FREE OPTIONS:

Option 5	Free Option
Option 6	Free Option
Option 7	Free Option

CHOICES:

Any specialist technology not already chosen

A third creative subject not already chosen.

A second language either French or Spanish

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS:

Computer Science

Digital IT

An Introduction to Business

An Introduction to Law

Philosophy and Ethics

Pre-GCSE PE (PGP)

A supported subject:

- Preparation for Adulthood**
- Accelerated Literacy**



TAKING A SECOND LANGUAGE

- Students will complete an intensive one year ***ab initio* course (from scratch)** in order to prepare them for starting the GCSE alongside their peers who have studied the language in year 7 and 8
- Students will be in a class with other students who have also opted to choose a second language. If students opt to pick up a second language, **they can't drop the language they have been learning from year 7 until the end of year 9.**

Please note, choosing to study a second language will take up two free option choices.

• We recommend that only students who are **performing well in their first language** will cope with the demands of learning a new language from scratch in year 9. If students are unsure of whether studying two languages would be appropriate, please ask the MFL teacher for their advice.



ARE YEAR 8 STUDENTS MATURE ENOUGH TO BE MAKING CHOICES?

- Many successful schools, locally and nationally run a partial or full options process with considerable success.
- Students will be given further information, advice and guidance to support their decisions.
- The choices are designed to inform the Key Stage 4 process more effectively; students are not locked into GCSE syllabi unlike with a full 3-year KS4.
- If students choose the following combination (with any specialist tech), they can still take all the subjects in year 9 which were compulsory prior to an options process:

TECH	CREATIVE		FREE CHOICE 1	FREE CHOICE 2	FREE CHOICE 3
e.g. Food	Art	Music	MFL	MFL	Drama



**DOES THIS MEAN STUDENTS WON'T HAVE ANY NEW
SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM WHEN DECIDING ON
GCSES IN YEAR 9 INTO 10?**

NEW GCSE SUBJECTS WHICH ARE **NOT AVAILABLE IN
NEXT YEAR'S YEAR 9 options process:**

- 1) Separate Science**
- 2) Health and Social Care**
- 3) Performing Arts**
- 4) BTEC Sport (Level 2)**



X AND Y BANDS

Next year, students will stay in their tutor groups but will be placed into one of **two mixed-ability bands: X or Y band**

- Students will be taught the following subjects in their X or Y band:
- English Maths Science MFL PE
- 5 further subjects (geography, history, computing, RE and PSHE)
- Students will take **6 option choices**
- It is likely that **3 of these choices will be taught across the year group** with students from X **and** Y bands. This is also how options in years 10 and 11 will be timetabled.
- The remaining options will be taught in a student's X **or** Y band



YEARS 8 TO 9 OPTION PROCESS

Year 8	
PROCESS	DATES
Year 8-9 Options Assembly Launch Distribution of options booklets electronically	Wednesday 5 th February 2025 during PBT
February Half Term	17-21 st February 2025
Year 8 Parents' evening	Thursday 27 th February 2025
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 12 th February 2025
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 12 th February and 26 th February 2025
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 12 th March 2025
Optional <u>drop in</u> meetings with Leadership Team	Monday 3 rd March – Wednesday 12 th March 2025
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	Friday 21 st March 2025



THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

- Students have been sent this form during PBT on **12th February 2025**
- They have been advised they will need to go through the **Options Form Guide** first with tutors/ Parents and carers
- They've been asked to **save a copy of your choices once submitted**- tutors and the Head of Year will monitor the completion of online Options forms
- Students can submit more than once, if they change your mind, but please note, **we will take the final submission of choices as the confirmed options**
- Students cannot change options after the options **deadline on Friday 21st March 2025**



Ilkley Grammar School Options 2025 Y08 - Y09

14 Jan 2025

Welcome to Options at Ilkley Grammar School

This form is where you will select your subject choices for year 9. This is an exciting opportunity to personalise parts of your curriculum for the first time! Over the next few weeks, you will receive a lot

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:

year8options@ilkleygs.co.uk

OR

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

Many Thanks

