



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL



Upper School Options Information 2024 - 2026



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Links to information about Core and Options Subjects are available on SIMs Options online. Please read *‘How to complete the Options Form Online – a guide for students’* to see exactly where this information is.

Upper School Choices 2024-2026

The Mountbatten School wishes to enable our students to make an effective transition from the largely compulsory curriculum of Lower School, to the more flexible curriculum of Upper School and beyond. We aim to provide advice and guidance that is informed, accurate and impartial and to do this we have planned a programme of support.

KEY DATES

Friday 05 January 2024:	Options Assembly for Year 9 Students
Thursday 11 January 2024:	Options Evening for Year 9 Parents & Students
Friday 12 January 2024:	Year 9 Options Open at 9am
Thursday 25 January 2024:	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Online)
Monday 05 February 2024:	Year 9 Options Close at 3.30pm – Deadline for completion of options

Some points to consider when making these choices are:

- Ability; students must recognise where their abilities lie and choose subjects where success is possible with the right amount of hard work
- Interest; success is related to hard work, which in turn is often related to the interest that a student has in the subject
- Career and Qualifications; very few students in Year 9 know exactly which career, higher or further education path they would like to embark on. Later on, certain subjects may become an essential requirement for certain careers, but at this stage our curriculum is designed to minimise the possibility of restricting future career paths
- Course related charges; whilst parents cannot be required to provide items for a course, we hope that, as in previous years, parents will be prepared to contribute towards the consumables required by certain courses, particularly the practical ones. However, no student will be excluded from a course because their parents do not provide or pay for materials
- Advice; staff will be providing guidance to the students throughout this period. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any further assistance in making the final decision
- Some combinations of subjects are restricted; details are listed below
- Flexibility; be prepared to have two reserve choices, because option subjects will only be timetabled if there are sufficient numbers to make viable group sizes.

Compulsory Courses and Options

Some courses are compulsory for all students in Years 10 and 11. All students continue studying English (Language & Literature), Mathematics, Science and PE. In accordance with the laws of England, Religious Studies is also compulsory in Years 10 and 11, unless parents request otherwise. Students choose three further examination subjects (or four if they do not wish to continue with Religious Studies). If parents approve their child's option choices without selecting Religious Studies, we will accept this as confirmation they are no longer continuing with Religious Studies.

During Year 9 students have been following courses selected as part of the Year 8 Mini-Options process. Students have been spending extra time on subjects they are most interested in and are no longer studying other subjects. The intention of the Mini-Options process is to better prepare students for GCSEs in a restricted number of subjects. This also means that students would be significantly disadvantaged if they were to select a subject during this options process that they had not continued with in Year 9. If you are considering selecting one of these subjects, please consider this very carefully and seek advice from the Head of Department, as it would not normally be recommended. The exception to this rule is Religious Studies, which students can take whether they have studied it in Year 9 or not. Please note that some subjects are studied for the first time in Year 10, so there are no restrictions on selecting these.

PE continues as a compulsory element of the curriculum in Upper School. Students continue with 'Core PE' where there is a very wide range of individual recreational and competitive elements.

Students who are on the Mandarin course will already have Mandarin selected for them, three other options choices will need to be selected and then confirmed by parents.

Getting ready to make your choices

We have been working hard as a school during the Autumn term to look at the needs of every student in Year 9. This has resulted in us being able to offer a bespoke option offer that we feel will best meet the needs of your child. We have used our collective professional knowledge of the new GCSE courses and of the expectations of Colleges and Universities to provide an option offer which, in our experience, will provide a set of qualifications that will support your child to be ready for their next stage in education. In some rare situations we understand that you may wish to discuss this with us so please contact Ms Elaine Jarvis to make an appointment.

As with the Year 8 Mini-Options process your child's options application will be made online through 'SIMS Options Online'. Once your child has selected their options choices parents will need to log in and 'approve' their choices. If you have any problems with accessing the system, please email: options@mountbatten.school

Summary:

Students must study: English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, plus four other option subjects.

Students on the Mandarin Course must study: English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, Mandarin plus three other option subjects.

Reserves are extremely important. We do our best to meet all requests – but we cannot always accommodate all first choices. For example: there maybe restrictions on Design Technology and Food Technology due to rooming, staffing and capacity – if oversubscribed all students will be considered equally when making allocations.

It is essential that you select **two** reserve choices otherwise you risk us making the choice for you if your preferred option subject is unavailable. Please also make sure that all your choices are in preference order – the subject most important to you at number one, two and so on. This order may be used to inform allocations.

Science

There are two GCSE Science course pathways at The Mountbatten School. The majority of students will study AQA GCSE Combined Science leading to two GCSEs in Science. Students in the top two science sets in each year half will study three separate AQA GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Restricted Subject Combinations

Students may NOT:

- Study **French, Mandarin** or **Spanish** if they have **NOT** studied it in **Year 9**
- Choose more than **one** language - **Students MUST have studied the matching language in Year 9 to be able to choose this on the language pathway**
- Choose more than **one** subject from the Art & Design pathway (GCSE Fine Art, Photography, 3D Design, Textile Design) - **Students MUST have studied Art in Year 9 to be able to choose any subject from the Art and Design pathway**
- Choose more than **one** subject from the PE pathway (GCSE PE **and** Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies)
- Choose more than **one** subject from the DT pathway (DT Papers & Boards (Graphics) or DT Timbers (Resistant Materials) or DT Fibres & Textiles (Textiles) - **Students MUST have studied the matching Design & Technology subject in Year 9**
- Choose more than **one** Music pathway (GCSE Music and BTEC Music) - **Students MUST have studied Music in Year 9 to be able to choose from the Music pathway**

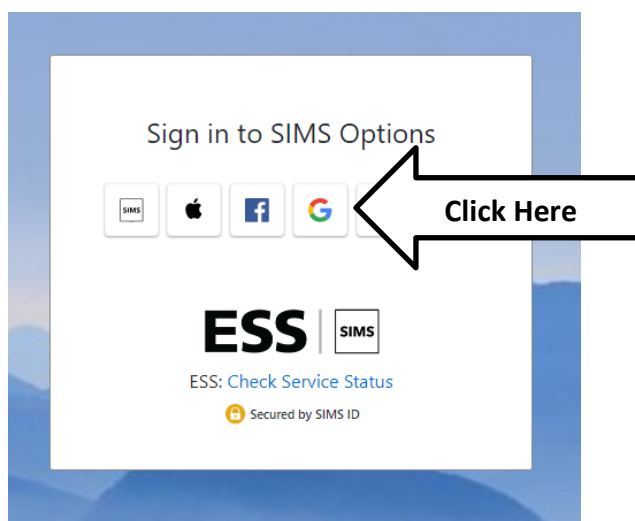
Please note the deadline for completing Options is **Monday 5 February 2024**

How to Complete Options Online – Guidance for Students

All students have or will be supported to register at SIMS Options online ready for selecting their Options. Parents should also have received an email to register when the students were in Year 8. If students were absent during the registration process, or parents did not receive an email, or you have difficulty accessing the online system, please contact itservices@mountbatten.school who will be able to support you. If parents do not have access to the internet, please contact Ms Elaine Jarvis so that we can support you.

Students selecting their options

- 1) Go to the school website <https://mountbatten.school> and click on the **Students** button on the far-right hand side.
- 2) You will then be asked to enter your school Google username and password. If you have forgotten or have any issues, please contact IT Services on itservices@mountbatten.school as they will be able to help you.
- 3) Once logged into the student portal, click on Options Online button. You will then see the screen below appear. Please click on the 'sign in with Google' icon as you are using your school Google account.



- 4) Options online should then open to a page which will look like this:

Your personal details are here

An explanation as to why we have given you the bespoke options we have is here

Information about Core Subjects can be found by clicking on these links.

- 5) There are a number of option blocks. In each block there is a link to more information about each subject in that block. You are also shown how many choices you need to select. In the example block below you must select 2 choices and 2 reserve choices.

Open Choice

Geography
History

You have chosen 0 of 2 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list

0 of 2 choices selected, 0 of 2 reserves selected

BTech Art & Design BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Child Development Cambridge Nationals Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	GCSE P.E. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small>	Reserve	Hospitality and Catering NQF Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve

Note: A callout box points to the subject names with the text: "Links to more information about each subject".

- 6) Select the options choices by clicking on the subject name. Select reserves by clicking on 'reserve' next to the subject name. As you select choices, they turn blue. Reserve choices turn orange. As you select choices, the indicators at the top turn orange and then green to show you have selected all the choices. Red indicators show you have selected too many options. See the examples below.

Amber, some choices selected

You have chosen 1 of 2 courses and 1 of 2 reserves from this list

BTech Art & Design (choice) BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Child Development Cambridge Nationals Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	GCSE P.E. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small>	Reserve	Hospitality and Catering NQF Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve

Green, all choices selected

You have chosen 2 of 2 courses and 2 of 2 reserves from this list

BTech Art & Design (choice) BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Child Development (reserve) Cambridge Nationals Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	GCSE P.E. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small>	Reserve	Hospitality and Catering (choice) NQF Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve

Red, too many choices selected

You have chosen 3 of 2 courses and 2 of 2 reserves from this list

BTech Art & Design (choice) BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	Child Development (reserve) Cambridge Nationals Award Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course (choice) <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve	GCSE P.E. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small>	Reserve	Hospitality and Catering (choice) NQF Level 1 & 2 <small>This course is also available in Open Ebacc</small>	Reserve

7) Once you have selected all your choices these will appear on the right-hand side at the top of the page. Below is an example of what this looks like. In total you should have selected **4 choices**, and 2 additional reserves.

The screenshot shows two sections of a form. The first section is titled 'My Choices' with '(Total Choices: 4)' in the top right corner. Below the title is a sub-header: 'To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.' There are four numbered items in a list, each in a rounded rectangular box: 1. Hospitality and Catering (NQF Level 1 & 2 Open Choice), 2. BTech Art & Design (BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 Open Choice), 3. History (GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Ebacc), and 4. P.E. (General PE). The second section is titled 'My Reserves' with '(Total Reserves: 2)' in the top right corner. Below the title is a sub-header: 'To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.' There are two numbered items in a list, each in a rounded rectangular box: 1. GCSE P.E. (GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open Choice) and 2. Child Development (Cambridge Nationals Award Level 1 & 2 Open Choice).

8) At the bottom of the form there is a place to add comments if you wish. However, if these comments are important, we encourage you to email us direct: option@mountbatten.school

The screenshot shows the bottom part of a form. It starts with a 'School Approval' section containing a checkbox labeled 'School Approval'. Below that is a 'School Comments' section with a text area containing the placeholder text 'Add any comments here'. At the bottom is a 'Student Comments' section with a larger text area.

9) Once complete, please click save at the top

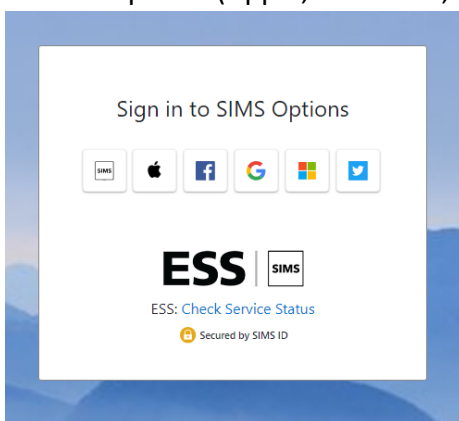
The screenshot shows a purple navigation bar at the top of a page. On the left, there are icons for search, back, and a 'Save' button with a floppy disk icon. To the right of the 'Save' button are two buttons: 'Show Notes' and 'Hide Notes'. Below the 'Save' button, a white arrow points upwards towards it.

10) Once the form has been completed parents/carers are required to login and approve the options. Parents/carers cannot select the options on behalf of students, but parent/carer approval is necessary if we are to accept the options choices.

Parent/Carer Guide - How to Approve my Child's Options Choices

Parents/Carers will have registered with SIMS Options Online for the Mini-Options Process in Year 8 or for access to the SIMS Parent app from the beginning of Year 7. For new students to our school, IT Services will have already sent out your invitation to join. If you have not received this, or are experiencing any problems with accessing the system, please contact IT Services on itservices@mountbatten.school.

1. Go to the school website <https://mountbatten.school> hover over 'Parents' button on the menu bar and click on Options Online.
2. You will then see the screen below appear. Please click on the appropriate account you used to previously register for SIMS Parent or SIMS Options. Please note, it will **not** be the first icon that says SIMS and will be one of the other options (Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft or Twitter).



3. Once logged into the system, you will see your child's details and the subjects they have to choose from in the blocks set out. As you scroll down, you will see to the right the option choices they have made as shown below.

4. It is very important your child chooses all 4 subject choices along with two reserve choices, before you tick the parental box at the very bottom, as shown below. Once you have ticked the box, it automatically saves and you have completed the process. Please email options@mountbatten.school if you have any questions or problems.

Key Mountbatten School Contacts

Nature of query	Contact
General queries about options	Your child's tutor in the first instance, marking it for their attention at: info@mountbatten.school
General queries requiring further support on the option process	Ms Elaine Jarvis options@mountbatten.school
Subject Specific Questions	Subject Teachers/Leaders (please see the information sheets in SIMs Options) info@mountbatten.school
Careers advice, guidance and interviews	Mrs Sindy Shakya careers@mountbatten.school
Head of Year 9 (option queries only)	Miss Amie Jupp options@mountbatten.school
Overseeing the Options Process/Assistant Headteacher	Mr Ian Dunn options@mountbatten.school
Any IT queries/Password re-sets	IT Services on itservices@mountbatten.school