

Year 9 Options Information Evening



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

Year 9 Options

Staff involved in the process

- Miss A Jupp, Head of Year 9
- Mr I Dunn, Assistant Headteacher
- Mr B Marshall, Head of Lower School
- Mrs S Shakya, Head of Careers
- Mrs E Jarvis, Data Manager (Options Coordinator)
- Year 9 Tutors and subject teachers



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Upper School Curriculum

- English Language and Literature (worth 2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics
- Science (Separate Sciences or Combined Sciences)
- Core PE (Not examined)
- Four option courses one of which must be GCSE Religious Studies (unless you express otherwise)



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Which Science?

- Top two sets will do Triple Science
(3 GCSEs Physics, Chemistry and Biology)
- Everyone else will do Double Science
(the 3 sciences combined as 2 GCSEs)

The decision on who is in the top two sets will be made at the end of Year 9 by the Science Department



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Options

- Each student selects **4 additional subjects**
- Teachers, tutors, Heads of Year and Heads of Subject have reviewed students' progress
- Each student has a personalised offer to support their needs
- Information on each subject is available in SIMs Options, on the website and students can discuss with Subject Teachers



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Some 'rules'



- Students will be significantly disadvantaged if they choose subjects dropped during the Year 8 mini-Options process – we do not recommend it (except RE which is possible)
- In particular, students cannot start Spanish, French or Mandarin from scratch
- MEP students will have Mandarin pre-assigned as option choice 1

As they are very similar courses, students cannot pick:

- GCSE PE and Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies
- More than one Art & Design pathway (Fine Art, Textile Design, 3D Design or Photography)
- More than one of DT Timbers, DT Papers and Boards, DT Fibres and Textiles.



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Completing the Options Form

- The process will be completed online – instructions are in the Options Information Booklet emailed to students and parents
- Students must select the correct number of options from each block
- No restricted combinations can be selected (as in the previous slide and in the Booklet)
- Two additional reserve options must be selected, they must be different subjects from those selected in the option columns



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Completing the Options Form

- Reserves are extremely important. We do all we can to meet all requests – but we cannot always accommodate all first choices. For example: there will be restrictions on Design Technology and Food Technology due to rooming and capacity – if oversubscribed all students will be considered equally when making allocations. Some courses may not run if sufficient students do not opt for them.
- Please also make sure that choices are in preference order – the subject most important to you at number one and so on. This order may be used to inform allocations.
- Parents must log onto the system and tick the box to agree the options



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Important Dates

- Thursday 11 January 2024: Options Evening for Year 9 Parents
- Friday 12 January Options Online opens at 9.00am
- Thursday 25 January 2024: Year 9 Parents' Evening (Online)
- Monday 5 February 2024: Deadline for completion of Option Choices
(Including parent agreement tick box)



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English Baccalaureate

Awarded to students achieving 9-5 Grades in:

- English Language or Literature
- Mathematics
- 2 Sciences (Separates or Combined Sciences)
- A Language (French or Spanish)
- History or Geography



Be aware:

A number of Universities do have a requirement for some EBacc subjects at GCSE in order to be accepted on certain courses - check with the Universities themselves.



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Choosing courses

Advice for students:

- Read the course description – does the course interest you, will it sustain your interest for two years?
- If you have a firm career idea, choose the required options
- If you don't have a firm career idea, choose options that will give you plenty of choice post-16
- Discuss courses with your subject teachers
- Ask for help and advice from family, friends, teachers, Miss Jupp, Mrs Shakya, Mr Marshall, your tutor...



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Reasons to choose your options

GOOD REASONS

- You're good at the subject
- You think you'll enjoy the course
- It fits your career ideas and plans
- It goes well with your other choices
- It is required for a future pathway you are considering
- You think you might want to continue studying it post-16
- Your research shows that it will interest and motivate you

BAD REASONS

- Your friends have chosen it
- You think it will be easy
- Someone else thinks that it's a good idea
- You like the teacher you have now
- You didn't have time to research properly



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