Upper School Options Information

THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL



2026 - 2028

Contents of this Information Booklet

Information about Upper School Choices	**Pages 3-5**
How to complete the Options Form Online – a guide for students	**Pages 6-8**
Key Contacts	**Page 9**

Upper School Choices 2026-2028

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

Wednesday 7 January 2026	Options assembly for Year 9 students
Thursday 8 January 2026	Options evening for Year 9 parents & students
Friday 9 January 2026	Weblink will be emailed direct to students to access the online options
Thursday 15 January 2026	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Online)
Monday 9 February 2026	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.
- 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.
- Some combinations of subjects are restricted; please see 'Restricted Subject Combinations'.

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 permitted. 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.

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 Jarvis to make an appointment.

Further subject guidance can be found on our website, including overview videos from Heads of Subject, detailed course outline information and careers guidance.

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, these include: 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, these include - GCSE PE **and** Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies
- Choose more than **one** subject from the DT pathway, which include: Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles - **Students MUST have studied the matching Design & Technology subject in Year 9**
- Choose more than **one** Music pathway, which include GCSE Music and Music Technology - **Students MUST have studied Music in Year 9 to be able to choose from the Music pathway**

Please note the deadline for completing all option choices is <u>Monday 9 February 2026</u>

The table below provides a reminder of the course's students needed to select in Y8 Mini Options to be able to continue those subjects as a GCSE. In addition, you will see that some subjects are not dependent on the Year 8 Mini-Options.

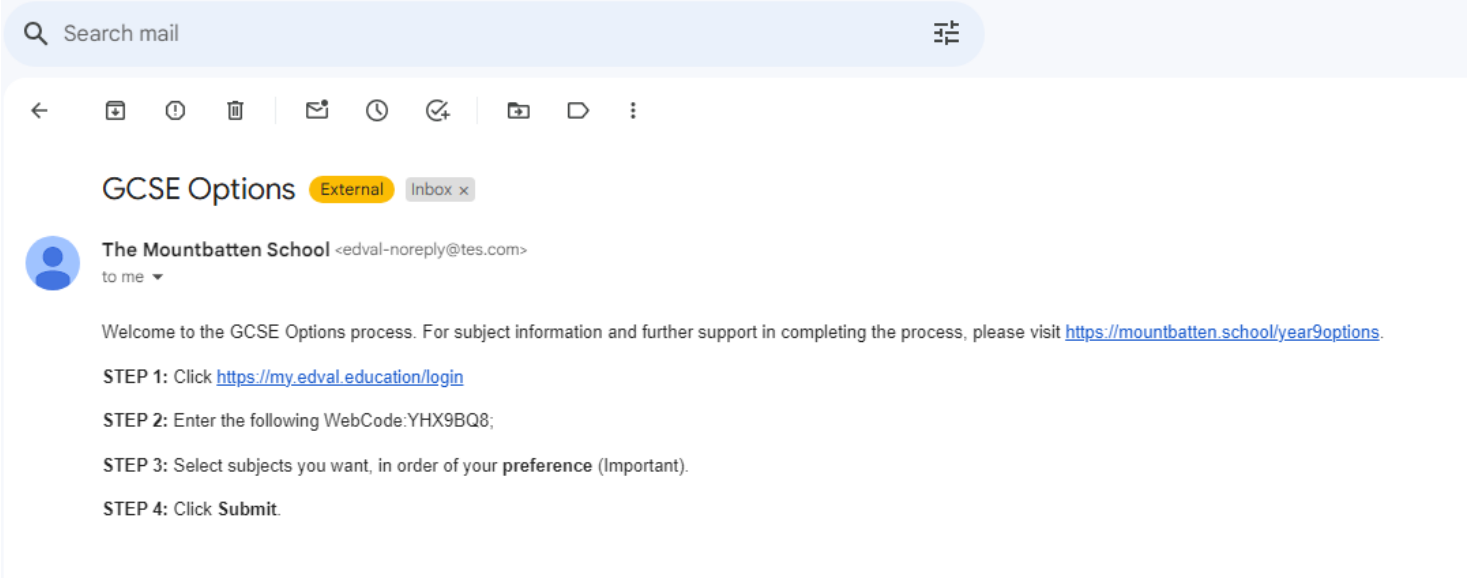
Year 9 GCSE Option Subject	Year 8 Mini-Option Subject that <u>MUST</u> be Selected
Art – Fine Art	Art **must** be selected as a mini-option
Art – Textiles/3D Design	Art **must** be selected as a mini-option
Art - Photography	Art **must** be selected as a mini-option
Computing	Computing
Drama	Drama
DT: Fibres & Textiles	DT: Fibres & Textiles
DT: Paper & Boards (Graphics)	DT: Paper & Boards (Graphics)
DT: Timbers (Resistant Materials)	DT: Timbers (Resistant Materials)
Food & Nutrition	Food
French	French
Geography	Geography
History	History
Mandarin taken from Year 7	Mandarin taken from Year 7
Music/Music Technology	Music
Religious Studies	Religious Studies
Spanish	Spanish
Economics	**These subjects can be chosen for GCSE regardless of the Year 8 Mini-Options chosen**
Media Studies	
PE GCSE/Sports Studies	
Statistics	

Student Guidance to Completing the Options Process

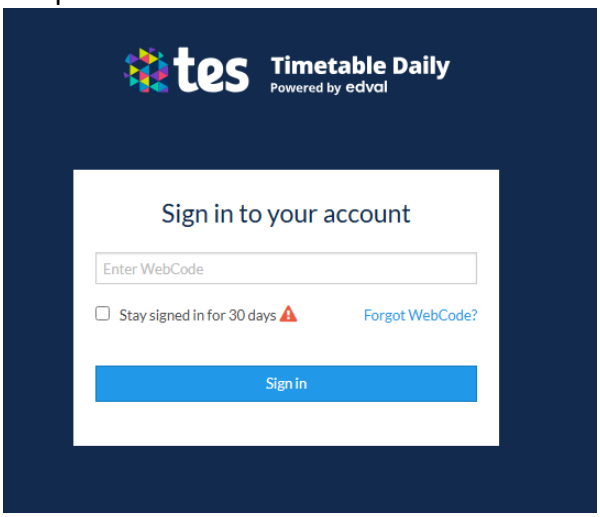
1. All students will receive an email with an individual code that allows them access to the site.
2. Log onto your school Google email account and look for an email from 'The Mountbatten Sch. **GCSE Options'.**

The Mountbatten Sch. **GCSE Options**

3. Follow the steps in the email



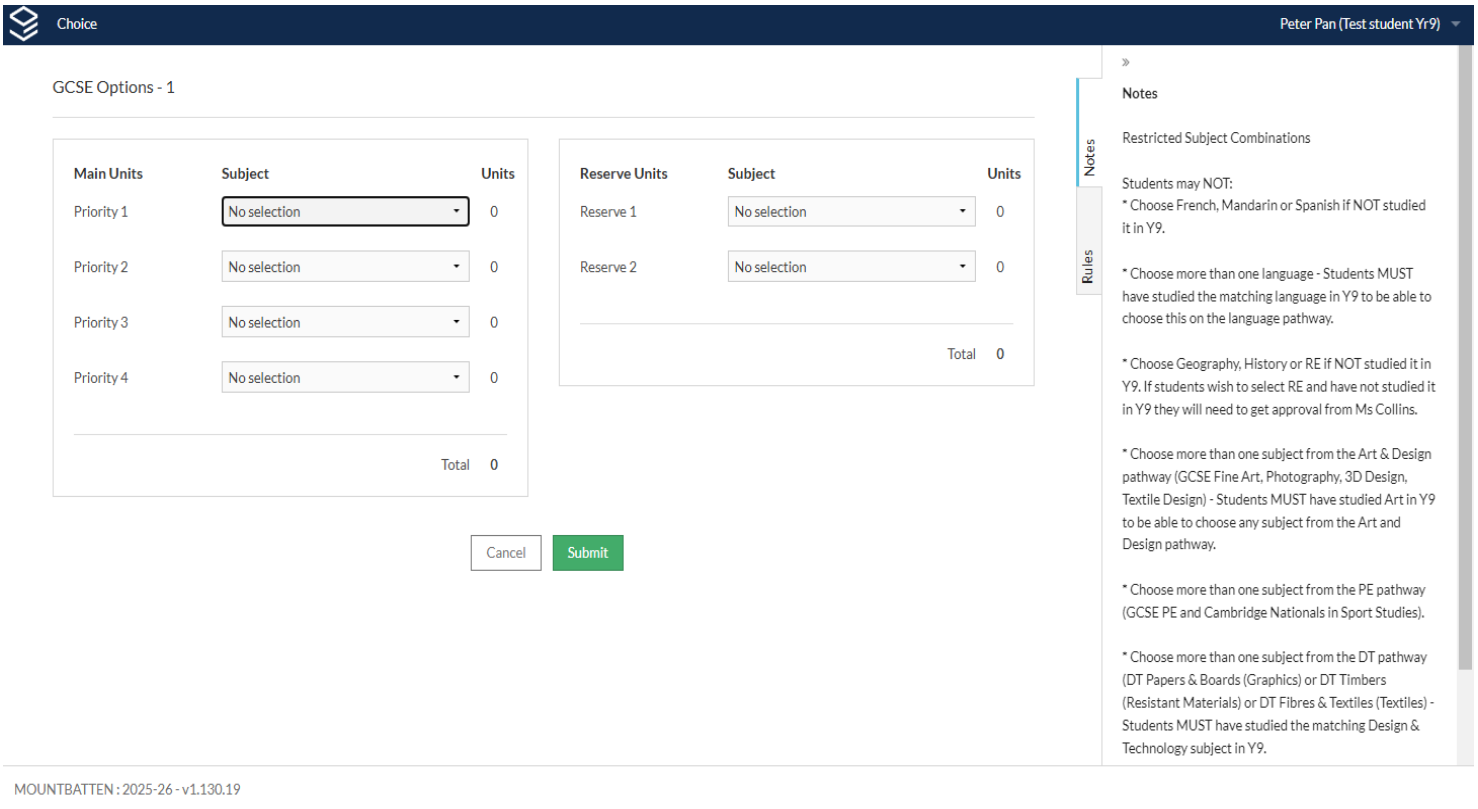
4. When you click on the link in Step 1 it will take you to a login page where you need to enter your unique webcode.



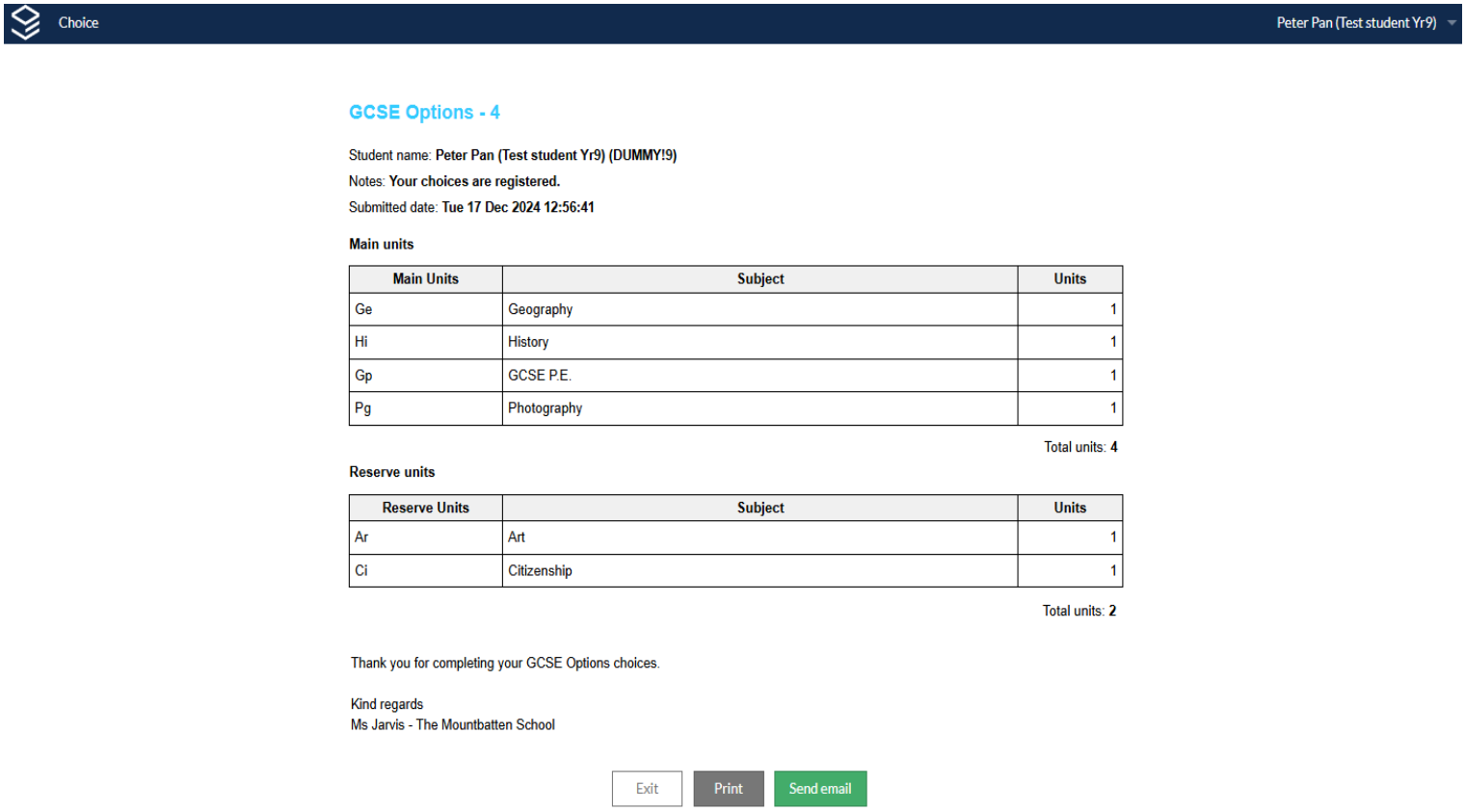
5. Once signed in please check you name is correct in the top right-hand corner before clicking on GCSE Options 2026



6. Select your 4 option choices by clicking on each drop down. Please also ensure you add 2 reserve subjects. The Notes and Rules to the right-hand side explain the Restricted Subject Combinations. When you have finished selected your choices, please click the green Submit button.



7. You will then be presented with the following confirmation screen.



It is very important students select four option choices, along with two reserve choices. The system will not allow submission without these choices being made.

We request that the students choose their option choices themselves; parents/carers should not select them on behalf of students. Once submitted students will receive an email confirming their four option choices and their two reserve choices, please keep this safe as parents/carers will be sent an email, after the closing date, asking them to confirm they have seen and approved the option choices for their child.

Key Mountbatten School Contacts

Nature of query	Contact
General queries about options (please mark this for the attention of your child's tutor)	info@mountbatten.school
Subject Specific Questions (please mark this for the attention of the teacher if known or subject)	Subject Teachers/Leaders info@mountbatten.school
Careers advice, guidance and interviews	Mrs Sindy Shakya Sindy.Shakya@mountbatten.school
Further support on the option process	Ms Elaine Jarvis options@mountbatten.school
Head of Year 9 (option queries only)	Mr Richard Purdy options@mountbatten.school
Overseeing the options process/Assistant Headteacher	Mr Ian Dunn options@mountbatten.school
Any IT queries	IT Services itservices@mountbatten.school