Year 8 Mini-Options Information

THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL



2026 - 2027

Contents of this Information Booklet

Year 8 Mini-Options – The Process	**Page 4**
How to complete the Options Form Online – a guide for students	**Pages 5-6**
Year 8 Mini-Options – FAQs	**Pages 7-8**
Which Subjects Support Year 9 GCSE Options	**Pages 9**
Key Contacts	**Page 10**

KEY DATES

Thursday 26 February 2026	Mini-Options Assembly for Year 8 students
Thursday 26 February 2026	Mini-Options evening for Year 8 parents, carers & students, 6pm – 7pm
Friday 27 February 2026	Year 8 students will receive an email into their school inbox with a link and web-code to use to log into their mini options account
Friday 27 February 2026	Parents will receive an email with a link to the Year 8 Mini Options webpage displaying subject information and the mini options booklet which gives details on how to complete the process
Monday 23 March 2026	Deadline for competition of Year 8 Mini-Options - Closes end of day
	Within 2 weeks of mini options closing parents will be emailed a link to confirm they have seen and approve their child's options choices

Please note we are no longer using SIMS Options that we have used in the past,
we are now using **Edval Education.**

Year 8 Mini-Options 2026 -2027

What are your choices?

Compulsory Subjects:

English, Mathematics, Science and PE

Option Subjects:
Student will be asked to select five subjects in total from the following blocks, Edval will guide students on how many subjects they need to pick in each block:

Block 1	Block 2
French (if studied in Year 8)	**Art**
Geography	**Computing**
History	**Drama**
Mandarin (if studied in Year 8)	**French**
Spanish (if studied in Year 8)	**Food Technology**
	Geography
	Graphics (DT)*
	History
	Music
	Religious Studies
	Resistant Materials (DT)*
	Spanish (if studied in Year 8)
	Textiles (DT)*

Block 1: Students **must** pick from the subjects showing in Edval.

Block 2: Students should put these subjects in their preferred preference order.

Restricted Subject Combinations

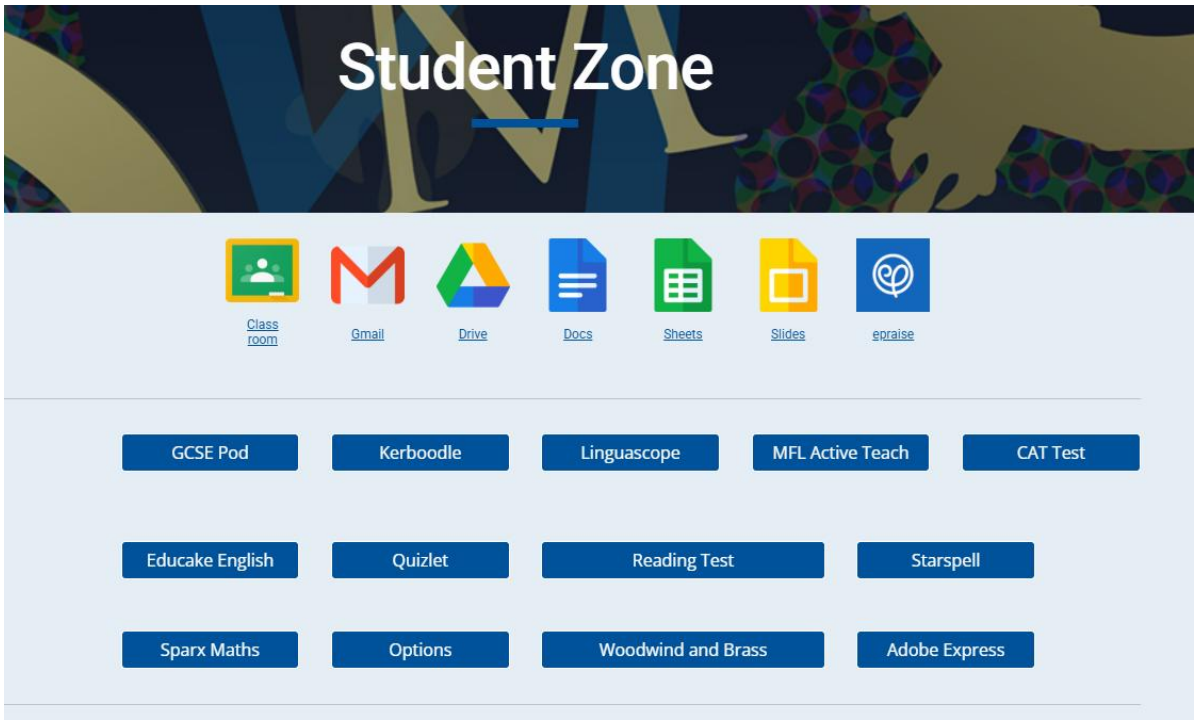
Students may NOT:

- Study **French, Mandarin** or **Spanish** if they have **NOT** studied it in **Year 8**
- Choose more than **one** language - **Students MUST have studied the matching language in Year 8 to be able to choose this on the language pathway**
- Choose more than **one** subject from the DT pathway, which include: **Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles**

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.

   Log onto your school Google email account, this can be accessed through the student portal: https://sites.google.com/themountbattenschool.org/student



   In your Gmail inbox will be an email from: The Mountbatten School<edval-noreply@tes.com>

   This is what the email should look like:

Y8 Mini Options

Options
To Options

Reply | Reply All | Forward | ...

Fri 21/02/2025 11:26

Retention Policy 7 Year Email Retention

Expires on 20/02/2032

Welcome to The Mountbatten School Y8 Mini Options process. For subject information and further support in completing the process, please visit https://mountbatten.school/year8minioptions.

STEP 1: Click https://my.edval.education/login

STEP 2: Enter the following WebCode: ******

STEP 3: Select subjects you want, in order of your **preference** (Important).

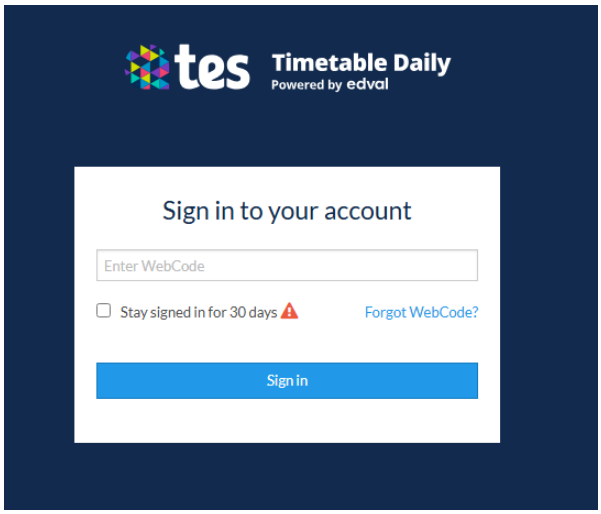
STEP 4: Click **Submit**.

For any queries please refer to the options booklet or speak to your Tutor.

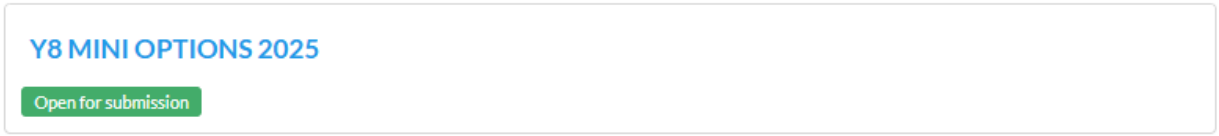
Kind regards

Ms Jarvis

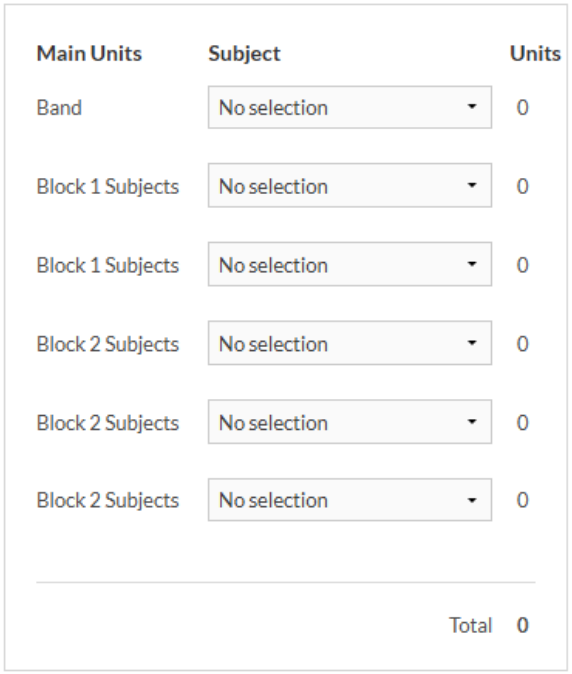
2. When you click on the link in Step 1 it will take you to a login page where you need to enter your unique webcode, which you will need to copy and paste from the email (please make sure there are no extra spaces before or after the webcode when copying over).

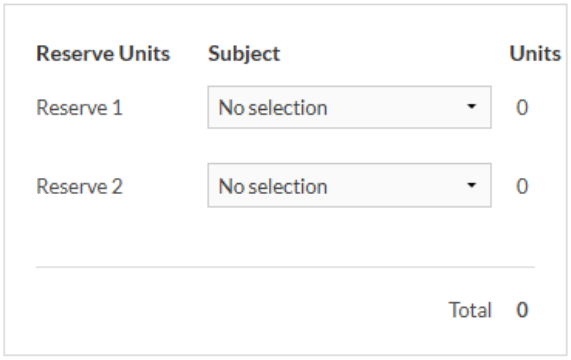


3. Once signed in please check you name is correct in the top right-hand corner before clicking on Y8 Mini Options 2025

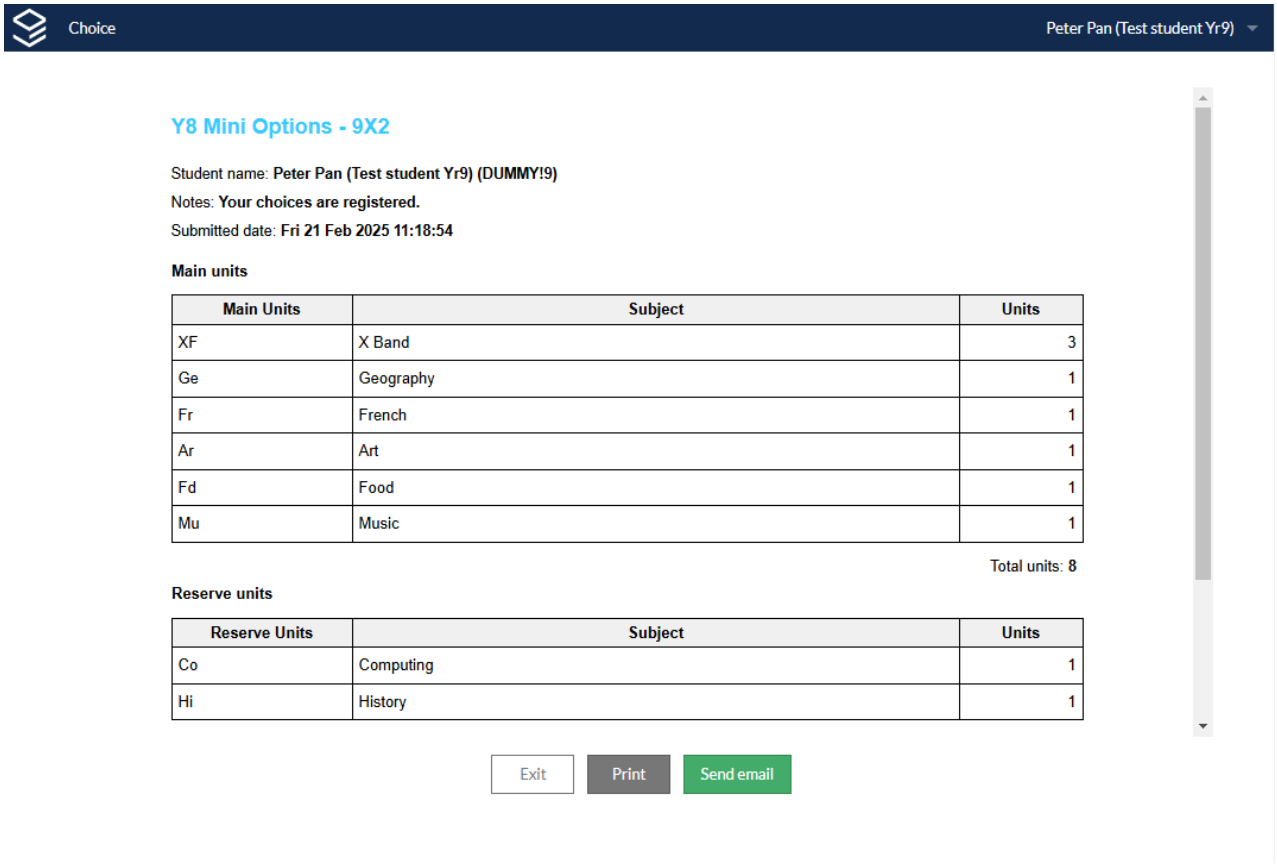


4. Select your band and your 5 option choices by clicking on each drop down. Please also ensure you add 2 reserve subjects. The ‘Notes’ and ‘Rules’ to the right-hand side explain the ‘Restricted Subject Combinations’. When you have finished selecting your choices, please click the green Submit button at the bottom.





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



It is very important students select five option choices, along with two reserve choices. The system will not allow the choices to be submitted 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 five 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.

Please Note:

Religious Studies is designated as a compulsory subject; however, parents have the right to withdraw their child from this subject. Once the mini options process has closed, a Google Form will be sent to parents to confirm whether they wish to withdraw their child from Religious Studies as they move into Year 9. In accordance with statutory requirements, Religious Studies must be offered to all students as part of the GCSE options process. Parents will therefore be asked again at that stage to confirm whether they wish their child to be withdrawn from studying Religious Studies.

Religious Studies is the only subject that may be taken up again at GCSE if it has not been studied in Year 9.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why have a Mini-Options process in Year 8?**

   We allow our students to opt for a reduced number of subjects to allocate more curriculum time for subjects they choose. Mini-options should not be seen as making final GCSE selections, rather a chance to focus on subjects of particular interest. All students continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum.

2. **How many GCSE's are students likely to do? How many Options choices are chosen Year 10 and 11?**

   The majority of students will study 9 or 10 GCSEs. All students will study English Language, English Literature and Mathematics. The most-able Scientists will do Triple Science (Chemistry, Physics and Biology) and the remainder will study Double Science (the three sciences in two GCSEs). This will leave students with four option subjects, which they must select from a list. We also try to offer some after school options that students may take in addition. We find that this is a good balance in terms of enough subjects to keep their education broad whilst not over committing them. In Year 9 students start by selecting five option subjects.

3. **Is it possible to take a subject at GCSE if you have not opted for it in Year 9?**

   The intention of the mini-options process is for students to spend more time in Year 9 working on the subjects they are most likely to take at GCSE. What we are really asking is 'what are the subjects you do NOT want to take at GCSE' and drop those; you will then be left with those you can select from for GCSE. Students will not be able to pick up subjects in Year 10 that they did not choose for Year 9.

4. **Are reserve choices important?**

   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, staffing and capacity – if oversubscribed all students will be considered equally when making allocations.

5. **Do I get first choice if I get my options form in early?**

   No, there is no priority given to students who complete the options form earlier than others do. However, all mini option choices **MUST** be completed by end of day, **Monday 23 March 2026**.

6. **I cannot take the combination of subjects I want to take, what can I do?**

   In some cases, combinations of subjects have been made available to some students and not to others. This is because, as discussed at the Mini-Options Evening, we have reviewed each student's progress and students have a personalised offer to support their individual needs. Our experience

tells us that this combination is the best one to support you to fulfil your potential in the future. If you would like any further support then please see your tutor in the first instance.

7. Do students stay in the same band (X or Y)?

At the end of Year 8 we take the opportunity to review the bands students are in. This enables us to make decisions to both support student progress and to enable us to offer as many students as possible their preferred options. There will therefore be changes to bands.

8. How do I find out more about the GCSE subjects?

Full details of the subjects at GCSE are available by clicking on the links at the top of each option block. You may also wish to discuss specific option subjects with subject teachers.

9. Which subjects in the Year 8 Mini-Options support which Year 9 GCSE Options?

The table below provides information about the Year 9 GCSE Options subjects and which Year 8 mini-options subject should be taken in order to support taking a GCSE in that subject. 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 MUST 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
Graphics	Graphics
Resistant Materials	Resistant Materials
Food & Nutrition	Food
French	French
Geography	Geography
History	History
Mandarin	Mandarin
Music GCSE/BTEC Music	Music
Spanish	Spanish
Economics	**These subjects can be chosen for GCSE regardless of the Year 8 Mini-Options chosen**
Media Studies	
PE GCSE/Sports Studies	
Religious Studies	
Statistics	

Key Contacts – The Mountbatten School

If you have a question regarding Year 8 Options or general school matters, please use the contact details below to ensure your enquiry reaches the correct member of staff.

General Enquiries

Ms Jarvis
Email: options@mountbatten.school

Careers Advice, Guidance & Interviews

Mrs Shakya
Email: sindy.shakya@mountbatten.school

IT Support

For technical queries or online access support:
IT Services Team
Email: itservices@mountbatten.school
