

Welcome to Davison Options

Mr Davies Deputy Headteacher
Curriculum and Resources



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Options Pathways

All students in year 9 have been categorised into 3 pathways:

Ebacc pathway: students have to choose a language and have 2 other options

Progress pathway: students have to choose one of the progress options and 2 other options

LETS pathway: it is recommended students choose LETS plus and 2 other options



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IMPORTANT

- The options process is online.
- You will need to register an account using the email you will be sent : title:noreply@sims
- The address to access your options is:
- <https://www.sims-options.co.uk>
- You will then log in using your usual school email by clicking on the OFFICE 365 tile



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Problems using options online?

- Make sure you are not already logged onto 365
- Need help? Look at the instructions on page 4 of the options booklet- on Frog and on the website under Parents&student tab/red lozenge/learning (Key stage 4 options)
- Email l.clegg@davisonhigh.school =Mrs Clegg our SIMS/Exams manager



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OPTIONS ONLINE

- You can edit your options right up to the closing deadline on 2nd February
- To access your options online form DO NOT USE THE ORIGINAL REGISTRATION EMAIL
- You have to type the web address in from the previous slide
- Googling may not work!



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Key Dates

- From the start of December presentations will be available on the Key stage 4 Options area of the website
- 12th January Sims-options online opens (by 4:00pm)
- 20th January year 9 online subject consultation evening (for meetings with your current teachers)



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Key Dates(continued 1)

- 27th January- options online subject evening- if parents would like a face to face with a subject leader if their queries have not been answered by reading the booklet/ watching the presentations on the website
- Wednesday 2nd February Options on line closes (4:00 pm) changes cannot be made after this point



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Key Dates(continued 2)

- By Easter – Mr Davies to have spoken with students who did not get first choices)
- June– September students may have changed their minds on some subjects at this point. If there is space to move it is possible but they need to email me with their request. After the first 2 weeks of year 10 it will not be possible to move unless there are exceptional circumstances.



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RS/ Citizenship

- As a Church of England school RS is compulsory for GCSE with the exception that we have been allowed to offer 2 classes of Citizenship GCSE as an alternative
- Citizenship spaces are limited so your attitude to learning grades in PD may be considered.
- You have to fill out 1 as a first option and 1 as a reserve on the form



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Who can help you choose?

- Parents/ Carers
- Your form tutor/PD teacher
- Your subject teachers
- Older students
- Your own research
- Mrs Parnell our school Careers coordinator
(office in LRC)



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Beware of Peer pressure

- Do not choose a subject because your friend is
- Listen to your parents'/carers' views but they will not have to go to the lessons for the next 2 years
- Choose subjects you think you will enjoy but be realistic!!!



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Maths and English

- A standard pass in Maths and English (grade 4) is important for many courses above level 2- i.e. A levels and Btec level 3 courses)
- Some college courses require grades higher than 4- do your research!



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Your year 10 and 11 timetables

You have to take...

- GCSE Maths (7 in yr 10, 8 in yr 11 lessons per fortnight)
- GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature (8 lessons of English per fortnight)
- Science –combined (10 lessons per fortnight)
- RS /Citizenship (5 lessons)
- Personal Development (1 lesson)
- Computing studies (1 lesson – YEAR 10 ONLY)



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YEAR 10

- YOU WILL BE IN X OR Y HALVES FOR EVERYTHING EXCEPT YOUR 4 OPTIONS WHERE BOTH HALVES ARE MIXED
- IT WILL NOT BE THE SAME X AND Y AS YEAR 9
- YOU FIND OUT WHETHER YOU ARE IN X OR Y WHEN YOU START YEAR 10
- All options are 5 lesson per fortnight each



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FAQ

How many lessons per fortnight for options?

- This is 5 lessons per fortnight usually 2 doubles and 1 single

Can I opt to do PE and Dance?

- Yes but make sure that both PE and Dance teachers agree with your preference and that you are prepared for the physical exertion!



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FAQ

Are there any subject combinations I cannot chose?

- you **cannot** do Art and Art Textiles (THEY ARE BOTH Art GCSEs)

Do I have to do a language?

- yes if it is on your pathway as a compulsory choice



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FAQ

Can anyone take Triple Science?

- This is available to students in the Ebacc pathway who are in maths sets A or B
- Triple Science is heavy on exams and the exams contain more Maths than they have previously so take this into account.

(if you are passionate about doing Triple Science and it is not on your pathway then you need to speak to Mr Hallworth and your Science teacher(s))



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What is a GCSE pass?

- A grade 4 is a “standard pass”
- A grade 5 is a “good pass”
- However different colleges expect slightly different grades for different courses. E.g. to do Science A levels colleges usually ask for a grade 6 or 7 in Maths. Worth doing your research!



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So how many qualifications will I get?

- Many get 9= Maths, English x2, Science x2, RS or Citizenship, option A, option B and option C
- Some may get 10 if they do an extra curricular Further Maths GCSE
- Some get 8 GCSEs= if they chose LETS for extra Maths & English
- College quote: “8 good GCSEs are better than 9 or 10 with lower grades”



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Non GCSE qualifications

- We offer 4 – they are equivalent to GCSEs but have a higher proportion of controlled assessment (non exam)
- Travel and Tourism and Sport are both BTEC Firsts Awards(levels 1&2)
- Health and Social care is a BTEC Tech award (levels 1&2)
- Child development is an OCR National



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When do I know if I have my options?

- By Easter (possibly earlier) your form tutors will be given information about your options.
- Before then- between February and March , Mr Davies may speak to you if there is a clash or if some subjects are over subscribed.
- It is almost impossible to give everyone their first choices



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Will I get all of my choices?

- Courses can only run if enough people choose them
- If fewer than 15 people want to do a certain course then it is unlikely it will run
- Also some courses are over subscribed so some of you will get your reserve choice
- It is rare that there are clashes where you cannot do any of your 1st and 2nd choices
- I will be asking to see many of you individually over the next 6 weeks or so if there are issues



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Is it first come first serve?

- No – the aim is to get as many students their first choices as possible
- If you are late choosing (after Feb 3rd then your preferences may not be considered



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First Choices

- Please note that **everything is done** to try and ensure you get your first choices but it is not always possible
- If too many people have applied for a subject then we may go to their Attitude to Learning grades in that subject for years 7,8,9



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Remember.....

- Most of the Subjects that will help your progress are compulsory anyway!!
- So don't stress!! Consider a creative/technology option!
- Anyone who gets good grades in Maths, English, Science and RS/Citizenship will be able to do just about anything!



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Thanks and Good luck!

- I know it's hard to narrow it down if you like a lot of different subjects but it is essential at this stage.
- GCSEs are much more demanding than they were a few years ago- you will be very busy – ask yr 10 and 11 !



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