

# THE OPTIONS PROGRAMME

2019-2021



# AIMS

- To provide an overview of the options process
- To consider the place of GCSEs and other qualifications in the larger picture & where Tomlinscote fits in
- To clarify the number and type of option qualifications available
- To demonstrate how to complete the options form



# THE OPTIONS PROGRAMME

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 9 reports to parents

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – Options Evening for parents & online portal opens

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February** – Options talk to students; **8.30am start**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Academic Interviews

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 9 Parents Evening; start completing options form

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Options forms fully completed online; online portal closes

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – new student timetables; KS4 courses start



# A FOUR-YEAR EDUCATION PLAN

- The 14-19 curriculum - be aware of how courses impact post 16
- Follow a pathway that provides options
- Think about a broad and balanced curriculum
- Consider the type of qualifications the GCSEs/BTECs/Level 1 & 2 Technical Awards will lead to in the future
- Careers information, advice & guidance is available



# THE BIGGER PICTURE - TOMLINSCOTE IN 2018

- +0.15 Value Added
- 77% 9-4 In BOTH English & Maths
- 57% 9-5 in BOTH English & Maths
- 80% 9-4 in Maths
- 88% 9-4 in English
- 42% EBacc achievement

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	<b>5 = A STRONG PASS</b>
4	<b>4 = A STANDARD PASS</b>
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U



# THE BIGGER PICTURE

- GCSE examinations will take place in the summer term of Year 11 – the end of the course. The only exceptions will be Chinese, Japanese & some home language exams.
- **English Language** – 2 examinations worth 50% each. There is also a non-examined Spoken Language assessment which involves presenting & responding to questions.
- **English Literature** – 2 examinations worth 40% (Shakespeare & 19<sup>th</sup> century novel) and 60% (modern texts, poetry & unseen poetry). No material can be taken into exams so the emphasis is on learning all quotes.
- **Maths** – now 3 examinations. More links to everyday life, problem solving and an increased emphasis upon written communication.



# THE BIGGER PICTURE

- **Science** – Combined Science (6 exams) & Triple Award (9 exams). No Controlled assessments. Core practical skills taught throughout the course and these will be tested through exam questions. More emphasis upon recalling & applying formulae and a greater emphasis upon Maths skills.  
Students have started these courses already.
- **Languages** – French, German & Spanish will not be compulsory at Tomlinscote. They will be options with recommendations from Language staff.
- **Religious Studies** – the subject will not be examined at the end of Year 11.
  - Additional marks will be added for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) in English Literature, Geography, History and RS.
  - Aspects of Mathematics feature in a number of subjects now.



# THE CURRICULUM

## THE CORE CURRICULUM

English (Language & Literature)	4
Mathematics	4
Science (Combined or Triple Award)	6
Physical Education (core)	2
PSHE (with RE/Citizenship modules)	1

## NUMBER OF PERIODS

## THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

Four subjects	12
One extra period for English, Maths or Science (TBC)	1

**Overall Total**

**30 Periods**





# OPTIONS - THE EBacc BLOCK

- Students need to choose at least 1 EBacc subject as part of their options.
- The MFL1 (French or German) is no longer compulsory. However, students will receive strong recommendations from the school regarding how many languages and which language(s) they should seriously consider studying at GCSE level.
- Students need to choose 1 course from the following list in the EBacc Block:
  - Computer Science GCSE
  - German GCSE
  - French GCSE
  - Geography GCSE
  - History GCSE
  - Spanish GCSE



# THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

- Students need to choose a further 3 optional subjects.
- It is possible and advisable in many cases to study more than one EBacc subject.



# WHAT TO CONSIDER - QUALIFICATION LEVELS

- **Level 1**  
GCSE Grades 3 – 1  
Technical Awards – (GCSE 3 – 1)
- **Level 2**  
GCSE Grades 9 – 4  
BTECs Level 2 – Pass (GCSE 4), Merit (5/6), Distinction (7/8)  
CACHE Level 2 Award – A\*-D Grades (GCSE 9 – 3)  
Technical Awards – Pass (GCSE 4/5), Merit (6), Distinction (7/8), Dist.\* (8/9)
- **Level 3**  
A-Levels, BTECs, VRQs (professional qualifications)



# THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

- Students need to choose 3 courses from the following list:
  - Art, Craft & Design GCSE
  - Business GCSE
  - Child Development CACHE Level 2
  - Computer Science GCSE
  - Creative Media Production BTEC Level 2
  - Dance (Performing Arts) BTEC Level 2
  - Design Technology GCSE
  - Drama GCSE
  - Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE
  - French GCSE
  - Geography GCSE
  - German GCSE
  - Graphic Design Level 2
  - Health & Fitness Level 2
  - Hospitality & Catering Level 2
  - History GCSE
  - Information Technologies Level 2
  - Music GCSE
  - Photography GCSE
  - Religious Studies GCSE
  - Spanish GCSE
  - Sports Science GCSE
  - Textiles (Design Tech) GCSE



# WHAT TO CONSIDER - COURSEWORK

- **Coursework/Controlled Assessment**

The following courses include a coursework/controlled assessment element:

- 20% = Computer Science
- 40% = Sports Science
- 50% = Design Technology, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Information Technologies, Textiles
- 60% = Art, Creative Media Production, Dance, Drama, Hospitality & Catering, Music
- 100% = Visual Communication

Please refer to the Options iBook to check detailed information.



# COURSES WHERE STUDENTS ARE TARGETED

- **Psychology GCSE** – students can take this option if their report shows a B+/B=/P+ in English and Maths. Students are invited. If selected, it will be one of their option choices.
- **Construction** – Level 1 Certificate. Students are invited. If selected, it will be one of their option choices.
- **Beauty Therapy & Hairdressing** – Level 1 Award. Students are invited. If selected, it will be one of their option choices.
- **Languages** – students will receive strong recommendations from the school regarding how many languages and which language(s) they should seriously consider studying at GCSE level.



# COMBINATIONS

- Cannot do more than one Technology subject
- Cannot do Performing Arts (Dance) and Drama
- Cannot do Information Technologies and Computer Science
- Cannot do Health & Fitness and GCSE Sports Science
- Cannot do Food Preparation & Nutrition and Hospitality & Catering
  
- Can do History and Geography
- Can do Art and Photography
- Can do more than one Language



# HOW TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

- [www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)





# THE OPTIONS PROCESS

- Completion of the Options form online
- Blocks and classes are generated
- Issues are then managed:
  - too few students to run a group
  - too many students in a group
  - Health & Safety considerations



# RESEARCH

- The Academic Interview
  - reflection about progress made in different areas
  - start thinking about long-term plans
  - no subject-specific recommendations for options
- The Form Tutor/Subject Staff
  - Parents Evening
- Websites (including UCAS), the LRC
- Experience of family & friends
- Students currently taking the courses



# THE NEXT STEPS

- Complete research – iBook, assembly & other sources
- Discuss possible subject combinations (broad & balanced; keep options open for the future)
- Do not copy friends or base decisions on a specific teacher
- Choose subjects students really enjoy
- Consider how the subjects support possible career plans
- Begin planning for the next four years
- Cannot switch courses in June
  
- The options form will be available (live) online as you return home
- The online portal will close on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

