

THE OPTIONS PROGRAMME

2020-2022



AIMS

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



THE OPTIONS PROGRAMME

- **December** – Year 9 reports to parents on Go4Schools portal
- **Wednesday 29th January** – Options Evening for parents
- **Thursday 30th January** – Options talk to students during P6. iBook will be available for students to download from the Tomlinscote Bookstore. In addition, a copy will be added to the website.
- **Tuesday 4th February** – Careers & Enterprise Day for all Year 9 students. Packed lunch required for this day
- **Wednesday 5th February** – Students register for SIMS options portal and options can be viewed and selected from this stage
- **Tuesday 25th February** – Year 9 Parents' Evening for students in **Population "T"**;
- **Thursday 5th March** - Year 9 Parents' Evening for students in **Population "S"**
- **Monday 9th March** – Options forms fully completed online; online portal closes
- **Monday 1st June** – new student timetables provided; 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 in the future
- 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 and guidance is available



QUALIFICATION LEVELS

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



THE BIGGER PICTURE

- GCSE examinations will take place in the summer term of Year 11 – the end of the course. No re-sits. The courses are 2-year linear courses.
- **English Language** – 2 examinations worth 50% each. There is also a non-examined Spoken Language assessment which involves presenting and responding to questions.
- **English Literature** – 2 examinations worth 40% (Shakespeare and 19th Century novel) and 60% (modern texts, poetry and unseen poetry). No material can be taken into exams so the emphasis is on learning all quotes.
- **Maths** – 3 examinations. More links to everyday life, problem solving and an increased emphasis upon written communication.



THE BIGGER PICTURE

- **Science** – Double Award (6 exams) and 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 and applying formulae and a greater emphasis upon Maths skills.
- **Languages** – assessed in 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
- **Across the curriculum**
 - 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 BIGGER PICTURE

- **Coursework/Controlled Assessment**

The following courses include a Coursework/Controlled Assessment element:

- 20% = Computer Science
- 40% = Physical Education
- 50% = Design Technology, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Graphics, Information Technologies
- 60% = Art, Drama, Music, Hospitality & Catering, Health & Fitness
- 75% = Creative Digital Media Production

Please refer to the Options iBook to check detailed information.



THE PICTURE AT TOMLINSCOTE IN 2019

Attainment

- 80% 9-4 In BOTH English & Maths (national 64%)
- 53% 9-5 in BOTH English & Maths (national 43%)
- 84% 9-4 in Maths (national 70%)
- 86% 9-4 in English (national 76%)

Progress

- +0.14 Value Added (national -0.03)

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U



THE CURRICULUM

THE CORE CURRICULUM

NUMBER OF PERIODS

English (Language and Literature)

4

Mathematics

4

Science (Triple or Double Award)

6

Physical Education (core)

2

PSHE (with RS/Citizenship modules)

1

THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

Three subjects (3 x 4 periods)

12

One extra period for English, Maths or Science (TBC)

1

Overall Total

30 Periods



3 OPTION CHOICES – 4 PERIODS EACH

How can we create time to:

- ✓ Teach the content
- ✓ Reinforce understanding and memory recall
- ✓ Probe deeper into a subject and if necessary go off on a tangent
- ✓ Reinforce more exam skills and questions
- ✓ Challenge students more to attain the 8 or 9 instead of a 7, attain a 5 instead of a 4 etc.

How can we reduce the pressure on students?

Progression – this is very much in line with thinking at TPT and the Sixth Form College, Farnborough.

Our students will achieve 8 or 9 GCSE grades and then Japanese/Chinese and a Home Language GCSE – in line with the majority of students nationally.



THE EBACC CURRICULUM

- Students need to choose **at least 1 EBacc** subject as part of their options.
- The MFL1 (French or German) is not compulsory. However, students will receive 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:
 - Computer Science GCSE
 - German GCSE
 - French GCSE
 - Geography GCSE
 - History GCSE
 - Spanish GCSE

It is possible to study more than one EBacc subject.



THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

- Students need to choose a further 2 optional subjects.



THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

- Students need to choose 2 courses from the following list:
 - Art, Craft & Design GCSE
 - Beauty Therapy & Hairdressing Level 2
 - Child Development CACHE Level 2
 - Computer Science GCSE
 - Creative Media Production BTEC Level 2
 - Design Technology GCSE
 - Drama GCSE
 - Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE
 - French GCSE
 - Geography GCSE
 - German GCSE
 - Sports Science - Health & Fitness Level 2
 - History GCSE
 - Information Technologies Level 2
 - Music GCSE
 - Photography GCSE
 - Physical Education GCSE
 - Religious Studies GCSE
 - Sociology GCSE
 - Spanish GCSE
 - Visual Communication (Graphics) Level 2



COURSES WHERE STUDENTS ARE TARGETED

- **Psychology GCSE** – students can take this option if they are on a Blue Flightpath or if their report shows a P+ in English and Maths
- **Languages** – students will receive recommendations from the school regarding how many languages and which language(s) they could seriously consider studying at GCSE level



COMBINATIONS

- Cannot do more than one Technology subject
- Cannot do Information Technologies and Computer Science
- Cannot do Health & Fitness and GCSE PE
- Cannot do Food Preparation & Nutrition and Hospitality & Catering
- Cannot do Art and Photography

- Can do History and Geography
- Can do more than one Language



HOW TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

- www.sims-options.co.uk



Using the Options iBook



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

School decisions are final



RESEARCH

- The Form Tutor/Subject Staff
 - Parents' Evenings
- Websites – links in the iBook
- Experience of family and friends
- Students currently taking the courses



THE NEXT STEPS

- Discuss possible subject combinations (broad and balanced; keep options open for the future)
- Students should not copy friends or base decisions on a specific teacher
- Students should choose subjects they really enjoy
- Consider how the subjects support possible career plans
- Begin planning for the next four years
- Students cannot switch courses in June

- The Options form will be available (live) online on **Wednesday 5th February 2020**
- The online portal will close on: **Monday 9th March 2020**



OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Tuesday 4th February** – Careers & Enterprise Day for all Year 9 students. Packed lunch required for this day.
- **Tuesday 11th February** – “Breck’s Last Game” – Safeguarding & Gaming.
For all parents 6pm-7pm
- **Tuesday 25th February** – Year 9 Parents’ Evening for students in **Population “T”**; start completing Options form
- **Thursday 5th March** - Year 9 Parents’ Evening for students in **Population “S”**; start completing Options form
- **Wednesday 18th March** – “Drugs & County Lines”
For all parents 6pm-7pm
- **Thursday 2nd April** – “Race for Life” Charity run in school