

Information for Pupils and Parents

What are my options?

Year 9 pupils are moving in to Year 10, where they will study for a range of qualifications.

Some of these, like English and Maths every pupil is required to study. Others, like History and Languages are optional.

Read the information below and follow the link at the bottom to submit your views through an online survey to help us make decisions.

Final decisions have to be taken by staff, depending on the individual needs of the pupil and their suitability for each option. However, your choices will be the starting point for discussions, and we try to keep as closely to your choices as possible.

Due to Covid-19, we are asking you to submit your answers online, via a survey.
Please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R6MQ96K> to share your views.

Choice 1: History or ASDAN



What is History?

History lessons take place three times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11. Pupils will learn about British society in the past particularly looking at key features that affected people's lives. They will explore responses to conflict during world events and how people are involved and affected.

Why choose History?

Pupils should choose History if they are interested in learning more about the world and how the past has shaped the present. They should also be interested in studying a non-British society, for example, Russia.

What qualification is gained?

Pupils achieve an Entry Level Diploma, equivalent to a GCSE D grade. Pupils complete coursework which is marked and combined with their Entry Level Certificate in RE and Geography to create the Diploma. There is no exam.

What is ASDAN?

ASDAN lessons take place three times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11. ASDAN is a course that lets pupils choose an area of interest and develop it further. It is mostly computer based, but includes opportunities to develop real world skills and evaluate the impact of things they do.

Why choose ASDAN?

ASDAN is designed to allow all learners to achieve well regardless of their preferred learning style. Although suitable for all pupils, it is a preferred option for pupils who are not GCSE ready in Year 10.

What qualification is gained?

ASDAN Bronze/Silver in Year 10 and ASDAN Silver/Gold in Year 11. All work is completed in a portfolio which is submitted as evidence of their achievements. There is no exam.

Choice 2: Languages (Spanish) or Vocational Studies



What is Languages?

Pupils who pick Languages will follow the Spanish GCSE programme of study for 2 lessons per week in years 10 and 11. The course focuses on listening and speaking skills and pupils will need to extend their vocabulary range and knowledge of language structures. For pupils working below the level of the GCSE there is the opportunity to study basic Spanish modules as part of the UAS.

Why choose Languages?

Pupils should choose Languages if they are interested in learning about another culture and wish to speak and read in another language. During Years 10 and 11 students will study topics on; Home and Local Area, Health and Sport, Leisure and Entertainment, Travel and the Wider World and Education and Work.

What qualification is gained?

Pupils choosing Languages as an option should succeed in gaining one of two qualifications by the end of Year 11. These are the Languages GCSE (a Full Course – which requires prior knowledge and skills in Languages) or modules of the Unit Award Scheme (AQA) at Entry Level if they are not ready for the GCSE. There are some class-based exams, including speaking and listening and the GCSE includes a written paper. The UAS is 100% coursework completed during lesson time.

What is Vocational Studies?

Vocational Studies is a skills based programme of study with 2 lessons per week. It will cover practical life skills, outdoor and garden maintenance and skills to support with each pupil's future independence. Learning takes place both out of and inside the classroom.

Why choose Vocational Studies?

Pupils should be interested in the key areas of study, such as; Career progression, Self-assessment, Gardening - Establishing plants and maintenance. There is an opportunity to add additional modules to provide the students with further qualifications depending on their skills or interest.

What qualification is gained?

Pupils choosing Vocational Studies as an option, should succeed in gaining Unit Award Scheme qualification, equivalent to either Entry Level 1-3 or GCSE grade 1, depending on their ability. There are no tests, pupil ability is assessed through coursework.

Choice 3: Food and Cookery Skills or Preparation for Working Life/GCSE Textile Design



What is Food and Cookery Skills?

If selecting this option, all pupils will study the one subject choice, (Food and Cookery Skills) but this could be at either Level 1 or Level 2 depending on their Cooking skills and quality of their written work. The course takes place 3 times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11 and follows the NCFE Food and Cookery Skills programme of study. This course helps pupils to prepare and cook using basic skills, understand food and its function in the body, understand balanced diets, and plan and produce dishes for a purpose. This is a skills-based course and pupils will produce a coursework portfolio over their 2 years.

Why choose Food and Cookery Skills?

Over the two years, pupils will gain a range of skills that will qualify them to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or food industries. It will also improve their independence. Pupils will be asked to prepare many basic and more challenging meals, increase their practical skills within the kitchen and learn about nutrition. They should be comfortable using Word to write their coursework investigations and enjoy evaluating their work to create a portfolio of evidence.

What qualification is gained?

Pupils who take NCFE Food and Cookery Skills will have the opportunity to complete a Level 1 qualification, equivalent to a GCSE grade 1. Pupils who are considered able to access a higher level of qualification may be offered the opportunity to work towards the Level 2 version of this course, equivalent to a GCSE grade 4. There is no final exam, and everything is organised around skill development and evidenced through coursework. Due to a requirement for a good standard of writing, pupils who take this course should be confident expressing themselves in writing.

What is Prep. for Work. /GCSE Textile Design?

If selecting this option, pupils will study either Preparation for Working Life or GCSE Textile Design. Pupils will be placed on the most appropriate course based on their needs and ability in textiles. Both courses take place three times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11. One will follow the WJEC Preparation for Work programme of study with a focus on a range of textiles-based projects and some cooking. The other course will follow AQA GCSE Textile Design programme where surface textures are explored and created through the manipulation of new and existing textiles.

Why choose Preparation for Working Life?

Over the two years, pupils will gain a range of skills that will improve their chances of living independently in the future. The course caters for a range of needs and incorporates multiple skills and learning styles. Pupils will create a portfolio of evidence to show their work which is 100% coursework based. This course is aimed at those who are more interested in a textiles-based life skills course, or those who may not be GCSE ready in Year 11.

Why choose Textile Design?

Pupils will gain an insight to the fundamentals of the design and making process and have the opportunity to produce their own textiles. Pupils will be encouraged to take inspiration from the fashion and Art industry to influence their work. Pupils will learn a wide variety of skills such as Photoshop, embroidery, screen printing, embellishment and sculpture.

What qualifications are gained?

Pupils who take Preparation for Working Life will have the opportunity to achieve an Entry Level 3 Diploma (WJEC). Pupils who take GCSE Textile Design will achieve a GCSE qualification which is 60% coursework and 40% exam. This course is aimed at those who are highly skilled at embroidery or hand sewing.