



Information for Pupils and Parents

What are my options?

Year 9 pupils are moving in to Year 10, where they will study for different 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.

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 or Vocational Studies



What is Languages?

Pupils who pick Languages will follow the French 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. 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 a Level 1 BTEC qualification, equivalent to a GCSE grade 1. There are no tests, pupil ability is assessed through coursework.

Choice 3: Food Preparation & Nutrition or Preparation for Working Life (Textiles).



What is Food Preparation & Nutrition?

The course takes place three times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11. The course follows the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition AQA programme of study. The course will develop pupils' knowledge, understanding of nutrition, food provenance and food science and practical cooking and healthy eating. The coursework requires pupils to research and write reports to a high standard.

Why choose Food Preparation & Nutrition?

Over the two years, pupil will gain a range of skills that will improve their chances of living independently in the future. Pupils will prepare many basic meals, increase their practical skills within the kitchen and learn about nutrition. They must be comfortable using Word to write their investigation report and food preparation portfolio. Students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or food industries.

What qualification is gained?

Pupils who take Food Preparation & Nutrition will have the opportunity to complete a full GCSE qualification. The GCSE includes a final exam, worth 50% of the marks and two Non-Exam Assessments (NEA1 worth 15% and NEA2 35%) done under exam conditions during school hours. Due to the challenge of this course, pupils who take it should also be taking GCSEs in other subjects such as English.

What is Preparation for Working Life?

This Design Technology based Preparation for Working Life course takes place three times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11. This course will follow the WJEC Preparation for Work programme of study with a focus on a range of textiles based projects. Through this course, pupils will learn all about safety in the workspace, traditional and modern fabrics, advertising, marketing, and techniques. Pupils will also have the chance to complete cooking.

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. They will design and produce textiles, creating a variety of items such as pillows, fabric hangings and teddy's. Pupils will use a variety of methods to explore these topics and will create a portfolio of evidence.

What qualification is gained?

Pupils who take Preparation for Working Life will have the opportunity to achieve an Entry Level 3 Diploma (WJEC) which is 100% coursework based. This course is aimed at those who are more interested in a textiles-based course with many opportunities to improve life skills, or those who may not be GCSE ready in Year 11.

Year 9 Options - Survey

Due to Covid-19, we are asking you to submit your answers online, via a survey.

Please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RNPQLFL> to share your views.