



## 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 return your choices via the slip on the last page of the booklet.

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 a Level 1 qualification. Pupils complete coursework which is marked and assessed by the exam board. It is 100% coursework, 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/Preparation for working life



### What is Languages?

Pupils who select Languages will follow the Spanish GCSE programme of study for 2 lessons per week in years 10 and 11. The course focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. 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 communicate in another language. During Years 10 and 11 students will study topics on; My personal world (media and technology, and my neighbourhood), Lifestyle and wellbeing, Travel and tourism, and Studying and future.

### 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. The pupils studying the GCSE are examined in four skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. These exams take place at the end of Year 11. The UAS is 100% coursework completed during lesson time.

### What is Vocational Studies & WJEC Preparation for working life?

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. The Preparation for work course works alongside vocational studies course as they are both focused around life skills and careers/vocational based projects. The Preparation for work course is an opportunity for the pupils to gain further qualifications depending on their skills or interest.

### Why choose Vocational Studies/Preparation for work?

Pupils should be interested in the key areas of study, such as; Career progression, Self-assessment, Gardening - Establishing plants and maintenance. As part of the preparation for work course pupils can choose to specialise in Food and hospitality or Careers and working life. If pupils choose Careers and Working life they will explore the expectations of working life, assess the skills and qualities for different job roles and take on leadership roles as part of working as part of a team. Across both courses' pupils will create a portfolio of evidence to show their work which is 100% coursework based. 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.

### 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. Pupils who take Preparation for Working Life will have the opportunity to achieve an Entry Level Certificate (WJEC) which is 100% coursework based.

### Choice 3: BTEC Home cooking skills & GCSE Textile Design



#### What is BTEC Home Cooking Skills?

Home cooking lessons take place three times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11. BTEC Home Cooking Skills is an exciting and practical program designed to give pupils the basic skills and knowledge to be able to cook for themselves in a healthy, cost-effective way, as well as gain the confidence to share these skills with friends and family.

#### What is Hospitality and Catering?

The course takes place 2 times per week in Year 10 and once per week in Year 11 and pupils will learn essential knowledge and skills such as:

**kitchen basics:** what equipment you need and the best way to stock your store cupboard, fridge and freezer

**food safety and hygiene:** knife safety, fridge management and rotation

**how to shop cleverly:** shopping lists, seasonal food and planning ahead

**preparing ingredients and understanding confusing food labels.**

#### Why choose Home cooking skills?

For some, it may be the start of a career in cooking; for others, it will help them to learn the basic skills and recipes that will help them to make healthy choices throughout their lives.

#### What qualification is gained?

Pupils undertaking this qualification will be able to work towards have the opportunity BTEC Level 1 in Home Cooking Skills or a BTEC Level 2 in Home Cooking Skills. This will be decided in Year 11, based on their cooking skill development.

#### What is GCSE Textile Design?

Textile Design lessons take place three times per week in Year 10 and twice per week in Year 11. The AQA GCSE Textile Design programme focuses on the exploration of various textiles through Art. As part of the course surface textures are explored and created through the manipulation of new and existing textiles.

#### 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. The course is an Art based textile course therefore suitable for pupils with a keen interest in art and enjoy being creative. Pupils will learn a wide variety of skills such as Photoshop, embroidery, screen printing, embellishment and sculpture.

#### What qualifications are gained?

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.

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## Year 9 Options Form

Pupil name: \_\_\_\_\_

Select one from each choice below and return to School.

<b>Choice 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> History	or	<input type="checkbox"/> ASDAN
<b>Choice 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Languages	or	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Studies/ Preparation for work
<b>Choice 3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Home cooking skills		<input type="checkbox"/> Textiles

\* Final decisions on the groups and the suitability for each option will be determined after discussion with relevant teaching staff after half term.