

Frequently Asked Questions for the GCSE Options Process

In simple terms, what do I have to study in Years 10 and 11? English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (Double or Triple Award), Geography *or* History, the Modern Foreign Language you studied in Year 9, and then two additional optional subjects. You will also study core PE and PSHE, though these are not GCSEs and you will not receive a qualification for them.

Who can I ask for help with selecting options? If it's about a particular subject, speak to your subject teacher or that subject's Head of Department. If it's about something technical or a question about how the options process works, speak to your form tutor who will pass it on to the correct person. You can find the email addresses of the Heads of Department in the GCSE Curriculum Choices Booklet available on the KS4 GCSE Options page of our website.

What should I not do when thinking about my option choices? Don't select options because your friends have chosen them, or because they have a specific teacher assigned. Choose them because you want to study them, you are good at them, or they are relevant for your future career plans or interests.

How do I select my options? You will use an online system to select your choices. It is called "SIMS Options". Login details will be sent to students via email on the week of the options evening of 9th March.

If my login doesn't work, how do I get help? Please visit Des 15 office to speak to the IT Technicians who will be able to help you.

Am I able to opt-out of studying any of the compulsory subjects? NSG provides a well-balanced package of curriculum choices to help prepare students for a broad range of careers and higher education routes. It is therefore not possible to opt-out of any compulsory subject.

What is the chance that I will get into a certain subject? This depends on the number of students who opt for a specific student. If a particular subject is considered over subscribed then the priority of which students have selected a specific subject will be applied to create classes.

If I submit my option choices sooner, will this mean I have a greater chance of getting my preferences?
No - you can submit your choices at any point during the submission window of 10th March to 31st March and it will have no impact on how likely you are to receive the choices.

What will happen if I miss the deadline? It is very important that you keep to the deadline in order to have the best chance of receiving the subjects you would like to study. Outside of exceptional circumstances, we cannot guarantee that students will be allocated to their preferences if the deadline is missed.

Frequently Asked Questions for the GCSE Options Process

If I have submitted my option choices, can I change my mind? It is very important that you submit the correct choices the first time, so please check very carefully, as we may not be able to accommodate change requests, and in any case, any such request would have to be made before the options deadline expires.

When will I receive my options assignments? Before the end of year 9.

I don't like the group I am allocated to and wish to be in a group with my friend, as I work better with her. Unfortunately, due to the range of factors that goes into creating a group mix, we cannot accommodate requests to be in a group with friends, or changing option subjects to enable this. Group lists are provided to subject leaders who check the proposed registers to ensure that they are balanced and consider any known concerns.

Is there a "right of appeal" if I don't like the choices I am allocated? We endeavour to listen to all concerns about GCSE Options, but due to the range of factors that goes into designing our curriculum offer, timetable and the allocation of students to subjects, we may not always be able to offer every student their first choice. However, in most years, we achieve a very high rate of success - in the last academic year, over 99% of students received their first two preferences for their option choices.