



This is a presentation for both students and parents to help guide them through the process of choosing their GCSE options.

Choosing your GCSE options at Great Marlow School

### The next step...

- At Great Marlow School, we aim to develop 'compassionate, successful and resilient contributors that will create a better society'.
- The GCSE Options process is an important one and is the first time in your child's educational career that they have the agency to decide on what they want to do.
- The decisions they make now will contribute to how well they succeed in their education and in their life beyond school.





# How not to choose

Choosing a subject because:

You've heard it's easy
Somebody else wants you to do it
You like the teacher

•Your friend says they're doing it





#### How to choose

**1. Enjoyment:** Choose subjects you think you will enjoy. This means researching content closely and asking teachers and others who know you well for advice.

**2. Aptitude:** Choose subjects which you think you will be good at - you will be more likely to enjoy them as well.

**3. Prospects:** Think seriously about future ambitions. If you already have a career in mind, check entry requirements for specific courses at university or internships and work back from there.

**4. Balance:** If you have no idea what you want to do in the future make sure that your options provide a broad and balanced programme.

**5. Independence:** Don't choose on the basis of what friends are doing or on the basis of favourite teachers. Make your own decisions!







## Your electronic Options Booklet

- This will guide you through the options process
  - It contains information about the option subjects and the core subjects students will study at GCSE
  - You can locate the booklet on the school website and download /print to go through at home





JAN - FEB - Students were given presentations from the option subject Heads of Departments; these are delivered during lesson or tutor time.

This will allow students to discuss any initial questions they may have with their tutors and subject teachers.

21<sup>st</sup> FEB – GCSE Options Evening in school.
Parents/carers can also access the options booklet to enable discussions at home.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> MAR -** Year 9 parent and carer evening. A chance for parents and students to talk to the subject teachers.





22<sup>nd</sup> FEB - Student options forms open
25<sup>th</sup> MAR - Final deadline for

option submissions

# The English Baccalaureate

- This is a school's GCSE performance indicator which measures the percentage of students that achieve 5+ grades 5-9 in English, Mathematics, 2 Sciences, a Foreign Language and History or Geography.
- In the first option choice students will choose one of the following: French, Spanish, History, Geography or (Computing)
- Students have free choice with their remaining 3 options – which may include subjects above





# **GCSE Computing 2024**

We have appointed a Teacher of Computing who will start with the school in the summer term.

As a result, we will be in a position to offer GCSE Computing in September 2024.

Due to the content of the course, the fact that students have not studied computing for 2 years at GMS and that we want students to succeed, it will only be available to those students who can demonstrate an aptitude for Computing.

We will write to you over the next few weeks to explain how that process will run.





At this moment, please complete the option form in the current format – which does not have computing included.

## **Optional Curriculum-40%**

1. Pupils choose a total of **4** option subjects

2. Pupils choose one option from the 4 top choices and three choices from the bottom box

3. You will also select 2 reserve choices in case your original choices cannot be accommodated into the timetable

**One** option from here French Spanish Geography History

Art & Design

Business

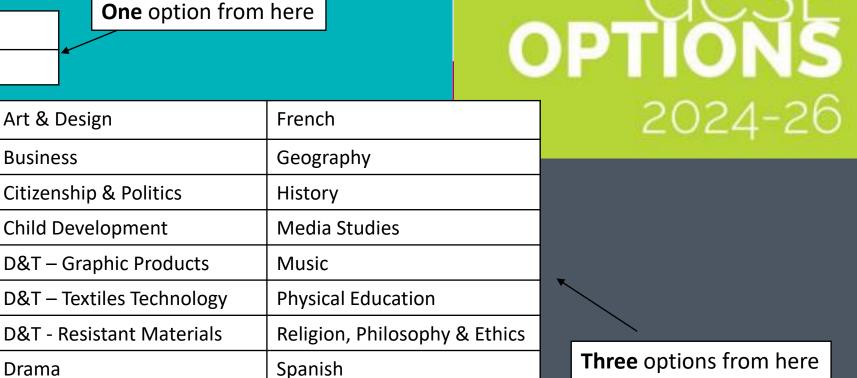
Drama

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Hospitality and Catering

**Statistics** 





Three options from here

# **Core Curriculum-**60%

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Science Trilogy (Double Award) GCSE or Separate Sciences
- Core PE (not examined)
- Core RSHE (not examined)





# **Design & Technology**

Students can choose one Design and Technology subject:

- Resistant Materials
- Graphics
- Textiles

All Design & Technology subjects involve lots of practical work; students should consider their skill level when selecting an option.





# Food related options:

#### We also offer either

- Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE (more academic)
- Hospitality and Catering Level 1&2 (one course covers level 1 and level 2) (more vocational)

All Technology subjects involve a lot of practical work; if students are considering a Food Technology course or a combination of D&T and Food Technology then we recommend a discussion with Mr N Taylor or Mrs Dale prior to selection.





### Options Booklet

There is more information about each GCSE option in the online Options Booklet such as course content and assessment information.

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#### WHY STUDY GCSE ART, CRAFT & DESIGN?

This new specification is rich in content and offers students a diverse, challenging and meaningful learning experience. Art and Design offers opportunities for students to further develop their learning in higher education and into exciting creative career paths.

#### COURSE CONTENT

Year 10, students will evelop a range of skills through workstop //e lessons. Students will experiment and explore techniques using ange of media including drawing, painting, printing, photography, mputer manipulated design, assemblage, art textiles and conceptual fforms.

perios voir un une projecto over two years a project capitoring subject matter of food and Dink. a second project based on a ne of their choice, and in Year 11, AGA's externally set task. Af start of each project, students will have the opportunity to make tertual viaits to places such as Borough Market, Oxford Natural ory Museum and the local aurounding area in order to aid their arch and understanding.

Students will be expected to purchase a basic equipment pack at the start of the GCSE course, which will ensure they are able to complete the coursework in school and at home.

At the end of the coursework projects, students will learn how to mount and present their work.

ternally set task will require students to utilise their skills and dge from the course to independently select and develop a and final outcome, which is produced in a ten hour controlled

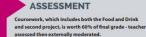
All practical work from Year 10 and Year 11 is assessed as part of the final grade. Studen











There is an externally set project with a 10 hour controlled test in the spring term of Year 11 worth 40% of

Grades 9 - 1 are availa

### Subject Videos

Every Head of Department has completed a short video outlining the content of the course(s) that they offer. You will find these on the school website.







### Top Tips for Choosing the right GCSEs

- 1. Read the Options Booklet carefully.
- **2. Watch** the Head of Department (HoD) presentations and have a discussion at home.
- **3. Parents -** Any subject specific questions please contact the relevant teachers or HoDs.
- **4. Encourage** your child(ren) away from decisions based on friendship groups.
- **5. Students -** Communication; speak to your subject teachers/form tutors and family.
- 6. Consider recent progress reports.
- 7. Ask yourself What do you enjoy?; Choose subjects that are engaging and enjoyable.
- **8. Careers** Are there certain careers that need specific qualifications from certain subjects?





Think carefully!

Options choices affect the next 2 years and beyond. DO NOT RUSH THE PROCESS!

# Thank you

- Thank you for taking the time to attend Options Evening to support your child(ren) through the options process.
- For subject specific questions, please contact subject teachers or the Head of Department.
- For questions regarding the process, please contact Mr S Taylor (staylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk)



