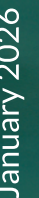


Key Stage 4 Options



Making your choices

You are about to embark on an exciting phase of your time at Stroud High School. You will be making choices about the subjects you wish to study for GCSE, and therefore designing your own curriculum. You will have opportunity to build on your enthusiasms and strengths, and also plan for your future. Your GCSE qualifications will play an important part in accessing your future pathway: Further Education, Higher Education, Apprenticeships/School Leaver programmes and employment.

Making your choices may be challenging, and therefore support will be available for you in this important decision - making process. Firstly, this booklet should give you lots of information about the GCSE subjects you are considering, alongside this your subject teachers will give you an insight into studying their subject at GCSE in your lessons. Secondly, the Key Stage 4 Options Fair alongside the Parents' Evenings, will be an opportunity for you and your parents/carers to discuss specific questions with subject teachers and members of the Leadership Team. Your most recent report will also be useful in identifying your strengths. The Year 11 Prefects will also be running an informal Options Fair with you, at which you will be able to ask students about their experiences of studying each GCSE subject. Independent Advice and Guidance will be provided by the Schools' Careers Service in groups, and they will also be available to give individual careers support as required. Finally, your parents/carers and tutors, who know you well, will play a key role in helping you ensure that you are able to make the best choices for you.

There are four important factors to consider when making your choices:

1. **Enthusiasm** – Choose subjects you enjoy, you will be studying them for two years and enjoyment usually leads to success!
2. **Strength** – Consider your strengths based on your last report, assessment and feedback in each subject. A secure foundation in a subject at the end of Year 9 will provide a good basis for success at GCSE.
3. **Breadth** – Give yourself the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, they will support you in the future.
4. **Future** – Research which subjects are most useful for the pathway you wish to follow in the future. This may seem early, but even if you are considering a few different pathways it is best to make sure your GCSE decisions will support you.

What subjects will I study?

There are a number of subjects all students will study. We provide a Core Curriculum upon which to build your subject choices. The core curriculum subjects examined at GCSE are:

*English Language
& Literature*



Mathematics



Combined Science



There are also a number of Core Curriculum non-examined courses:

- Core Ethics
- Physical Education
- Personal Development
- Citizenship (in Year 11 only)

What are my option choices?

You are fortunate at Stroud High that we construct our options blocks around your choices, and we will endeavour to ensure that all students have their preferred choices. We cannot guarantee that all students will be able to study their preferred options, and for this reason it is important that you provide a carefully considered reserve choice.

Your chosen 4 options will be treated with equal importance in the timetabling process. There is not opportunity to provide a preference order. Should there be any issue with your timetable, you will be contacted to discuss your reserve choice. Before any reserve choice is used we will ask for your permission and your parent's/carer's permission via email.

The option form will be emailed to you, and it is important that you follow the instructions carefully and complete it correctly.

All students will choose **4 option subjects**, and one reserve choice from the following:

*Art & Design -
Fine Art/Graphics*



*Art & Design -
Photography*



*Art & Design -
Textiles*



Business Studies



*Computer
Science*



*Design
Technology*



Drama



*Food Preparation
& Nutrition*



French



(option subjects continue on next page)

Geography



German



History



Music



Physical Education



RE: Philosophy & Ethics



Separate Sciences



Sociology



Spanish



If you do, for any reason, change your subject choices after the deadline for the Option form to be completed please email Mrs Thornton who will be able to advise you on next steps. No change will be made to the choices without permission from the student and parent/carer.

We wish you well as you embark on this exciting new phase of curriculum and look forward to supporting you in making well-informed choices.

Additional Information:

There is comprehensive information available in the careers section of the Stroud High website:



If you are considering Higher Education research subjects on the UCAS website:



The Sixth Form Programme of Study gives useful information about choosing A Level subjects, and their entry requirements:

