

# YEAR 8



## Options Booklet 2025

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## **Year 8 Options 2025**

Over the next few weeks, you will be making some important decisions about your future options. This booklet will help you to navigate this process.

The Year 8 options allow you to focus your curriculum slightly on the areas of study in which you have the most interest and which you are considering continuing into Years 10 and 11. However, it is important that you still maintain breadth to your curriculum until the end of Year 9, so the choices at this stage are relatively minor.

### **Planning for your Future**

The options form is designed to help you think about what careers you may be interested in so you can make the right choices now.

Some of you will want to know what you want to do when you leave school, others will not. It is OK if you do not know what you want to do as there are lots of Tutors and the Year group team here to help you think about this over the next 3 years.

**Ms. Parker** - Assistant Head for Curriculum and Assessment and Careers Lead

**Mrs. Gould** - Careers Advisor

### **Timeline for options including deadlines**

- Presentation available from 22/04/25
- Parents' Evening Tuesday 29/04/25
- Option form link sent out to parents Tuesday 29/04/25
- Options Deadline Friday 02/05/25

You only have one attempt to fill in this form. If you feel you have made a mistake or you want to change your mind, please email [options@tiverton.devon.sch.uk](mailto:options@tiverton.devon.sch.uk) with the option you wish to change to and the option you wish to replace.

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What really matters over the next 3 years is that you work hard, get the best grades you can and focus on developing the skills which are crucial for any career, including:

**Communication**

**Decision-Making**

**Commitment**

**Leadership**

**Motivation**

**Teamwork**

**Organisation**

**Flexible**

**Good attendance**

### **Think about Goals and Aspirations**

The Colleges - All students need to be in education until they are 18.

Where will you go? What course will you do?

Think about about Exeter Maths School, Blundell's, Maynard's, Hartpury, Armed forces, Independent Training Providers, South Devon College as well as our main five, which a lot of students attend.



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### Choosing the RIGHT options for Year 9

#### Things to remember:

1. The choices which you are about to make WILL affect the options you can choose for your GCSE/qualification courses in Year 10 and 11. This is because you cannot choose a GCSE/qualification route if you drop it now.
2. Next year, when you do make your final option choices for your GCSE/qualifications, you will only have the chance to drop some of these choices. All the rest of your choices you will be continuing with during Years 10 & 11.
3. Remember that even practical subjects have written work too AND all qualifications have an exam as part of the course.

#### Your Year 9 subjects and choices

### Core and Foundation Subjects (compulsory)

These are NOT included in the options process because you must do these.

**English Language and  
Literature**

**Maths**

**Science**

**Religious & Philosophical Studies**

**Modern Foreign Language (MFL)**  
Already opted for French or German at end of Y7

### Humanities

You will all study BOTH **Geography** and **History**.

### Healthy Living

You will choose from **Physical Education (P.E.)** or **Dance Choice**

### Performing Arts and Design (P.A.D.) Subject Choice

Choose 4 from **Art, Computing, D&T, Drama, Food and Music**

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To help you make the best possible option choices, we have provided a list of potential careers along with the GCSEs you would need to help you along your career path.

SUBJECT	POTENTIAL CAREERS
English Literature and Language GCSE	librarian, teacher, speech and language therapist, journalist, actor, advertising, editor, administrator, screenwriter, freelance writer, TV/film producer.
Maths GCSE	accountant, pharmacologist, engineer, data analyst, statistician, economist, finance officer, insurance underwriter, tax adviser, research scientist, stockbroker, cyber intelligence officer.
Computer Science GCSE	network administrator, software developer, data analyst, cyber-security and forensics, IT support technician, project management, database administrator, web-hosting, computer control systems.
Design and Technology GCSE and Level 1&2 Award in Construction: Constructing the built environment. (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)	engineer, product designer, surveyor, architect, bricklayer, plasterer, electrical engineer, carpenter, plumber, civil engineer, ergonomist, furniture designer, interior designer, planning and developing surveyor, robotics engineer.
Food, Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	catering, hospitality, food industries, catering manager, chef, baker, food manufacturing inspector, food scientist, hotel manager, nutritionist, packaging technologist,
Fine Art GCSE, Photography GCSE, 3D Design GCSE	photojournalist, portrait photographer, graphic designer, advertising art director, animator, architect, landscaper, fashion designer, make-up artist, museum curator, tattooist, textile designer, TV/film director, web content manager.
French GCSE and German GCSE	translator, legal careers, working abroad, air cabin crew, airline pilot, broadcast journalist, civil service administrator, teacher, hotel manager, immigration officer, public relations officer, transport planner, tour guide, tourism industry.
Geography GCSE	environmental consultant, surveyor, archeologist, countryside manager, drone pilot, estates officer, geo-technician, land surveyor, geochemist, mining, hydrocarbon exploration, logistics coordinator, land management, hydrologist, project manager, climate scientist, weather forecaster, architect, land surveyor, urban planner, ecologist.

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History GCSE	archeologist, teacher, lawyer, educational advisor, journalist, screenwriter, editor, librarian, any job that requires evaluation, analysis and decision-making skills, including high level managerial positions.
Level 1&2 Cambridge National Health & Social Care (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)	care worker, occupational therapist, teacher, nurse, police officer, nursery nurse, social worker, child minder.
Dance GCSE	choreographer, dance instructor, circus performer, teacher, events manager, personal trainer, play therapist, TV presenter, video editor, wardrobe assistant.
Drama GCSE	theatre technician, actor, community arts worker, events manager, image consultant, lighting technician, screen writer, set designer, social media manager, vlogger.
Music GCSE	composer, musician, therapist, community arts worker, computer games music composer, events manager, radio broadcast assistant, studio sound engineer, TV/film director/producer/sound editor
Physical Education GCSE and Level 1&2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)	outdoor activities manager, sports therapist, personal trainer, events manager, health trainer, lifeguard, physiotherapist, sports coach, sports scientist, PE teacher
Religious Studies GCSE	civil service administrator, barrister, editor, legal executive, marketing executive, psychotherapist, solicitor, politician, journalist, community outreach coordinator
Science – Biology GCSE	science lab technician, nature conservation officer, zookeeper, biomedical scientist, botanist, criminologist, dental nurse, environmental scientist, food scientist, GP, podiatrist, gardener, medicine, dentistry, ecologist
Science – Chemistry GCSE	chemical engineer, environmental consultant, pharmacy, forensic scientist, chemist, dentist, energy engineer, hospital doctor, textile technologist, veterinarian.
Science – Physics GCSE	meteorologist, research scientist, aerospace engineer, architect, broadcast engineer, electronics engineer, nuclear engineer, physicist.

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### **How do I decide on which options to choose?**

Please read this guidance to help you choose your options. Also, speak to your teachers and tutors to help you make these important decisions during Parents' Evening, which will give you the opportunity to talk through the options with your teacher.

**Do** speak to your parents/carers

**Do** speak to other students

**Do** make decisions based on interest, strengths, and enjoyment

**Do** research subjects, careers, and university choices

**Do** read your Options Booklet carefully

**Do** continue to work hard in Year 8

**Do** choose a balanced group of subjects

**Be informed: Use the options booklet to help you with the following questions when you choose at the end of Year 9.**

**How is the course assessed?**

**How is the course delivered?**

**What are the topics?**

**Do not** choose a subject because you like the teacher

**Do not** choose a subject because your friends are taking it

**Do not** choose a subject because you think it will be easy

### **Possible Pathways for Post 16**

Please keep looking at your school emails for career assemblies and other information.

Students who get at least two 5's in English and Maths can opt for a variety of courses once they leave school, therefore keeping options open.

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**These subjects are compulsory. You will study in year 9:**

- **English**  
You will be working towards taking BOTH English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE in Year 11.
- **Mathematics**  
You will be working towards taking Maths GCSE at either Higher or Foundation tier in Year 11.
- **Science**  
You will be working towards taking **either** Combined Science (Trilogy) GCSE (a double award equivalent to 2 GCSEs) **or** the 3 separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in Year 10 & 11.

**Foundation Subjects:**

- **Religious & Philosophical Studies**  
You will be working towards a greater understanding of world faiths. In Year 9 you may opt to take a GCSE in Religious & Philosophical Studies. However, you will all have a lesson of RPS in Year 10 & 11 even if you do not choose it as one of your options.
- **MFL**  
You will continue with French or German. In Year 9 you may opt to take French or German GCSE.

The following information will tell you what courses are available during year 9. If you do not pick the option for year 9, you will be unable to pick it up again in year 10. You will pick 4 out of the 6 options.

- Computing
  - Design – Art
  - Design – Food
  - Design – Design and Technology
  - Performing Arts – Drama
  - Performing Arts – Music
- 
- **PE** – All students will have PE or Dance for 2 lessons each week.

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## **Computing**

**Subject Leader – Mr P Gardner**

**Other information - Only by choosing Computing in Year 9 will you be able to study Computer Science GCSE in Years 10 and 11**

**If you have enjoyed Computing at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 should you choose this course.**



### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

We all use computers, mobile devices, networks and the internet in our everyday lives. This foundation course allows students to delve into how this technology works and how it may be applied across a wide range of contexts.

You will continue to build on the computing skills you have developed in Years 7 & 8. You will also learn more about programming, digital media, graphics, networking, html and compression.

### **Computer Science GCSE:**

Computer Science looks at how computer technology works; what goes on 'inside the box', how to break problems down and solve them logically and how to create computer programs.

We find out how a computer stores pictures, sounds, text and numbers as digital data.

We look at how digital devices are connected together to form networks and the internet, learning about different kinds of networks, how the internet works and cyber security.

We plan and create programs using computational thinking: decomposing problems into smaller, solvable parts and producing algorithms that show how to solve them, before writing and testing program our code.

This will be assessed by two exams, 1 hour and 30minutes each.

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## **Art**

**Subject Leader – Miss J Bassham**

**Other information – Only by choosing Art will you be able to study for:**

**Fine Art GCSE, 3D Design GCSE, Photography GCSE in Year 10 and 11**



### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

The value of creativity! You will continue to develop skills in drawing, painting and printing as well as how designers use digital technologies, together with other techniques, to make new and visually exciting work. You will also analyse and understand different visual images, explore a variety of materials, techniques and processes and how to successfully and responsibly use equipment (such as computers, digital cameras, scanners and software).

**PLEASE NOTE:** - Towards the end of Year 9, your teacher will be recommending the qualification that they feel is best suited to your child's skills and needs as they move into Year 10

#### **Fine Art GCSE and 3D Design**

You will be inspired by the work of other artists, craft workers and designers. You will understand the important role that art plays in our everyday lives. You will learn how to create artwork to illustrate your ideas. You will explore a range of techniques and media and develop your ideas. Finally, you will learn how to create a final outcome. You will use a sketchbook as part of the creative process.

#### **Graphic Communication GCSE**

You will create artwork in response to a brief, using a selection of materials and technologies e.g. book cover design, advertising posters and flyer design. You will complete visual research and record observations and experiences in an appropriate way, using a variety of technologies (e.g. Digital SLR cameras).

#### **Photography GCSE**

You will show your ability to express your ideas by working from stimulating themes. The course will allow students to apply their photographic skills to specific outcomes such as Still Life, Portraiture and Street Photography. Throughout the course, students will spend much of their time using professional digital media equipment (PCs, digital SLR cameras and Adobe Creative Suite software etc.) to produce their work. You will use a sketchbook as part of the creative process.

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## **Design – Food**

**Subject Leader – Mrs K Lethbridge**

**Other information – Only by choosing Food will you be able to study GCSE  
Food Preparation & Nutrition in Year 10 and 11**



### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

Food is an exciting and creative course, which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. This pathway focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

### **GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition**

At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skill to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Studying food can lead to exciting and well-paid career options. These courses could lead you into roles such as a Chef, Food Product Developer, Buyer, Food Safety Inspectors, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Quality Managers, Teacher, Food Engineer, Food Scientist, Food Technologist, Food Photographer, Food Stylist, Home Economist, and Microbiologist, working in food magazines, radio and television.

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## **Design – Design and Technology**

**Subject Leader – Mrs J Odgers**

**Other information – Only by choosing D&T will you be able to study Design & Technology GCSE, Construction, 3D Design GCSE in Year 10 and 11**



### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

You will learn how to cut, shape, form, join and finish a range of materials using a wide range of hand and machine tools. You will work with a range of materials including wood, plastic, metal, textile, composite and smart materials to turn your designs into high quality products. You will develop skills in producing a core portfolio using ICT to achieve a high-quality presentation to demonstrate a quality made product applying skills and knowledge from all the projects undertaken in KS3 and KS4.

**PLEASE NOTE:** -Towards the end of Year 9 your teacher will be recommending the qualification that they feel is best suited to your child's skills and needs as they move into Year 10.

### **Design and Technology GCSE**

Our world is full of products that are made from a wide range of new and modern materials. In this exciting and challenging course, you will continue to develop your knowledge of the techniques that will help you become a creative designer and maker. You will continue to develop your skills and learn in a range of materials using a wide range of hand and machine tools. You will work with a range of materials including wood, plastic, metal, composite and smart materials to turn your designs into high quality products.

### **WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Construction: Planning and Maintaining the Built Environment**

This course explores how buildings are designed, constructed and maintained. This award is made up of two units, each having an applied purpose which acts as a focus. This encourages students to consider how the use and application of their knowledge, understanding and skills impacts on individuals, employers, society and the environment. They are designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning. Through this they will develop practical skills and be assessed on the outcome of their work, as well as complete a formal exam at the end of the course.

### **3D Design GCSE**

You will be inspired by the work of architects, craft workers and designers. You will understand the important role that 3D plays in our everyday lives. You will learn how to create artwork to illustrate your ideas. You will explore a range of techniques and media and develop your ideas. Finally, you will learn how to create a final outcome. You will use a portfolio as part of the creative process.

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## **Performing Arts - Drama**

**Subject Leader – Mr I Wright**

**Other information – Only by choosing Drama will you be able to study GCSE Drama in Year 10 and 11**



### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

In studying drama in Year 9 you will be able to build on the key constructs and skills learnt this year whilst being able to study in more depth the practical, collaborative elements of drama you enjoyed in Year 8.

In Year 9 you will learn how to analyse and critically evaluate performances whilst starting to explore some of the key works delivered within Years 10 and 11.

The course will help build transferable skills such as teamwork and problem solving and most of all create a solid foundation for you to succeed through the GCSE drama course.

### **Performing Arts: Drama GCSE**

Studying drama is demanding and teaches students that success only comes from hard work, collaborative practice and independent focus.

The skills that are learnt by studying drama are invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people and the skill of planning that is required in any production are useful in many careers.

Drama plays a major role in our lives. We all experience 'real life' drama in the form of our own personal experiences as well as 'real life' drama in the news and current affairs. We are also exposed to fictional dramas in film, on television and in the theatre.

By studying drama's impact on our culture, we can start to look more critically at what the media offer us, and we can choose whether to accept the messages that they give. By studying drama, we become intelligent spectators. Drama can be a good basis for a career not only in the theatre but in advertising, the film industry and even in events planning, amongst many others.

The drama GCSE course is exciting and varied.

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## **Performing Arts - Music**

**Subject Leader – Mr I Wright**

**Other information – Only by choosing Music will you be able to study GCSE Music in Year 10 and 11**

### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

Building on the work covered in Years 7 & 8, you will learn in more detail about how the elements of music are used to manipulate music and develop skills to help you become proficient in composing and performing. Understanding music from different cultures and genres across different periods of time will support you in developing your own creativity and musicality.

Year 9 music course helps lay a foundation for deeper study at Years 10 and 11 where you will study in-depth music from the world of classical music, world music and popular music.

This course will broaden your understanding and enjoyment of music whilst also fine-tuning key analytical skills, creativity, independence and resilience

### **Performing Arts: Music GCSE**

You will learn to perform and compose in small groups as well as on your own. However, although we encourage public performances, there is no requirement for you to perform in public if you choose not to. You will have the opportunity to develop your skills on a chosen instrument or voice through the course and by studying music, you will gain a fuller understanding of the world that surrounds us whilst developing critical learning skills so much in demand post 16.

Taking this opportunity to study music in Year 9 will help prepare you for studying the GCSE music course in full, which itself will open doors to further study at A level or vocational level 3 courses. Studying music will provide established pathways to degree courses and a variety of diverse careers.

It is an advantage to be able to read music but not essential as we will guide you through the course to help you learn or become more proficient. You will also not have to perform in public, unless you want to, although we will encourage you to.

You do not have to be able to play a musical instrument at this stage, as you only need basic classroom instrumental skills.

However, if you wish to study music through to GCSE, you will need to be developing, with support, vocal and instrumental skills from an instrumental or vocal teacher.

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**You will then pick either PE or Dance**

## **Healthy Living – Physical Education**

**Subject Leader – Mr N Heeney**

**Please bear in mind that if you want to take PE or Dance in Year 10 & Year 11, then you MUST choose the correct route now. Any student opting for Dance but does not want to take the Dance GCSE in Y10 & Y11, will take core PE lessons in Year 10 instead.**



### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

Students choosing Core PE will have two lessons per week. During these lessons they will also be preparing for the GCSE PE and Sports studies route, which will be an option for PE students next year.

#### **GCSE Physical Education**

This is an interesting and challenging learning experience. In it we introduce key sporting ideas and show how these interact with practical performance; you will gain insights into the relationships they have with each other throughout the course.

You will participate in a range of physical activities as Player/Performer, developing the ability to make effective plans to improve performance. You will develop the analytical skills necessary to look at and improve your own and others' performance.

**National Certificate in Sports Studies** This is a vocationally related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The new Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies reflects this and provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of different aspects of sports studies, from looking at contemporary issues in sport and the relationship between sport and the media to developing the practical skills essential for progression into the sports industry.

You will continue to pursue sporting excellence in both individual and team sports, taking responsibility for our own personal development plan; part of your development will involve performing in additional roles such as an official/umpire.

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## **Performing Arts – Dance**

**Subject Leader – Mr I Wright**

**Other information – Only by choosing Dance in Year 9 will you be able to study Dance GCSE in Year 10 and 11.**

**Any student opting for Dance but does not want to take Dance GCSE in Year 10 and Year 11, will take core PE lessons instead.**



### **You will learn about in Year 9:**

Students will have their recommended 2 hours a week of good quality exercise/physical education

You will develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation of dance. Dance teaches discipline, a desire for excellence and an appreciation of both teamwork and self-expression.

#### **Performing Arts: Dance GCSE**

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject, which will encourage you to develop your creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity.

Studying dance has many benefits. Students learn to be more aware of themselves, they learn to control their bodies, they learn to discipline both mind and body, have better posture, learn the importance of teamwork and develop better co-ordination and flexibility.

This course provides a solid foundation for a career or further studies in dance or performing arts including 'A' level dance, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in dance and professional dance training.

Possible careers in dance include choreographer, community dance practitioner, dance performer, dance/arts officer, dance filmmaker, dance movement therapist, dance photographer, dance teacher, Pilates instructor, youth worker and dance journalist.

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## **Options for Year 10**

In January of Year 9, students will have to refine their options further. Students will need to opt for one EBacc subject and two other options. Students will only be able to pick these options if they are studying in Year 9.

### **EBacc**

Geography

History

French

German

Separate Science

Religion and Philosophy will also be available as an option in Year 10, but this is not an EBacc subject and all students will be required to study RPS for one lesson a week to complete a short GCSE course.

Students will only be able to pick these options if they are studying in Year 9.

### **Art**

Art and design GCSE

Photography GCSE

3D Design GCSE

### **Computing**

Computer science GCSE

### **Design Technology**

Design Technology GCSE

Construction Tech Award

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**Food**

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE

**Drama**

Drama GCSE

**Music**

Music GCSE

**Dance**

Dance GCSE

**PE**

PE GCSE

Sports Studies Tech Award

In Y10, students can choose the new course in Health and Social Care. Please note that this will only run if there are enough students opting for the course.

Students will need to write a short application form as to why they want to study this course and have good or outstanding behaviours for learning. This will be shared when students make their options in Year 9.

Health and Social Care Tech Award

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## 2025 Tiverton High School Year 8 Careers & Option support form

Name:		Tutor group:
<p>This form is a practise option form only. Please fill this in before you fill in the online options form. The link to the online form will be sent to you after Parents evening on Tuesday 29th April. You only get one attempt to submit the online form. If you do need to change your options, you need to email <a href="mailto:options@tiverton.devon.sch.uk">options@tiverton.devon.sch.uk</a>. The deadline for the online form is Friday 2nd May 2025.</p>		
<p>Do you have any ideas of the sort of career/s you would be interested in? What are they?</p>		
<p>Are you thinking of going to university?</p>		

You now need to choose either PE or Dance – Please circle your choice

**PE**

**Dance**

You then need to choose 4 out of the 6 subjects below – Please circle the 4 you want to choose

**Art**

**Food**

**Design and Technology**

**Music**

**Drama**

**Computing**

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