

Welcome!



GCSE Subject Choices...

Where will they take you?

Perhaps you already know what you want to be?



Many of you will not!



It is perfectly normal if...

- you don't know what you want to do as a career.
- you are much more interested in:
 - sport
 - music or
 - your plans for the weekend.



“No, I’m not interested in a career yet, BUT I would like you to find my Maths teacher a new one!!”

So what?...

It's important to keep doors open...

... and to know which doors you're happy to shut.





**The decisions you make now
influence what you can do in the future!**

Some further facts...



- The vast majority of our pupils go on to University...
- GCSE choices have an impact on University courses.
- Over 50% of UK employers look at university degrees when screening candidates

BUT... Universities can change their entrance requirements.



Competitive Courses/Uni's

- **Medicine**
 - **Dentistry**
 - **Veterinary Medicine**
 - **Pharmacy**
 - **Law**
 - **Accounting**
- **Russell Group**
 - **Oxford**
 - **Cambridge**
 - **Queens**
 - **Edinburgh**
 - **LSE**
 - **etc**

Strong GCSEs are essential!

Competitive Courses – what do I need?...

Medicine/Dentistry

5 A*s and 4 As and you MUST do all 3 Sciences for GCSE

(A*AA/ AAAa at A-level)

Pharmacy

6 As with Bs (AAB at A-level)

Law

3 As with Bs (AAA at A-level)

Accounting

4 As with Bs (AAB at A-level)

Actuarial Science

5A*s and 4As (A*AA/ AAAa at A-level)

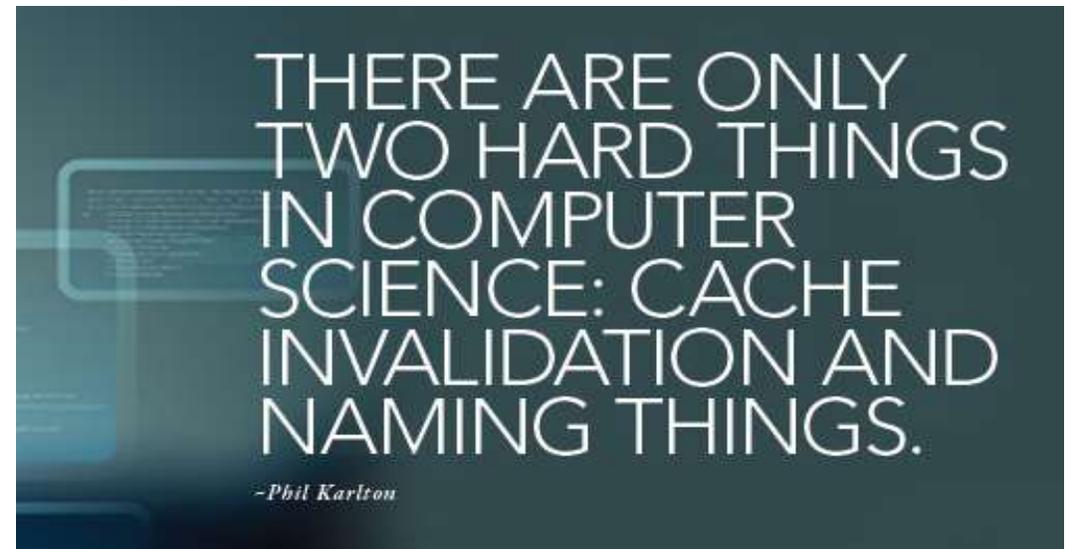
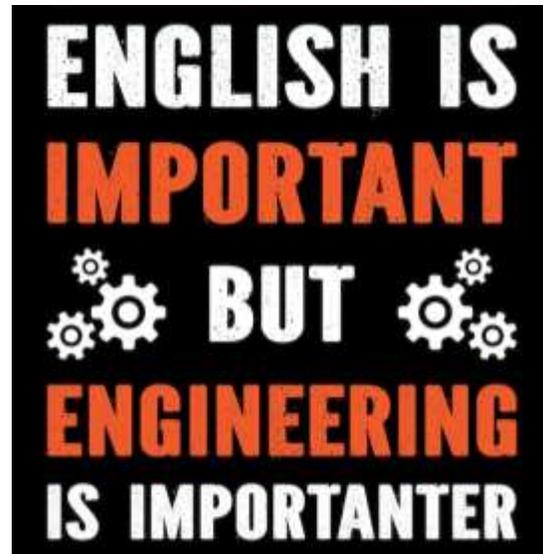
What subjects will I need for...?

Engineering

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Technology

Computing Science

- Mathematics
- Dig Tech/Physics/Chemistry useful



What subjects will I need for...?

Architecture

- Mathematics
- Art
- Physics

Sport & Exercise Science

- Grade A from a science / PE / Maths

Physiotherapy

- Grade B from Maths/ Science

Product Design

- Mathematics
- Technology
- Science/Physics

Finance/Accounting

- Mathematics



10 out of 9
Accountants
can't count.

What subjects will I need for...?

Anatomy: Chemistry, Biology

Biomedical Science: Chemistry, Biology

Forensic Science: Chemistry, Biology

Genetics: Chemistry, Biology

Zoology: Chemistry, Biology

A word about STEM and LMI...



STEM

Science

Technology

Engineering

Mathematics

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering

Financial Services and Business Tech

Creative Technology

Construction

Life and Health Sciences

Agri-tech

In short...



**YOUR FUTURE
IS SHAPED
BY THE CHOICES
YOU MAKE TODAY**

(... well, next Monday)

Choice of option subjects

What happens now?



Carrickfergus Grammar School

Key Stage 4

Initial Choice of Option subjects

There are COMPULSORY core subjects, for example English Language & Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies which everyone MUST do, then there are OPTIONAL subjects which you choose from a list.

This list includes

Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Digital Technology, Drama, French, Geography, H.E Child Development, H.E Food and Nutrition, History, Music, P.E. (Academic), Physics, Spanish, Technology.

Also on the Curriculum

- Physical Education (General)
- Games
- Careers Education & Learning for Life and Work containing;
 - Employability
 - Citizenship
 - Personal Development

To help us plan your curriculum we want you to indicate the five choices you would make from the list.

We **cannot guarantee** that we will be able to provide all possible combinations of subjects but will use your initial choices to guide us in timetabling.

The eventual option blocks will be drawn up to accommodate the greatest number of pupils on the basis of responses in this initial choice.

Please note that:

- Class sizes in option subjects will normally be 24 pupils.
- As far as possible, class sizes in Technology, HE, Music and Art will be 20 pupils.
- Should classes be **oversubscribed then acceptance will be based on performance** in the subject to date or the rank order of Year 9 subject results (if the subject is not being currently studied).

- For PE, pupils must have appropriate current levels of participation in school sport.
- If you change your options, such changes can only be considered up to the point when classes are full. Subsequent requests for a change of options will be placed on a waiting list and will be dealt with on a strict first come, first served, basis should vacancies arise.
- Subjects with fewer than 12 pupils may be withdrawn.

- A group of pupils will be invited, based on their performance in the year 10 end of year Mathematics examination, to follow an accelerated Mathematics course. This will comprise sitting the GCSE Higher Mathematics exam in summer of Year 11 and GCSE Further Mathematics in summer of Year 12.

- The remaining pupils will follow a course in Higher Mathematics sitting a module in the summer of Year 11 and a module in the summer of Year 12.
- Pupils will be entered for either the M3 or M4 Module in Year 11. If you aspire to do A level Mathematics you must get an A grade at GCSE through completing the M4 & M8 Modules.

SUBJECT	TICK
Biology	
Chemistry	
Physics	✓
French	✓
Spanish	
Art	
Business Studies	✓
Digital Technology	
Drama	
Geography	✓
H.E Child Development	
H.E Food and Nutrition	
History	
Music	
P.E. (Academic)	
Technology	✓

Option Block example

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Chemistry	Biology	Business Studies	Art & Design	Biology
History	Chemistry	Chemistry	Biology	Chemistry
Music	French	French	Business Studies	Geography
P. E (Academic)	H. E. (Child Development)	Digital Technology	History	Drama
Physics	H. E. (Food & Nutrition)	Physics	Spanish	Physics
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Technology	
	Technology			

Option Block example

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
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History	Chemistry	Chemistry	Biology	Chemistry
Music	French	French	Business Studies	Geography
P. E (Academic)	H. E. (Child Development)	Digital Technology	History	Drama
Physics	H. E. (Food & Nutrition)	Physics	Spanish	Physics
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Technology	
	Technology			

In preparation for the process of choosing subjects we have:

- Ongoing careers advice in Employability classes/events. ✓
- The subject choice booklet (emailed to parents and pupils), which each pupil will receive in hard copy this week, giving GCSE course summaries. ✓
- Discussions in subject classes and a variety of talks – formal and informal – about choices and the subjects offered. ✓
- A talk regarding subject option blocks and how we timetable choices, attended by all Year 10 pupils. ✓

Now ...

- Discuss your subject choices with your parents, the appropriate teachers, family, friends and neighbours.
- Keep in mind possible university and career aspirations and investigate these careers and courses online

- It is OK to change your mind but come and talk to me, with a note from home, as soon as possible!





Supporting Subject Choice

Consider:



What are you good at?





What do you enjoy?

What subjects do you need?



Are my A-Level choices affected by the GCSE choices I make now?

How are the courses assessed?

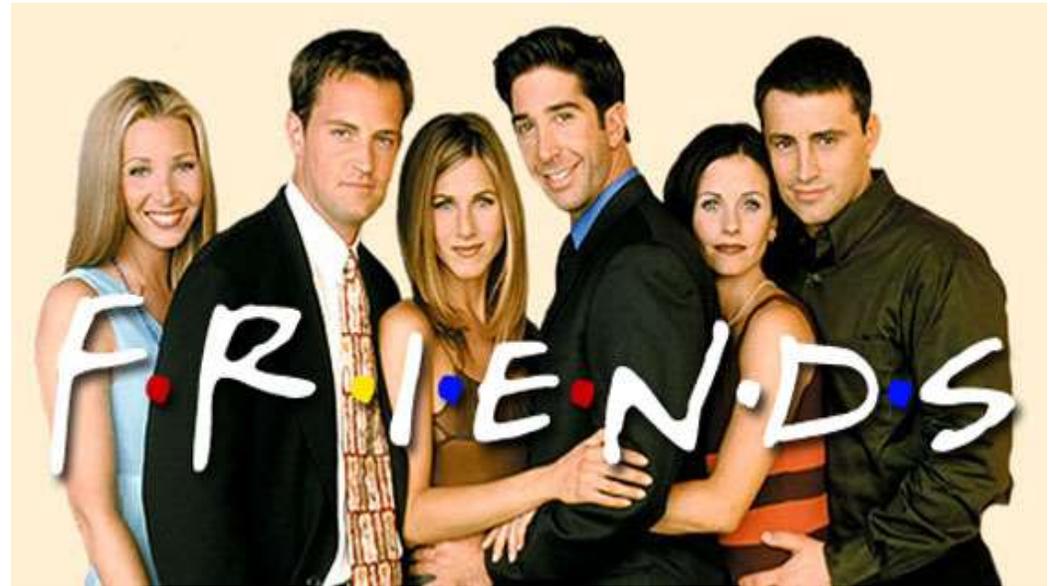


Be wary:

**Be careful whose advice
you listen to when
choosing subjects.**



Don't choose a GCSE subject because a friend is doing it



Don't choose a GCSE subject because you (don't) like the teacher

Key points...



- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy?
- What do you need?
- Can you manage the assessment arrangements?

***If unsure, keep options broad, balanced
and open***

Any Questions...



Please feel free to hang around and speak to any one of us

