ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

Year 9
OPTIONS GUIDE
2022-23

WHICH

WAY

WILL

YOU

CHOOSE

Contents

Year 8 into 9 Options Process 2022

"An Introduction for Students"

The year 8 into 9 options process is the start of an important and exciting phase in your education. For the first time in your school lives, you will be able to personalise parts of your curriculum by making individual choices from a range of options subjects. Over the next few weeks, you will receive a lot of advice and guidance to help you make informed decisions; these decisions will not only shape your year 9 curriculum at Ilkley Grammar School, but will also help to support the decision-making process when you select your final GCSE options next year.

There's a saying: 'If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else'. We want you to choose courses which will extend your knowledge and skills, courses you will find interesting and challenging whilst offering you real opportunities for success. They should support your progression to GCSE and help to meet your career needs and aspirations at post-16 and beyond.

Our year 9 curriculum is ambitious, aspirational and is designed to provide opportunities for all students to achieve. In order to ensure breadth, balance and avoid narrowing choice too early, all students must follow a **core** which is made up of the following subjects:

YEAR 9 CORE PROGRAMME:

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History

RE/Citizenship	Computing	PE	MFL or Supported Study*

In addition, there are **six** option blocks from which students have a choice:

YEAR 8 into 9 OPTIONS PROGRAMME:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Technology	Creative Arts		Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C

Technology	Creative Arts	Free Choice
Electronics	Art***	**3 choices from:**
Food	Drama	**A 2nd language (NB: this takes up 2 free options)**
Resistant Materials	Music	**A 2nd or 3rd specialist technology**
Textiles	Photography***	**A 3rd creative art**
Essential Technology****	Media Studies***	**Computer Science** **Introduction to Business Studies** **Introduction to Law**
Event Management/ Catering		**Philosophy and Ethics** **Pre-GCSE PE** **Digital IT** **Skills For Success***
Design Engineering		

NB:

*Supported Study is only an alternative to MFL for students who have been disapplied from languages in year 8 or those whose literacy skills are below age-related expectations. Students on the Supported Study pathway may commence a Functional Skills English and Maths programme which will run parallel to their core lessons in these subject areas.

** Skills For Success is an alternative curriculum course. Students for whom this is appropriate will be guided towards it by The Inclusive Learning Department.

***You can only select art and photography if one of the subjects is chosen as a free choice.

***You can only select media and photography if one of the subjects is chosen as a free choice

****If you choose Essential Technology, you will study a combination of technology subjects. You can't then select a specialist technology as a free option.

We are proud of the changes we have made to the year 9 curriculum. Many of the options courses have been planned in an innovative and creative fashion and are designed to both engage and motivate, as well as ensure that you make excellent progress. It is important to point out that options courses will **not** involve studying the GCSE syllabus early in year 9; the emphasis will be on the acquisition of skills and knowledge that will enable you to maximise your chances of success when you choose your GCSEs next year.

Our aim is for you to be given as much information as you need to make the most appropriate course choices. Use this booklet as a first step, talk to your teachers and form tutor and your Head of Year, Mr Leeming. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions in a tutor group session with a senior member of staff during form time. The online Options Evening on 9th March will be an opportunity to find out more. You will be guided into taking courses that will mean you achieve. Remember, the courses must suit your ability, your learning strengths and your intentions for GCSE and beyond. Please note, if you are considering studying both languages at GCSE, you must use two of your free options to take up the second language in year 9. You must not make choices simply because your friends are taking them, or because you like a particular teacher.

We have deliberately kept the year 9 curriculum broad, so that you do not limit your choices for GCSE too early. In years 10 and 11, the core curriculum is reduced further to: English and English literature; mathematics; science; RE/Citizenship and PE. The year 9 core subjects of geography, history, MFL/Supported Study and computing all become option choices at Key Stage 4, and you will be required to narrow down your choices to just 4 options subjects for years 10 and 11.

Finally, make the most of the opportunities we can offer you, and aim high over the next three years – we will watch your progress with interest. We want to support you in achieving your Personal Best!

Ms Gemma Claughton
Deputy Headteacher

YEAR 8 INTO 9 OPTIONS PROCESS 2022

"An Introduction for Parent/Carers"

During their first two years at Ilkley Grammar School, students have been following a very broad programme of study based on the subjects which make up the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum. However, 7/8 years ago changes to the educational landscape, alongside a series of major GCSE reforms, necessitated a detailed review of our curriculum offer. Consequently, as with other schools, we spent the early part of 2013-14 looking at curriculum models and created an innovative and exciting curriculum for year 9 students which is designed to support next year's Key Stage 4 options process, and increase opportunities for all IGS students to achieve.

The new year 9 curriculum was launched in 2014 and has been further developed ever since. It still ensures breadth of study, but the number of compulsory subjects has been reduced slightly to include 10 key subjects: English; mathematics; science; MFL/Supported Study*; geography; history; RE/ citizenship; IT and PE. The reduction in the number of core subjects has produced the curriculum flexibility to bring forward an options process into year 8; this will allow students to create a personalised curriculum by selecting options from the following blocks:

YEAR 8 into 9 OPTIONS PROGRAMME:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Technology	Creative Arts		Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C

| Electronics

Food

Resistant Materials

Textiles

Essential Technology ****

Event Management/ Catering

Design Engineering | Art***

Drama

Music

Photography***

Media Studies*** | 3 choices from:
A 2nd language (NB: this takes up two options)
A 2nd or 3rd specialist technology
A 3rd creative art

Computer Science
Introduction to Business Studies
Introduction to Law
Philosophy and Ethics
Pre-GCSE PE
Digital IT
Skills For Success** |

NB:
*Supported Study is only an alternative to MFL for students who have been disapplied from languages in year 8 or those whose literacy skills are below age-related expectations. Students on the Supported Study pathway may commence a Functional Skills English and Maths programme which will run parallel to their core lessons in these subject areas.
** Skills For Success is an alternative curriculum course. Students for whom this is appropriate will be guided towards it by The Inclusive Learning Department
*** Art and photography can only be taken together if one of the subjects is selected as a free choice
***Photography and media studies can only be taken together if one of the subjects is selected as a free option.
****Essential Technology is a combination of different technology subjects. Students can't then select a specialist technology as it would involve a duplication of some content. Each option block takes up 3 periods per cycle. The second language option takes up two free options so students will have 6 periods a cycle.

Year 9
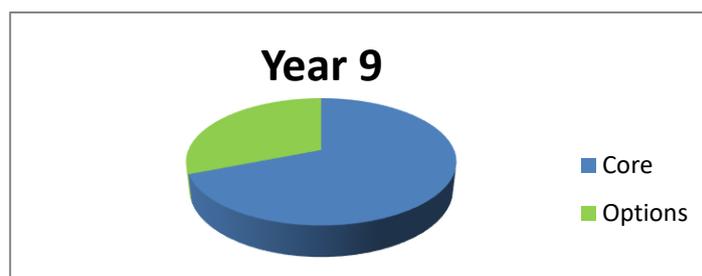
As a result of this curriculum, 69% of the timetable will be spent on core subjects with the remaining 31% determined by student choice.

The year 8 into 9 options process will provide all students with the opportunity to personalise their curriculum in line with their interests, abilities and aspirations for GCSE, post-16 and beyond. Whilst we believe that a curriculum designed by student choice strongly encourages motivation, achievement, direction and ultimately success, the other key driving forces behind the changes are:

1) To further develop knowledge and skills in subjects which students are considering taking at GCSE.
2) To further inform the GCSE options process by allowing specialisation in year 9, as well as providing the opportunity to experience new courses which have previously only been available in years 10 and 11.

The year 9 curriculum has been carefully designed to be broad and balanced, avoiding students narrowing curriculum choice prematurely. The year 9 core curriculum is much wider than the core curriculum at Key Stage 4 and this is reflected in the diagram below:

The main purposes of this booklet are:
- to provide information to help students' decision making;
- to set out the course content, organisation and skill development involved in all options subjects;
- to inform students of the available GCSE/post-16 and career pathways for all options subjects;
- to outline the national changes to GCSEs made in recent years, which affect all subjects.

It has been written with a student audience in mind. However, you are also asked to familiarise yourself with its contents since your support, encouragement and interest will help your child to reach informed, positive decisions.

In addition to the information contained in this booklet, a Year 8 and 9 Choices Evening has been arranged for Wednesday 9th March. There will be a presentation by Mrs Purnell, Headteacher and Ms. Claughton, Deputy Headteacher, as well as the opportunities for you and your child to gain further details about the courses on offer, view exemplar learning materials and explore the options choices in further detail. We are likely to hold this event on site, but also offer a 'blended' approach to the evening, with presentations available online. We are planning for you to have the chance to visit classrooms to find out more about the subjects on offer. We will notify students and parents in due course with the evening's arrangements. If you or your child have any further questions, please email: year8options@ilkleygs.co.uk

We believe in helping all of our learners achieve their potential, whatever that might be. What is important is for learners to succeed at the highest level appropriate for them as an individual, and for them to achieve in a range of subjects that will support future progression. We hope that by continuing working in partnership with parents and carers we can ensure that every child embarks on the very best programme possible to maximise their chances of success.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 9th March.

Ms Gemma Claughton
Deputy Headteacher

During year 9, you will follow a curriculum where 31% of your timetable is determined by your options choices. The choice of these subjects should not be made hastily: it requires much careful consideration to ensure that your options support your considerations for GCSE and beyond. It is also important to realise that you will not be able to change your subject choices once the courses have started due to constraints imposed by both the timetable and maximum group sizes.

To help you make informed choices, the following process has been arranged:

Year 8	
PROCESS	**DATES**
Year 8-9 Options Assembly Launch **Distribution of options booklets electronically**	**Wednesday 2nd March 2022 during PBT**
Year 8 Parents' evening	**Wednesday 2nd March 2022**
Options forms available electronically	**Wednesday 2nd March 2022**
Tutor Group sessions with Leadership Team	**Between 9th March and 16th March 2022**
Year 8 and 9 Options evening	**Wednesday 9th March 2022**
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	**Monday 28th March 2022**

It is also important to note that:
- Subject teachers will explain and discuss with you the courses within their curriculum area
- All students will be seen in tutor time by Ms. Claughton, Deputy Headteacher, or another member of the Leadership Team to discuss choices and ask questions – students will also find out how to access the options form
- We are likely to hold Options Evening as a 'blended' approach, with the chance to visit classrooms in person, and with recorded presentations on Showbie. There will be a recorded presentation from Mrs Purnell and Ms. Claughton available online during this evening. We will notify you all with the finer arrangements ahead of 9th March
- The Year 8 options mailbox will be monitored throughout the term to answer any questions from students, parents and carers: year8options@ilkleygs.co.uk
- If your child's questions cannot be answered in this booklet, during tutor time or during the Options Evening, they will have the opportunity to book a meeting with a member of the Leadership Team. You will receive further information on how to book.

May/June 2022:
All options forms will be processed and teaching groups set up. We aim to allocate as many students as possible to their first preferences. However, because we cannot teach very small or very large numbers of students, some choices may not be able to be accommodated. Students would be offered their reserve choice in this case.

June/July 2022
Formal curriculum offer made to students.

If you have any questions please refer to the FAQ pages in the booklet or on the website. Any further queries should be sent to year8options@ilkleygs.co.uk making it clear that you are currently in year 8.

THE YEAR 9 CORE CURRICULUM

Every student must study **10 core subjects** in which choices are not required. These will make up just over sixty percent of your timetable and will ensure that you follow a broad and balanced curriculum, avoiding narrowing your choices too early.

Core Curriculum: Year 9

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Geography
- History
- RE/Citizenship
- IT
- PE
- MFL/Supported Study
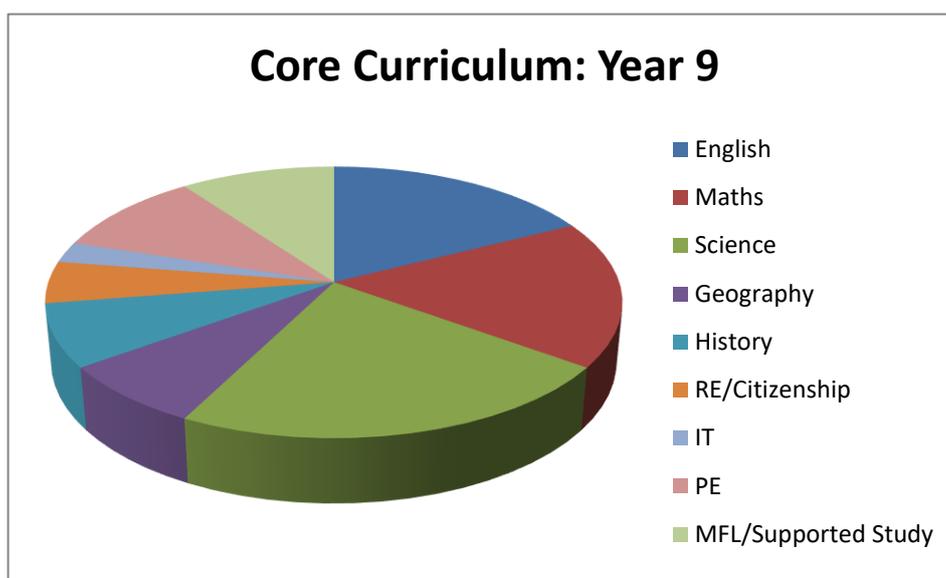
The year 9 core curriculum intentionally contains more compulsory subjects than years 10 and 11. Alongside English, mathematics, science, PE and RE/Citizenship which remain compulsory at Key Stage 4, all year 9 students must continue to study:

- Geography
- History
- Computing
- MFL/Supported Study

The inclusion of these subjects as part of the core programme in year 9 is designed to keep your options open. For example, as well as being important subjects in their own right, geography, history and French/Spanish are part of the English Baccalaureate, a combination of subjects which many of you may need to take at GCSE given the current educational climate.

Please note, as part of the year 9 curriculum we have increased science provision by two periods from the number of lessons in years 7 and 8. This means that all students now have 9 periods of science per fortnight, allowing the specialist science subjects of biology, chemistry and physics to be taught separately with 3 periods each. Science and maths are currently the only subjects which start their teaching of GCSE material in year 9.

THE NATIONAL PICTURE: THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

The coalition government introduced the English Baccalaureate in 2010. This is not a new qualification in itself. It recognises students who achieve a grade 5 or above in GCSE English, mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanities subject. The subjects included are designed to allow students to demonstrate they have studied a broad, rigorous, academic curriculum.

- At Key Stage 4, all students will access the English, mathematics and the science element of this qualification through the compulsory core subjects in years 10 and 11. Computer science can also be included as a subject in the science element; this subject is offered at GCSE and A-level, and has been introduced as a course in year 9 to build up programming skills.

- Currently, only history and geography are recognised as humanities subjects. This is another reason why both of these subjects remain compulsory in year 9, although they become optional at Key Stage 4.

- Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish). Our year 9 curriculum ensures that almost all students will continue with at least one language in year 9. We have always advised students that the continuation of a language is highly recommended at Key Stage 4. Students who want to take up a second language in year 9 can do so, but it will take up to two of the three choices.

More information about the English Baccalaureate can be found on the Department for Education website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/qualifications/englishbac/a0075975/the-english-baccalaureate

In the future, the English Baccalaureate may be considered as an additional factor by some employers and higher education institutions. Certainly, the view of the government is that almost all students should study the combination of subjects which make up the English Baccalaureate to ensure a rigorous, academic education at GCSE. Their aim is that 75-90% of students nationally will take the English Baccalaureate.

Over the past six years there have been major changes to GCSE specifications. The new GCSEs have new content and are structured, assessed and graded differently from the previous GCSEs.

Phase	First introduced from:	GCSE Subjects
1	September 2015	English Language English Literature Maths
2	September 2016	Geography History Biology Chemistry } Separate Science Physics Combined Science French Spanish Philosophy & Ethics Food Preparation & Nutrition Art, Craft and Design Drama Music Photography Physical Education Computer Science
3	September 2017	All other GCSE subjects, including design and technology, that are taught from this point are new, with any unreformed specifications withdrawn. Exam boards have to meet new rules for content and design when deciding which subjects to offer.

In the new GCSEs, assessments in English and maths are by exam only – there are no controlled assessments. This is also the case in subjects like history, geography and languages. Another key change is that for the new GCSEs, there has been a different grading system introduced; students will be awarded a grade from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest. Grade 9 is more challenging than the previous A*.

Further information about the GCSE reforms can be found on this government website: https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reforming-qualifications-and-the-curriculum-to-better-prepare-pupils-for-life-after-school/supporting-pages/gcse-reform

Linear GCSEs

All modular GCSEs have now been replaced with linear assessments (exams sat at the end of the course.) The government made this decision in order to:

- Ensure that GCSE exams are taken at the end of the course when students have a complete body of knowledge and can make links between their learning
- Remove the opportunity for multiple re-sitting of units
- Give greater emphasis to spelling, punctuation and grammar

Raising of the Participation Age

Changes in government legislation mean that all children need to remain in full time education or training until at least their 18th birthday. This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16 which could be through:

- full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
- full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training
- an apprenticeship

Our experience tells us that there are certain Do's and Don'ts to consider when making choices:

Do's and Don'ts

Do's: DO choose subjects you want to do. You are the person who has to do the work.

DO choose subjects that you are good at.

DO talk to your tutor, your teachers and your parents/carers and get their advice. They want to help you.

DO consider what you might like to study for GCSE.

Don'ts DON'T simply choose what your friend has chosen. There is no guarantee you will be in the same class as many of the subjects have more than one group. Think about your own future.

DON'T choose a subject because you like the teacher. They might not teach you next year.

DON'T choose something new just for a change. Find out about it first

DON'T choose before reading everything in this booklet, listening to advice and attending the choices evening on Wednesday 9th March.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET IT RIGHT. IT IS NOT USUALLY POSSIBLE TO SWAP COURSES ONCE YOU HAVE STARTED.

AND FINALLY...

This is a really exciting time for you. There are so many wonderful opportunities ahead, both within the courses you follow and in the fantastic range of activities available to you outside the classroom.

Challenge yourself – you will be surprised at what you can achieve!

How do I use the options booklet to help me make decisions?

The booklet is designed to give you detailed information about the subjects available in year 9. It is important that you discuss this information with parents, carers and teachers. When reading through the booklet, you need to ask yourself the following questions before making your choices:

  1) Do I like the subject?
  2) Will I do well in the subject?
  3) Will the subjects support possible option choices for GCSE and beyond?

Will I get my first choices?

It is hoped that all students will get their first preference of option subjects, but with a huge number of students all choosing different subjects, it is sometimes impossible to give everybody their first preference. You may not be able to get one of your first choices because:

  • the group is too large to include everyone
  • the option group is too small and has to be withdrawn

You should therefore make sure that your reserve choices are subjects that you definitely want to study. You will be given time to make sure that you are certain about your decisions, so use this time to speak to as many different people as possible.

Why would a group or subject be withdrawn?

Should a subject not attract a sufficient number of students to make it economic for the school to run, it might be withdrawn; students who have chosen that subject would then be guided to choose an alternative choice in line with their reserve subjects.

Some subjects are new. How do I know whether to choose them?

As well as information available from this booklet, more information will be available at the Year 8 and 9 Choices Evening on Wednesday 9th March. Here, specialist subject staff will be available to answer questions about all the courses on offer including subjects like business and media which have not been studied previously. Many of the new courses such as computer science, photography, philosophy and ethics and pre-GCSE PE have links to some of your current lessons, and your teachers will also be able to provide further details.

When is the deadline?

The deadline for submitting your form is Monday 28th March during registration.

Can I change my mind later?

Changing subject choices is not possible, unless there are **exceptional** individual circumstances which apply.

Why has IGS changed its curriculum to allow Year 8 students an element of choice?

A few years ago, over 78% of 389 year 9 and year 8 students expressed that they would favour the opportunity to personalise their year 9 curriculum rather than having to wait for the GCSE options process. Research shows that that a curriculum designed by student choice encourages motivation, achievement, direction and success. At IGS, this is reflected in the fact that students' results in many GCSE option subjects are higher than their overall average in all their subjects. For example, based on a comparison between an individual subject grade and a student's average from all their subjects taken at GCSE, the top performing subjects are most often option subjects.

This new curriculum also allows students to make more informed decisions at GCSE. It enables students to have more curriculum time studying some subjects, whilst also being given the opportunity to sample some new courses which have previously been only available in years 10 and 11. This will also help to develop deeper knowledge and understanding in preparation for the increasingly challenging demands at GCSE.

Other benefits include being able to generate slightly smaller class sizes in some of the subjects which will help support student progress.

Do these changes mean that students will sit GCSE examinations early in options subjects?

No. Students will sit their exams in option subjects at the end of year 11. Recent changes to government policy have resulted in the abolition of modular exams.

Why hasn't IGS started all GCSEs in year 9 like some other schools that operate a full 3-year Key Stage 4?

A three-year Key Stage 4 is very inflexible as students are locked into the early decisions they make in year 8. Also, now that GCSE courses are all linear with exams taken at the end, it would mean that students would have to learn, remember and recall information over a three-year period; topics taught in the autumn of year 9 would be as likely to appear on the exam paper as the topics covered in year 11. Most schools which introduced a three-year Key Stage 4 did so when exams were modular, taken in smaller units, and when students had the opportunity to resit exams if their result was not as high as they expected. GCSE reforms mean that these opportunities are no longer available.

Are year 8 students mature enough to make a decision about options?

Many successful schools both locally and nationally run a full options process in year 8, with students making decisions about GCSEs. This is not an issue in other schools and there is no reason why this should be a concern at IGS. Indeed, for the past five years, year 8 students at IGS have been able to make appropriate individual choices and demonstrated mature, responsible attitudes. Students will be fully supported in the process and given high quality advice and guidance. In addition, students are not choosing their GCSEs at this stage; they are making decisions which will hopefully inform what they do or do not want to study at GCSE.

What happens if a subject is not taken in year 9? Can it be picked up again for GCSE?

It is possible to take a subject again in year 10 even if a year has been missed in year 9. However, this approach is not to be encouraged as students will have missed some important experiences, knowledge and skills which have been included in the year 9 course to support the transition to GCSE. If this situation applies, students may be required to complete catch up work in the summer preceding the start of year 10.

The one exception to this is with a Modern Foreign Language. If, for example, students have studied French from year 7 and do not opt to pick up the second language in year 9, then they can't choose Spanish at GCSE. This is because students will not be able to learn the vocabulary and grammar required to meet the demands of GCSE if they have not studied the language before.

Can all year 9 options be taken through to GCSE?

No - there are 6 options in year 9 and only 4 options in year 10. Also, geography, history, languages and computing are only available as options at Key Stage 4, whereas they are compulsory in year 9. We have kept year 9 deliberately broad and balanced to avoid closing doors too early.

Student choices will need to be narrowed down further when choosing the 4 GCSE options for years 10 and 11; this is to ensure that each subject has enough curriculum time to meet the demands of the exam specifications.

Can a subject be chosen twice?

No because this would mean you would be repeating the year 9 course.

Are there any combinations of subjects in year 9 which are not allowed?

You cannot choose the essential technology course alongside a specialist technology subject. This is because the essential technology course covers all the different technologies and you could find yourself repeating some content.

Has this curriculum got a name?

We have been calling this model a 2:1:2 curriculum. This is because IGS will have two traditional years of Key Stage 3 in years 7 and 8 and two traditional years of Key Stage 4 in Years 10 and 11. Year 9 will be a little bit different with students being able to personalise parts of their curriculum whilst still studying 10 compulsory core subjects.

SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS AT IGS

- Electronics

- Food

- Resistant Materials

- Textiles

- Essential Technology (this is a course that combines different technology subjects)

- Event Management and Catering

- Design Engineering

Electronics

Course Title:	**Design and Technology Electronic Products**
What will I study in year 9?	You will explore your knowledge and understanding in the following aspects of electronic products: • Making circuits through breadboarding and PCB population, including using PCB drills and soldering • Designing using the iterative design cycle • Modelling and making using workshop machinery and materials such as card, timber and plastic A series of exciting design and make projects, giving an excellent introduction into designing and making electronic products
What skills will I develop?	Skills will be developed in: • Recognising and using electronic components • Understanding electronics as a system • Recognising and populating PCB boards • Soldering • Programming microcontrollers • Using the iterative design cycle to design for a target market, generate creative ideas using a variety of techniques • Creating Computer Aided Design files for laser cutting Using workshop tools and machinery to manufacture casing designs
Pathways at IGS:	This is an ideal introduction to GCSE Electronic Products. This can lead to Post 16 'A' level Product Design, as well as electronic engineering courses and manufacturing.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-8552-SP-2017.PDF
Career pathways:	Product Design, Electronic engineering courses and manufacturing industries.
Who to see for further information:	Miss Clifford Teacher of Design and Technology

Food

Course Title:	Design and Technology Food
What will I study in year 9?	You will follow modules of work including practical, theory and investigation work. You will extend your knowledge and understanding developed in years 7 and 8. An example module would be: Afternoon Tea • Investigating ingredients used in cake making • Practical food work, in particular the four methods of cake making • Making your own celebration cake
What skills will I develop?	• Practical skills • Teamwork • Investigation • Evaluation • Health and Safety
Pathways at IGS:	The year 9 Food course enables you to extend your experience in food and increase your subject knowledge, thus preparing you fully for progression onto our GCSE course or Hospitality and Catering in years 10 and 11.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food-preparation-and-nutrition/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585
Career pathways:	Careers are plentiful in such a huge and diverse industry. Opportunities may include jobs in food manufacture, for example, product development and marketing, as well as quality control jobs in health and safety such as environmental health work. Other careers include: • Recipe development and testing • Food photography for publications • Food marketing • Dietetics • Hospitality and catering
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Druett Head of Food Technology

Resistant Materials

Course Title:	**Design and Technology Resistant Materials**
What will I study in year 9?	You will learn about Design & Technology with a resistant material focus, using mainly timbers, plastics and metals. During year 9 we will travel through two practical projects with supporting design tasks. The first project builds an attractive, moving balance lamp with a personalised outcome. The second project develops your creative and problem-solving skills by designing and manufacturing a passive amplifier for your own mobile phone.
What skills will I develop?	- Cutting and shaping of timber using hand tools and machines; tri-square, steel rule, tenon saw, bench hook, sanding machines, pillar drills. hand sanding techniques & finishing techniques. - Cutting and shaping of aluminum using hand tools and machines; engineers square, scribes, snips, bench drills, filing, finishing through polishing. 2D CAD skills within CoralDraw. 3D CAD skills using OnShape. - CAM skills using the laser cutter and 3D printers. - Creative design skills including 2D and 3D sketching, rendering, plus developing presentation techniques. - Materials knowledge of; plywood, softwood, MDF, aluminum, acrylic, HIPS, components, papers & cards. Awareness of sustainability and the environment, plus how we as designers can work towards global improvements.
Pathways at IGS:	This course leads to GCSE Design & Technology, with a Resistant Materials focus, then A-level Product Design at Post 16.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-8552-SP-2017.PDF
Career pathways:	Resistant Materials provides creative and practical problem-solving skills within a range of industries. Possible career opportunities include; a designer of multiple specialisms, an engineering of many types or manufacturing, again across many sectors..
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Eyles Teacher of Design and Technology

Textiles

Course Title:	**Design and Technology Textiles**
What will I study in year 9?	You will experience a fantastic opportunity to explore your knowledge and understanding in the following aspects of textiles: • Variety of textile techniques • Manipulation of textile fabrics • Combining different technologies such as electronic components and using industrial machinery • The manufacture of 2 final products (Project 1 - a bag themed on different cultures with a range of traditional techniques and Project 2 - a fashion project manufacturing shorts.)
What skills will I develop?	**Practical skills:** • Researching • Designing • Making • Modifying • Evaluating • Safe use of specialist textile equipment.
Pathways at IGS:	The year 9 Textile Technology course allows you to secure an increased level of confidence and develop specialist skills in textiles. Ultimately this course will strengthen your thirst to progress on to the GCSE DT course in years 10 and 11.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-8552-SP-2017.PDF
Career pathways:	Fashion and textiles is a major employer in the UK offering a highly diverse and exciting range of career opportunities including: • Fashion Designer • Textile designer • Textile Design and Development • Textile Surface Pattern Designer • Merchandiser • Journalist • Teacher • Costume design for theatre and film
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Marshall - Associate Assistant Head Teacher: Technical Education and Practical Enrichment and Curriculum Leader: Design and Technology Ms Davies – Teacher of Design and Technology

Course Title:	Essential Core Skills in Technology
What will I study in year 9?	This course includes short and exciting opportunities in all the Technology specialist subjects. There is a short project in Textiles, Resistant Materials, Electronic Products and a series of practical dishes in Food.
What skills will I develop?	All the projects build upon the skills from year 7 and 8 and include for example: • **Food**- Meat sauce, melting and creaming methods • **Textiles**- Pattern making, experimenting with different techniques and making a 3D outcome • **Electronic Products**- Latching circuits, thyristor theory and designing for charity • **Resistant Materials**- Heat forming acrylic, attaching wall brackets and 3D sketch presentations
Pathways at IGS:	This course supports themes and content from the national curriculum and introduces students to some of the topics required for GCSE Design and Technology, engineering and GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. Given that it includes elements of all the technologies, it keeps your options open. These practical based GCSE courses can lead to higher and further education opportunities as well as trades and creative based industries.
Link to GCSE Specification:	All our Technology GCSE courses are provided by the AQA examination board. For further information see http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-8552-SP-2017.PDF
Career pathways:	Pathways include: creative, practical and manufacturing industries; post-16 A Level Product Design; higher education; 3D Product Design and Applied Engineering. The food and fashion industries are also expanding and there are many well paid and exciting employment opportunities in areas such as: recipe testing and development; food marketing; nutrition; dietetics; health and safety; publications and photography; hospitality and catering; retail; product development; interior and fashion design; marketing and teaching.
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Marshall - Associate Assistant Head Teacher: Technical Education and Practical Enrichment and Curriculum Leader: Design and Technology Mr Kerry – Head of Product Design

Event Management & Catering

Course Title:	Event Management and Catering
What will I study in year 9?	• Trialling a range of dishes • Modifying dishes for specific target audiences • Planning events and menus • Running events • Front of house job roles for school events • Food hygiene level 1 certificate
What skills will I develop?	• How to work as part of a team • How to communicate clearly • How to cook a range of dishes • How to handle food safely • Batch production of food products • How to plan and present menus • How to present food • How to work to a live brief and within a budget • Build accurate food preparation skills
Pathways at IGS:	Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering and GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.
Link to GCSE specification:	https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/ukvevv1a/level-12-hospitality-and-catering-specification.pdf https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/food/specifications/AQA-8585-SP-2016.PDF
Career pathways:	The hospitality industry is one of the biggest employers in the country. There is a diverse and varied range of jobs including management, sales, marketing, maintenance, office and catering. Specific roles include chef roles: Head chef; Sous chef; Commis chef; Chef de Partie. Front of house roles: Waiter/waitress; Porter; Concierge; Receptionist; Housekeeping; Event Management.
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Druett – Head of Food Technology Miss Whyman – Teacher of Food Technology Mrs Marshall – Associate Assistant Head Teacher: Technical Education and Practical Enrichment and Curriculum Leader: Design and Technology

Design Engineering

Course Title:	Design Engineering
What will I study in year 9?	This is the course for anyone who enjoys a 'hands on' approach and likes to learn by doing! Through a series of exciting design and make projects you will develop the keys skills which underpin all aspects of Engineering design and manufacture whilst developing understanding of how real products are developed in the modern world.
What skills will I develop?	You will develop skills in • Freehand Sketching • 2D & 3D Engineering drawings • 2D & 3D Computer Aided design. • A wide range of manufacturing techniques including the use of hand tools, machine tools and CAM. • Problem solving
Pathways at IGS:	Students taking this course would be well-prepared for the OCR Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design Course (level 2) or the AQA GCSE in Design Technology. This could lead to a post 16 'A' level Product Design Course, numerous applied college courses or Engineering or construction apprenticeships.
Link to GCSE specification:	OCR Cambridge Nationals Level1/2 Engineering Design https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-j822/ GCSE Design and Technology https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification-at-a-glance
Career pathways:	This course could lead to a wide range of careers including engineering, design, architecture construction, manufacturing or any of the trades. There are currently skills shortages in many of these industries giving rise to exciting career opportunities for appropriately qualified and skilled people.
Who to see for further information:	Mr Ibbertson , Teacher of Technology Mrs Marshall, Curriculum Leader Technology

CREATIVE OPTIONS AT IGS

- Art, Craft and Design

- Drama

- Media Studies

- Music

- Photography

NB: You cannot choose both:

- **Art, Craft and Design and photography <u>or</u>**

- **Photography and media as your two Creative Arts options. You must select one of the courses as a free option if you want to study the above combinations in year 9.**

Course Title:	Art, Craft and Design
What will I study in year 9?	The year 9 art course gives you a taste of what studying art at GCSE is like. You will continue to develop your skills across a range of themes, techniques and media. Current projects include: • Portraiture (drawing, photography and sculpture), • Oriental Art (illustration and paper cutting) • Acrylic painting techniques. You will also be introduced to work by prominent influential artists in order to inspire the development of your own work.
What skills will I develop?	Art is a vigorous and practical subject which focuses on developing creativity and gives you the opportunity to make personal, meaningful work. In year 9 you will have the opportunity to experiment with and develop your technical art, craft and design skills using a wide range of materials. You will learn to discuss and analyse the work of other artists and use this learning to inspire your own work. Art provides many life skills which will benefit your work in other curriculum areas; all projects will involve you in research, conceptual and creative thinking, problem solving and idea development.
Pathways at IGS:	The skills developed in year 9 will prepare you well for GCSE Art or Photography. You can then progress onto our A Level course. Not taking the course in year 9 does not prevent you from taking Art GCSE in year 10.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/art,-craft-and-design
Career pathways:	Architect; Graphic Designer; Interior Designer; Surface Pattern Designer; Fashion and Textiles Designer; Web Designer; Car Designer; Special Effects; Animator; Computer Game Designer; Jeweler; Hairdresser; Make-Up Artist; Stage Set Designer; Prop Maker; Teacher; Gallery Curator; Art Journalist; Photographer; Illustrator; Product & Furniture Designer; Ceramicist; Film Maker…
Who to see for further information:	Miss Harris – Head of Art Mr Clarke, Miss Whitley and Ms Mortimer – Art Teachers

Drama

Course Title:	**Drama**
What will I study in year 9?	Drama and the creative arts develop young people's creative thinking, communication and evaluation skills. During the year 9 drama course you will work as a director, designer, deviser and performer. You will: extend your use of dramatic techniques; explore different approaches to, and styles of, performance; examine the role of the director; explore theatre design; work with text; devise your own performances and develop your acting skills.
What skills will I develop?	Drama is an art form, a practical activity and an intellectual discipline. The skills that you will learn and extend are useful to all areas of life and are recognised as valuable by all employers and higher education institutions. You will develop your: leadership; problem solving; communication; team work; presentation; reasoning and evaluation skills. To see a video about the importance of drama go to: http://youtu.be/q3DGHtpuV28
Pathways at IGS:	The skills developed in year 9 will prepare you well for the GCSE or BTEC Drama courses. You can then progress onto the A Level Theatre Studies course. Not taking the course in year 9 does not prevent you from taking drama in year 10.
Link to GCSE & BTEC Specifications:	GCSE Drama AQA, Syllabus code 8261 https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama/specifications/AQA-8261-SP-2016.PDF BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370543-BTEC-Tech-Award-Performing-Arts-2022-spec-PPD1-150721.pdf
Career pathways:	Drama can lead to a wide range of careers including: Performer; Writer; Director; Stage or Studio Manager; Arts Administrator; Drama Therapist; Production Assistant; Television/Radio Presenter; Theatre Technician; Lighting / Costume / Scene; Teacher; Personnel Manager; Marketing Executive; Choreographer; Education Support Worker; Journalist; Reviewer; Community Arts Worker; Festival Organiser; Resource Manager ... the list is endless. *"The arts make us feel connected to one another and less isolated…We find our identity and make it easier and more pleasurable to live and they also give us wisdom" Arthur Miller (Playwright and Director)"*
Who to see for further information:	Ms Ramrattan: Head of Drama Miss Clift & Miss Womack: Drama Teachers

Media Studies

Course Title:	Media Studies
What will I study in year 9?	Media Studies helps young people to develop creative thinking, research and communication skills. The course combines critical thinking and analysis with practical productions. For your initial production you will create an online magazine. The second term focuses on film genres; you will come up with an idea for a new feature film and then develop creative ways to promote it. Finally, you will learn about video production techniques, planning and producing a short film of your own.
What skills will I develop?	Media students will develop a range of valuable transferrable skills that they can apply to other subjects as well as work and study beyond school. We will work on your research skills, team-working, understanding of 'media language', and specific software including Adobe's Creative Suite and Apple's advanced video-editing app *Final Cut Pro X*.
Pathways at IGS:	You can follow this course with a GCSE in Media Studies at Key Stage 4 and the Post 16 Cambridge Technical course. The knowledge and skills you gain in Year 9 will put you at a great advantage. However, not taking the course in Year 9 does not prevent you from taking Media in Year 10.
Link to GCSE Specification:	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies-gcse/
Career pathways:	The UK creative sector is thriving and past IGS media students have gone on to a wide range of media-related careers and further study in journalism, graphic design, advertising, film-making, teaching, video production and more. A number have been head-hunted direct from school on the basis of their media coursework!
Who to see for further information:	Mr Van Zomerplaag – Head of Media Studies Mrs Parmar – Media Studies teacher Mrs Hutchings – Media Studies teacher

Music

Course Title:	Music
What will I study in year 9?	Music and the Creative Arts develop young people's creative thinking, communication and evaluation skills. Building on the skills acquired in years 7 and 8, you will find yourself working in a rehearsal- based environment. In our Song writing topic, you will explore genres (eg Reggae/Protest/Musical Theatre) and conventions which will feed into the composition of your own song. You will compose music for a computer/video game and perform South American rhythms in our Rhythms Of The World unit! You will also study Minimalist Music and take part in an end of year project. Throughout Year 9 you will have many opportunities to develop your performing, composing, listening and appraising techniques using an ever-increasing bank of subject vocabulary. Playing and singing music exercises parts of the human brain that develop to help problem solving, creative thinking and multi-tasking which is why a high proportion of musicians/singers are amongst the top performers in core subjects.
What skills will I develop?	Music is a massive boost to learning and living. It is a science, an art form, a foreign language and physical education as well as a way of developing insight and teamwork. Take a look at this video which explains the more hidden skills you will develop if you continue to study music; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0JKCYZ8hng
Pathways at IGS:	It may not be essential for students to continue into GCSE and A Level from year 9 but music is a lifelong pleasure which will be hugely enhanced by participation in year 9. The pathways can lead through GCSE, A Level and beyond! Not taking the course in year 9 does not prevent you from taking Music GCSE in year 10.
Link to GCSE specification:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271
Career pathways:	Teaching; Music Therapy; Music Technology; Studio engineer; Producer; Performer; Composer; Arranger; Instrumental Teacher; Singer; Music Retailer; Librarian; Conductor; Music Critic-Journalist; DJ; Manager; …and many, many more… the list is endless! *"When words leave off, music begins." HEINE*
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Chapman Head of Music

Photography

Course Title:	Photography
What will I study in year 9?	In year 9 you will learn the technical skills of using a camera effectively, how to compose excellent photographs and how to improve and edit your images further using Photoshop. Current projects include Composition (an exploration of creative themes), Manga viewpoints, mixed media photography, David Hockney inspired Joiners, and a graphics project. You will be encouraged to respond to themes imaginatively and creatively. The course will include technical study and written work. You will also be introduced to work by prominent influential photographers in order to inspire the development of your own work. You <u>do not</u> need to own a camera in order to complete the course. Cameras are provided for use in lessons.
What skills will I develop?	Photography is a vigorous and practical subject which focuses on developing creativity and gives you the opportunity to make personal, meaningful work. In year 9 you will learn the technical skills required to control a camera and other related equipment. You will learn to write about, discuss and analyse the work of other photographers and designers and use this learning to inspire your own work. Photography provides many life skills which will benefit your work in other curriculum areas; all projects will involve you in research, conceptual and creative thinking, problem solving and idea development.
Pathways at IGS:	The skills developed in year 9 will prepare you well for GCSE Art or Photography. You can then progress onto our A Level course. Not taking the course in year 9 does not prevent you from taking Art or Photography GCSE in year 10.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography
Career pathways:	Architect; Graphic Designer; Interior Designer; Surface Pattern Designer; Fashion and Textiles Designer; Web Designer; Car Designer; Special Effects; Animator; Computer Game Designer; Jeweler; Hairdresser; Make-Up Artist; Stage Set Designer; Prop Maker; Teacher; Gallery Curator; Art Journalist; Photographer; Illustrator; Product & Furniture Designer; Ceramicist; Film Maker…
Who to see for further information:	Miss Whitley and Ms. Mortimer – Photography Teachers

FREE OPTIONS AT IGS

You may choose your free options from any of the choices which you haven't already selected in:

- **the Technology section** (however, you cannot combine the essential technology course with a specialist technology)
- **the Creative Arts section**

You can also choose from:

- **Computer Science**
- **French (if you are already studying Spanish)**
- **Introduction to Business Studies**
- **Introduction to Law**
- **Philosophy and Ethics**
- **Pre-GCSE PE**
- **Spanish (if you are already studying French)**
- **Digital IT**
- **Skills For Success**

Computer Science

Course Title:	Computer Science
What will I study in year 9?	You will understand the hardware and software components that make up computer systems, and how they communicate with one another and other systems. You will learn how numbers can be represented in binary and be able to carry out simple operations on binary numbers e.g. addition. You will gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts around creating software applications. You will develop computer programs using a range of languages such as Python, Scratch, App Inventor and Gamemaker to solve a variety of computational problems and meet the user's needs.
What skills will I develop?	You will develop skills that can be transferred to further learning and everyday life, such as: • Working collaboratively • Problem Solving • Logical Thinking • Critical Thinking • Analysis • Creativity • Abstraction
Pathways at IGS:	The year 9 Computer Science course fully prepares you for courses in Digital IT and Computer Science at KS4. Pathways in these areas are also available at A Level.
Link to GCSE Specification:	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2022/
Career pathways:	A course in Computer Science will develop skills that are integral to all future learning and employment. Specific careers include: Games Developer; Multimedia Programmer; Software Development; Programmer; Web Development; IT Consultant; Network Engineer; Systems Analyst and Network Technician. Computer science also underpins many other STEM subjects like science, technology and engineering.
Who to see for further information:	Miss Brides Head of Computing

French

Course Title:	French
What will I study in year 9? Ab initio (a one year intensive course to get you ready for the option of a GCSE in this topic by end of Year 9 (counts for 2 options)	As an ab-initio learner (from scratch) in year 9 you will be studying the following topics in a one-year intensive course to ensure you are ready to study the GCSE course in year 10: • The basics (alphabet, greetings, numbers) • All about me (personal descriptions, family members and relationships) • Free time, technology and sport • Where I live • Holiday plans and opinions You will be introduced to 3-time frames (past, present and future) in all topics enabling you to narrate and speak confidently about the above topics using a range of justified opinions.
What skills will I develop?	• You will be able to refer to events in the present, past and future • You will extend your knowledge of life in France and French-speaking countries • You will learn to be even more independent in using online resources to speak and write • Your understanding of spoken and written French will rapidly develop • You will be able to speak more spontaneously in French
Pathways at IGS:	• If you have studied Spanish in year 7 and 8 and would like to choose French as an option in year 9, you will complete an intensive one-year ab initio course (from scratch) in order to prepare you for starting the GCSE alongside your peers who have studied French in year 7, 8 and 9. • You will be in a class with other students who have also opted to choose French as their second language. If you opt to pick up French as your second language, you cannot drop Spanish. **Please note, choosing to study French as your second language will take up two of your option choices.** • This will enable you to choose either French and/or Spanish for your GCSE options for year 10, as a number of students do every year. • If you are unsure of whether studying two languages would be appropriate for you, please ask your teacher for their advice.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658
Career pathways:	Languages are a useful addition to any career choice People with language skills usually earn more than those who don't. Universities and employers are always happy to see languages on your CV as it shows you are an excellent communicator and you have the cognitive skills required to be successful. In addition: • It is a requirement of some university degree courses that are not language based • It opens a world of communication and cultural awareness as well as opportunities within business, travel and tourism
Who to see for further information:	Mr Kevin Kehoe Curriculum Leader: MFL Miss Ana Maria Blane-Hernandez Second in Department: MFL

Introduction to Business Studies

Course Title:	Introduction to Business Studies
What will I study in year 9?	You will study a range of business topics including: • Types of business • Entrepreneurs and enterprise • Production • How businesses recruit • Marketing • Personal and business finance The course is designed to build upon your existing knowledge and understanding of local businesses. It prepares you for, but does not overlap, the GCSE Business course.
What skills will I develop?	This course is designed specifically to help you build the skills required for academic, personal and (eventually) workplace progress. There will be a range of projects giving you the opportunity to develop research, time-management, communication and presentation skills alongside your growing understanding of the world of business. We expect you to take responsibility for your own learning and to be able to work independently outside the classroom and meet all deadlines.
Pathways at IGS:	GCSE Business (Edexcel) A Level Business (Edexcel) A Level Economics (OCR)
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Business/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/GCSE_Business_Spec_2017.pdf
Career pathways:	This course, and the GCSE and A Level courses should you choose to take them, will provide you with the skills and background to make a successful transition to higher education and/or the world of work. The practical skills are highly valued by universities and employers and the course will also help you to decide if you could be a future entrepreneur!
Who to see for further information:	Mr J Comiskey Head of Business Studies

Introduction to Law

Course Title:	Introduction to Law
What will I study in year 9?	You will gain an understanding of: • the meaning, definition and classification of law • sources of English law and the hierarchy of the UK courts • the consequences of breaking the law, from the individual involved to the impact on the wider community • the role of people in the law (including sessions with Legal professionals – JPs, Lawyers – via the Digital Legal Experts in Schools programme) • Law and society – how laws have been created and how they can be amended and repealed to suit the changing needs of society. • How a case proceeds from the police station to the Magistrates Court and how a case is then tried
What skills will I develop?	You will develop skills that can be transferred to further learning and to life and business, such as: • Working collaboratively • Problem Solving • Logical Thinking • Critical Thinking • Research skills • Analysis • Creativity You will look at how trials are put together and staged through voluntary participation in the Citizenship Foundations' Magistrates Court Mock Trial competition, including the role of Court Reporter and Court Artist. You will also learn how to prepare, build and take part in debates on issues as varied as the death penalty and whether robots have rights.
Pathways at IGS:	The year 9 course will develop knowledge and understanding which will be useful to your study of the criminal justice system and citizenship at KS4 and in developing you as a fully rounded individual who participates in the challenges of modern-day society. The course touches on issues you can study further at IGS with the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology at Post-16. Details of the course can be found at the WJEC website and HERE
Link to GCSE specification:	Due to government changes, GCSE Law is not being developed by exam boards such as AQA and has not been available since 2017.
Career pathways:	The course will be of particular interest to: 1. those who may already be thinking of a career in the law (or as a background to many other legal / social work / uniformed services / business disciplines) 2. those who are simply interested in this area
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Lister: Teacher of Law, Criminology & Citizenship

Philosophy and Ethics

Course Title:	Philosophy and Ethics
What will I study in year 9?	Introduction to Philosophy – You will be introduced to some of the greatest thinkers of our time and be given the opportunity to explore and critique their ideas. You will look at what it means to be a human and whether robots should be given human rights. You will go on to study various ideas surrounding life after death and the various arguments between Science and Religion.
What skills will I develop?	You will develop skills that can be transferred to further learning and everyday life, such as: • Willingness to learn • Self-motivation and desire to achieve • Teamwork • Communication skills (oral and written) • Rapid identification of key issues • Problem solving • Initiative and creativity • Time management – producing work to deadlines • Research and investigative ability
Pathways at IGS:	The year 9 Philosophy and Ethics course fully prepares you for the AQA Religious Studies B, Philosophy and Ethics in years 10 and 11. The subject is also available at A Level.
Link to GCSE specification:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062
Career pathways:	Philosophy and Ethics provides an excellent foundation for those students wishing to pursue careers or courses leading to work in: the Social Sciences; Law; Theology; Psychology; Nursing; Midwifery; Teaching and the Police Force
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Lea Head of Religious Studies

Pre-GCSE PE

Course Title:	P.G.P (Pre-GCSE PE)
What will I study in year 9?	You will follow varied modules of work, involving tasters of both practical and theory sessions from the new GCSE specification. **Aims of the Course:** • develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance • understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport • perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas • develop students' ability to analyse and evaluate, to improve performance in physical activity and sport • understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
What skills will I develop?	• Teamwork and communication skills • Evaluative and analytical skills • Awareness of health and safety issues in sport • Research and revision techniques • Exam technique
Pathways at IGS:	The year 9 Physical Education course enables you to widen your experience in sport and increase your subject knowledge, thus preparing you fully for progression onto our GCSE course in years 10 and 11.
Link to GCSE Specification:	For more information please visit the website at, http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-physical-education-j587-from-2016
Career pathways:	With an emphasis on healthy active lifestyles in today's society, there are increasing career opportunities in sport and health and fitness: teaching; sports management; physiotherapy; sport science; sports psychology; fitness instructor; and the armed forces.
Who to see for further information:	Mr A Falkner, teacher of PE Miss Allen, teacher of PE

Spanish

Course Title:	Spanish
What will I study in year 9? Ab initio (a one-year intensive course to get you ready for the option of a GCSE in this topic by end of Year 9 (counts for 2 options)	As an ab-initio learner (from scratch) in year 9 you will be studying the following topics in a one-year intensive course to ensure you are ready to study the GCSE course in year 10: • The basics (alphabet, greetings, numbers) • All about me (personal descriptions, family members and relationships) • Free time, technology and sport • Where I live • Food and eating out You will be introduced to 3-time frames (past, present and future) in all topics enabling you to narrate and speak confidently about the above topics using a range of justified opinions.
What skills will I develop?	• You will be able to refer to events in the present, past and future • You will extend your knowledge of modern technological vocabulary, talking about mobile devices, the internet and social media, as well as what you like on TV, books and music in order to be able to discuss your interests with a native Spaniard • You will learn to be even more independent in using online resources to speak and understand spoken Spanish • Your understanding of spoken and written Spanish will rapidly develop • You will be able to speak more spontaneously in Spanish
Pathways at IGS:	• If you have studied French in year 7 and 8 and would like to choose Spanish as an option in year 9, you will complete an intensive one-year ab initio course (from scratch) in order to prepare you for starting the GCSE alongside your peers who have studied Spanish in year 7, 8 and 9. You will be in a class with other students who have also opted to choose Spanish as their second language. If you opt to pick up Spanish as your second language, you cannot drop French. **Please note, choosing to study Spanish as your second language will take up two of your option choices.** • This will enable you to choose either French and/or Spanish for your GCSE options for year 10, as a number of students do every year. • If you are unsure of whether studying two languages would be appropriate for you, please ask your teacher for their advice.
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698
Career pathways:	Languages are a useful addition to any career choice People with language skills usually earn more than those who don't. Universities and employers are always happy to see languages on your CV as it shows you are an excellent communicator and you have the cognitive skills required to be successful. In addition: • It is a requirement of some university degree courses that are not language based • It opens a world of communication and cultural awareness as well as opportunities within business, travel and tourism
Who to see for further information:	Mr Kevin Kehoe Curriculum Leader: MFL Miss Ana Maria Blane-Hernandez Second in Department: MFL

Digital IT

Course Title:	Digital Information Technology
What will I study in year 9?	You will undertake creative projects that involve selecting, using and combining multiple applications, across a range of devices, to achieve challenging goals that meet the needs of known users. You will create, re-use, revise and re-purpose digital artefacts for a given audience, with attention to trustworthiness, design and usability. You will understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting your online identity and privacy, recognising inappropriate content, contact and conduct and learning how to report concerns.
What skills will I develop?	You will become an independent and discerning user of IT, able to make informed decisions about its use and implications. You will acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in different contexts. You will develop IT-based solutions to solve problems and develop the skills to work collaboratively. You will advance in the usability of software such as Google Sketchup, Audacity, Blender, Excel, Dreamweaver, MS Access and Photoshop. You will find, select and evaluate information for its relevance, value, accuracy and plausibility. You will manipulate and process data and other information instructions, model situations and explore ideas. You will think creatively, critically and logically on this course.
Pathways at IGS:	The year 9 Digital IT course fully prepares you for courses in IT and Computer Science at KS4. Pathways in these areas are also available at A Level.
Link to Specification:	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/information-technology/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370506-BTEC-Tech-Award-Digital-Information-Technology-2022-spec-PPD1.pdf
Career pathways:	A course in Digital Information Technology will develop skills that are integral to all future learning and employment. Specific careers include: Games Developer; Multimedia; Software Development; Database Analyst; Web Development; IT Consultant; Network Engineer; Systems Analyst; and Network Technician.
Who to see for further information:	Miss Brides Head of Computing

Skills for Success (SFS)

Course Title:	**Skills For Success (SFS)**
What will I study in year 9?	This course will involve a combination of group and individual mentoring activities tailored to the needs of each pupil. It will be highly personalised with an emphasis on building confidence and promoting positive relationships. **Due to the highly individualised nature of support, students for whom this is appropriate will be guided towards this option.** The themes for each half term are: Healthy Body; Helping Others; Making Choices; Managing Risk; Healthy Mind and the World of Work. Activities would include: outward bound and team-building activities; mentoring sessions; work experience visits and tasters within school and in the local community; motivational talks; guest speakers and interactive workshops and familiarisation activities exploring the GCSE options process.
What skills will I develop?	This course is intended to further develop the skills promoted in Personal Best Time. Students will have the opportunity to develop a range of key skills such as: teamwork; emotional regulation; time management; personal organisation; interpersonal and decision-making skills. Students will become more confident and more skilful in managing their day to day lives both within and outside school.
Pathways at IGS:	The aim of this course is to enable selected students to progress into year 10 with improved potential to succeed within school as confident members of the school community.
Link to GCSE specification:	This course is designed to enable students to successfully access a wider range of GCSE options and other technical/vocational courses than might have otherwise been possible.
Career pathways:	The skills and experiences developed on this course will equip students to work successfully in a variety of workplace contexts. These are the basic skills required for any job.
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Marshall - Associate Assistant Head Teacher: Technical Education and Practical Enrichment and Curriculum Leader: Design and Technology Mr Urwin – Teacher of ICT

EXAMPLE COMPLETED OPTIONS FORM

Name: _____   **Tutor Group** _____

OPTION 1	
Technology **(Choose 1 by ticking in the box)**	
	✔
DT Electronics	✔
DT Food	
DT Resistant Materials	
DT Textiles	
Essential Technology (this is a combination of the different technologies)	
Event Management and Catering	
Design Engineering	

OPTIONS 2 AND 3	
Creative Arts **(Choose 2 in order of preference)**	
Art Craft and Design	**2**
Drama	
Media Studies	
Music	**1**
Photography	

Signed by:

_____ (student)

_____ (parent/carer)

OPTIONS 4, 5 and 6	
Choose 3 subjects in order of preference by indicating 1st 2nd and 3rd choice. These **must** be different to your choices for options 1-3.	
Art, Craft and Design	
Computer Science	**2ND**
Drama	**1ST**
DT Electronics	
DT Food	
DT Resistant Materials	
DT Textiles	
French	
Introduction to Business Studies	
Introduction to Law	
Media Studies	
Music	
Philosophy and Ethics	**3RD**
Photography	
Pre-GCSE PE (PGP)	
Spanish	
Digital IT	
Event Management and Catering	
Engineering	
Skills for Success	

RESERVE CHOICES

Reserve 1	Reserve 2
Introduction to Law	**Pre-GCSE PE (PGP)**

SAMPLE OPTIONS FORM

Name: _____   **Tutor Group** _____

OPTION 1	
Technology **(Choose 1 by ticking in the box)**	
DT Electronics	
DT Food	
DT Resistant Materials	
DT Textiles	
Essential Technology (this is a combination of the different technologies)	
Event Management and Catering	
Design Engineering	

OPTIONS 2 AND 3	
Creative Arts **(Choose 2 in order of preference)**	
Art Craft and Design	
Drama	
Media Studies	
Music	
Photography	

Signed by:

_____ (student)

_____ (parent/carer)

OPTIONS 4, 5 and 6	
Choose 3 subjects in order of preference by indicating 1st 2nd and 3rd choice. These **must** be different to your choices for options 1-3.	
Art, Craft and Design	
Computer Science	
Drama	
DT Electronics	
DT Food	
DT Resistant Materials	
DT Textiles	
French	
Introduction to Business Studies	
Introduction to Law	
Media Studies	
Music	
Philosophy and Ethics	
Photography	
Pre-GCSE PE (PGP)	
Spanish	
Digital IT	
Event Management and Catering	
Engineering	
Skills for Success	

RESERVE CHOICES

Reserve 1	Reserve 2
Introduction to Law	**Pre-GCSE PE (PGP)**