

OPTIONS GUIDE 2024-25



Year 8 Options 2024

The best choices will allow you to
achieve to the very
best of your ability



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

**CHANGE
AHEAD**

Why an options process in year 9?

1. Personalise your curriculum in light of these changes to education- try out subjects before KS4 where demands are high in terms of exams.
2. A chance to further develop knowledge and skills in subjects that you might be considering as options subjects in y10/11 at GCSE.

IT IS NOT STARTING YOUR GCSEs EARLY, BUT WILL GIVE YOU OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN CORE CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT UNLOCK LATER UNDERSTANDING IN GCSE AND BEYOND.

“Success is a journey, not a destination.”

NATIONAL CHANGES

THE SITUATION 8 YEARS AGO

GCSEs were modular. Students could sit exams after they studied a unit. Exams could be taken in January and June in both years 10 and 11.

Students had the opportunity to resit an exam in order to improve their grades.

English: Speaking and listening counted for 20% of the overall mark; coursework (controlled assessment) was worth another 40% and the final exams were worth 40%.

All vocational qualifications such as BTECs which involved more coursework and practical work were worth the same as GCSEs.

CHANGES WHICH HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED

GCSEs are all now **linear**. This means that all exams are taken at the end of the course; at IGS this means that almost all exams are now taken at the end of year 11.

There are **no opportunities for GCSE resits** during years 10 and 11.

English: Speaking and listening no longer counts towards the final grade. English is now assessed only on exams. **There is no controlled assessment.**

Only approved **vocational qualifications** are considered by the government to be worth the same as GCSEs. These include approved BTECs and technical awards.

MORE NATIONAL CHANGES WHICH AFFECT ALL STUDENTS

ENGLISH	MATHS	ALL OTHER SUBJECTS
No more controlled assessment. The grade is based completely on exams at the end of year 11.	“The new mathematics GCSE will be more challenging and demanding .”	Geography History Biology Chemistry Physics Combined Science Languages* (new course in 2024, first exam in 2026) Philosophy & Ethics Food Preparation & Nutrition Art and Design Business Studies Drama Music Physical Education Computer Science Technology
20% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.	There is more content in the new maths GCSE.	
There is only one level of exam paper.	Foundation: grades 1 – 5 Higher: grades 4-9	

ALL NEW GCSES INCLUDING ENGLISH, LITERATURE AND MATHS ARE GRADED DIFFERENTLY. INSTEAD OF LETTERED GRADES , STUDENTS WILL ACHIEVE A NUMBER 1 TO 9 WITH 9 BEING THE HIGHEST.

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY INTRODUCED FROM SEPT. 2015

	Year 9			
	English	Maths	Science	Option subject
No. of lessons per cycle 2014-15	6	6	7	2
2015 onwards No. of lessons	7	7	9	3
No. of additional lessons per cycle	1	1	2	1 per option
No. of additional lessons per academic year*	19	19	38	19 per option

	Year 10			
	English	Maths	Science	Option subject
No. of lessons per cycle 2014-15	9	7	9	5
2015 onwards No. of lessons per cycle	11	8	9	6
No of additional lessons per cycle	2	1		1 per option
No of additional lessons per academic year*	38	19		19 per option

	Year 11			
	English	Maths	Science	Option subject
No. of lessons per cycle 2014-15	8	6	12	5
2015 Onwards No. of lessons per cycle	10	8	12	6
No of additional lessons per cycle	2	2		1 per option
No of additional lessons per academic year*	29	29		14.5 per option

CHANGES AT ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE SITUATION SIX YEARS AGO

In year 9, students studied all subjects.

There was no student choice.

Students chose options for GCSE around March of Year 9 and started subjects in year 10



CHANGES INTRODUCED 2014-15

In 2014-15, we introduced a 2:1:2 curriculum. Students were able to make some choices in year 8 in order to personalise parts of their curriculum in year 9.

This experience helped to inform student choices when they came to make decisions about GCSEs in March of year 9



CHANGES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR 8

We are continuing to run this new options based curriculum.

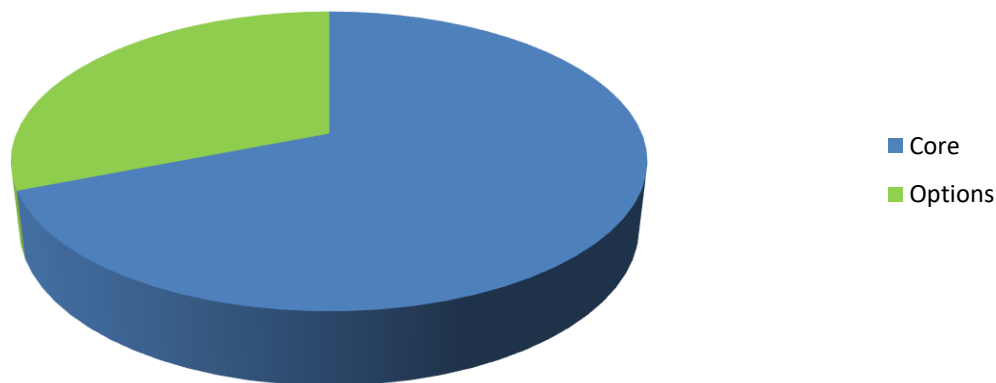
This 2:1:2 curriculum has been further developed since its first introduction with an increased range of options available, including more 'supported' options.

THE YEAR 9 CORE CURRICULUM 2024-25

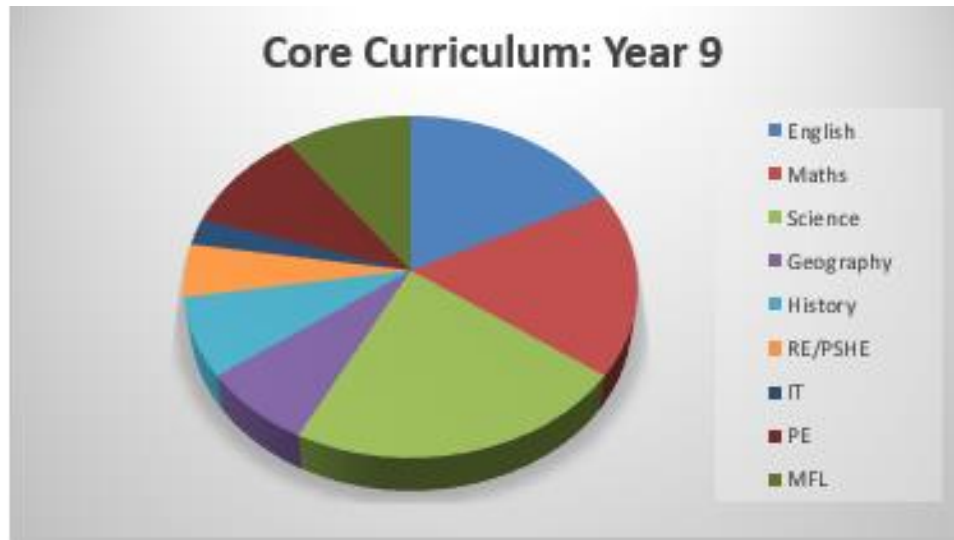
English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
7	7	9	3	3

RE/PSHE	Computing	Core PE	MFL
2	1	4	4

Year 9



WHY ARE ALL THESE SUBJECTS CORE?



- 1) **English, maths, science and RE** are statutory in all schools until the end of Key Stage 4
- 2) **Geography and history** are both EBACC subjects and support the development of literacy skills.
- 3) **PSHE and Citizenship** helps to develop active citizens who stay healthy and are prepared for life in modern Britain, gain relationships and sex education and understand protected characteristics and Fundamental British Values.
- 4) **PE** provides opportunities to become physically confident which supports health and fitness.
- 5) **Computing** develops skills for life in a modern, digital world.
- 6) **MFL**: In a global society, the ability to speak another language is a recognised and valuable skill. A language is also an essential component of the EBACC.

The English Baccalaureate - GCSE

English	Maths	2 x Science	Language	History Or Geography
Grades 5 - 9				

The English Baccalaureate is a combination of 6 traditional academic subjects. This is not a new qualification in itself, but recognises students achieving 6 GCSE grades 5-9 in the above academic subjects.

It is a traditional, academic pathway and it could become compulsory for students of your age next year; it has been described as a “university-based curriculum”

Currently, only history and geography are recognised as humanities subjects.

Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish) are both available at KS4, although you only need to select one as part of the English Baccalaureate. There is a new structure to the specifications in these subjects for first teaching in 2024 and first exams in 2026.

AVOIDING NARROWING TOO MUCH TOO EARLY YEAR 9 v YEARS 10/11

	Year 9 Curriculum	Years 10/11 Curriculum																						
Core	<div><div>EnglishMathematicsScienceGeographyHistory</div><div>RE/PSHEComputingPEMFL</div></div>	<div><div>EnglishMathsScience</div><div>RE/PSHEPE</div></div>																						
Options	<table><tr><td>Option 1</td><td>Technology Specialism</td></tr><tr><td>Option 2</td><td>Creative Arts Specialism</td></tr><tr><td>Option 3</td><td>Creative Arts Specialism</td></tr><tr><td>Option 4</td><td>Free Option</td></tr><tr><td>Option 5</td><td>Free Option</td></tr><tr><td>Option 6</td><td>Free Option</td></tr></table>	Option 1	Technology Specialism	Option 2	Creative Arts Specialism	Option 3	Creative Arts Specialism	Option 4	Free Option	Option 5	Free Option	Option 6	Free Option	<table><tr><td>Option 1</td><td>Ebacc Subject</td><td>Choice from:<ul style="list-style-type: none">GeographyHistoryComputer ScienceSeparate ScienceFrenchSpanish</td></tr><tr><td>Option 2</td><td>Free Option</td><td rowspan="3">The combination of subjects will be dependent on the pathway followed.</td></tr><tr><td>Option 3</td><td>Free Option</td></tr><tr><td>Option 4</td><td>Free Option</td></tr></table>	Option 1	Ebacc Subject	Choice from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">GeographyHistoryComputer ScienceSeparate ScienceFrenchSpanish	Option 2	Free Option	The combination of subjects will be dependent on the pathway followed.	Option 3	Free Option	Option 4	Free Option
Option 1	Technology Specialism																							
Option 2	Creative Arts Specialism																							
Option 3	Creative Arts Specialism																							
Option 4	Free Option																							
Option 5	Free Option																							
Option 6	Free Option																							
Option 1	Ebacc Subject	Choice from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">GeographyHistoryComputer ScienceSeparate ScienceFrenchSpanish																						
Option 2	Free Option	The combination of subjects will be dependent on the pathway followed.																						
Option 3	Free Option																							
Option 4	Free Option																							

THE OPTIONS CURRICULUM

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 Event Management/ Catering Design Engineering	Art*** Drama Music Photography*** Media Studies***		3 choices from: A 2 nd language (NB: this takes up 2 free options) A 2 nd or 3 rd specialist technology A 3 rd creative art Computer Science Introduction to Business Studies Introduction to Law Philosophy and Ethics Pre-GCSE PE Digital IT Preparation for Adulthood ** (guided option) Accelerated Literacy (AL)**** (guided option)		

CORE + OPTIONS = A BROAD AND BALANCED CURRICULUM

TECHNOLOGY

Specialist Technology Option:

A choice from:

**FOOD
TECHNOLOGY**

TEXTILES

**RESISTANT
MATERIALS**

**ELECTRONIC
PRODUCTS**

**IF YOU CHOOSE A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY, YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE A SECOND
OR THIRD SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY AS PART OF YOUR FREE OPTIONS**

MORE SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS

EVENT MANAGEMENT AND
CATERING

DESIGN ENGINEERING

Students may be 'guided' to these practical options where appropriate.



THE CREATIVE ARTS OPTIONS:

2 choices from:

**ART
OR
PHOTOGRAPHY***

DRAMA

**MEDIA
STUDIES***

MUSIC

NB: You can choose both art and photography, but one of them must be one of your free options

****You can choose both media and photography, but one of them must be one of your free options**



FREE OPTIONS:

Option 5	Free Option
Option 6	Free Option
Option 7	Free Option

CHOICES:

Any specialist technology not already chosen

A third creative subject not already chosen.

A second language either French or Spanish

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS:

Computer Science

Digital IT

An Introduction To Business

An Introduction To Law

Philosophy and Ethics

Pre-GCSE PE (PGP)

A supported subject:

- Preparation for Adulthood**
- Accelerated Literacy**



TAKING A SECOND LANGUAGE

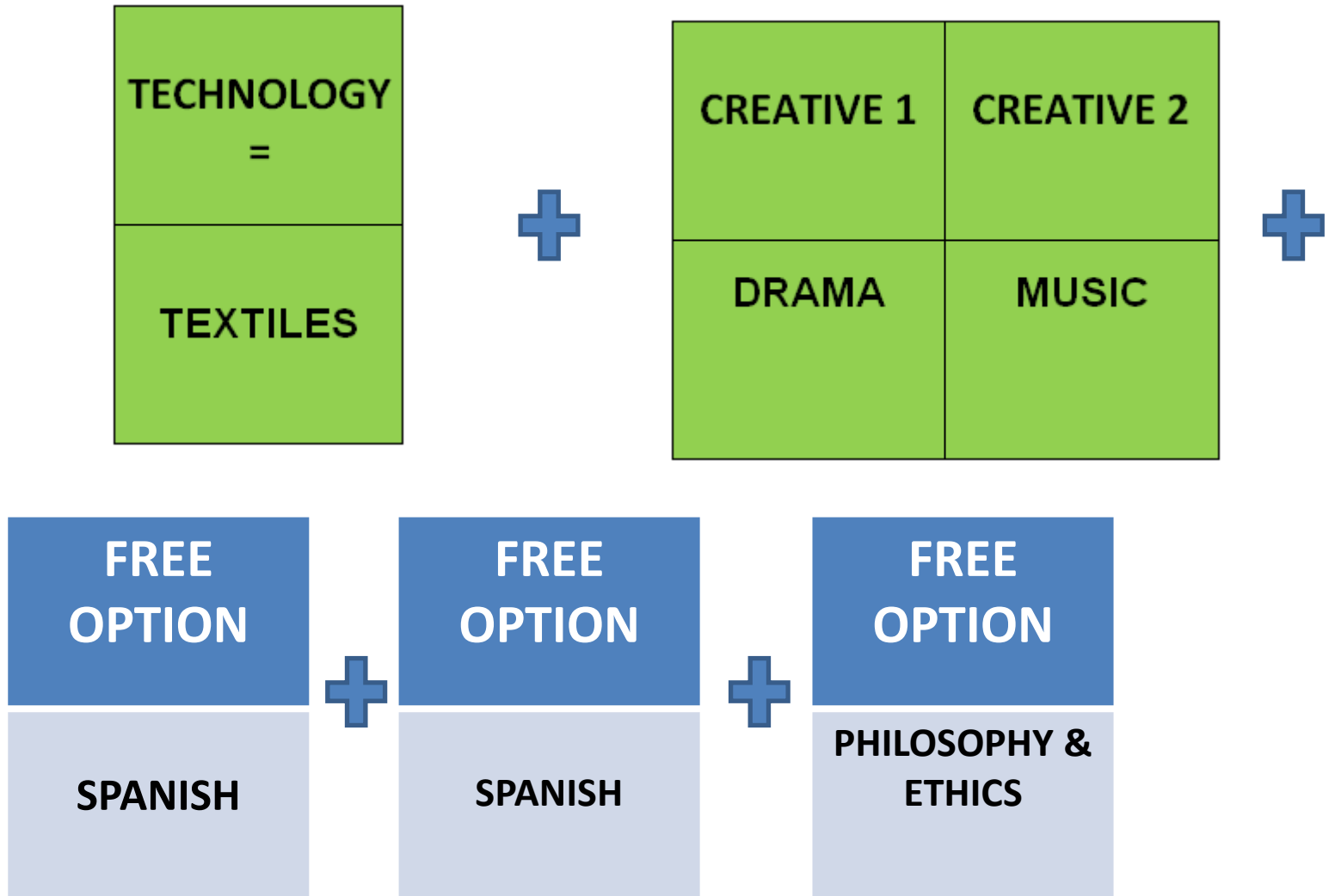
- You will complete an intensive one year ab initio course (from scratch) in order to prepare you for starting the GCSE alongside your peers who have studied the language in year 7, 8 and 9.
- You will be in a class with other students who have also opted to choose a second language. If you opt to pick up a second language, you can't drop the language you have been learning from year 7 until the end of year 9.

Please note, choosing to study a second language will take up two of your free option choices.

- We recommend that only students who are performing well in their first language, will cope with the demands of learning a new language from scratch in year 9. If you are unsure of whether studying two languages would be appropriate for you, please ask your MFL teacher for their advice.



EXAMPLE 1: Ms CLAUGHTON



EXAMPLE 2: Ms Hodgson

TECHNOLOGY
FOOD

+

CREATIVE 1	CREATIVE 2
MEDIA STUDIES	MUSIC

+

FREE OPTION
COMPUTER SCIENCE

+

FREE OPTION
DIGITAL IT

+

FREE OPTION
LAW

DOES THIS MEAN YOU ARE STARTING YOUR GCSES IN THESE OPTION SUBJECTS EARLY?

NO!

**THE ONLY SUBJECTS WHICH START GCSE CONTENT IN YEAR 9 ARE
SCIENCE AND MATHS. WE HAVE INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF
SPECIALIST SCIENCE TEACHING IN YEAR 9 TO ALLOW THE 3 SCIENCES
TO BE TAUGHT SEPARATELY**



X AND Y BANDS

- As well as being part of I, G or S band, you will also be placed into X or Y band.
- You will be taught the following subjects in your X or Y band:
- English Maths Science MFL PE
- 5 further subjects (geography, history, computing, RE and PSHE)
- You will take 6 options
- 3 of these will be taught across the year group with students from X **and** Y bands. This is also how your options in years 10 and 11 will be timetabled.



DOES THIS MEAN STUDENTS WON'T HAVE ANY NEW SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM WHEN DECIDING ON GCSES IN YEAR 9 INTO 10?

NEW GCSE SUBJECTS WHICH ARE **NOT AVAILABLE IN NEXT YEAR'S YEAR 9 but are in KS4:**

- 1) Separate Science**
- 2) Health and Social Care**
- 3) Hospitality and Catering**
- 4) Performing Arts**
- 5) BTEC Sport (Level 2)**



Making Informed Choices

X Don't make choices based on the fact that you like your current teacher. We will not be able to tell you who will be teaching you next year.

X Don't choose a course based on what your friends are doing.

X Don't assume some courses will be easier than others – all require hard work and homework.

✓ Consider what you might want to do for GCSE. Don't close doors for yourself. Some subjects e.g. a second language would be impossible to pick up if you do not study it at GCSE.

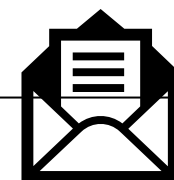
✓ Make sure you understand what each subject involves. New subjects may look attractive at first glance. Find out more information.

It will be very difficult to make changes once you have submitted your forms and it is virtually impossible from September.



YEARS 8 TO 9 OPTION PROCESS

Year 8	
PROCESS	DATES
Year 8-9 Options Assembly Launch Distribution of options booklets electronically	Wednesday 7 th February 2024 during PBT
February Half Term	
Year 8 Parents' evening	Thursday 22 nd February 2024
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 21 st February 2024
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 21 st February and 28 th February 2024
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 6 th March 2024
Optional drop in meetings with Leadership Team	Monday 4 th March – Wednesday 13 th March 2024
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	Wednesday 20 th March 2024



Register your account for SIMS products

Username

Do NOT enter details here, click the Microsoft 365 button, shown below.

Password

☐ Show Password [Forgot Password?](#)

OR

ESS

ESS: Check Service Status

Powered by SIMS ID

You will then be prompted to register (you will only be asked to do this once). Your personal Invitation Code is in the email, either type it in or Copy and Paste from the email then click the blue Register button.

Registration

You will have received a new service invite code from either SIMS or from your school administrator.

Please enter the code below and tap or click Register.

Name

(not your)

Signed in with

Invitation Code

Your personal invitation code is in the email, either type it here or Copy and Paste from the email and then click 'Register'.

You will be asked to type your date of birth in the format dd/mm/yyyy (e.g. 01/02/2005). Enter your date of birth in the correct format shown and click the blue Verify button.

SIMS

Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.

What is your date of birth? (dd/mm/yyyy)

SIMS Options Online

How to register for Options Online

You will shortly be receiving an email with the subject title '**Ilkley Grammar School invites you to SIMS Online Services**'. If this does not arrive in your Inbox or Focussed mailbox, check other mailboxes such as Clutter, Other, Unfocussed, Junk, etc.

The invitation email will contain instructions for activating your login to SIMS Options and will look like this:

Hi,

You're invited to start using SIMS Online Services, an online portal providing access to a range of services including SIMS Admin, SIMS Engagement, SIMS Activities and SIMS Options.

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<https://registration.sims.co.uk>

Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is: XXXXXXXXXX

Once you've registered you can sign in using your web browser at:

SIMS Options: <https://www.sims-options.co.uk/>

Sent on behalf of,

Ilkley Grammar School

Click the '**Accept Invitation**' button/hyperlink contained in the email.

ELECTRONIC OPTIONS FORM

<https://www.sims-options.co.uk>

ELECTRONIC OPTIONS FORM

Here's what it looks like...

All Options subjects

You have chosen 6 of 6 ☒ courses and 2 of 2 ☒ reserves from this list

Photography Key Stage 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Art, Craft and Design Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Business Studies Key Stage 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reserve
Computer Science Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	DT Electronic Products Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	DT Food Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve
DT Resistant Materials Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Drama Key Stage 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reserve	DT/ Essential Technology Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve
DT Textiles Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Engineering Design Award Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Event Management and Catering Key Stage 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reserve
French (equals two choices) (2) Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Digital IT / Information Tech. Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Skills for Success Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve
Law / Introduction to Law Key Stage 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Media / Creative i-Media Key Stage 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Music Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve
GCSE PE / Pre GCSE PE Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Philosophy & Ethics Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	Spanish (equals two choices) (2) Key Stage 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 6)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 **Art, Craft and Design**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects
- 2 **Event Management and Catering**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects
- 3 **Law / Introduction to Law**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects
- 4 **Media / Creative i-Media**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects
- 5 **Photography**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects
- 6 **Philosophy & Ethics**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 2)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 **Drama**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects
- 2 **Business Studies**
Key Stage 3 All Options subjects

ANY QUESTIONS:

You can ask members of LT during your tutor group sessions:

Name	Band	TG	Room	Wed 21st February PBT (A)	Wed 28th February PBT (B)
Joanne Brown	I	8JNB	R5	LBC	LBC
Lisa Dean	I	8LJD	E1	VM	VM
Chloe Miller	I	8CCM	C4	FMM	FMM
John Comiskey	I	8JPC	Q2	GLC	GLC
Freya Brooks	G	8FB	M6	JCB	JCB
Gemma Smith	G	8GMS	K3	VEB	VEB
Beatrice Townsend	G	8BET	P1	DJK	DJK
Phil Haworth	S	8PDH	N12	HVM	HVM
Saul Peltier	S	8SP	T2	MWC	MWC
Jonathan Adams	S	8JDA	M13	JCB	JCB
Isabelle Linney / Louise Lister	S	8IFL	Q6	GLC	GLC

OR EMAIL year8options@ilkleygs.co.uk
OR...

Optional drop-in meetings with
Leadership Team

4th March - 13th March 2024





OPTIONS GUIDE 2024-25



Year 8, 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 6th March 2024

A chance to look around the curriculum
areas and find out what choices are
available to make informed decisions
on your options.

Year 8 Presentations at : 3.45, 4.45, 5.45pm

Year 9 Presentations at 4.15, 5.15, 6.15pm



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE