

## Year 9 Options 2025

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



#### **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.



#### **NATIONAL CHANGES**

#### 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.



#### MORE NATIONAL CHANGES WHICH AFFECT ALL STUDENTS

ENGLISH	MATHS	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
20% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.	There is more content in the new maths GCSE.	Combined Science Languages* (new course in 2024, first exam in 2026)
There is only one level of exam paper.	Foundation: grades 1 – 5  Higher: grades 4-9	Philosophy & Ethics Food Preparation & Nutrition Art and Design Business Studies Drama Music Physical Education Computer Science Technology

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 AT ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### THE SITUATION 7 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 'supported' options.

## "Success is a journey, not a destination."

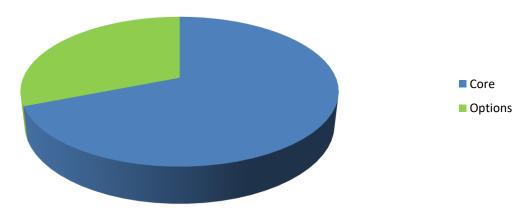


#### THE YEAR 9 CORE CURRICULUM 2025-6

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
7	7	9	3	3

RE and PSHE	Computing	Core PE	MFL
	1	4	4

Year 9

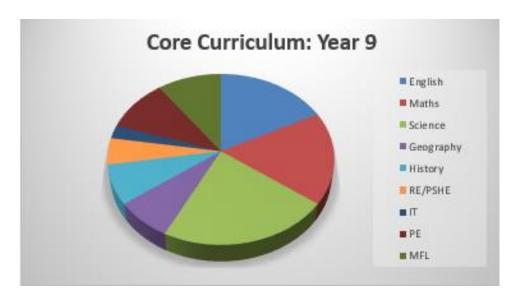








#### WHY ARE ALL THESE SUBJECTS CORE?



- 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) Core 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					

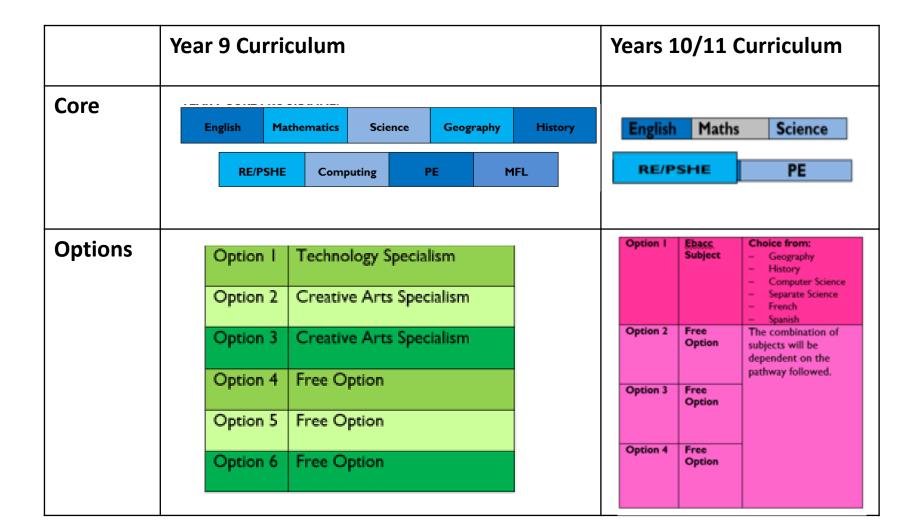
The English Baccalaureate is a combination of 6 traditional academic subjects. This is not a new qualification in itself, but recognises students achieving 6 GCSE grades 5-9 in the above academic subjects.

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 which has been available for first teaching in 2024 and the first year of exams will be in 2026.

# AVOIDING NARROWING TOO MUCH TOO EARLY YEAR 9 vYEARS 10/11



#### THE OPTIONS CURRICULUM

#### YEAR 8 into 9 OPTIONS PROGRAMME:

Option I	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Technology	Creati	ve Arts	Free Choice	Free	Free
			Α	Choice B	Choice C
-	-		1	1	-
Electronics		Art***	3 ch	oices from:	
Food	A 2 <sup>nd</sup> language (NB: this takes up 2 free optio		ree options)		
	Food Drama		A 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> specialist technology		
Resistant		Music	A 3 <sup>rd</sup> creative art		
Materials	Pho	tography***	Computer Science Introduction to Business Studies		ıdies
Textiles Media Studies***		Introduction to Law			
Hospitality & Philosophy and Ethics Pre-GCSE PE					
Catering			Digital IT		
Engineering			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

OR THIRD SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY AS PART OF YOUR FREE OPTIONS

## MORE SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS

**HOSPITALITY 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) 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 <u>two</u> of your free option choices.

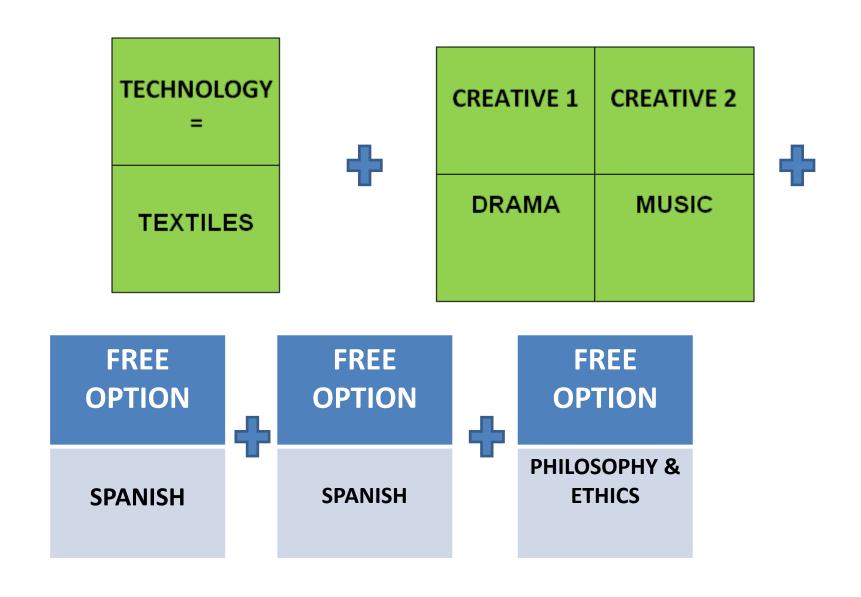
•We recommend that only students who are performing well in their first language, will cope with the demands of learning a new language from scratch in year 9. If you are unsure of whether studying two languages would be appropriate for you, please ask your MFL teacher for their advice.



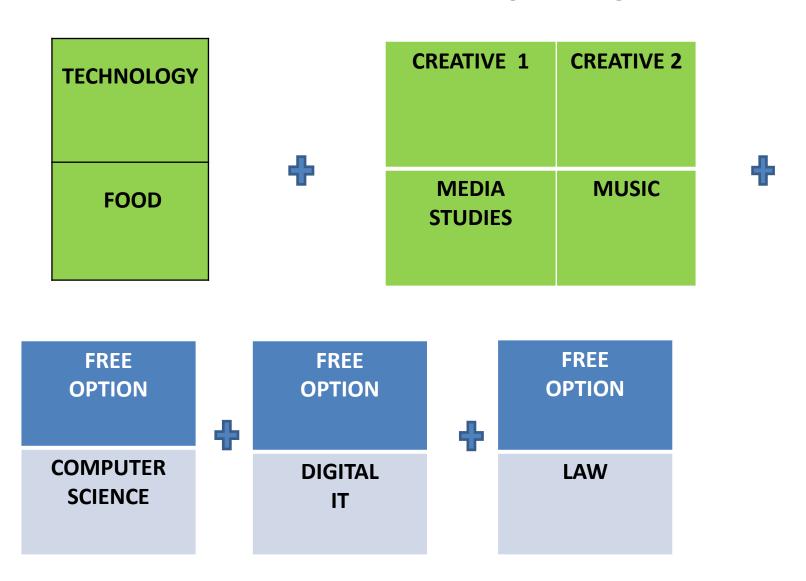




#### **EXAMPLE 1: Ms CLAUGHTON**



## **EXAMPLE 2: Mr Spivey**



# 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

- You will remain in your tutor groups next year but will also be placed into X or Y band for your curriculum
- 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 are likely to be taught across the year group with students from both X and Y bands







## 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) Performing Arts
- 4) 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 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 during PBT	
February Half Term	17-21** February 2025	
Year 8 Parents' evening	Thursday 27th February 2025	
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 12th February 2025	
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February and 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 12th March 2025	
Optional drop in meetings with	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March – Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	
Leadership Team	March 2025	
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	Friday 21th March 2025	







#### THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

- You will be sent this form by John Henney during PBT on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- You will need to go through the Options Form Guide first with your tutors- this will be attached to the email
- You will need to save a copy of your choices once submitted- your tutors and Head of Year will monitor the completion of your online Options form
- You can submit more than once, if you change your mind, but please note, we will take your final submission of choices as your confirmed options
- You cannot change options after the options deadline on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025



#### **ANY QUESTIONS?**

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

OR EMAIL year8options@ilkleygs.co.uk

OR you can book a drop in meeting:

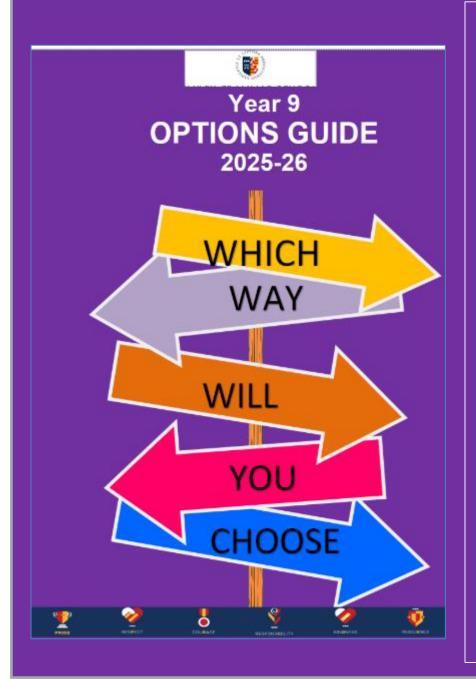
Optional drop-in	
meetings with	3 <sup>rd</sup> March- 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Leadership Team	





Year 8:

TG	Room	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> February PBT	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb- ruary PBT
8AJC	D11	<b>JCB</b>	<b>JCB</b>
WO18	P10	FMM	FMM
8JCX	P3	FMM	FMM
8HED/IGD	E3	LBC	LBC
8SFQ	N1	DJK	ык
8ШМ	N4	DJK	DJK
8НММ	R4	LBC	LBC
8FPW	D4	JCB	ICB
8КНА	M12	GLC	GLC
8ARJ	P2	GLC	GLC
8LEA	N3	VEB	VEB



## Year 8, 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 12th March 2025

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 : 3.30, 4.45, 5.45pm** 

Year 9 Presentations at 4.15, 5.15, 6.15pm