



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY



YEAR 9 CURRICULUM A GUIDE FOR OPTIONS

2025-26

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Year 8 into 9 Options Process 2026

“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** programme which is made up of the following subjects:

YEAR 9 CORE PROGRAMME:

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
RE/PSHE	Computing	PE	MFL	

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
Electronic Products Food Resistant Materials Textiles Hospitality & Catering 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, Society, and the Brain Philosophy and Ethics Health and Social Care Pre-exam PE Digital IT Preparation for Adulthood * (guided option) Accelerated Literacy (AL)*** (guided option)		

NB:

*** Preparation for Adulthood is a supported 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**

*****Accelerated Literacy- this is a literacy support pathway. It may also build students towards a Functional Skills English qualification later in KS4 (students on this pathway will still have their core English lessons). This is only open to students whose literacy skills are below age-related expectations and students will be guided towards this option by Inclusive Learning, in consultation with the English department**

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 two tutor group sessions with a senior member of staff. The **Options Evening on 4th March 2026** 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 language and English literature; mathematics; science; RE, PSHE and citizenship; and PE. The year 9 core subjects of geography, history, MFL 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**

**Mr Craig Johnson
Associate Assistant Headteacher**

YEAR 8 INTO 9 OPTIONS PROCESS 2026

“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, 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 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 (Spanish/ French); geography; history; RE/ PSHE; 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 Hospitality/ 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, Society, and the Brain Philosophy and Ethics Health and social care Pre-exam PE Digital IT Preparation for Adulthood ** Accelerated Literacy*	

NB:

*Accelerated Literacy - this is a literacy support pathway. It may also build students towards a Functional Skills English qualification later in KS4 (students on this pathway will still have their core English lessons). This is only open to students whose literacy skills are below age-related expectations and students will be guided towards this option by Inclusive Learning, in consultation with the English department.

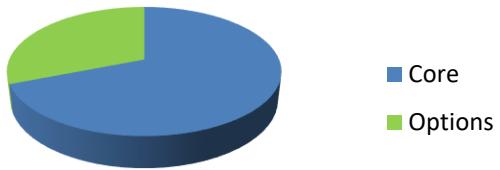
** Preparation for Adulthood is a supported curriculum course. Students for whom this is appropriate will be guided towards it by The Inclusive Learning Department

*** 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.

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:

	Year 9 Curriculum					Years 10/11 Curriculum		
Core								
Options								

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 Options Evening has been arranged for Wednesday 4th March 2026. 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 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 4th March.

Ms Gemma Claughton
Deputy Headteacher

Mr Craig Johnson
Associate Assistant Headteacher



THE OPTIONS PROCESS

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 4th February 2026 during PBT
February Half Term	16th - 20th February 2026
Year 8 Parents' evening	Tuesday 24th February 2026
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 25th February 2026
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 25th February and 4th March 2026
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 4th March 2026
Optional drop in meetings with Leadership Team/ Inclusive Learning	Monday 2nd March – Friday 13th March 2026
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	8:00am Monday 16th March 2026

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 Mr Johnson, Associate Assistant 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;
- During Options Evening, students will get the chance to visit classrooms in person and speak to staff and students about their choices. There will be a schedule of presentations during Options Evening from Mrs Purnell, Ms. Claughton and Mr Johnson. We will notify you all with the finer arrangements ahead of 4th 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 a meeting.

May/June 2026:

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 2026

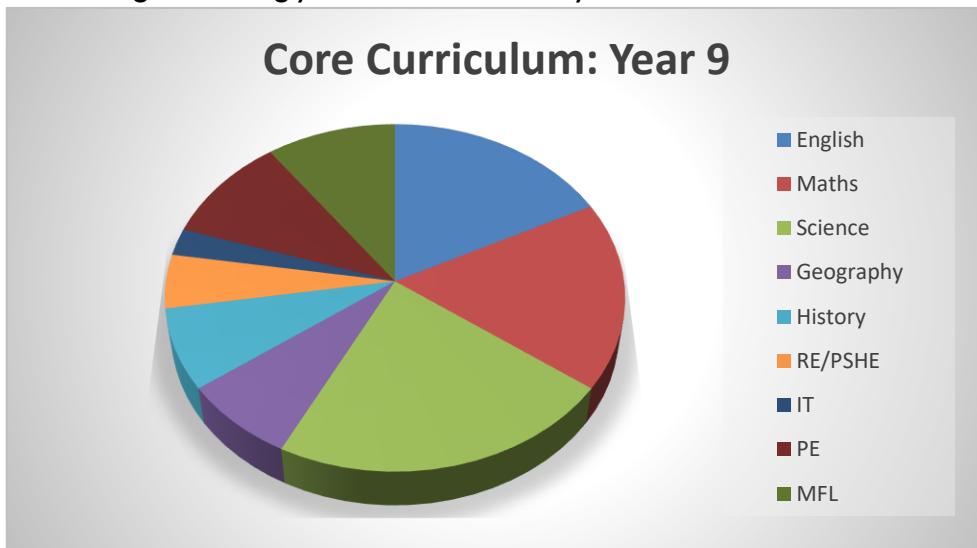
Formal curriculum offer made to students.

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 under seventy percent of your timetable and will ensure that you follow a broad and balanced curriculum, avoiding narrowing your choices too early.



The year 9 core curriculum intentionally contains more compulsory subjects than years 10 and 11. Alongside English, mathematics, science, PE RE and PSHE which remain compulsory at Key Stage 4, all year 9 students must continue to study:

- Geography
- History
- Computing
- MFL

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: [What is the EBacc?](#)

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 90% of students nationally will take the English Baccalaureate in 2026.



THE NATIONAL PICTURE: CHANGES TO GCSE AND BEYOND

Since 2015 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 Physics } Separate Science 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.
4	September 2024	GCSE MFL Key changes have been made to encourage pupils to take a language and to assess pupils more fairly, bringing it in line with other subjects.

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*.

Modern foreign language qualifications have also undergone consultation for a new GCSE Specification. This is for first teaching in September 2024, with first exams being held in 2026.

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



INFORMING YOUR DECISIONS

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

DOs and DON'Ts

DOs:



- 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 4th March.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CHOOSE CAREFULLY. CHANGING COURSES IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN VERY LIMITED, EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

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!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 4th 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-exam 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 **8am on Monday 16th March 2026**.

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 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?

Students cannot take art and photography OR media and photography from the 'Creative Arts' Block. However, this does not mean students cannot choose both subjects. They can opt to take one of the above as a free choice (Option 4, 5, 6). Students that do this will need to choose another creative arts subject in the 'Creative Arts' block.

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.

OPTION ONE



SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS AT IGS

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Design & Technology: Electronic Products

Course Title:	D&T Electronic Products
What will I study in year 9?	<p>You will explore your knowledge and understanding in of electronic products through the completion of 2 projects. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electronic game project. Students populate a PCB to make an electronic game, learning about microcontrollers. They then manufacture a casing for the game using workshop tools, machinery and materials. • The music box project. Students learn about different components and how they work and solder them to a PCB. They then learn how to code their microcontrollers to show different lights and play different sounds. Responding to a client interview and a design brief, the students then code their PCB for purpose, design and make a casing for their PCBs. <p>Students complete a series of exciting design and make projects, giving an excellent introduction into designing and making electronic products.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<p>Skills will be developed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Using workshop tools and machinery to manufacture casing designs.</p>
Pathways at IGS:	This is an ideal introduction to GCSE D&T 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:	Ms Clifford, Leader of KS3 Technology Mrs Eyles, Curriculum Leader of D&T

Food Technology

Course Title:	Food Technology
What will I study in year 9?	<p>You will follow modules of work including practical, theory and investigation work.</p> <p>You will extend your knowledge and understanding developed in years 7 and 8. An example module would be:</p> <p>Afternoon Tea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical skills • Teamwork • Investigation • Evaluation • Health and Safety
Pathways at IGS:	<p>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 Food preparation and Nutrition in years 10 and 11.</p> <p>If you opt for Food Technology we do not recommend opting for Hospitality and Catering as well.</p>
Link to GCSE Specification:	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food-preparation-and-nutrition/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585
Career pathways:	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Design & Technology: Resistant Materials

Course Title:	D&T Resistant Materials
What will I study in year 9?	<p>You will learn about Design & Technology with a resistant material focus, using timbers, plastics and metals, alongside CAM outcomes on the laser cutter and 3D printers. During year 9 we will build on your year 7&8 experience and progress through two complex practical projects, with supporting design and core knowledge tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance Lamp; the first project builds an attractive, upcycled balance lamp with many new challenging practical processes to build you skills and knowledge to support bespoke product design and manufacture. • Passive Amplifier; the second project develops your creative and problem-solving skills by designing then manufacturing a bespoke passive amplifier.
What skills will I develop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical Skills of 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 aluminium using hand tools and machines; engineers square, scribes, snips, bench drills, filing, finishing through polishing. • Materials knowledge of; plywood, softwood, MDF, aluminium, acrylic, HIPS, components, papers & cards • Develop further 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. • Core knowledge of the design and make process, alongside building basic knowledge for the GCSE D&T exam. • Project Management and evidence skills using Showbie, Teams and PowerPoint. • 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:	<p>Resistant Materials provides creative and practical problem-solving skills within a range of industries.</p> <p>Possible career opportunities include; a designer of multiple specialisms, an engineer of many types or manufacturing, again across many sectors.</p>
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Eyles, Curriculum Leader of Design & Technology

Design & Technology: Textiles

Course Title:	D&T Textiles
What will I study in year 9?	<p>You will experience a fantastic opportunity to explore your knowledge and understanding in the following aspects of textiles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of textile techniques • Manipulation of textile fabrics • 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 with a focus on sustainability.)
What skills will I develop?	<p>Practical skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<p>Fashion and textiles is a major employer in the UK offering a highly diverse and exciting range of career opportunities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fashion Designer • Textile designer • Textile Design and Development • Textile Surface Pattern Designer • Merchandiser • Journalist • Teacher • Costume design for theatre and film • Buyer • Social Media marketing
Who to see for further information:	<p>Mrs Marshall - Associate Assistant Head Teacher Ms Davies – Teacher of Design & Technology Mrs Dean – Teacher of Design & Technology</p>

Engineering Design

Course Title:	Engineering Design
What will I study in year 9?	<p>This is the course for anyone who enjoys a 'hands on' approach and likes to learn by doing!</p> <p>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.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<p>You will develop skills in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:	<p>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.</p>
Link to GCSE specification:	<p>OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Engineering Design https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-j822/</p> <p>GCSE Design and Technology https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification-at-a-glance</p>
Career pathways:	<p>This course could lead to a wide range of careers including engineering, design, architecture construction, manufacturing or any of the trades.</p> <p>There are currently skills shortages in many of these industries giving rise to exciting career opportunities for appropriately qualified and skilled people.</p>
Who to see for further information:	Mr Ibbertson, Teacher of Technology Mrs Eyles, Curriculum Leader D&T

Hospitality and Catering

Course Title:	Hospitality and Catering
What will I study in year 9?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<p>Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering and GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.</p> <p>If you opt for Hospitality and Catering we advise against opting for Food technology as well.</p>
Link to GCSE specification:	<p>https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/ukvevyla/level-12-hospitality-and-catering-specification.pdf</p> <p>https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/food/specifications/AQA-8585-SP-2016.PDF</p>
Career pathways:	<p>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.</p> <p>Specific roles include chef roles: Head chef; Sous chef; Commis chef; Chef de Partie.</p> <p>Front of house roles: Waiter/waitress; Porter; Concierge; Receptionist; Housekeeping; Event Management.</p>
Who to see for further information:	<p>Mrs Druett – Head of Food Technology Mrs Eyles – Curriculum Leader D&T Mrs Marshall – Associate Assistant Head Teacher: Technical Education and Practical Enrichment and Curriculum Leader: Design and Technology</p>

OPTIONS TWO AND THREE



CREATIVE OPTIONS AT IGS

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NB: You cannot choose both:

Art, Craft and Design and photography or 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.

Art, Craft, Design

Course Title:	Art, Craft and Design
What will I study in year 9?	<p>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.</p> <p>Current projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portraiture (drawing, photography and ceramics), • Poster Art (digital art & graphic design) • Acrylic painting techniques. • Personal project – My Place, My Space <p>You will also be introduced to work by prominent influential artists to inspire the development of your own work.</p>
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:	<p>The skills developed in year 9 will prepare you well for GCSE Art or Photography. You can then progress onto A Level Art.</p> <p>Not taking the course in year 9 does not prevent you from taking Art GCSE in year 10.</p>
Link to GCSE Specification:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification/subject-content/fine-art#Fine_art
Career pathways:	Architect; Graphic Designer; Interior Designer; Surface Pattern Designer; Fashion and Textiles Designer; Web Designer; Car Designer; Special Effects; Animator; Computer Game Designer; Jeweller; 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:	<p>Mrs C Harris – Head of Art Mr P Clarke & Mrs J Chapman – Art Teachers</p>

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; teamwork; 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://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification/subject-content BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-performing-arts-spec.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. <i>“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)”</i>
Who to see for further information:	Ms Ramrattan: Head of Drama Miss Clift & Miss Bramley: Drama Teachers

Media Studies

Course Title:	Media Studies
What will I study in year 9?	<p>In Year 9 at IGS, students will focus on TV, specifically Teen Dramas. The focus of these set texts will be to follow the 4 areas of the media studies framework: Media Language, Representation, Audience, and Industry.</p> <p>Autumn Term: Students will study Friday night Lights and Riverdale, looking at characters, camera movement, genre and narrative. Students will learn to decode the choices before developing and pitching a Teen drama idea of their own.</p> <p>Spring Term: Students will study Heartstopper looking at how UK and US dramas represent; Age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and class. Students will learn the history and importance of how ALL minority groups have been mis-represented in the media. They will learn to create a poster and Trailer for their own Teen Drama.</p> <p>Summer Term: Students will study Veronica Mars and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, looking at the power of fandom and the impact on the TV industry, the power of multimedia conglomerates and how fans have created a billion-dollar industry. Then create a social media campaign to promote their show.</p>
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 Affinity's Creative Suite and Apple's advanced video-editing app <i>Final Cut Pro X</i> or <i>IMovie</i> .
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, filmmaking, teaching, video production and more. A number have been head-hunted directly from school because of their media coursework!
Who to see for further information:	Miss Riley – Head of Media Studies Miss Parmar – Media Studies teacher

Music

Course Title:	Music
What will I study in year 9?	<p>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.</p> <p>In our Song writing topic, you will explore genres (e.g. Reggae/Protest) and conventions which will feed into the composition of your own song. You will compose short pieces of film music to match a story/mood using music technology and learn advanced GarageBand editing skills. You will also study Musical Theatre and Latin American Music and take part in an end of year project.</p> <p>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.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<p>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;</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0jKCYZ8hng</p>
Pathways at IGS:	<p>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.</p>
Link to GCSE specification:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271
Career pathways:	<p>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!</p> <p><i>“When words leave off, music begins.” HEINE</i></p>
Who to see for further information:	Mrs Chapman, Head of Music

Photography

Course Title:	Photography
What will I study in year 9?	<p>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 Affinity editing software. Current projects include Composition (an exploration of creative themes), Manga viewpoints, advertising, mixed media photography and David Hockney inspired Joiners. You will be encouraged to respond to themes imaginatively and creatively. The course will include technical study, computer based and written work.</p> <p>You will also be introduced to work by prominent influential photographers in order to inspire the development of your own work.</p> <p>You <u>do not</u> need to own a camera in order to complete the course. Cameras are provided for use in lessons.</p>
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 use a computer to upload, store and edit your photos. 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 also provides core digital and computer skills and many life skills which will benefit your work in other curriculum areas as all projects will involve you in research, conceptual and creative thinking, problem solving and idea development. You will work on ppt to present and share your work as you would a sketchbook in art.
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:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification/subject-content/photography#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

OPTIONS FOUR, FIVE AND SIX

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
- the Creative Arts section

You can also choose from:

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Introduction to Law, Society, and The Brain	35
Philosophy and Ethics	37
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Pre-exam PE	39
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French

Course Title:	French
What will I study in year 9? <i>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)</i>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basics (alphabet, greetings, numbers) • All about me (personal descriptions, family members and relationships) • Free time, technology and sport • Where I live • Customs and festivals <p>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.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Please note, choosing to study French as your second language will take up two of your option choices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8652/specification-at-a-glance
Career pathways:	<p>Languages are a useful addition to any career choice</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	Ms Josie Kelly, Joint Acting Curriculum Leader: MFL (maternity cover) Mrs Ana Maria Paley-Hernandez, Curriculum Leader: MFL (currently on maternity leave)

Spanish

Course Title:	Spanish
What will I study in year 9? <i>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)</i>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basics (alphabet, greetings, numbers) • All about me (personal descriptions, family members and relationships) • Free time, technology and sport • Where I live • Customs and festivals <p>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.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8692/specification-at-a-glance
Career pathways:	<p>Languages are a useful addition to any career choice</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	Ms Sara Fresco Quindos, Joint Acting Curriculum Leader: MFL (maternity cover) Mrs Ana Maria Paley-Hernandez, Curriculum Leader: MFL (currently on maternity leave)

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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-i277-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 – Curriculum Leader: Computing & Media Studies

Introduction to Business Studies

Course Title:	Introduction to Business Studies
What will I study in year 9?	<p>You will study a range of business topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types of business• Entrepreneurs and enterprise• Production• Retail management• Marketing• Personal and business finance <p>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.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<p>This course is designed specifically to help you build the skills required for academic, personal and (eventually) workplace progress.</p> <p>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.</p>
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, Society, and the Brain

Course Title: What will I study in year 9?	Introduction to Law, Society and the Brain Have you ever wondered why Laws exist? Can you explain what a society actually is? Have you ever wondered why people behave the way they do? If so, then this might be the course for you... This course gives a comprehensive insight into various areas that make our society tick. There are three modules covered: Law, Society and The Brain. You will explore and learn how the English legal system works and take part in a mock trial, you will analyse and debate how the media is shaping our society and the way we interact with the world and you will explore how our brain works and why we behave the way we do. You will gain an understanding of: Law <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will learn about how laws are defined and classified, where English law comes from and how the UK court system is structured. You will explore the consequences of breaking the law for individuals and communities, consider the roles played by legal professionals, and follow the journey of a case from police arrest through the Magistrates' Court, including practical activities such as a mock trial.• Where possible legal professionals will provide talks and real-life insight into the legal profession. Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In this section of the course you will be looking at <i>cause-and-effect</i> in society and <i>group dynamics</i>. There will be a focus on the way the media influences us and how it shapes the ideas we consider normal and acceptable.• Topics will focus on social issues such as private ownership and control of media networks, the role of globalisation and new information technologies (social media), the rise of citizen reporting, and questions of representation in modern entertainment.• All-in-all, this part of the course aims to develop a critical approach to media literacy and consider media's true purpose in a connected world. The Brain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topics will focus on a study of human behaviour, how the brain works and how we are influenced by the people around us. You will be taught psychological principles and learn how research can help Psychologists explore and validate new ideas through statistical analysis of data.• This part of the course aims to increase your understanding of why people behave differently and debate the idea of nature vs nurture in shaping human interactions with the world around them.
What skills will I develop?	You will develop skills that can be transferred to further learning and to life and business, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teamwork• Problem solving• Logical and critical thinking• Research and analytical abilities• Creativity• Empathy• Interpreting scientific data.

Pathways at IGS:	<p>The year 9 course will develop knowledge and understanding which will be useful to your wider studies at KS4 and in developing you as a fully rounded individual who participates in the challenges of modern-day society.</p> <p>The course touches on issues you can study further at IGS with your A-level choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law A level. Details of the Law course can be found HERE - Psychology A-level. Details of the Law course can be found HERE - Sociology A-level. Details of the Law course can be found HERE
Link to Specification:	<p>No GSCE option, but this course is the perfect foundational option for those interested in A-Level Law, Psychology or Sociology or more generally in how the world around them functions and why.</p>
Career pathways:	<p>The course will be of particular interest to:</p> <p>Careers linked to Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicitor or Barrister • Legal Executive or Paralegal • Police Officer • Probation Officer • Court Clerk or Legal Administrator • Civil Service roles (e.g., policy, justice, immigration) • Compliance Officer or Regulatory Advisor <p>Careers linked to Sociology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Worker • Youth Worker • Community Support Officer • Housing or Welfare Advisor • Charity and NGO roles • Researcher or Policy Analyst • Human Resources (HR) roles • Public Services (local councils, public health, education sector) <p>Careers linked to Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counsellor or Psychotherapist • Educational Psychologist • Clinical Psychology (with further study) • Mental Health Worker • Occupational Psychologist • Marketing, Advertising or UX roles (understanding behaviour) • Careers in wellbeing, behaviour support and SEND support <p>Combined subject career pathways</p> <p>Because these subjects overlap in understanding human behaviour, social systems and justice, they also lead to roles such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminologist • Forensic Psychologist (requires postgraduate training) • Criminal Justice roles (probation, policing, youth offending teams) • Mediation and Conflict Resolution • Safeguarding roles in schools, councils and healthcare • Research and Data Analysis across public, charity and private sectors
Who to see for further information:	<p>Miss Davey: Head of Law Mrs Ibbertson: Head of Psychology Mrs Shah: Head of Sociology Mrs Griffiths: Curriculum Lead, Social Sciences</p>

Philosophy and Ethics

Course Title:	Philosophy and Ethics
What will I study in year 9?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Throughout the Philosophy and ethics course, you will be introduced to some of the greatest thinkers of our time such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Descartes.You will explore complex philosophical concepts such as the Euthyphro dilemma, the pursuit of Eudaimonia, the Trolley problem and more.You will also study normative ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, and Aristotelian virtue ethics.
What skills will I develop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhance your ability to analyse and evaluate arguments, ideas, and philosophical concepts.Improve your verbal and written communication skills.Learn to articulate your thoughts and ideas in a coherent and persuasive manner.Cultivate the ability to apply ethical principles to real-world situations and dilemmas.Learn to appreciate and consider diverse perspectives on philosophical and ethical issues.Practice analysing complex philosophical ideas.Develop creative and thoughtful solutions to ethical issues in both hypothetical scenarios and real-world contexts.Engage in collaborative group projects to discuss and solve ethical problems collectively.
Pathways at IGS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The year 9 Philosophy and Ethics course is designed to provide you with a strong foundation in philosophical and ethical thinking, laying the groundwork for success in your future studies, particularly at GCSE Religious Studies and A-level Philosophy and Ethics.
Link to GCSE specification:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062
Career pathways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The skills developed in Philosophy and ethics, such as critical thinking, research, and communication, can be valuable in various professional fields. Students might explore careers in law, journalism, counselling, social work, or education.
Who to see for further information:	For additional information please see Mr Dickson, Head of Religious Studies, or speak to your Religious Studies teacher.

Health and Social Care

Course Title:	Health and Social Care
What will I study in year 9?	<p>You will explore careers in the Health and social care sector and the skills that you need to work in these professions.</p> <p>You will investigate safeguarding, duty of care, life stages and life events.</p> <p>You will develop a deep understanding of PIES (Physical, Intellectual, Emotional, Social) and the importance of considering all 4 aspects as a professional.</p> <p>You will learn about growth and development in different scenarios and how certain life events can have an impact.</p> <p>You will discuss and investigate sensitive topics including physical and learning disabilities, diseases, treatments, areas where professionals have failed in the past.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<p>Skills will be developed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of skills in the health and social care sectors • An understanding of attributes in the health and social care setting • An understanding of values in the health and social care setting • Research skills • Extended writing skills • Empathy skills • Communication skills
Pathways at IGS:	<p>This is an ideal introduction to Level 1 and 2 Health and social care in Year 10, this can also lead upwards to Post-16 Health and social care and Early Childhood Development. This can lead to university for careers such as Nursing, Physiotherapy, Social work, Teaching, Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language therapist, Midwifery and many more careers in the sector.</p>
Link to GCSE Specification:	<p>https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/btec-tec-awards/health-and-social-care/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-health-and-social-care-spec.pdf</p>
Career pathways:	<p>Nursing, Physiotherapy, Social worker, Teaching, Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language therapist, Midwifery, Paramedic, Occupational therapy and many more careers in the sector.</p>
Who to see for further information:	<p>Miss Ainscow Lead teacher for Health and social care and Early Childhood Development</p>

Pre-exam PE

Course Title:	Pre-exam PE
What will I study in year 9?	<p>You will follow varied modules of work, involving tasters of both practical and theory sessions from the GCSE and BTEC PE specification.</p> <p>Aims of the Course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<p>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 or BTEC course in years 10 and 11.</p>
Link to GCSE Specification:	<p>For more information please visit the website at:</p> <p>GCSE PE http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-physical-education-j587-from-2016</p> <p>BTEC Sport https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-2022.html</p>
Career pathways:	<p>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.</p>
Who to see for further information:	<p>Mr A Falkner, teacher of PE Miss K Hargreaves, Teacher in charge of BTEC Sport</p>

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/pdfs/btec-awards/information-technology/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-digital-information-technology-spec.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 – Curriculum Leader: Computing Media Studies

Guided Option Choices

The following options are 'guided' which means, while they take up a 'free option', you can only take these courses if you have been guided towards them. This is usually by the pastoral team or Inclusive Learning. Should you have any questions, please speak to Mr Dan Keane, Assistant Headteacher.

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Accelerated Literacy

Course Title:	Accelerated Literacy
What will I study in year 9?	<p>This course is designed to support students to develop a wide range of literacy skills and enable them to access wider areas of the school curriculum.</p> <p>Due to the highly individualised nature of this subject, students for whom this is appropriate will be guided towards this option by Inclusive Learning or Pastoral staff. Students will be assessed in different literacy skills throughout the course including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading ▪ Writing ▪ Speaking & Listening <p>Activities will include individual and group-based tasks to enable students to develop their literacy skills.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<p>This course is intended to develop the student's literacy skills which can support their access to the English and wider school curricula.</p> <p>Literacy is an essential skill which unlocks many opportunities and pathways of study as students progress through their learning journey. Essential reading comprehension and writing skills will be covered. Students will work on improving their spelling and punctuation. Where appropriate, students will develop their use of assistive technology to support their literacy skills.</p>
Pathways at IGS:	<p>The intention of this course is to enable selected students to be able to develop their literacy skills; address areas of weakness and work towards securing vocational qualifications in English.</p> <p>This course can act as a bridge for the selected students to be able to progress onto the Functional Skills English qualification in Key Stage 4, a course that runs in tandem with- and not instead of- the GCSE English courses and is recognised by many colleges and Post16 providers.</p>
Link to GCSE specification:	<p>This course will link to the topics and skills covered in core English year 9 lessons. In addition to this, there will be opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills which will build resilience and confidence.</p>
Career pathways:	<p>On this course, students will develop their literacy skills which will support their wider access to the curriculum. The skills developed will be valuable for any workplace context.</p>
Who to see for further information:	<p>Mr Keane - Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion & Personalisation Mrs Malkinson - Deputy SENDCO Mrs Iliff - Key Stage 3 Inclusive Learning Manager</p>

Preparation for Adulthood

Course Title:	Preparation for Adulthood (PfA)
What will I study in year 9?	<p>This course is designed to support students through a combination of group and individual mentoring activities tailored to their individual needs. Students will focus on developing a range of skills which can support their preparation for adulthood for life beyond school.</p> <p>Due to the highly individualised nature of this subject, students for whom this is appropriate will be guided towards this option by Inclusive Learning or Pastoral staff.</p> <p>Students will experience a range of themes throughout the school year which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher Education & Employment ▪ Independent Living ▪ Participation in society ▪ Being as healthy as possible in adult life. <p>Activities will include: Individual mentoring sessions; group work; practical based activities; interactive workshops; GCSE Options support; work related skills.</p> <p>Additional and personalised opportunities may also be available to students depending on their individual needs.</p>
What skills will I develop?	<p>This course is intended to develop skills required by the students in preparation for adulthood. Although personalised areas will be identified, students will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills such as teamwork; emotional regulation; personal organisation; time management; self-regulation; healthy eating; and work-related skills.</p> <p>Students will develop their confidence and be more attuned to the skills required to manage their day to day lives both within and beyond school.</p>
Pathways at IGS:	<p>The intention of this course is to enable selected students to progress into Key Stage 4 with improved skills to enable them to be confident and engaged members of the school community with a greater awareness of independent skills to succeed in preparation for adulthood.</p>
Link to GCSE specification:	<p>The nature of this course is to enable students to successfully access a wider range of GCSE options and other technical/vocational course that might have otherwise been possible.</p>
Career pathways:	<p>On this course, the skills and experiences which will be developed will equip the selected students to work in a variety of different workplaces. The skills developed will be valuable for any workplace context.</p>
Who to see for further information:	<p>Mr Keane - Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion & Personalisation Mrs Malkinson - Deputy SENDCO Mrs Iliff - Key Stage 3 Inclusive Learning Manager Mrs Marshall - Associate Assistant Headteacher: Careers and Technical Education</p>

Filling in the form

A sample form is provided on page 45 to practise pencilling in your options. Please note this form is just a practice and the options are submitted **online**. We use an electronic system and the electronic form will be explained in your tutor group (you can see how this form will look on pages 46 - 50). You will be able to update and edit your options form from **25th February 2026**, though we encourage you to wait until the tutor session and Options Evening have taken place before making your final decisions.

EXAMPLE COMPLETED OPTIONS FORM

Name: _____

Tutor Group _____

OPTION 1	
Technology (Choose 1 by ticking in the box)	
DT Electronic Products	✓
DT Food	
DT Resistant Materials	
DT Textiles	
Hospitality 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 1 st 2 nd and 3 rd choice. These must be different to your choices for options 1-3.	
Art, Craft and Design	
Computer Science	2 ND
Drama	1 ST
DT Electronics	
DT Food	
DT Resistant Materials	
DT Textiles	
French	
Health and Social Care	
Introduction to Business Studies	
Law, Society, and the Brain	
Media Studies	
Music	
Philosophy and Ethics	3 RD
Photography	
Pre-exam PE (PEP)	
Spanish	
Digital IT	
Hospitality and Catering	
Design Engineering	
Preparation for Adulthood (guided)	
Accelerated Literacy (guided)	

RESERVE CHOICES

Reserve 1	Reserve 2
Law, Society, and the Brain	Pre-exam PE (PEP)

SAMPLE OPTIONS FORM

Name: _____

Tutor Group _____

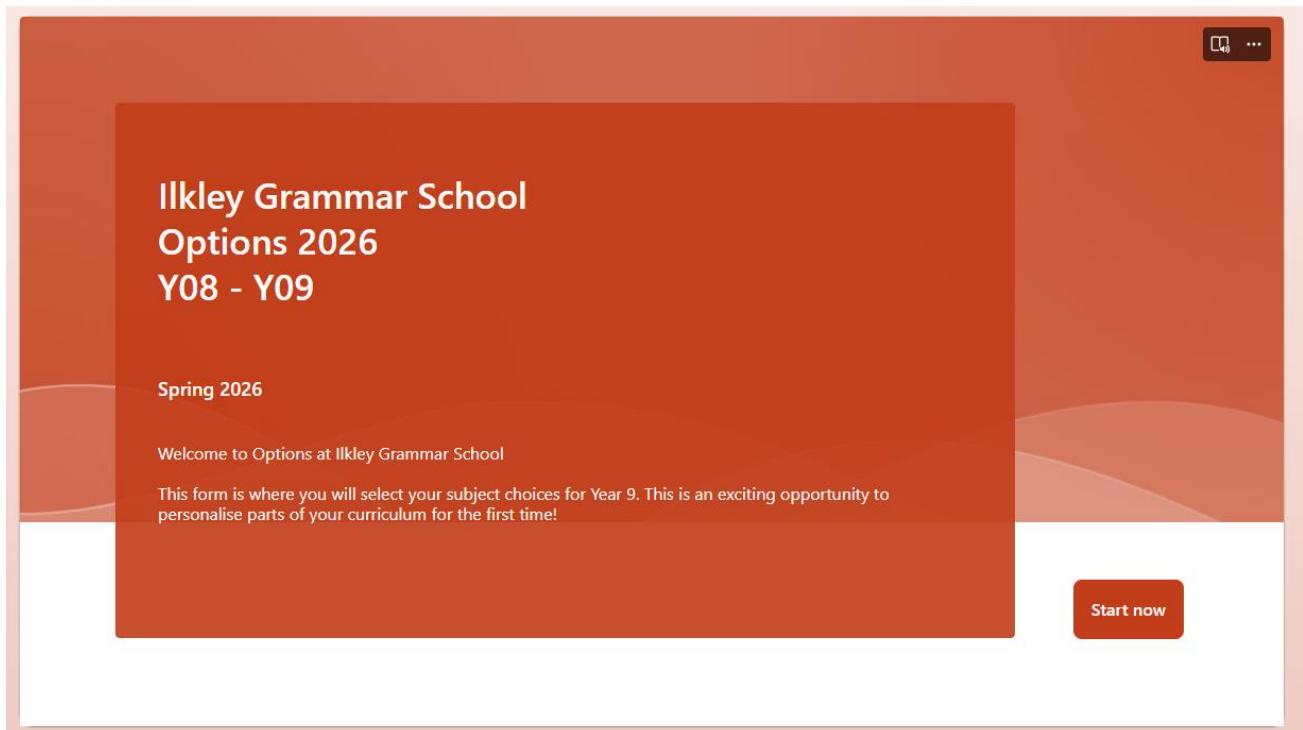
OPTION 1	
Technology (Choose 1 by ticking in the box)	
DT Electronic Products	
DT Food	
DT Resistant Materials	
DT Textiles	
Hospitality and Catering	
Design Engineering	

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 1 st 2 nd and 3 rd 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	
Health and Social Care	
Introduction to Business Studies	
Law, Society, and the Brain	
Media Studies	
Music	
Philosophy and Ethics	
Photography	
Pre-exam PE (PEP)	
Spanish	
Digital IT	
Hospitality and Catering	
Design Engineering	
Preparation for Adulthood (guided)	
Accelerated Literacy (guided)	
RESERVE CHOICES	
Reserve 1	Reserve 2

SAMPLE ELECTRONIC OPTIONS FORM



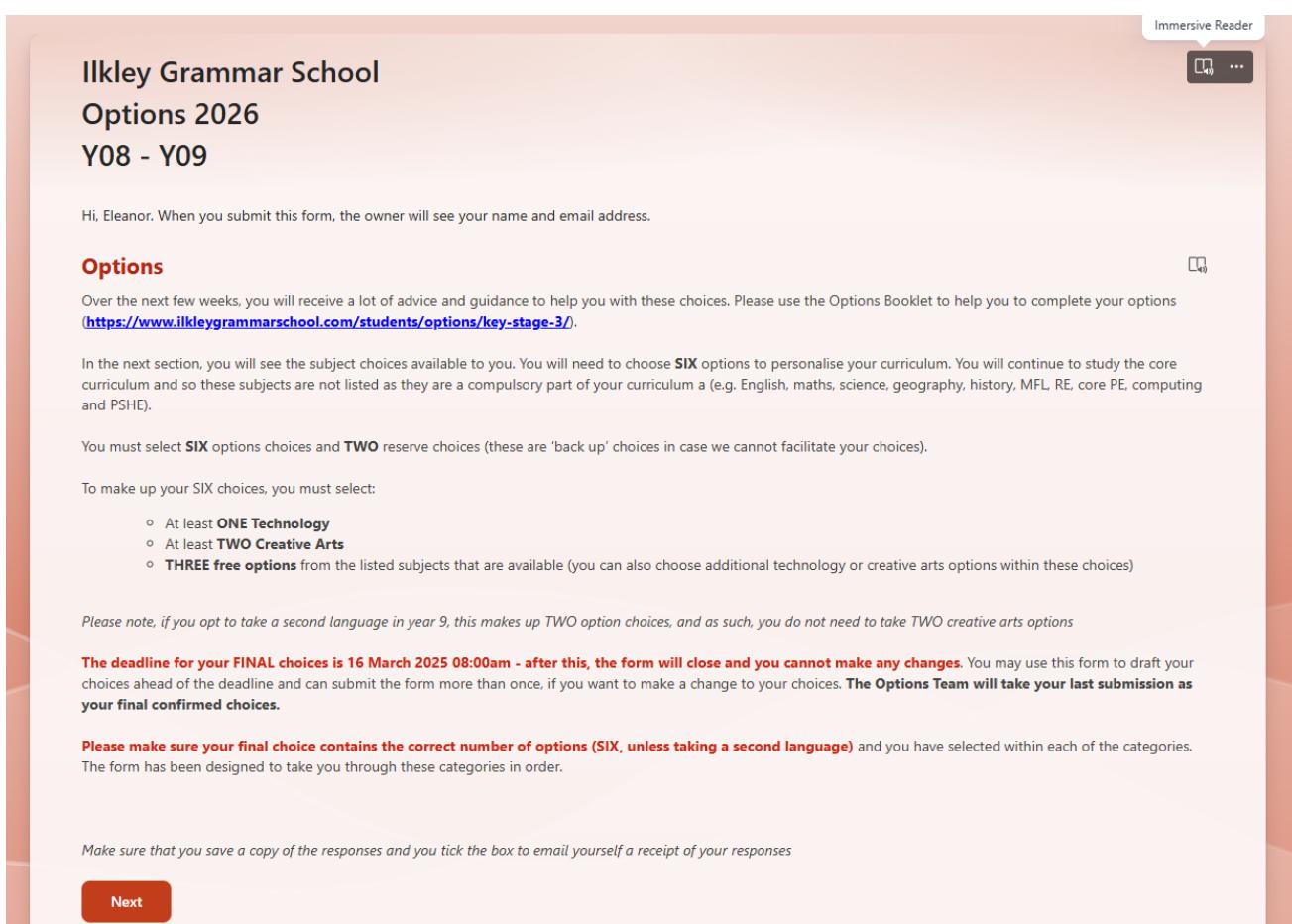
Ilkley Grammar School
Options 2026
Y08 - Y09

Spring 2026

Welcome to Options at Ilkley Grammar School

This form is where you will select your subject choices for Year 9. This is an exciting opportunity to personalise parts of your curriculum for the first time!

Start now



Ilkley Grammar School
Options 2026
Y08 - Y09

Hi, Eleanor. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

Options

Over the next few weeks, you will receive a lot of advice and guidance to help you with these choices. Please use the Options Booklet to help you to complete your options (<https://www.ilkleygrammarschool.com/students/options/key-stage-3/>).

In the next section, you will see the subject choices available to you. You will need to choose **SIX** options to personalise your curriculum. You will continue to study the core curriculum and so these subjects are not listed as they are a compulsory part of your curriculum a (e.g. English, maths, science, geography, history, MFL, RE, core PE, computing and PSHE).

You must select **SIX** options choices and **TWO** reserve choices (these are 'back up' choices in case we cannot facilitate your choices).

To make up your **SIX** choices, you must select:

- At least **ONE Technology**
- At least **TWO Creative Arts**
- **THREE free options** from the listed subjects that are available (you can also choose additional technology or creative arts options within these choices)

Please note, if you opt to take a second language in year 9, this makes up TWO option choices, and as such, you do not need to take TWO creative arts options

The deadline for your FINAL choices is 16 March 2025 08:00am - after this, the form will close and you cannot make any changes. You may use this form to draft your choices ahead of the deadline and can submit the form more than once, if you want to make a change to your choices. **The Options Team will take your last submission as your final confirmed choices.**

Please make sure your final choice contains the correct number of options (SIX, unless taking a second language) and you have selected within each of the categories. The form has been designed to take you through these categories in order.

Make sure that you save a copy of the responses and you tick the box to email yourself a receipt of your responses

Next

Technology Choice

1. Question * □₄₉

- Design Engineering
- Electronics
- Food
- Hospitality and Catering
- Resistant Materials
- Textiles

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Creative Arts Options

Select **TWO** from the list

2. What are the **Creative Arts** subjects you would like to learn in Y9? * □₄₉

Note that

- 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 choice.

Please select 2 options.

- Art
- Drama
- Media Studies
- Music
- Photography

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Language Choice

As you have chosen to do a second language, your second language will take two option slots. You will therefore only need to select 5 subjects

3. Do you want to study a second language in Y9? * □₄₉

Yes

No

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Free Choices (Second Language)

4. What is the language you **would** like to learn in Y9? * □₄₉

This should **NOT** be the language you are **currently** learning in Y08!

- French
- Spanish



5. Free Choice *

As you have selected the double language option already, you now only select **ONE** from the list below

The **Technology and Creative Arts** subjects have been included here to allow you to take a second or third subject choice from these areas. *Be careful not to duplicate an existing option here!*

- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Photography
- Introduction to Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Digital IT
- Media Studies
- Design Engineering
- Electronics
- Food
- Hospitality and Catering
- Resistant Materials
- Textiles
- Pre-Exam PE (PEP)
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Introduction to Law, Society, and the Brain
- Health and Social Care

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Or

Language Choice

As you have chosen to do a second language, your second language will take two option slots. You will therefore only need to select 5 subjects

3. Do you want to study a second language in Y9? *

Yes

No

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Ilkley Grammar School

Options 2026

Y08 - Y09



* Required

Free Choices (Open)



4. Free Choice *

Select **THREE** from the list below

Accelerated Literacy - this is a literacy support pathway. It may also build students towards a Functional Skills English qualification later in KS4 (students on this pathway will still have their core English lessons). This is only open to students whose literacy skills are below age-related expectations and students will be guided towards this option by Inclusive Learning, in consultation with the English department

Preparation for Adulthood is a supported curriculum course. Students for whom this is appropriate will be guided towards it by The Inclusive Learning Department

The **Technology and Creative Arts** subjects have been included here to allow you to take a second or third subject choice from these areas. *Be careful not to duplicate an existing option here!*

Please select 3 options.

- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Photography
- Introduction to Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Digital IT
- Media Studies
- Design Engineering
- Electronics
- Resistant Materials
- Food
- Hospitality and Catering
- Textiles
- Pre-Exam PE (PEP)
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Health and Social Care
- Introduction to Law, Society, and the Brain
- Accelerated Literacy
- Preparation for Adulthood

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Ilkley Grammar School Options 2026 Y08 - Y09



* Required

Reserves



You need to choose two reserve subjects just in case you are not able to get your first pick. Make sure that these don't match any of the choices you made earlier.

6. Please select TWO reserve choices. *



Do not select anything that you have already chosen!

Please select 2 options.

- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Photography
- Introduction to Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Media Studies
- Digital IT
- Design Engineering
- Electronics
- Food
- Hospitality and Catering
- Resistant Materials
- Textiles
- Pre-Exam PE (PEP)
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Health and Social Care
- Introduction to Law, Society, and the Brain
- Accelerated Literacy
- Preparation for Adulthood

7. Is this your final selection of subject choices? *



- These options may change still - I understand that when the deadline passes changes may not be possible
- I have discussed the options with my parent(s)/carer(s) and I am happy for these choices to be used

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[Submit](#)

