

Year 8 Options

2026



The National Picture

Many schools in the UK do not allow students to choose the subjects they study at Year 8.

Others only allow students to choose the subjects that they will go on to take at GCSE.



PRIDE



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COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



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At Ilkley Grammar School

- ✓ **You get to decide** your Options curriculum for Year 9.
- ✓ **You don't have to worry** about starting your GCSEs a year early.
- ✓ **You have the flexibility** to change your mind in the Year 9 into 10 Options Process.



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Why?

- ✓ **Student Voice:** Over 78% of students wanted to choose options in Year 8.
- ✓ **Research:** A student designed curriculum encourages motivation, achievement, and success.
- ✓ **Informed Future Choices:** It will allow you to make more informed decisions next year when choosing your GCSE Options.



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Why?

✓ **We also trust you** to make well-researched, sensible choices that are best for you.



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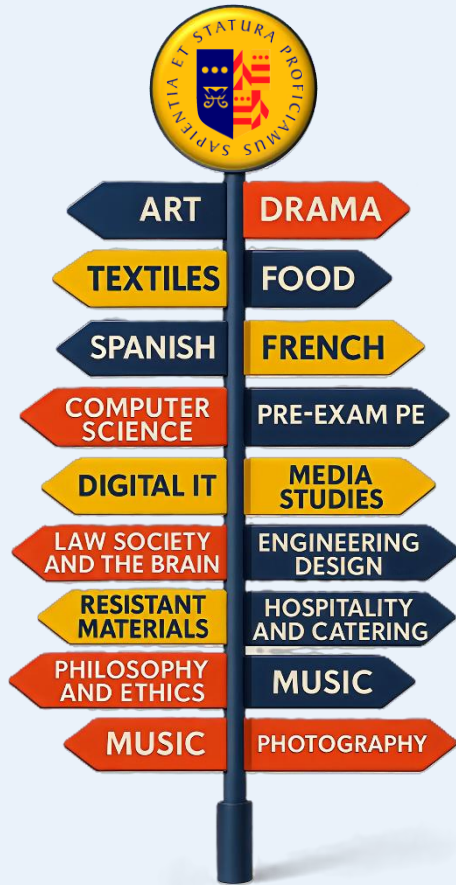


KINDNESS



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Year 8 → 9 Options



- How your Curriculum is Changing
- Your Year 8 → 9 Options Choices
- The Options Process
- Guidance and Advice



The Year 8 Curriculum

THE YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

■ Core



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The Year 8 Curriculum



- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- RE
- PSHE and Citizenship
- Computing
- PE
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Technology



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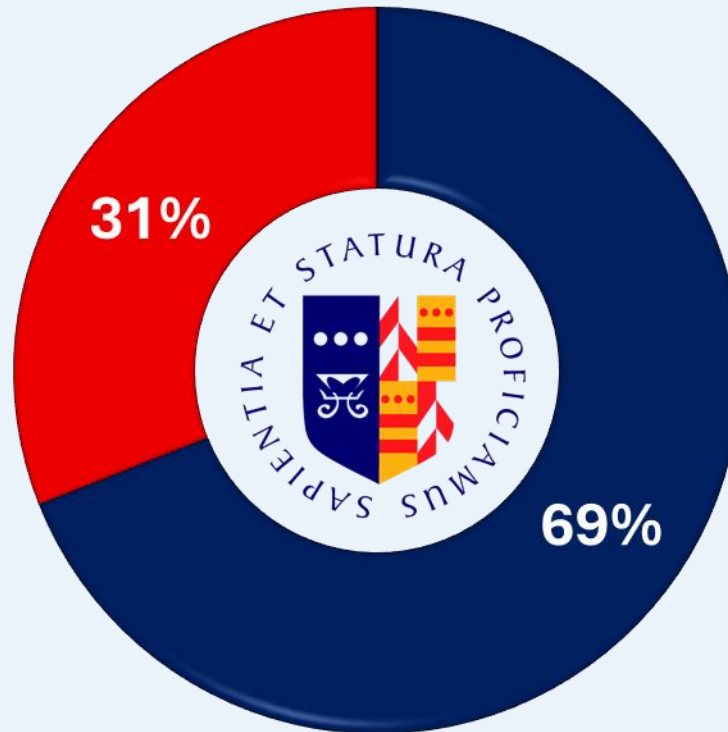


RESILIENCE

The Year 9 Curriculum

THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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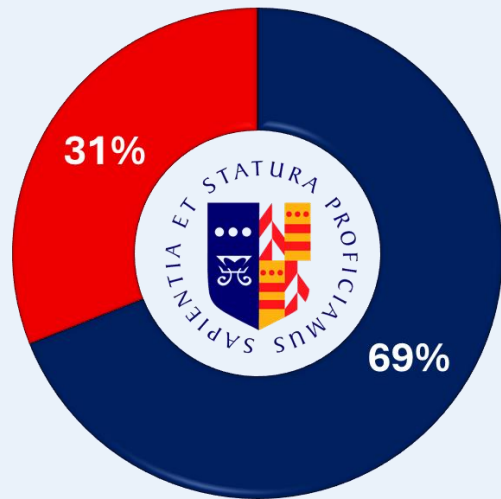


RESILIENCE

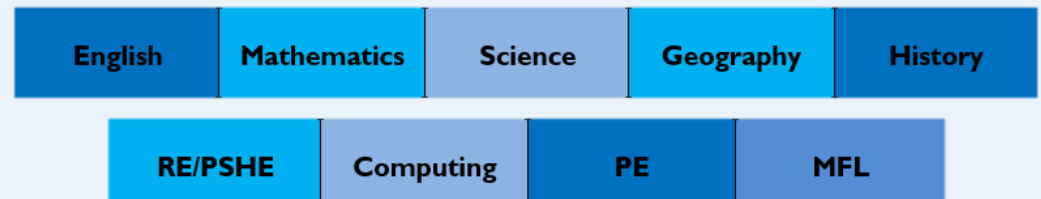
The Year 9 Curriculum

THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



The Year 9 Core Curriculum



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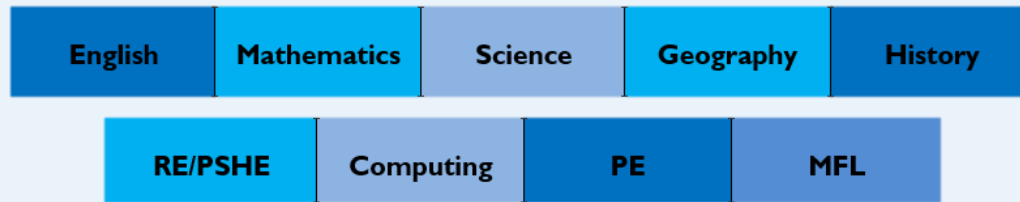


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The Year 9 Curriculum



Why are these subjects 'Core' subjects?



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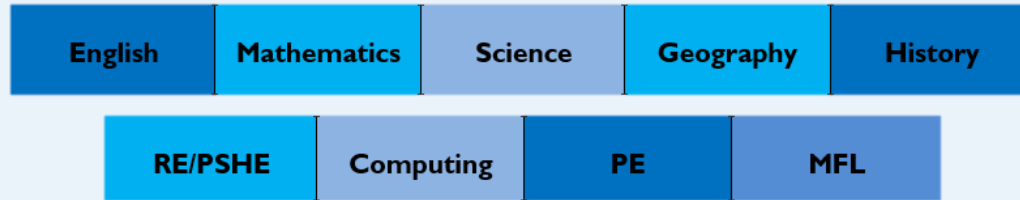


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Why are these subjects 'Core' subjects?

Foundation for Learning



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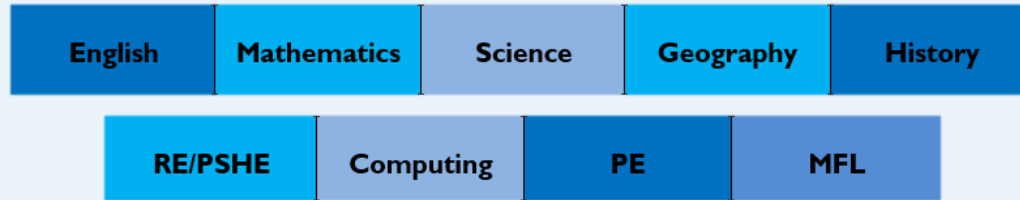


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The Year 9 Curriculum



Why are these subjects 'Core' subjects?

Underpin a broad, and balanced curriculum



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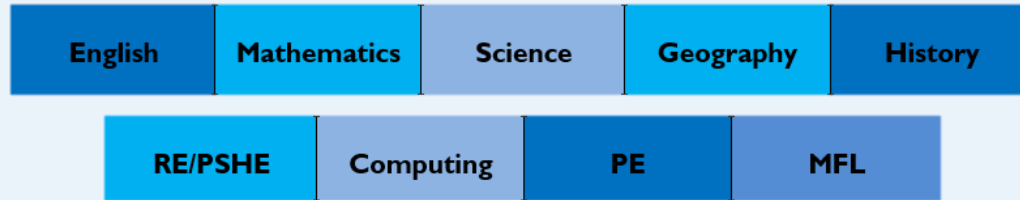


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The Year 9 Curriculum



Why are these subjects 'Core' subjects?

Critical thinking



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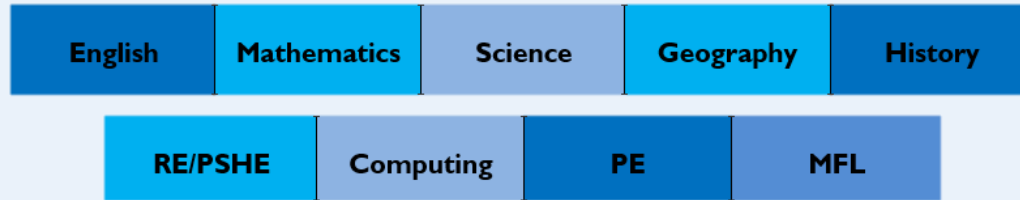


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The Year 9 Curriculum



Why are these subjects 'Core' subjects?

Versatility – academic and career progression



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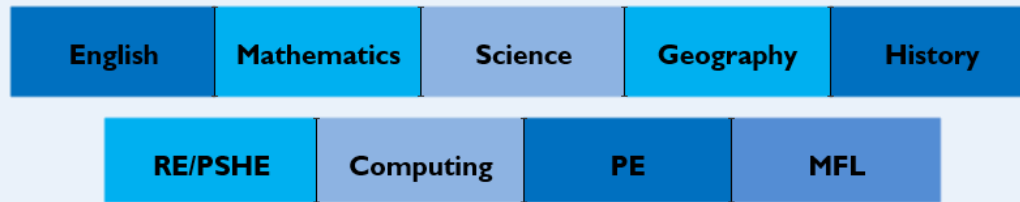


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The Year 9 Curriculum



Why are these subjects ‘Core’ subjects?

Understanding the world – ‘*growing in wisdom and stature*’



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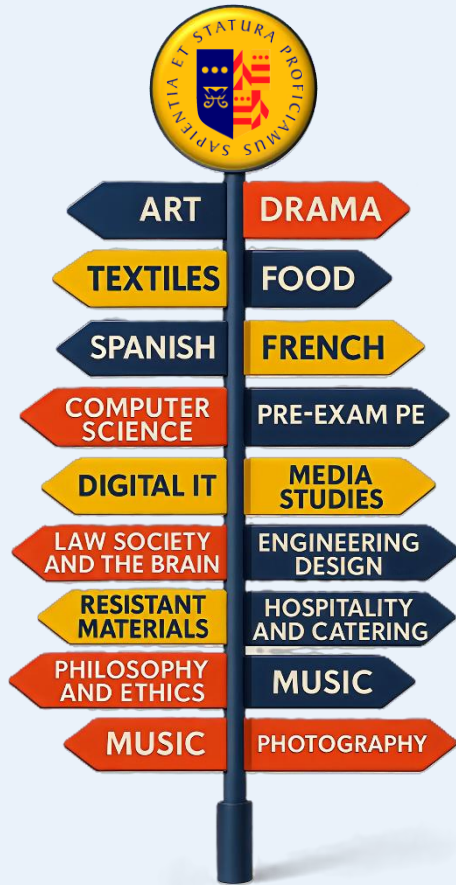


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Year 8 → 9 Options



- How your Curriculum is Changing
- **Your Year 8 → 9 Options Choices**
- The Options Process
- Guidance and Advice

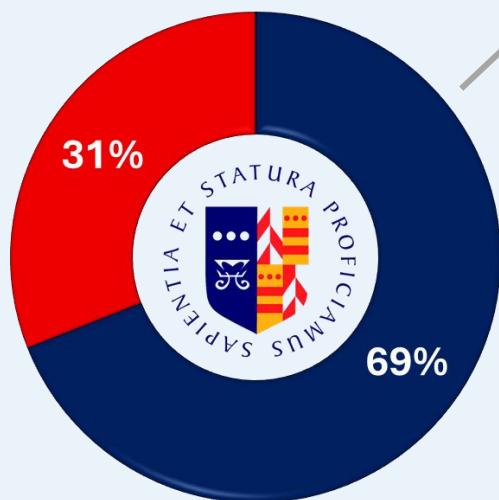


The Year 9 Options Subjects

The Year 9 Core Curriculum

THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
RE/PSHE	Computing	PE	MFL	

The Year 9 Options

Option 1 Technology	Option 2 Creative Arts	Option 3 Creative Arts	Option 4 Free Choice A	Option 5 Free Choice B	Option 6 Free Choice C
Electronics Food Resistant Materials Textiles Hospitality & Catering Engineering Design	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 Health and Social Care Introduction to Business Studies Introduction to Law, Society, and the Brain Philosophy and Ethics Pre-exam PE (PEP) Digital IT Preparation for Adulthood*** (guided option) Accelerated Literacy (AL)*** (guided option)		



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The Year 9 Options Subjects

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

To guide you in making your decision, you have **six option blocks** to fill.



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Option 1

Option 1
Technology

The Technology Options

Choose one of the following:

- ☐ Resistant Materials
- ☐ Textiles
- ☐ Food Technology
- ☐ Hospitality and Catering
- ☐ Engineering Design
- ☐ Electronic Products



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Option 2 and 3

Option 2	Option 3
Creative Arts	

Choose **two** of the following:

- ☐ Music
- ☐ Art, Craft, and Design
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Media Studies
- ☐ Photography



Option 2 and 3

Option 2	Option 3
Creative Arts	

Forbidden Combinations

☐ Music

☐ Art, Craft and, Design

☐ Drama

☐ Media Studies

☐ Photography



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Option 2 and 3

Option 2	Option 3
Creative Arts	

Forbidden Combinations

- ☐ Music
- ☐ Art, Craft and, Design
- ☐ Drama

☐ Media Studies

☐ Photography



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Option 4, 5, and 6

Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C

- ☐ Computer Science
- ☐ Introduction to Business Studies
- ☐ Introduction to Law, Society, and The Brain
- ☐ Philosophy and Ethics
- ☐ Health and Social Care
- ☐ Digital IT
- ☐ Pre-exam PE (PEP)



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Option 4, 5, and 6

Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C

“I want to take an additional **Technology** subject”

☐ Hospitality and Catering

☐ Engineering Design

☐ Electronic Products

☐ Resistant Materials

☐ Textiles

☐ Food Technology



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Option 4, 5, and 6

Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C

“I want to take an additional **Creative Arts** subject”

☐ Media Studies

☐ Photography

☐ Music

☐ Art, Craft and, Design

☐ Drama



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Additional Language

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

☐ French

☐ Spanish



You also have the **opportunity**
to learn an **additional**
language.



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Additional Language

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

☐ French

☐ Spanish



This choice takes up **two** of your Option blocks.

The Year 9 course covers **everything** learnt in Year 7 and 8.



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Additional Language

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

☐ French

☐ Spanish

Why take an additional language?



Department
for Education



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Additional Language

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

 French

 Spanish

Why take an additional language?

“Provides an insight into other cultures and broadens pupil’s horizons”



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Additional Language

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

☐ French

☐ Spanish

Why take an additional language?

“Opens doors to travel, employment opportunities, and to more degrees at universities”



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Additional Language

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

☐ French

☐ Spanish

Why take an additional language?

“Languages give young people a competitive edge”



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Additional Language

Impact of choice next Year:

You **cannot** choose to study a language in Year 10 from scratch (*ab initio*).



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6TH FORM

APPRENTICESHIP

COLLEGE



CONFIDENCE

Guided Options

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

☐ Accelerated Literacy

☐ Preparation for Adulthood



Supporting everyone to
achieve their **Personal Best.**



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RESILIENCE

Guided Options

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

☐ Accelerated Literacy ☐ Preparation for Adulthood



You should only select these options if you have been spoken to about them by the Inclusive Learning Team.



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The Options Subjects

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Technology	Creative Arts		Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C
<p>↓</p> <p>Electronics</p> <p>Food</p> <p>Resistant Materials</p> <p>Textiles</p> <p>Hospitality & Catering</p> <p>Engineering Design</p>	<p>↓</p> <p>Art*</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Photography*</p> <p>Media Studies*</p>		<p>↓</p> <p>3 choices from:</p> <p>A 2nd language** (NB: this takes up 2 free options)</p> <p>A 2nd or 3rd specialist technology</p> <p>A 3rd creative art</p> <p>Computer Science</p> <p>Health and Social Care</p> <p>Introduction to Business Studies</p> <p>Introduction to Law, Society, and the Brain</p> <p>Philosophy and Ethics</p> <p>Pre-exam PE (PEP)</p> <p>Digital IT</p> <p>Preparation for Adulthood*** (guided option)</p> <p>Accelerated Literacy (AL)*** (guided option)</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p>↓</p>



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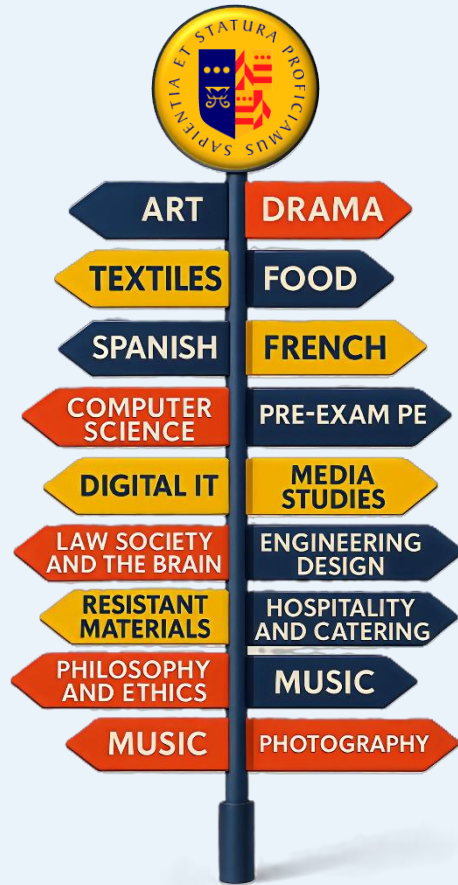


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Year 8 → 9 Options



- How your Curriculum is Changing
- Your Year 8 → 9 Options Choices
- **The Options Process**
- Guidance and Advice



The Options Process

Year 8	
PROCESS	DATES
Year 8-9 Options PBT Assembly Launch	Wednesday 4 th February 2026
Distribution of options booklets electronically	
February Half Term	16 th -20 th February 2026
Year 8 Parents' evening	Tuesday 24 th February 2026
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 25 th February 2026
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 25 th February 2026 Wednesday 4 th March 2026
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 4 th March 2026
Optional drop in meetings with Leadership Team/ Inclusive Learning	Monday 2 nd March – Friday 13 th March 2026
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	Monday 16 th March 2026 – 8 a.m.



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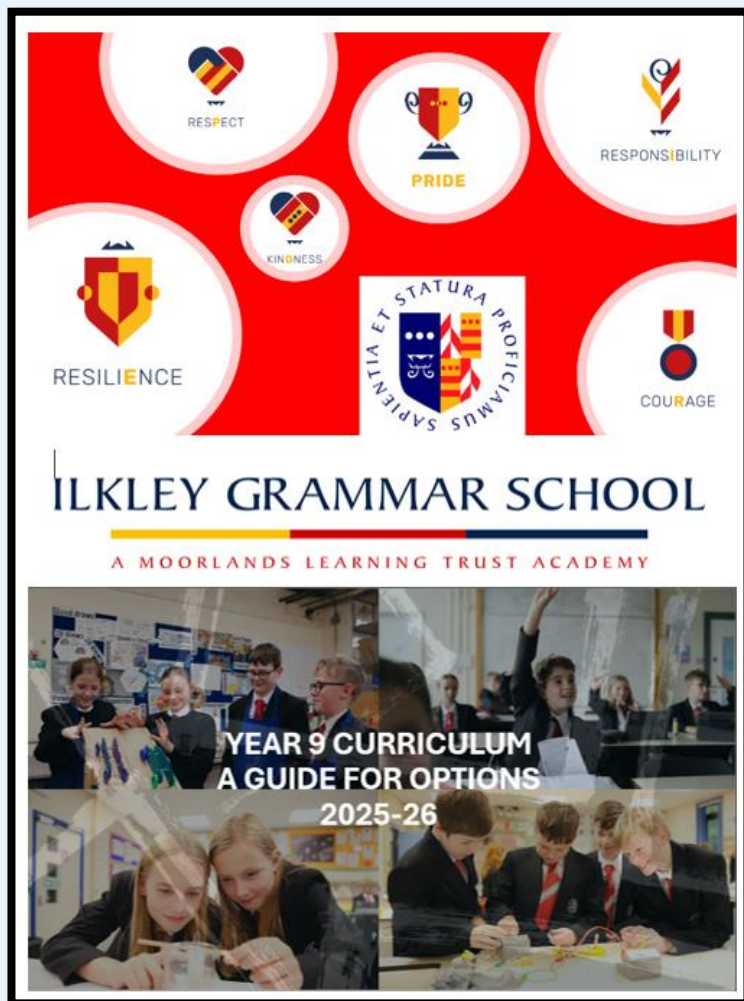
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Making Informed Choices

The Options Booklet



Engineering Design	
Course Title:	Engineering Design
What will I study in year 9?	This is the course for anyone who enjoys a 'hands on' approach and likes to learn by doing! Through a series of exciting design and make projects you will develop the keys skills which underpin all aspects of Engineering design and manufacture whilst developing understanding of how real products are developed in the modern world.
What skills will I develop?	You will develop skills in <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:	Students taking this course would be well-prepared for the OCR Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design Course (level 2) or the AQA GCSE in Design Technology. This could lead to a post 16 'A' level Product Design Course, numerous applied college courses or Engineering or construction apprenticeships.
Link to GCSE specification:	OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Engineering Design https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-j822/ GCSE Design and Technology https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification-at-a-glance
Career pathways:	This course could lead to a wide range of careers including engineering, design, architecture construction, manufacturing or any of the trades. There are currently skills shortages in many of these industries giving rise to exciting career opportunities for appropriately qualified and skilled people.
Who to see for further information:	Mr Ibbertson, Teacher of Technology Mrs Eyles, Curriculum Leader D&T



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Making Informed Choices

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 24th February

Prepare questions to ask your subject teachers if you would like more information about an option subject.



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Options Evening

Wednesday 4th March



Visit curriculum areas,
attend an information
presentation, and
make final decisions.



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How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft Form

**Options Forms are available electronically
on Wednesday 25th February.**



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How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft Form

Options Forms are available electronically on
Wednesday 25th February.

Your form tutor will guide you through this process
during PBT.

**A member of Leadership Team will support your
form and be able to answer any of your questions.**



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How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft 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!



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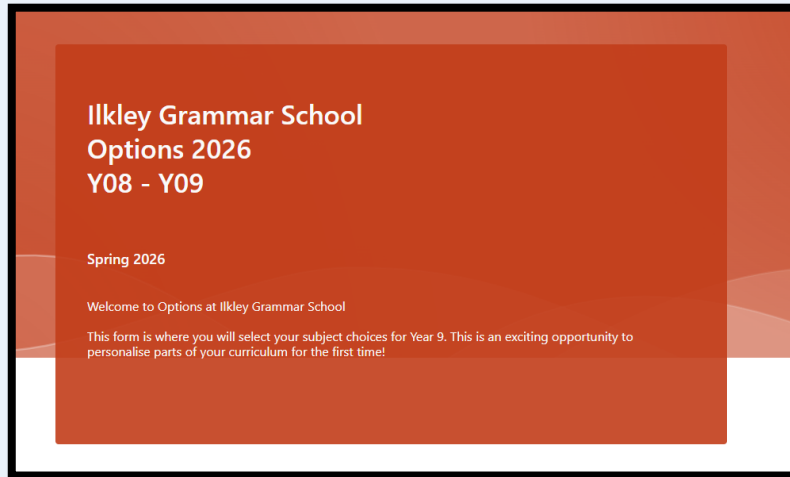
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How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft Form



You will use the Microsoft Form to make your **six** option choices.

- ☐ At least **one** technology.
- ☐ At least **two** creative arts.
- ☐ **Three** 'free choice' options



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How to Choose...


Using the Microsoft Form

The form will guide you through this process step-by-step.

Ilkley Grammar School
Options 2026
Y08 - Y09

Spring 2026

Technology Choice

1. Question * 

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



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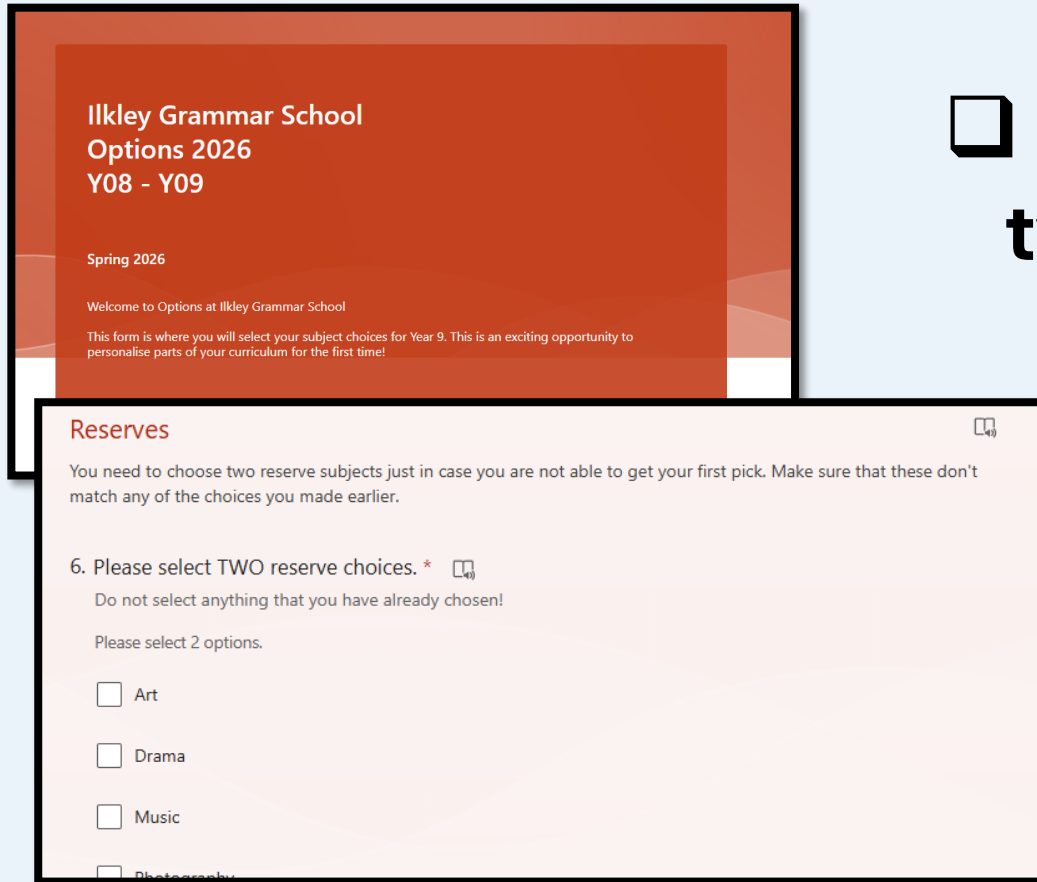


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How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft Form

☐ You will also select **two** reserve choices.



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!

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



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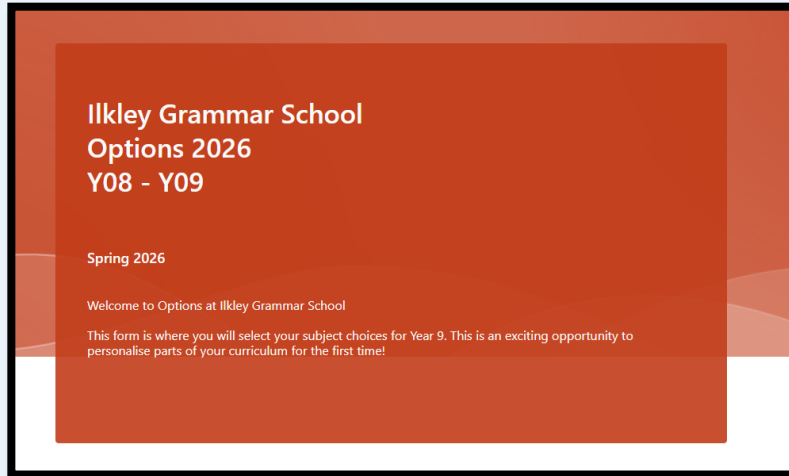
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How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft Form



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



How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft Form

You can submit the form as **many times as you like.**

Your **last submission** will be taken as your **final choice.**



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How to Choose...

Using the Microsoft Form

The deadline for submissions is:

Monday 16th March 8 a.m.



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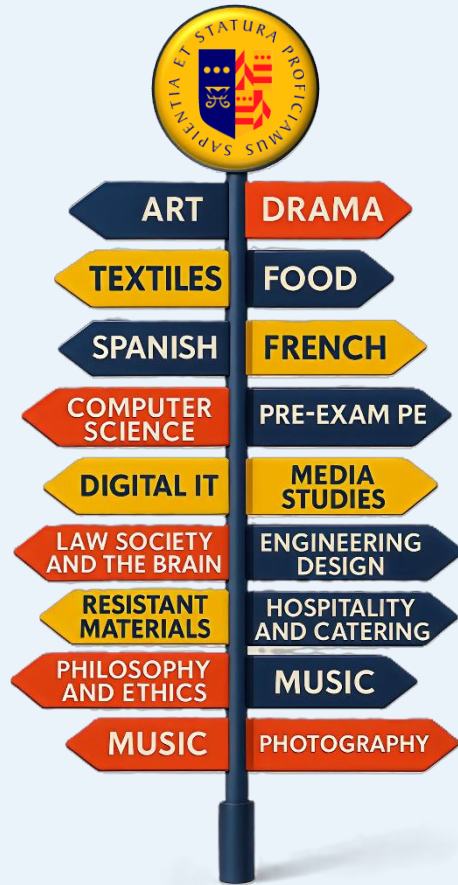


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Year 8 → 9 Options



- How your Curriculum is Changing
- Your Year 8 → 9 Options Choices
- The Options Process
- **Guidance and Advice**



Making Informed Choices

The Year 8 → 9 Options process is an **incredible opportunity** to take control of your education and your future.



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Making Informed Choices

The Year 8 → 9 Options process is an **incredible opportunity** to take control of your education and your future.

Your decisions this year won't impact your choices for GCSE *(apart from taking a second language)*.



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Making Informed Choices

The Year 8 → 9 Options process is an **incredible opportunity** to take control of your education and your future.

Your decisions this year won't impact your choices for GCSE *(apart from taking a second language)*.

You don't have to worry about making the 'wrong' choice but the decisions you make are still **important**.



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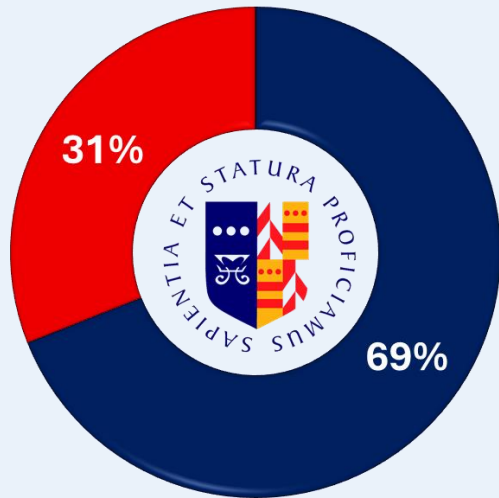


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Looking ahead to Year 10 and 11

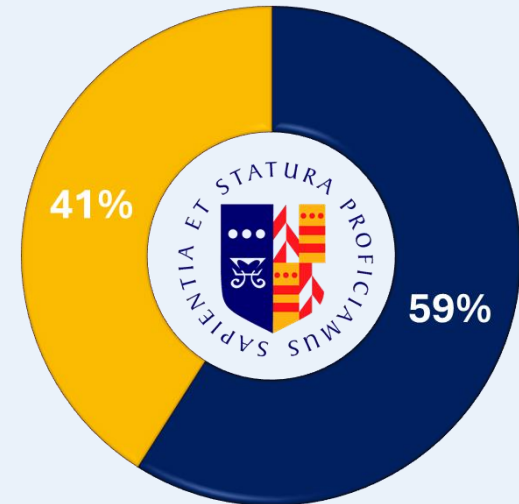
THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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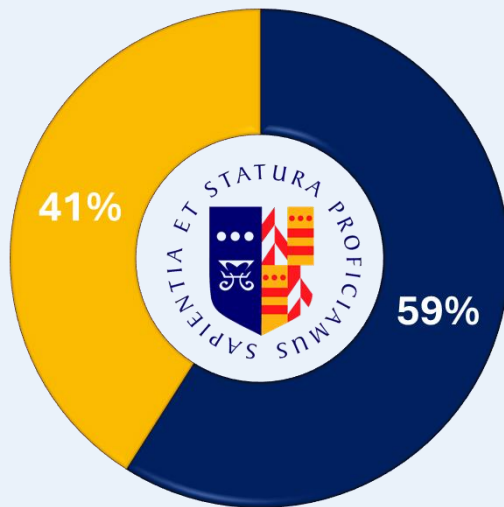


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Looking ahead to Year 10 and 11

THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



Year 10/11 Curriculum	
6 core subjects	
CORE	
English Language	English Literature
Maths	Combined Science
RE, PSHE, Citizenship	Core PE
4 option choices	



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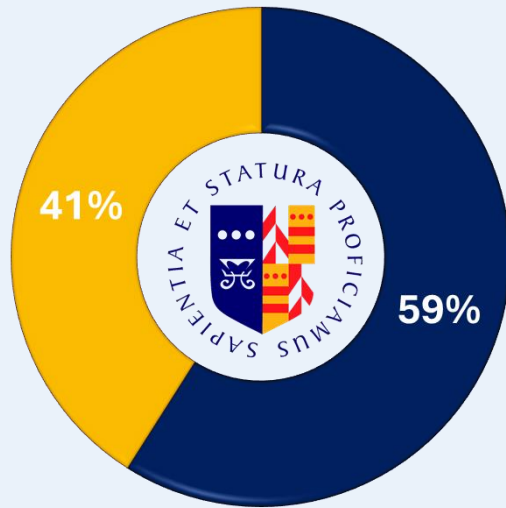


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The Year 10 Curriculum

THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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Looking ahead to Year 10 and 11

Year 10/11 Curriculum	
6 core subjects	
CORE	
English Language	English Literature
Maths	Combined Science
RE, PSHE, Citizenship	Core PE
4 option choices	

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APPRENTICESHIP



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KS4 Options Choices

Humanities subjects:

- GCSE Geography (EBacc subject)
- GCSE History (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Business Studies

Creative/practical subjects:

- GCSE Art, Craft and Design
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Food & Nutrition
- GCSE Textiles
- GCSE Electronic Products
- GCSE Resistant Materials
- GCSE PE

MFL subjects:

- GCSE French (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Spanish (EBacc subject)

Sciences:

- GCSE Computer Science (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Separate Science (EBacc subject)

Technical/Practical:

- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT
- CNAT Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Sport

Inclusive Learning Guided Option:

- Functional Skills English



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KS4 Options Choices

Humanities subjects:

- GCSE Geography (EBacc subject)
- GCSE History (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Business Studies

Creative/practical subjects:

- GCSE Art, Craft and Design
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Food & Nutrition
- GCSE Textiles
- GCSE Electronic Products
- GCSE Resistant Materials
- GCSE PE

Engineering Design

Course Title:	Engineering Design
What will I study in year 9?	This is the course for anyone who enjoys a 'hands on' approach and likes to learn by doing! Through a series of exciting design and make projects you will develop the keys skills which underpin all aspects of Engineering design and manufacture whilst developing understanding of how real products are developed in the modern world.
What skills will I develop?	You will develop skills in <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:	Students taking this course would be well-prepared for the OCR Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design Course (level 2) or the AQA GCSE in Design Technology. This could lead to a post 16 'A' level Product Design Course, numerous applied college courses or Engineering or construction apprenticeships.
Link to GCSE specification:	OCR Cambridge Nationals Level1/2 Engineering Design https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-j822/ GCSE Design and Technology https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification-at-a-glance
Career pathways:	This course could lead to a wide range of careers including engineering, design, architecture construction, manufacturing or any of the trades. There are currently skills shortages in many of these industries giving rise to exciting career opportunities for appropriately qualified and skilled people.
Who to see for further information:	Mr Ibbertson, Teacher of Technology Mrs Eyles, Curriculum Leader D&T

MFL subjects:

- GCSE French (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Spanish (EBacc subject)

Sciences:

- GCSE Computer Science (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Separate Science (EBacc subject)

Technical/Practical:

- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT
- CNAT Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Sport

Inclusive Learning Guided Option:

- Functional Skills English



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

Making Informed Choices

1. **Don't** make choices based on whether you **like your current teacher**.
2. **Don't** choose a subject based on what your **friends are doing**.
3. **Don't** assume some subjects will be **easier than others** – all require hard work inside and outside of school.
4. **Don't** make a **final decision** before studying the booklet, gaining more information and attending the Year 8 Options Evening.



PRIDE



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RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

X and Y Band

Don't choose a subject based on what your **friends are doing.**

Next Year, your timetable will be structured differently. You will remain in your tutor groups next year but will also be placed into **X or Y band for your curriculum.**

You will be taught the **Core Curriculum** in your X or Y band, and your Options subjects may be taught across both bands.



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Making Informed Choices

1. **Do** consider your **future career** but remember most people do change their minds.
2. **Do** aim as high as possible. Don't close doors for yourself!
3. **Do** choose subjects you are interested in and would enjoy.
4. **Do** make sure you understand what each subject involves. Read the booklet.
5. **Do** be realistic and honest with yourself.



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Questions to ask yourself

1. Will I **enjoy** the subject?
2. Will I be **successful** in the subject?
3. Have I chosen subjects which give me a **broad and balanced curriculum**?
4. Which subjects will **support my potential GCSE Options** next year?
5. Do I have **definite reasons** for choosing a subject? Have I done enough **research**?



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Who to ask for advice

1. Your Form Tutor
 2. Your subject teachers
 3. Your parents / carers
 4. Mr Leeming, Mrs McKinlay and Miss Allen
 5. Me or any other member of the leadership team
- Email: year8options@ilkleygs.co.uk
 - You can also book a drop-in meeting for more advice



PRIDE



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RESPONSIBILITY

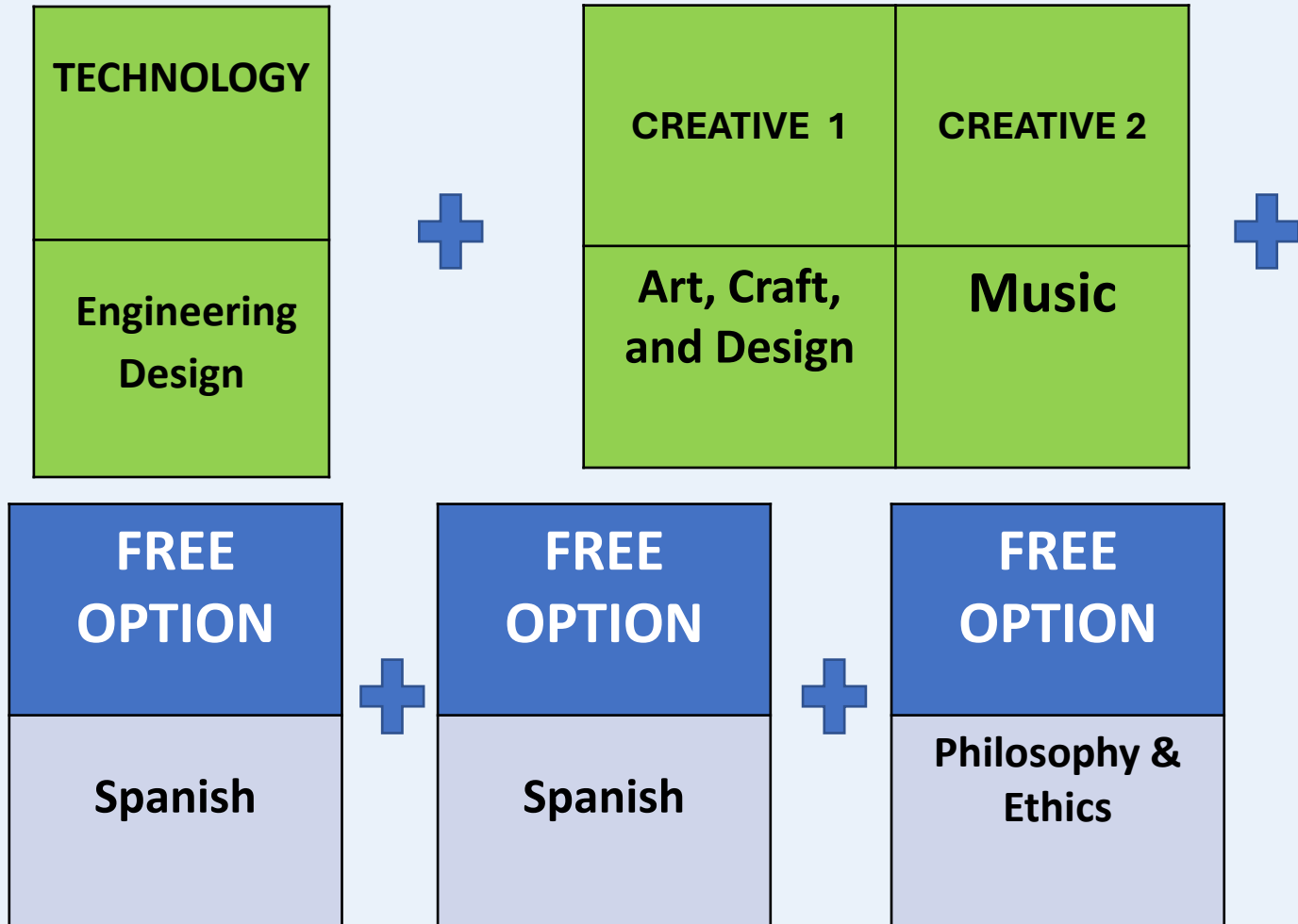


KINDNESS

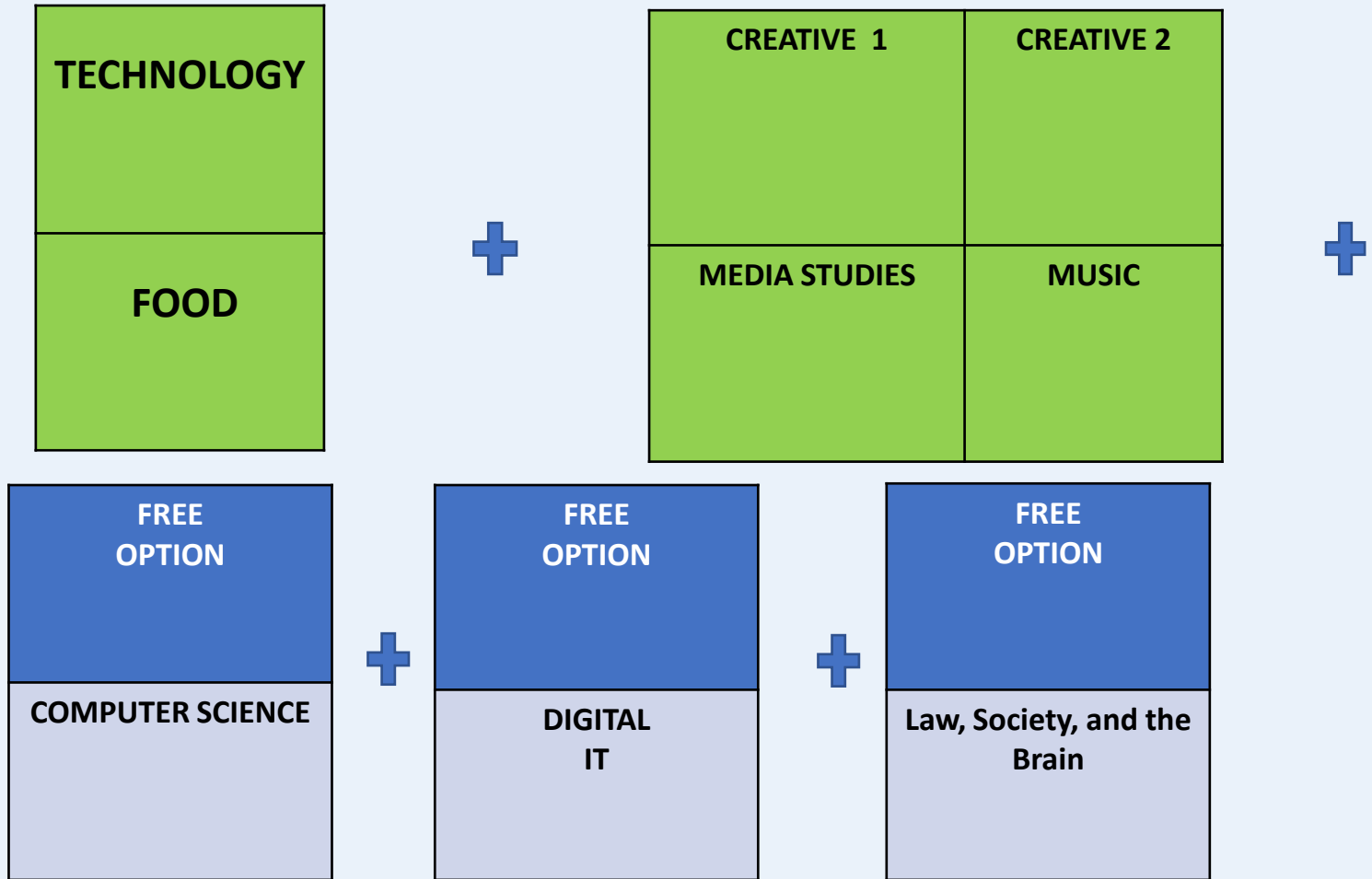


RESILIENCE

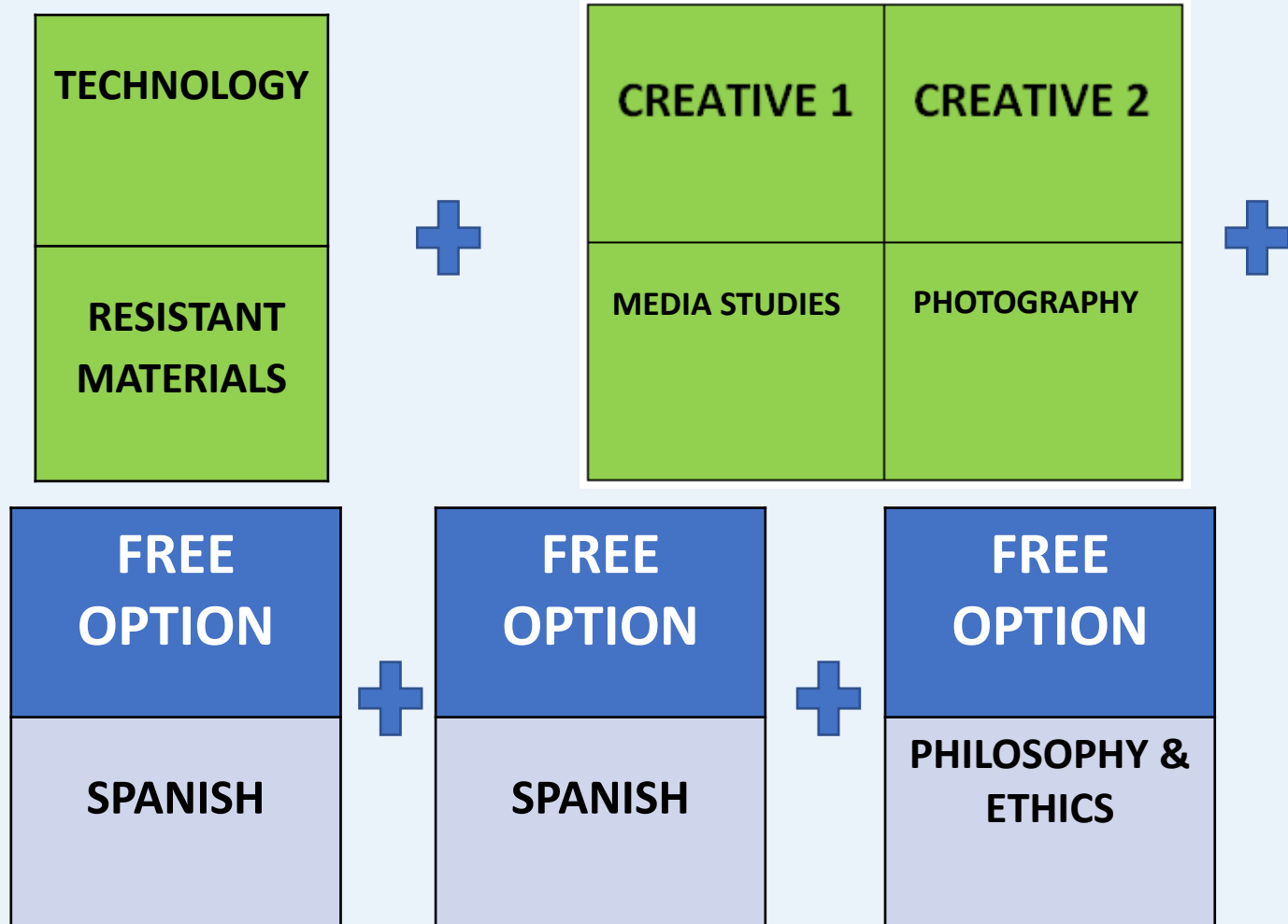
EXAMPLE I: Mr Johnson



EXAMPLE I: Mr Leeming



Forbidden Combination – Can you spot the mistake?



Forbidden Combination – Can you spot the mistake?

