

Submit any enquiries
to: Year9Options@igs.mlt.co.uk



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Carly Purnell- Headteacher

Gemma Cloughton- Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education

Craig Johnson- Associate Assistant Headteacher: Options



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YEAR 9 CORE PROGRAMME:

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
RE/Citizenship	IT	PE	MFL or Literacy*	

YEAR 8 into 9 OPTIONS PROGRAMME:

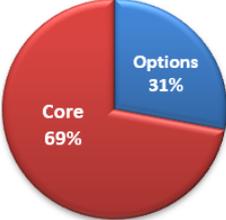
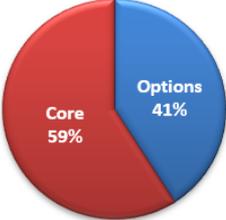
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Technology	Creative Arts		Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C
Electronics Food Resistant Materials Textiles Essential Technology Event Management/ Catering** Maintenance/ Trade Skills**	Art*** Drama Music Photography*** Media Studies***		3 choices from: A 2 nd language (NB: this takes up two options) A 2 nd or 3 rd specialist technology A 3 rd creative art Computer Science Introduction to Business Studies Introduction to Law Philosophy and Ethics Pre-GCSE PE Specialist IT Skills For Success**		

CORE + OPTIONS = A BROAD AND BALANCED CURRICULUM

YEAR 9 v YEARS 10/11

Year 9 Curriculum			Year 10/11 Curriculum	
10 core subjects			6 core subjects	
CORE			CORE	
English	Maths	Science	English Language Maths	English Literature Trilogy Science
RE/PSHE	MFL	PE	RE/PSHE	Core PE
Geography	History	Computing		
6 option choices			4 option choices	

Curriculum Overview

 <p>Core 69%</p> <p>Options 31%</p>	 <p>Core 59%</p> <p>Options 41%</p>
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- Fewer **core subjects**
- **Fewer options**, but they **make up more curriculum time** than ever before
- This supports you to **fulfil requirements of the qualification**



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Choices now lead to **qualifications**



Qualifications are the **Keys to your future**



Open **doorways** for **Post 16 and beyond**



Stepping stones to the next stage of
education, training and future careers



MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

Research shows that that a curriculum designed by student choice encourages motivation, achievement, direction and success.

SUBJECT	PROGRESS SCORE 2025	SUBJECT	PROGRESS SCORE 2025
Biology - separate	+.82	History	+1.26
Engineering	+1.48	Photography	+1.08
Spanish	+.64	Trilogy Science	+.98
Religious Studies	+1.39	Design Technology	+1.63
Art	+.75	Geography	+.88
Business	+0.83	Music	+.9
Drama	+1.37	Physics	+.69
Chemistry	+.51	Cs	+.82
Digital IT	+.82	Performing Arts	+.93
English Literature	+.89	French	+.67
Hospitality and Catering	+1.76	Health and Social Care	+1.1

**Generated using baseline testing in the absence of KS2 SATs data.*

THE CORE CURRICULUM AT KS4

All students will spend nearly 60% of their timetable on the core curriculum. This will lead to 5 GCSE qualifications in:

- 1: **GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE** (Graded 9 to 1)
- 2: **GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE** (Graded 9 to 1)
- 3: **GCSE MATHEMATICS** (Graded 9 to 1)
- 4: **GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE*** (Graded 9-1) This leads to two science qualifications, but students study all three sciences

*(*Unless taking Separate Science as an option which leads to 3 separate science qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics)*

CORE PE and PSHE are not accredited courses



PATHWAYS AT IGS

I. The EBacc Pathway

I: EBacc Pathway

Guided Option 1: EBacc Humanities
History or Geography

Guided Option 2: EBacc MFL
French or Spanish

Open Options 3 and 4
2 further choices from a range of options. To ensure you follow a broad and balanced curriculum we recommend one of your choices should be a practical/creative subject.



The English Baccalaureate

What is it?

This is **not a qualification in itself**, but recognises students achieving 5 GCSE grades 9-5 in the subject areas listed.

It is a **traditional, academic pathway** and has historically been recommended by the government to ensure a broad balance of academic subjects are studied- suited especially for those who are considering higher education.

Students access the English, mathematics and science element of this qualification through the **compulsory core**.

Qualifications that are classed as science are GCSE **Combined Science, GCSE Separate Science in biology, chemistry and physics, Computer Science**.

Currently, only **GCSE History and GCSE Geography** are recognised as Humanities subjects.

Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish) are available as an option and, though challenging, very highly regarded by universities and employers.



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



PATHWAYS AT IGS

2. The Comprehensive Pathway

2: Comprehensive Pathway

Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography
History

French
Spanish

Computer Science
Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

Open Options 2, 3 and 4

3 further choices including any EBacc subject not selected as Option 1 or from the range of options choices.



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PATHWAYS at IGS

3. The Technical GCSE Pathway

3: Technical GCSE Pathway

Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography French Computer Science
History Spanish Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

Guided Options 2 and 3

2 choices from:

Technical or BTEC courses/
practical/creative subjects.

Open Option 4

Open choices from a range of subjects including any
EBacc subjects not selected as Option 1.



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OPTIONS CHOICES

Creating A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

Option 1: EBACC CHOICE

Choice from:

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science
- Separate Science

Option 2

Choice from a range of options subjects

Option 3

Choice from a range of options subjects

Option 4

Choice from a range of options subjects

Why is an Ebacc option compulsory for all students?

- Ensure an **appropriately broad, academic curriculum**, while leaving **space and opportunity for personalisation** and supporting individual **next steps**
- Ebacc subjects are **highly valued by universities** and can ‘unlock’ a wider range of degree courses later down the line

But we do not enforce all students to follow the FULL Ebacc route (pathway 1), recognising individual choice and future personal goals and interests.



PATHWAYS AT IGS

4: Supported Pathway

Guided Option 1: Functional Skills English

This course is designed to develop written and verbal communication, and students can have the opportunity to gain additional qualifications such as Functional Skills English as part of this option. More generally, this option works in parallel with GCSE English and provides students with additional practice and literacy support. Students taking the Functional Skills option continue to work towards their GCSE English and English literature in their core English lessons. Students are assessed through an ongoing process for Functional Skills. It is delivered in a small group environment through the Inclusive Learning Department. There is opportunity for careers guidance as part of this course.

Guided Options 2 and 3

2 choices from BTEC/technical qualifications, and a range of practical/creative subjects.

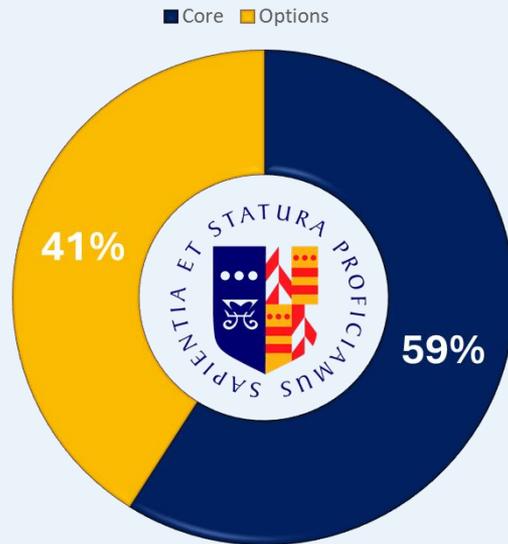
Open Option 4

Open choice from a range of subjects.



Year 9 Options

THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM



- The Year 9 → 10 options subjects.
- Conditions, and invalid combinations.
- Forms of assessment.
- The Options Form and deadlines.



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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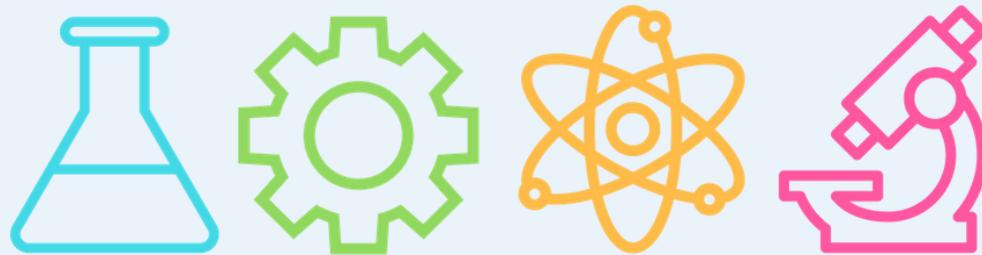
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Separate Science

All students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 10 and Year 11.



However, choosing separate science results in **three** GCSE Grades rather than **two**.



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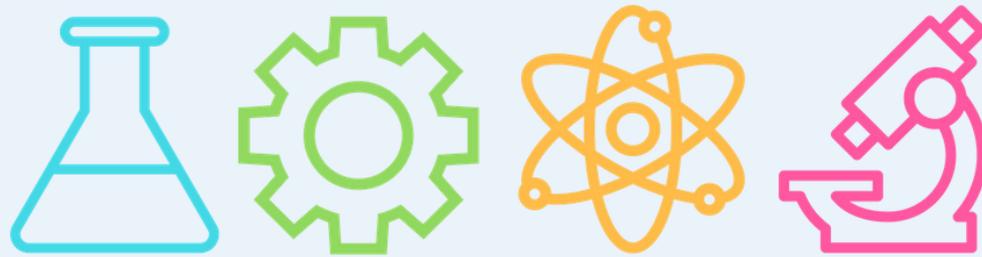
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Separate Science

All students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 10 and Year 11



Choosing separate science uses an option choice and is best suited for those students with a **strong passion** for science.



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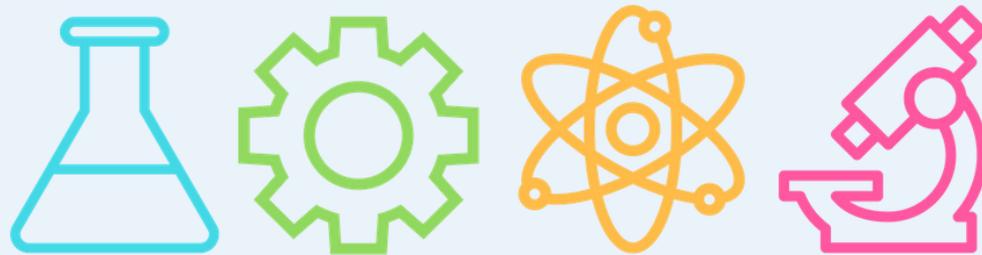
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RESILIENCE

Separate Science

Choosing separate science uses an option choice and is best suited for those students with a **strong passion** for science.



By choosing separate science, students will have **15 lessons of science** rather than 9 in Year 10, and **18 lessons of science** in Year 11 rather than 12.



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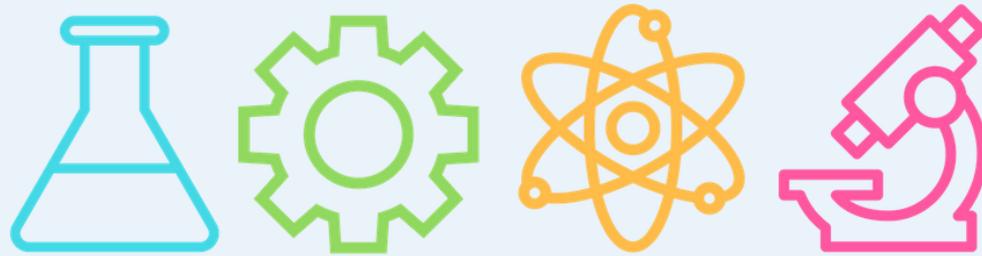
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RESILIENCE

Separate Science

By choosing separate science, students will have **15 lessons of science** rather than 9 in Year 10, and **18 lessons of science** in Year 11 rather than 12.



You can progress to A-level sciences without having studied Separate Science.



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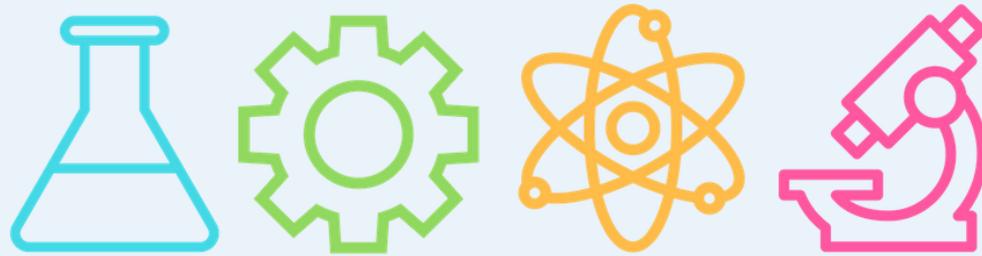
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Separate Science

You can progress to A-level sciences without having studied Separate Science.



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Potential Combinations

History	French	Spanish	Drama
French	History	Computer Science	Philosophy
History	French	Drama	GCSE PE
Separate Science	Computer Science	French	Geography
Music	Spanish	History	Media
Geography	Business	Electronics	BTEC Sport L2
Spanish	Philosophy	Textiles	Art
Geography	Food Prep and Nutrition	GCSE PE	Performing Arts



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Forbidden Combinations

Spanish	French	History	Drama
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**ab initio*

French	History	GCSE Drama	BTEC Performing Arts
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Geography	GCSE PE	BTEC Sport	Computer Science
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Spanish	DT Textiles	DT Electronic Products	DT Resistant Materials
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**Any two of these three*

Spanish	BTEC Sport	DT Electronic Products	Functional Skills English
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**Must be guided*



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Exam Management



Students will sit **13 exams** for their **Core subjects**.

All GCSE examinations must be taken at the end of the course, meaning if students follow the EBacc pathway, they will sit at least **20 exams in Year 11**.



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Exam Management

Students may want to consider subjects which have **other forms of assessment.**

Some subjects are examined **gradually throughout KS4** through **submission** or **practical tasks.**



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Terminal Exams vs 'Banked' Elements

Subjects with Terminal Exams

Mathematics
English Language
English Literature
Separate/Combined Science
French
Spanish
Geography
History
Computer Science
GCSE Religious Studies
Business Studies

Subjects with 'Banked' Elements

Art (60%)
GCSE Media (30%)
Drama (60%)
DT Electronics (50%)
DT Resistant Materials (50%)
DT Textiles (50%)
Engineering Design (60%)
Food and Nutrition (50%)
Health and Social Care (60%)
Hospitality and Catering (60%)
Digital ICT (60%)
Music (60%)
PE (40%)
BTEC Sport (70%)
Performing Arts (60%)
Photography (60%)

The Options Process

Year 9	
PROCESS	DATES
Year 9-10 Options PBT Assembly Launch Distribution of options booklets electronically	Wednesday 21 st January 2026
Year 9 Parents' evening	Thursday 29 th January 2026
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 28 th January 2026
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 28 th January 2026 Wednesday 4 th February 2026
February Half Term	16 th -20 th February 2026
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 4 th March 2026
Optional drop in meetings with Leadership Team/ Inclusive Learning	Monday 2 nd February - Friday 13 th February 2026
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	Monday 9 th March 2026 – 8 a.m.



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The Online Options Form

Ilkley Grammar School
Options 2026
Y09 - Y10

Spring 2026

Welcome to Options at Ilkley Grammar School

This form is where you will select your subject choices for years 10-11. Over the next few weeks, you will receive lots of information to help you make your choices...

Students have been sent this form during guided PBT sessions.

Students can submit more than once, if they change their mind, but please note, **we will take the final submission of choices as the confirmed options**

Students cannot change options after the **deadline on 8a.m. Monday 9th March 2026**



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Any Further Questions?

If you would like to ask a specific question or require further information, please email:

year9Options@igs.mlt.co.uk

OR

See a member of **Leadership Team in B10** this evening.

Members of the **Inclusive Learning Team and Careers Team** are also available in the Library.



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Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you

Please exit the hall from the front, or side door.

