

Submit any enquiries to:
Year8Options@igs.mlt.co.uk



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

YEAR 8 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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Why an options process for year 8?



Broad and balanced and does not close doors



A chance to **personalise**



Gain initial **grounding** in main principles and key knowledge before choosing for GCSE

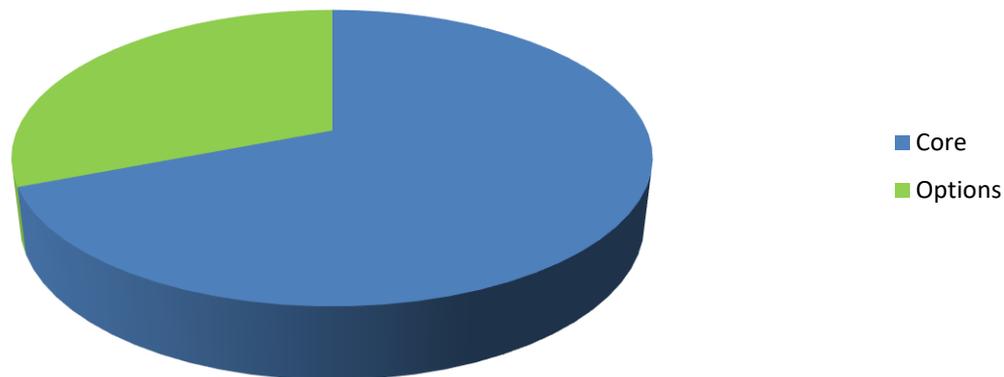
IT IS NOT STARTING GCSEs EARLY, BUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN CORE CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT UNLOCK LATER UNDERSTANDING.



THE YEAR 9 CORE CURRICULUM 2025-6

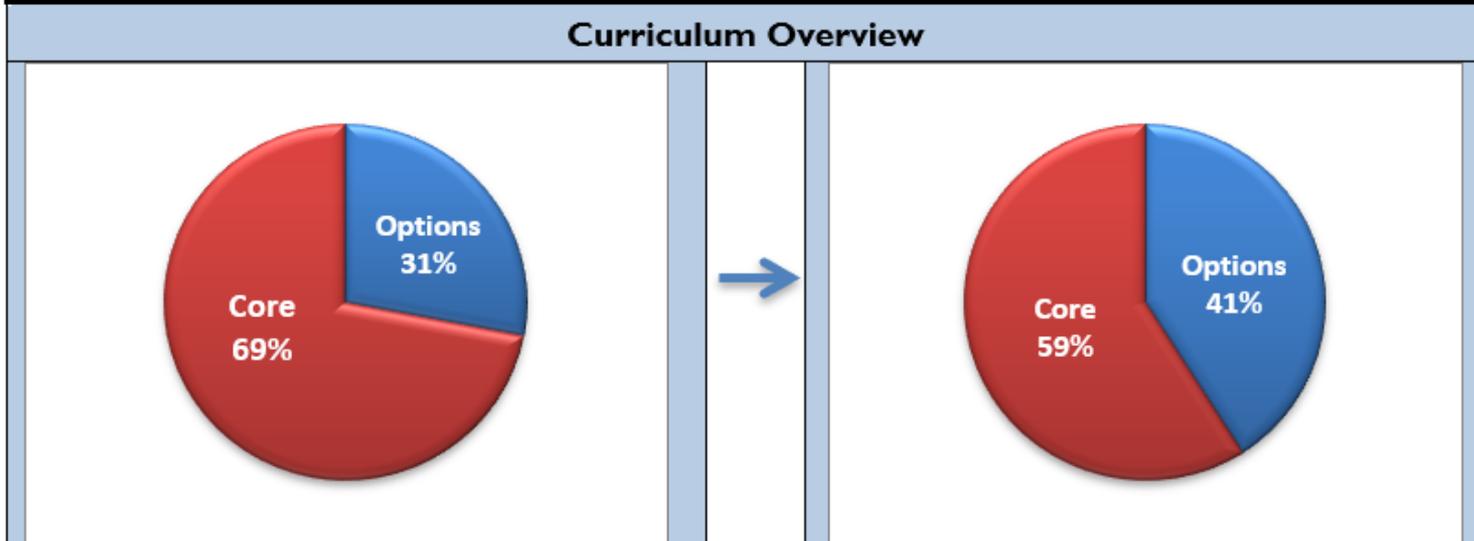
English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
7	7	9	3	3

RE/PSHE	Computing	PE	MFL
2	1	4	4

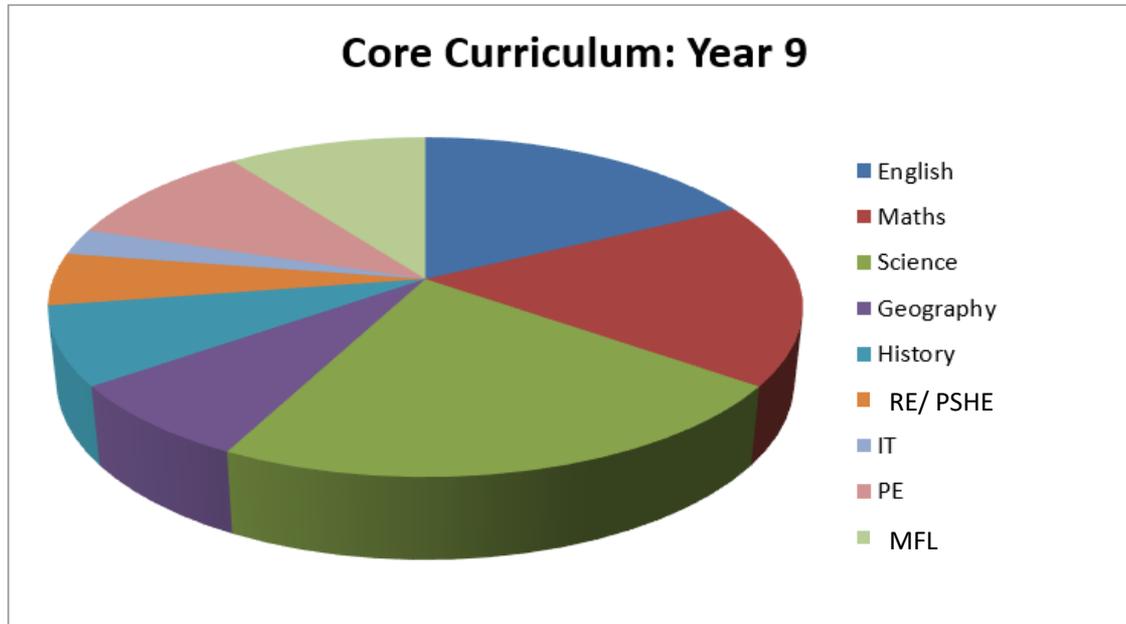


AVOIDING NARROWING TOO MUCH TOO EARLY

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	



WHY ARE ALL THESE SUBJECTS CORE?



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



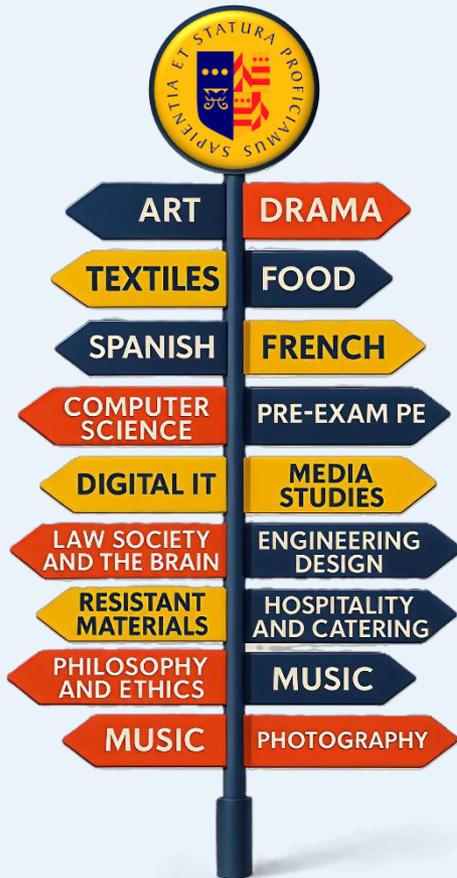
WHY HAVE OPTIONS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO YEAR 9?

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	+0.82	History	+1.26
Engineering	+1.48	Photography	+1.08
Spanish	+0.64	Trilogy Science	+0.98
Religious Studies	+1.39	Design Technology	+1.63
Art	+0.75	Geography	+0.88
Business	+0.83	Music	+0.9
Drama	+1.37	Physics	+0.69
Chemistry	+0.51	Cs	+0.82
Digital IT	+0.82	Performing Arts	+0.93
English Literature	+0.89	French	+0.67
Hospitality and Catering	+1.76	Health and Social Care	+1.1

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

The Year 8 → 9 Options Process

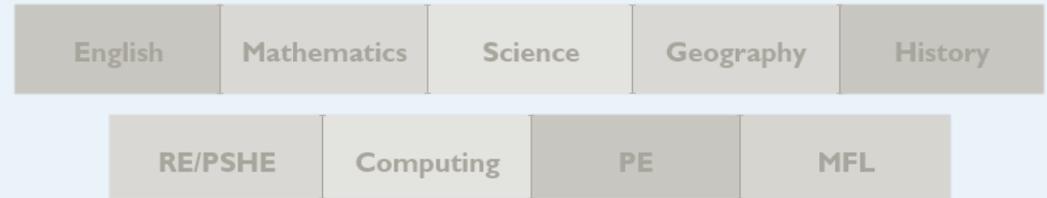


- Overview of the Options Curriculum structure.
- The Year 8 → 9 options subjects.
- Conditions, and invalid combinations.
- The Options Form and deadlines.



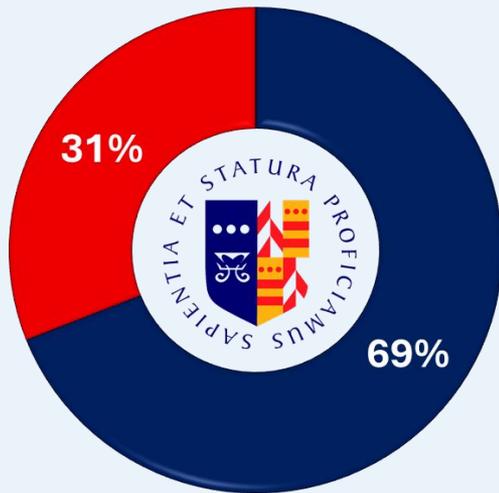
The Year 9 Options Subjects

The Year 9 Core Curriculum



THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronics Food Resistant Materials Textiles Hospitality & Catering Engineering Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art* Drama Music Photography* Media Studies* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art* Drama Music Photography* Media Studies* 	<p>3 choices from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2nd language** (NB: this takes up 2 free options) A 2nd or 3rd specialist technology A 3rd creative art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 students in making their decisions, there are **six options** to choose.



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Option 1

Option 1
Technology

The Technology Options
Choose one of the following:

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



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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



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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 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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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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Guided Options

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

- Accelerated Literacy
- Preparation for Adulthood

Students should only select these options if they have been spoken to by the Inclusive Learning Team.



Additional Language

Option 4	Option 5
Free Choice A	Free Choice B

French

Spanish



Students 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 the option blocks.

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



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Additional Language

	Option 3	Option 4
Creative Arts		Free Choice A

French

Spanish



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

If you are passionate about studying an additional language, you do have the flexibility to select **one creative art rather than two.**



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Additional Language

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



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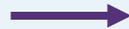
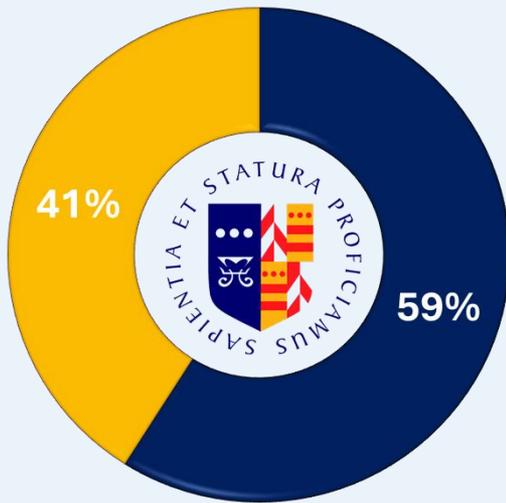
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Looking ahead to Year 10 and 11

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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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



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Timetable Structure and Class Composition

The Year 9 timetable will be structured differently. Students will remain in their tutor groups next year but will also be placed into **X or Y band for their curriculum.**



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



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Timetable Structure and Class Composition

As a result of this, it is important that decisions aren't made based on the **choices of peers**.



Although class structures will change, our pastoral team work extensively to ensure **all students are comfortable** with their new bands.



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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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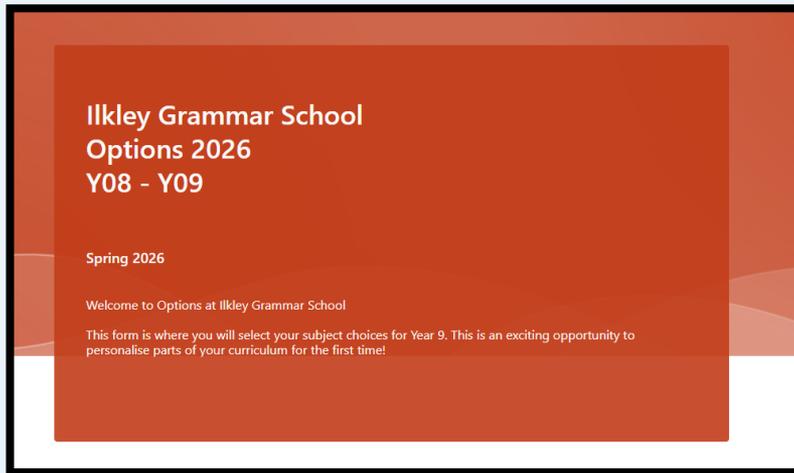


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The Online Options Form



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 8 a.m. Monday 16th March 2026.**



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Any Further Questions?

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

year8Options@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 8 Options Evening

Thank you

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

