



Senior School I/GCSE Options Process

16 January 2024





Senior School I/GCSE Options Process



**Paula Kennedy-
Wingate**
Assistant Head
Senior School



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(Middle Senior
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Sarah-Jayne Evoy
Assistant Head of
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Senior School I/GCSE Options Process



Claire Byrne
Head of English

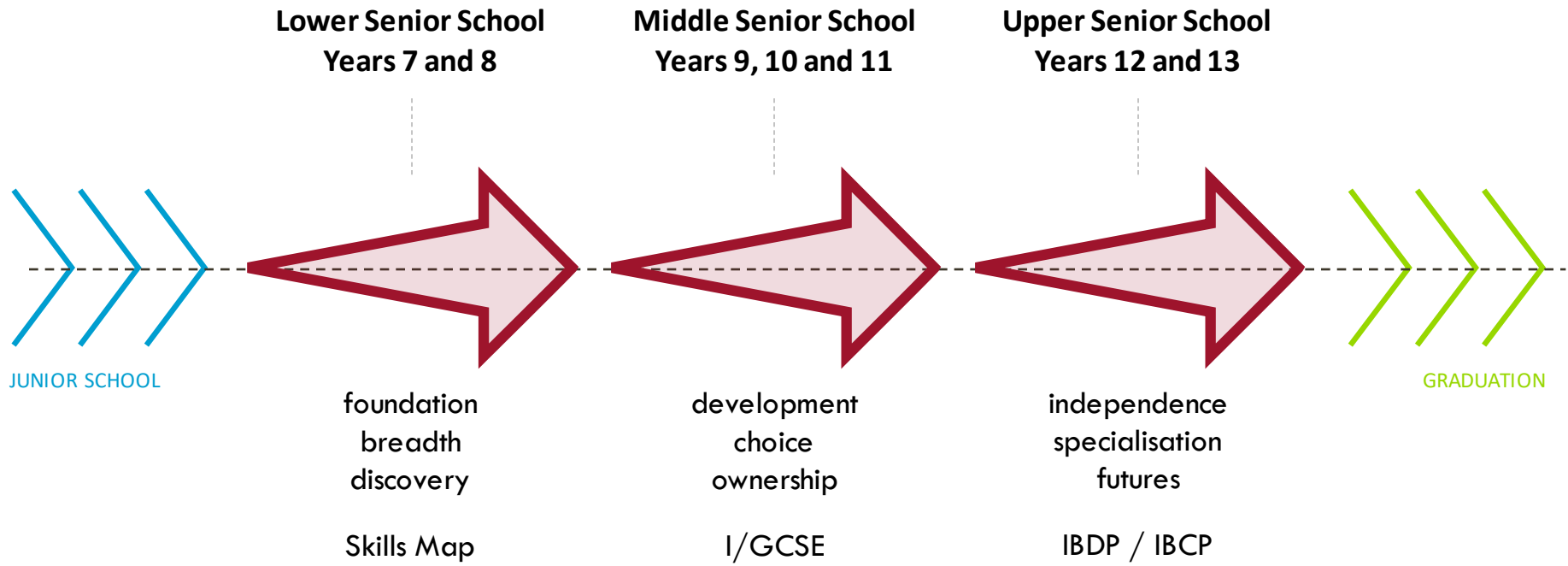


Stephen Pulford
Head of Maths



Helen Evans
Head of Science

The Senior School Curriculum



Fred Nevers
Deputy Head
(Lower Senior School)



Corin James
Deputy Head
(Middle Senior School)



Dom Massarella
Deputy Head
(Upper Senior School)

Heads of Year / Assistant Heads of Year / Tutors
Curriculum Group Leaders / Curriculum Leaders / Teachers





Why take three years for the I/GCSE?

- Provides a more appropriate level of depth and challenge for Year 9
- Allows time for enrichment both within and beyond the curriculum
- Shifts the focus to in-depth learning, and away from “teaching for the test”
- Provides time to develop the approaches to learning needed for the IB years

I/GCSE Exam Boards



UK-based qualifications recognised by educational institutions around the world



Middle Senior School Curriculum



		Subject	Curriculum time over two weeks
Mandatory		English Language / English Literature	9 periods
		Mathematics	7 periods
		Biology / Chemistry / Physics	10 periods or 15 periods *
Options		Option A	5 periods
		Option B	5 periods
		Option C	5 periods
		Option D	5 periods
		(Option E) ^	(5 periods)
Core		Wellbeing	2 periods
		Global Skills	3 periods
		PE	3 periods
		Tutor Period	1 period

* Double Award Science: 10 periods / Separate Sciences: 15 periods

^ Option E is only available for those taking Double Award Science



The Compulsory Curriculum

- IGCSE Cambridge International Mathematics
- IGCSE Oxford AQA English Language
- IGCSE Oxford AQA English Literature
- IGCSE Edexcel Physics / Chemistry / Biology
- Core PE / Global Skills / Wellbeing and Life Skills



Global Skills

Development of important life and study skills

Critical thinking, time management, research and evaluation

Awareness of a range of global themes and issues of personal interest / relevance

Preparation for the challenges of IBDP / IBCP through introductory experiences linked to the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge

Wellbeing

Staying safe

Creating and maintaining positive relationships

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle

Enjoyment, achievement, stress management, reflection

Preparing for the future

Core PE

A range of competitive sport and fitness options

Aim: to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle in school and beyond



IGCSE English Pathways

First Language and Literature (FLL) Pathway

Designed for first language English speakers; taken by most of our students:

- Oxford AQA English Language IGCSE (including an endorsement in Speaking and Listening)
- Oxford AQA English Literature IGCSE

English Language Learning (ELL) Pathway

For students who may be at an earlier stage on their English learning journey. In Year 9 and 10, students cover the content of:

- Oxford AQA English Language IGCSE
- Oxford AQA English Literature IGCSE

In Year 10, students either move to FLL classes to sit both First Language examinations, or they work towards:

- Cambridge English as a Second Language IGCSE



IGCSE English Pathways

Both pathways run from Year 9 to Year 11.

Year 9

Students are introduced to the essential skills, assessment objectives and assessment criteria for both IGCSE courses. Students are assessed formatively.

Year 10

Students begin studying the set texts for IGCSE English Literature, practise Language examination approaches and complete drafts of both NEAs (Non-Exam Assessment). ELL students' examination entries are decided towards the end of Year 10, with most moving to the FLL pathway.

Year 11

FLL: Final NEAs are submitted by the end of Term 1, along with study of the Literature examination novel. Thereafter, the focus is on preparing students for the three final examinations.

ELL: students prepare for the final examinations for English as A Second Language



IGCSE Mathematics Pathways

- All students sit IGCSE Mathematics.
- All students aim for the *Extended* exam (this includes all the *Core* content).
- Students with the necessary learning skills (and support of the Mathematics department) might be ready for an extra challenge and wish to study Additional Mathematics content.



IGCSE Mathematics Pathways

The Mathematics department will ensure students are in the appropriate band for their learning.

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Exams
Band 1	Extended content at an accelerated rate	Extended content at an accelerated rate and beginning to study for Additional Mathematics	Additional Mathematics	Summer Year 11: IGCSE Mathematics (Extended); IGCSE Additional Mathematics
Band 2	Core and Extended content	Core and Extended content	Core and Extended content	Summer Year 11: IGCSE Mathematics (Extended)
Band 3 Smaller class sizes for more support	Core and Extended content	Core and Extended content	Core and Extended content	November Year 11: IGCSE Mathematics (Core) Summer Year 11: IGCSE Mathematics (Extended)



IGCSE Science Pathways

Separate Sciences: 3 IGCSEs

A broad, balanced, in-depth study of **Biology, Chemistry** and **Physics** as three full IGCSEs using the Edexcel specification.

Double Award Science: 2 IGCSEs

A broad, balanced study of **Biology, Chemistry** and **Physics**.

The content of each science is equivalent to two thirds of the content of the Separate Science courses.

Students are awarded two IGCSE grades which combine all three sciences.



IGCSE Science Pathways

Separate Sciences: 3 IGCSEs

15 lessons per 2-week cycle:

5 Biology, 5 Chemistry, 5 Physics

2 exam papers per subject (Paper 1 & Paper 2)

Double Award Science: 2 IGCSEs

10 lessons per 2-week cycle:

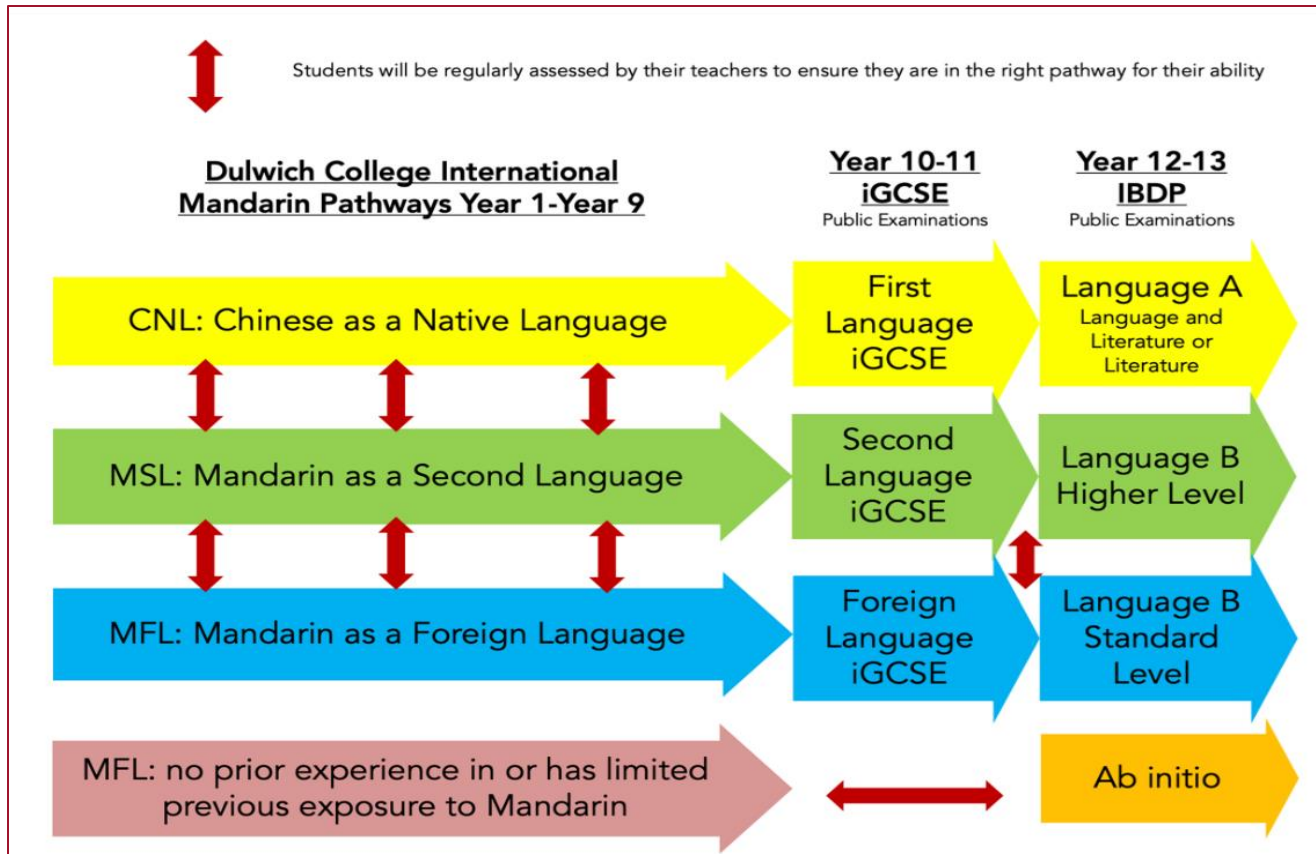
3 Biology, 3 Chemistry, 3 Physics (the extra lesson rotates around the subjects each year)

1 exam paper per subject (Paper 1 only)



IGCSE Mandarin Pathways

Our Mandarin Curriculum ensures students are on the **right pathway**, studying Mandarin to the **right level** and towards the **right final examinations**.



Students will be regularly assessed by their teachers to ensure they are in the right pathway for their ability (appropriate challenge).



Year 8 I/GCSE Options Process: 10 steps!

Event	Date	Purpose	Invited
1. Introductory Parent Talk (theatre)	17 Jan 24	To provide an overview of the I/GCSE options process.	Parents
2. Year 8 Student Assembly (Wellbeing Day)	18 Jan 24	To provide students with an overview and explain the options process. A consideration of key factors.	Students
3. Junior Morrisby- (Wellbeing Day)	18 Jan 24	An online profiling tool enabling students to learn about strengths, interests and priorities. Helps students understand which subjects will suit them as a learner; offers guidance on subject selection.	Students
4. I/GCSE Option Video Activities (Wellbeing Day)	18 Jan 24	Using video resources, I/GCSE students share their experiences and Curriculum Leaders explain I/GCSE courses.	Students



Year 8 I/GCSE Options Process: 10 steps!

Event	Date	Purpose	Invited
5. Options preferences Form due	26 Jan 24	Students indicate their subject preferences	Students
7. I/GCSE Taster Sessions	January and February	To offer a taster of "new" subjects that have not previously been studied in the LSS	Students
7. Option Blocks are published	9 February	Option Blocks are published and the final options form is sent to students	Students

Taster sessions for "new" subjects in January and February:

- Economics
- Business Studies
- Moving Image Art (Film Studies)
- Food and Nutrition

HOY and AHOY will organise the sign-up.



Year 8 I/GCSE Options Process: 10 steps!

Event	Date	Purpose	Invited
8. Year 8 PTSC	21 Feb 24	Feedback on student performance. Parents can ask further questions on I/GCSE options.	Parents Students
9. 1:1 Meetings	January and February	Each student will meet with a member of senior leadership, pastoral or University Counselling teams to ensure provisional choices made are the best fit for the student.	Students
10. Final Options Form Deadline <i>Students will make their choices according to published Option Blocks</i>	1 Mar 24	Final deadline.	Students



Curriculum Areas to Consider

Languages:

French (MFL), Chinese (CNL, MSL, MFL), Spanish (MFL), German (MFL)

First Language options to be confirmed. Typically: Japanese.

Arts:

Art (Fine Art) / Art (Graphic Communication), Drama, Music, Dance,
Moving Image Arts (Film Studies)

Individual and Societies:

Geography, History, Economics, Business Studies

Others:

Physical Education, Design and Technology, Food Preparation and
Nutrition, Computer Science



DCSG I/GCSE Options Principles

We believe that...

- Students should follow a broad curriculum with a breadth and variety of I/GCSE subject choices.
- Students should balance their choices between subjects which are assessed by examination, coursework, oral, practical and/or creative methods.
- Students should study a language. Students can opt for more than one language, should they wish.
- Students have a choice over which Science pathway they study: Separate Sciences or Double Award Science.
- Students can opt for more than one Arts subject.
- Students can opt for more than one Humanities / Individual and Societies subject.
- Opting for Economics and Business Studies does not offer enough breadth, in most cases.

Please note:

- *There may be unique circumstances which mean that a small number of students cannot meet our principles.*
- *Some option combinations may not be possible.*
- *Students must consider back-up choices*
- *We will reach out to the families of students where a reduced number of options may suit, such as for AEN and/or EAL students.*



I/GCSE Options Blocks – example (last year)

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
Art – Fine Art	Business Studies	Art – Fine Art	Art – Fine Art	Art – Fine Art
Drama	Drama	Art – Graphic Communication	Business Studies	Business Studies
French	Economics	Computer Science	Computer Science	Computer Science
German	French	Dance	Design Technology	Geography
Spanish	Geography	Design Technology	Food & Nutrition	History
Mandarin Chinese (First Language)	History	Economics	History	Or
Mandarin Chinese (Second Language)	Physical Education	Film Studies	Music	Separate Science
Mandarin Chinese	Spanish	Geography	Physical Education	-

- Options Blocks are constructed according to our I/GCSE option principles.
- Blocks allow us to build our timetable. All courses in the same block happen at the same time on the timetable.
- Students pick ONE subject from each block.
- Block A is typically languages.
- Block E provides a fifth choice for students choosing Double Award Science.
- Final blocks are constructed using the information gathered from the Options Preference Form. When constructing blocks, we use I/GCSE options principles and aim to accommodate the requests of the majority of students.
- Once constructed, the Options Blocks are fixed. Subject combinations that do not fit within the blocks will not be able to be accommodated.
- Students will also be asked to have reserve option choices.



Factors to consider when choosing option subjects

- Enjoyment and personal interest in the subject itself (not based on a favourite teacher)
- Performance in Years 7 and 8
- How the subject is assessed (examinations or coursework)
- Consider the summary report and special interest areas from Morrisby Careers



The University and Careers Counselling Office

We are a team of four who primarily work with IB students, but we also lead careers education across the school:

Y8 – I/GCSE options process support

Y9 – The World of Work: 6 week programme in Wellbeing on different career fields

Y10 – The Career for Me: 4 week programme in Wellbeing on individual interests and strengths

Y11 – University and Beyond: 4 week programme in Global Skills on factors affecting IB options including university requirements and preferences

Y12 and Y13 – every student has a nominated counsellor who works on a personalised pathway depending on where, when and how a student is applying, through regular group and individual sessions









Junior Morrisby – Morrisby Careers

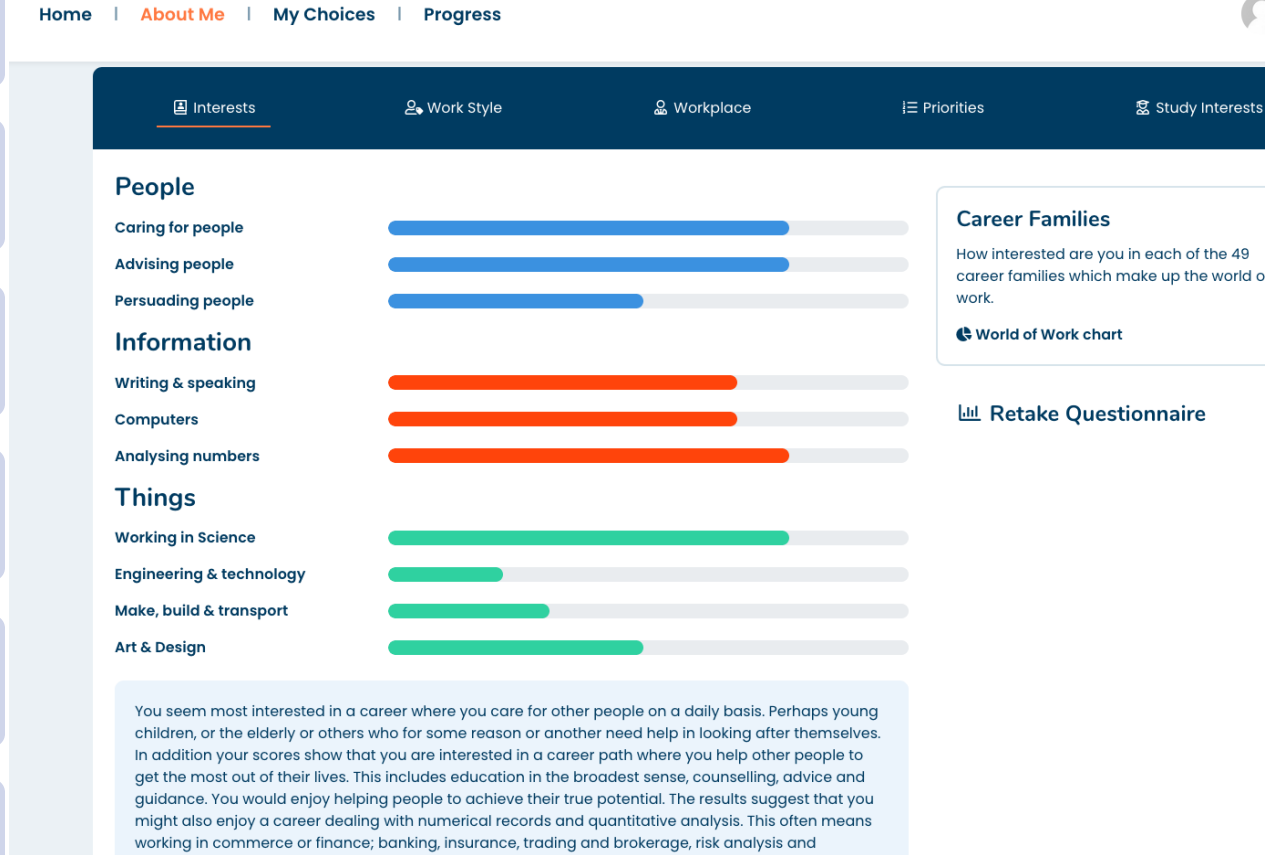
OBJECTIVES

- Understand preferred interests, work style, work place (career fields) and priorities for possible jobs.
- Learn about areas and careers that you are going to be good at, understanding why (key skills and qualities).
- Learn about areas that are your strengths to help you understand what IGCSE subjects will suit you as a learner in order to access possible careers you explored.



How is this achieved?

-  Task-based
-  Strengths-based
-  Aspirations survey
-  Priorities questionnaire
-  Explore Options
-  Guidance & support



Home | About Me | My Choices | Progress

Interests | Work Style | Workplace | Priorities | Study Interests

People

- Caring for people
- Advising people
- Persuading people

Information

- Writing & speaking
- Computers
- Analysing numbers

Things

- Working in Science
- Engineering & technology
- Make, build & transport
- Art & Design

Career Families
How interested are you in each of the 49 career families which make up the world of work.
[World of Work chart](#)

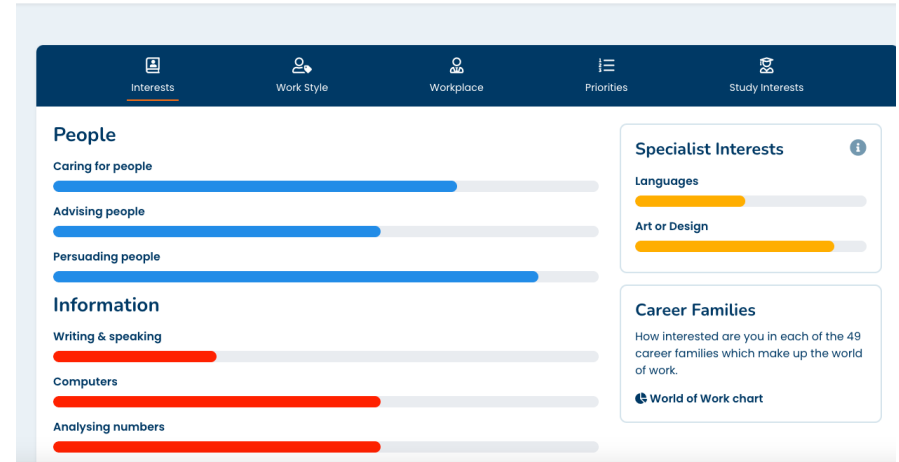
[Retake Questionnaire](#)

You seem most interested in a career where you care for other people on a daily basis. Perhaps young children, or the elderly or others who for some reason or another need help in looking after themselves. In addition your scores show that you are interested in a career path where you help other people to get the most out of their lives. This includes education in the broadest sense, counselling, advice and guidance. You would enjoy helping people to achieve their true potential. The results suggest that you might also enjoy a career dealing with numerical records and quantitative analysis. This often means working in commerce or finance; banking, insurance, trading and brokerage, risk analysis and

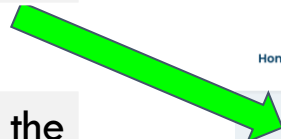
CONCEPT: Making Smart Choices



Aspirations questions in the PROFILE tab: this will give you your data for **your interests, work style and workplace.**

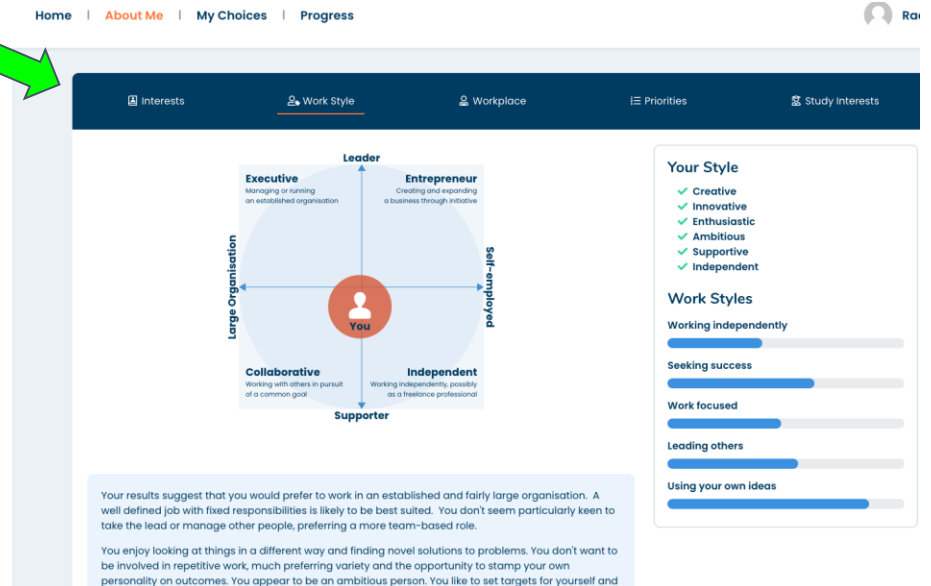


Priorities questionnaire, again in the profile tab, in the tab PRIORITIES.



Analyse questionnaire data using the information from the 4 tabs under the PROFILE Area: interests, workstyle, workplace and priorities.

Use the notes section to record reflections.





What options should I choose?

IGCSE Options

From the questionnaire results and the related careers, it lists options which are most suited to you.

Click on each of the subjects and it will describe a bit about each of them.

Pick the ones that appear most interesting to you and explore further via the Firefly videos.

Options at 14 IGCSE

Title	Rating	Plan to take	Expected grade
Mathematics	Key Area	✓ ? ✗	
English Literature	Key Area	✓ ? ✗	
Combined Science	Key Area	✓ ? ✗	
Art and design	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
Geography	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
Design and Technology	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
Food and Nutrition	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
Business Studies - FILM STUDIES IS ALSO AN OPTION	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
Physical Education	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
Computer Science	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
A Foreign Language: (French/German/Spanish/etc.)	██████████	✓ ? ✗	
History	██████████	✓ ? ✗	

Best Matches

- Architect** 94%
- Merchandiser** 93%
- Interior Designer** 91%



YEAR 9 ONWARDS: Grades matter

- UK universities look at final IGCSE results and can provide minimum entry grades from IGCSE.
- All universities globally require at least a C grade in English and Maths at IGCSE.
- Universities in Canada, Hong Kong, Korea, The Netherlands, Singapore and The USA evaluate a 4-year profile of academic grades.

**BREADTH AND ENTHUSIASM = GREAT INGREDIENTS
FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS!**

We learn best in
moments of enjoyment.



I/GCSE Information Pages



The screenshot shows a webpage titled "I/GCSE Options process (Year 8 Students)". The page features a navigation bar with icons for Dashboard, Resources, Planner, Tasks, and Markbook. A sidebar menu lists various subjects and topics, including Art & Design, Business Studies, Mathematics, Additional Maths, Grading Changes, English Language and English Literature Pathway, Science Pathways, Design Technology, Computer Science, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Economics, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education, Dance, Food and Nutrition, Film Studies, Options support, Taster Sessions, First Language, and Student Videos. The main content area includes an introduction, a list of FAQs, and a section on DCSG I/GCSE Option Principles. The principles list several key points for students to consider when choosing their subjects.

I/GCSE Options process (Year 8 Students)

Introduction

A recording of the I/GCSE introduction to options presentation will feature here soon:

A PDF copy of the presentation material will feature here soon:

FAQs following the presentation on 17.01.23 (coming soon)

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Mandarin Pathways



Q+A

