

Y8 Options 2025/2026

Mr R Tipler

Deputy Headteacher



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Welcome

- **An important time**
- **Your first choices**
- **GCSE's**



Key Dates

- **Today : Year 8 Options Evening**
- **Every day : Careers Drop-in session - Lunchtime**
- **17th January : Options Link sent**
- **23rd January : Year 8 Parents Evening**
- **27th January : Options Deadline**



The Options Process

- 2 aspects to GCSE choices:
 - Compulsory – subjects every student will study
 - Optional – subjects you can choose

Number of lessons

- The number of lessons you study each subject for differs

Compulsory Subjects

- **English Language / English Literature** (7 lessons/cycle)
- **Mathematics** (7 lessons/cycle)
- **Biology** (4 lessons/cycle)
- **Physics** (4 lessons/cycle)
- **Chemistry** (4 lessons/cycle)
- **PSHE** – incl RE/Citizenship/Personal development (1 lesson / cycle)
- **Games** – (3 lessons / cycle)

Sets and numbers

- Mathematics – students are put into sets
 - Some sets also study Additional Maths
 - Some sets also study Further Maths
 - Most sets study only Maths
- For ALL other subjects the group you are put in is:
 - Mixed – group 1 is the same as group 4
 - Random

Example Timetable : English

AMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	ATue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BTue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001
AMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	ATue:1 Maths EDH F005	AWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	AThu:1 Geography MCE A105	AFri:1 Geography MCE A105	BMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	BTue:1 Maths EDH F005	BWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	BThu:1 Geography MCE A105	BFri:1 Resist Mat JAL B010
AMon:2 Physics TJD S103	ATue:2 English SLH P002	AWed:2 Physics TJD S103	AThu:2 Maths EDH F005	AFri:2 Biology SJE C209	BMon:2 Maths EDH F005	BTue:2 Physics TJD S103	BWed:2 English SLH P002	BThu:2 Maths EDH F005	BFri:2 Biology SJE C209
AMon:3 Games NJS MUG3	ATue:3 Geography MCE A105	AWed:3 Computing GSN S001	AThu:3 English SLH P002	AFri:3 English SLH P002	BMon:3 English SLH P002	BTue:3 Geography MCE A105	BWed:3 Computing GSN S001	BThu:3 Physics TJD S103	BFri:3 English SLH P002
AMon:4 English SLH P002	ATue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	AWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	AThu:4 Spanish JMG M003	AFri:4 Computing GSN S001	BMon:4 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	BWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	BThu:4 Computing AGS B103	BFri:4 Computing GSN S001
AMon:5 PSHE RCB C012	ATue:5 Biology SJE C209	AWed:5 Maths EDH F005	AThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	AFri:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BMon:5 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:5 Biology SJE C209	BWed:5 Maths EDH F005	BThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BFri:5 Chemistry RLP C106

Example Timetable : Maths

AMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	ATue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BTue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001
AMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	ATue:1 Maths EDH F005	AWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	AThu:1 Geography MCE A105	AFri:1 Geography MCE A105	BMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	BTue:1 Maths EDH F005	BWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	BThu:1 Geography MCE A105	BFri:1 Resist Mat JAL B010
AMon:2 Physics TJD S103	ATue:2 English SLH P002	AWed:2 Physics TJD S103	AThu:2 Maths EDH F005	AFri:2 Biology SJE C209	BMon:2 Maths EDH F005	BTue:2 Physics TJD S103	BWed:2 English SLH P002	BThu:2 Maths EDH F005	BFri:2 Biology SJE C209
AMon:3 Games NJS MUG3	ATue:3 Geography MCE A105	AWed:3 Computing GSN S001	AThu:3 English SLH P002	AFri:3 English SLH P002	BMon:3 English SLH P002	BTue:3 Geography MCE A105	BWed:3 Computing GSN S001	BThu:3 Physics TJD S103	BFri:3 English SLH P002
AMon:4 English SLH P002	ATue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	AWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	AThu:4 Spanish JMG M003	AFri:4 Computing GSN S001	BMon:4 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	BWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	BThu:4 Computing AGS B103	BFri:4 Computing GSN S001
AMon:5 PSHE RCB C012	ATue:5 Biology SJE C209	AWed:5 Maths EDH F005	AThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	AFri:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BMon:5 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:5 Biology SJE C209	BWed:5 Maths EDH F005	BThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BFri:5 Chemistry RLP C106

Example Timetable : Sciences

AMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	ATue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BTue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001
AMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	ATue:1 Maths EDH F005	AWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	AThu:1 Geography MCE A105	AFri:1 Geography MCE A105	BMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	BTue:1 Maths EDH F005	BWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	BThu:1 Geography MCE A105	BFri:1 Resist Mat JAL B010
AMon:2 Physics TJD S103	ATue:2 English SLH P002	AWed:2 Physics TJD S103	AThu:2 Maths EDH F005	AFri:2 Biology SJE C209	BMon:2 Maths EDH F005	BTue:2 Physics TJD S103	BWed:2 English SLH P002	BThu:2 Maths EDH F005	BFri:2 Biology SJE C209
AMon:3 Games NJS MUG3	ATue:3 Geography MCE A105	AWed:3 Computing GSN S001	AThu:3 English SLH P002	AFri:3 English SLH P002	BMon:3 English SLH P002	BTue:3 Geography MCE A105	BWed:3 Computing GSN S001	BThu:3 Physics TJD S103	BFri:3 English SLH P002
AMon:4 English SLH P002	ATue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	AWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	AThu:4 Spanish JMG M003	AFri:4 Computing GSN S001	BMon:4 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	BWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	BThu:4 Computing AGS B103	BFri:4 Computing GSN S001
AMon:5 PSHE RCB C012	ATue:5 Biology SJE C209	AWed:5 Maths EDH F005	AThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	AFri:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BMon:5 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:5 Biology SJE C209	BWed:5 Maths EDH F005	BThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BFri:5 Chemistry RLP C106

Example Timetable : Games/RS/PSHE

AMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	ATue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BTue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001
AMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	ATue:1 Maths EDH F005	AWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	AThu:1 Geography MCE A105	AFri:1 Geography MCE A105	BMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	BTue:1 Maths EDH F005	BWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	BThu:1 Geography MCE A105	BFri:1 Resist Mat JAL B010
AMon:2 Physics TJD S103	ATue:2 English SLH P002	AWed:2 Physics TJD S103	AThu:2 Maths EDH F005	AFri:2 Biology SJE C209	BMon:2 Maths EDH F005	BTue:2 Physics TJD S103	BWed:2 English SLH P002	BThu:2 Maths EDH F005	BFri:2 Biology SJE C209
AMon:3 Games NJS MUG3	ATue:3 Geography MCE A105	AWed:3 Computing GSN S001	AThu:3 English SLH P002	AFri:3 English SLH P002	BMon:3 English SLH P002	BTue:3 Geography MCE A105	BWed:3 Computing GSN S001	BThu:3 Physics TJD S103	BFri:3 English SLH P002
AMon:4 English SLH P002	ATue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	AWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	AThu:4 Spanish JMG M003	AFri:4 Computing GSN S001	BMon:4 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	BWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	BThu:4 Computing AGS B103	BFri:4 Computing GSN S001
AMon:5 PSHE RCB C012	ATue:5 Biology SJE C209	AWed:5 Maths EDH F005	AThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	AFri:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BMon:5 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:5 Biology SJE C209	BWed:5 Maths EDH F005	BThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BFri:5 Chemistry RLP C106

Example Timetable : 20 spare lessons...

AMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	ATue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	AFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BMon:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BTue:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BWed:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BThu:Reg Tutorial GSN S001	BFri:Reg Tutorial GSN S001
AMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	ATue:1 Maths EDH F005	AWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	AThu:1 Geography MCE A105	AFri:1 Geography MCE A105	BMon:1 Spanish JMG M003	BTue:1 Maths EDH F005	BWed:1 Resist Mat CPP B006	BThu:1 Geography MCE A105	BFri:1 Resist Mat JAL B010
AMon:2 Physics TJD S103	ATue:2 English SLH P002	AWed:2 Physics TJD S103	AThu:2 Maths EDH F005	AFri:2 Biology SJE C209	BMon:2 Maths EDH F005	BTue:2 Physics TJD S103	BWed:2 English SLH P002	BThu:2 Maths EDH F005	BFri:2 Biology SJE C209
AMon:3 Games NJS MUG3	ATue:3 Geography MCE A105	AWed:3 Computing GSN S001	AThu:3 English SLH P002	AFri:3 English SLH P002	BMon:3 English SLH P002	BTue:3 Geography MCE A105	BWed:3 Computing GSN S001	BThu:3 Physics TJD S103	BFri:3 English SLH P002
AMon:4 English SLH P002	ATue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	AWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	AThu:4 Spanish JMG M003	AFri:4 Computing GSN S001	BMon:4 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:4 Resist Mat CPP B006	BWed:4 Spanish JMG M003	BThu:4 Computing AGS B103	BFri:4 Computing GSN S001
AMon:5 PSHE RCB C012	ATue:5 Biology SJE C209	AWed:5 Maths EDH F005	AThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	AFri:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BMon:5 Games NJS MUG3	BTue:5 Biology SJE C209	BWed:5 Maths EDH F005	BThu:5 Chemistry RLP C104	BFri:5 Chemistry RLP C106

Option subjects are given 5 lessons per cycle....

Optional Subjects

You have 4 choices (5 lessons / cycle)

- **Art & Design (2D or 3D)*¹**
- **Business**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Food Prep and Nutrition*²**
- **DT Graphics*²**
- **DT Resistant Materials*²**
- **French*³**
- **Spanish*³**
- **Computer Science**
- **Music**
- **Drama**
- **PE**
- **Philosophy, Ethics & Religion**

*¹ can only choose 2D or 3D

*² Can only chose one of these

*³ must be currently studying the language

Choices

We offer students a full choice:

- **No blocks**
- **No pools**
- **No pathways**

When you select your choices on MS Forms.....

You must select them in order of preference.

Your first choice is the one you definitely want to study.

Choices

You have 4 choices - but you choose 5 subjects

Your 5th choice will be used if your 4th does not fit into the timetable

You have to be prepared to study your 5th choice subject if the situation occurs.

The best way to (almost) guarantee your choices is to choose subjects that fit into the "Ebacc" award.

The Ebacc

The Ebacc is not an award.

It is a recommended suite of subjects designed to give a breadth of study. Some schools force students into taking subjects that fit into the Ebacc award.

English

Maths

Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)

Humanities (History/Geography)

MFL (Spanish/French)

Other Information

- All courses are GCSEs
- All are linear courses
- Graded 9 to 1

New grading structure	Former grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	C
2	
1	
U	
	D
	E
	F
	G
	U



Mrs Griffin: Head of Year 8

Tips

Do:

- Subjects that you enjoy
- Subjects in which you are doing well
- Consider the breadth of subjects and skills
- Consider longer term career aspirations (if you have any)
- Talk to your teachers, careers dept, older students, family

Tips

Do not:

- Choose what your friends are doing
- Choose what your favourite teacher might teach



Tips

Art and Design

French

Geography

History

Music

DT Resistant Materials

Spanish

It is likely that you will need to choose these subjects at GCSE if you wish to study them at A-level



Tips

You can do both History AND Geography

All students do some core Religious Studies in tutorial periods and in PSHE lessons, however this is only a few hours across years 9-11 and there is no formal qualification, whereas student's study 2 hours per week for GCSE Philosophy, Ethics & Religion.



Have you considered.....

In Drama, you can develop your confidence, creativity, communication skills, critical thinking and teamwork skills.

These skills can be invaluable for undertaking a successful interview, when a Lawyer is representing their client in court, or when a surgeon leading a complex procedure.



Art - 3D & 2D

Change to GCSE Art offer – 2D or 3D art creation

Supports students in becoming specialists in a broader range of art disciplines.

Presents opportunities to develop skills that align with career aspirations that require fine motor skills needed in medicine and dentistry



FAQs

- Do I have to study MFL?
- Can I choose more than 4 subjects?
- Am I more likely to get the choices I want if fill in the Microsoft Form straightaway?
- Can I change my mind once I have submitted the form?

Next Steps

- Read through all of the information in the options booklet
- Speak to a range of teachers at the stalls in the Sports Hall
- Drop into the careers department and chat to them about which subjects you could study for your future pathway

Next Steps

- Put together a list of your preferred subject choices
- Speak to your teachers at Parents Evening about your report, exam grades and your choices. (23rd January)
- Wait for the link to be sent to parents and complete this ONCE.

How you will complete the options

- Take your time – there is no rush
- Ensure you have all the information
- Tomorrow, Friday 17 January, parents will receive a link to a Microsoft Form
- Enter the choices on the Form
- Deadline Monday 27 January 9.00am
- Only make one submission (if you make multiple, most recent one will be used)

Work Experience

- Year 12 Work Experience: 17/3 – 21/3
- Year 10 Work Experience: 28/4 – 2/5
- Any Parental Help?
- Please speak to Mrs Ellis or Mrs Haigh

Thank you

- If you have any questions....

...speak to staff, senior team & careers team in the Sports Hall

Mr Tipler & Mrs Mrs Griffin will be available later



