

Y8 Options 2026/2027

Mr R Tipler
Deputy Headteacher



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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**
- **16th January : Options Link sent**
- **29th January : Year 8 Parents Evening (remote)**
- **6th February : 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	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri	BMon	BTue	BWed	BThu	BFri
AMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	ATue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BTue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106
AMon:1 Geography JAB F006	ATue:1 Biology SJE C101	AWed:1 History APB F109	AThu:1 English GGL S017	AFri:1 Geography JAB F006	BMon:1 Geography JAB F006	BTue:1 Biology SJE C201	BWed:1 Physics RGT C207	BThu:1 English GGL S017	BFri:1 GP JAL B005
AMon:2 Maths ASK P003	ATue:2 History APB F109	AWed:2 GP JAL B005	AThu:2 GP JAL B005	AFri:2 Drama JET B002	BMon:2 Maths ASK P003	BTue:2 History APB F109	BWed:2 GP JAL B005	BThu:2 GP JAL B005	BFri:2 Drama JET B002
AMon:3 Games SKE A006	ATue:3 Physics RGT C107	AWed:3 Geography JAB F006	AThu:3 Maths ASK P003	AFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107	BMon:3 English GGL S017	BTue:3 Drama JET B002	BWed:3 Geography JAB F006	BThu:3 Biology SJE C201	BFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107
AMon:4 Physics RGT C209	ATue:4 Maths ASK P003	AWed:4 Maths ASK P003	AThu:4 Biology SJE C201	AFri:4 History APB F109	BMon:4 Games SKE A006	BTue:4 Maths ASK P003	BWed:4 Maths ASK P003	BThu:4 Physics RGT C107	BFri:4 History APB F109
AMon:5 PSHE LBM F108	ATue:5 English GGL S017	AWed:5 Drama JET B002	AThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	AFri:5 English GGL S017	BMon:5 Games SKE A006	BTue:5 English GGL S017	BWed:5 Drama JET B002	BThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	BFri:5 English GGL S017

Example Timetable : Maths

AMon	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri	BMon	BTue	BWed	BThu	BFri
AMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	ATue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BTue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106
AMon:1 Geography JAB F006	ATue:1 Biology SJE C101	AWed:1 History APB F109	AThu:1 English GGL S017	AFri:1 Geography JAB F006	BMon:1 Geography JAB F006	BTue:1 Biology SJE C201	BWed:1 Physics RGT C207	BThu:1 English GGL S017	BFri:1 GP JAL B005
AMon:2 Maths ASK P003	ATue:2 History APB F109	AWed:2 GP JAL B005	AThu:2 GP JAL B005	AFri:2 Drama JET B002	BMon:2 Maths ASK P003	BTue:2 History APB F109	BWed:2 GP JAL B005	BThu:2 GP JAL B005	BFri:2 Drama JET B002
AMon:3 Games SKE A006	ATue:3 Physics RGT C107	AWed:3 Geography JAB F006	AThu:3 Maths ASK P003	AFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107	BMon:3 English GGL S017	BTue:3 Drama JET B002	BWed:3 Geography JAB F006	BThu:3 Biology SJE C201	BFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107
AMon:4 Physics RGT C209	ATue:4 Maths ASK P003	AWed:4 Maths ASK P003	AThu:4 Biology SJE C201	AFri:4 History APB F109	BMon:4 Games SKE A006	BTue:4 Maths ASK P003	BWed:4 Maths ASK P003	BThu:4 Physics RGT C107	BFri:4 History APB F109
AMon:5 PSHE LBM F108	ATue:5 English GGL S017	AWed:5 Drama JET B002	AThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	AFri:5 English GGL S017	BMon:5 Games SKE A006	BTue:5 English GGL S017	BWed:5 Drama JET B002	BThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	BFri:5 English GGL S017

Example Timetable : Sciences

AMon	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri	BMon	BTue	BWed	BThu	BFri
AMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	ATue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BTue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106
AMon:1 Geography JAB F006	ATue:1 Biology SJE C101	AWed:1 History APB F109	AThu:1 English GGL S017	AFri:1 Geography JAB F006	BMon:1 Geography JAB F006	BTue:1 Biology SJE C201	BWed:1 Physics RGT C207	BThu:1 English GGL S017	BFri:1 GP JAL B005
AMon:2 Maths ASK P003	ATue:2 History APB F109	AWed:2 GP JAL B005	AThu:2 GP JAL B005	AFri:2 Drama JET B002	BMon:2 Maths ASK P003	BTue:2 History APB F109	BWed:2 GP JAL B005	BThu:2 GP JAL B005	BFri:2 Drama JET B002
AMon:3 Games SKE A006	ATue:3 Physics RGT C107	AWed:3 Geography JAB F006	AThu:3 Maths ASK P003	AFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107	BMon:3 English GGL S017	BTue:3 Drama JET B002	BWed:3 Geography JAB F006	BThu:3 Biology SJE C201	BFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107
AMon:4 Physics RGT C209	ATue:4 Maths ASK P003	AWed:4 Maths ASK P003	AThu:4 Biology SJE C201	AFri:4 History APB F109	BMon:4 Games SKE A006	BTue:4 Maths ASK P003	BWed:4 Maths ASK P003	BThu:4 Physics RGT C107	BFri:4 History APB F109
AMon:5 PSHE LBM F108	ATue:5 English GGL S017	AWed:5 Drama JET B002	AThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	AFri:5 English GGL S017	BMon:5 Games SKE A006	BTue:5 English GGL S017	BWed:5 Drama JET B002	BThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	BFri:5 English GGL S017

Example Timetable : Games/RS/PSHE

AMon	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri	BMon	BTue	BWed	BThu	BFri
AMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	ATue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BTue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106
AMon:1 Geography JAB F006	ATue:1 Biology SJE C101	AWed:1 History APB F109	AThu:1 English GGL S017	AFri:1 Geography JAB F006	BMon:1 Geography JAB F006	BTue:1 Biology SJE C201	BWed:1 Physics RGT C207	BThu:1 English GGL S017	BFri:1 GP JAL B005
AMon:2 Maths ASK P003	ATue:2 History APB F109	AWed:2 GP JAL B005	AThu:2 GP JAL B005	AFri:2 Drama JET B002	BMon:2 Maths ASK P003	BTue:2 History APB F109	BWed:2 GP JAL B005	BThu:2 GP JAL B005	BFri:2 Drama JET B002
AMon:3 Games SKE A006	ATue:3 Physics RGT C107	AWed:3 Geography JAB F006	AThu:3 Maths ASK P003	AFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107	BMon:3 English GGL S017	BTue:3 Drama JET B002	BWed:3 Geography JAB F006	BThu:3 Biology SJE C201	BFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107
AMon:4 Physics RGT C209	ATue:4 Maths ASK P003	AWed:4 Maths ASK P003	AThu:4 Biology SJE C201	AFri:4 History APB F109	BMon:4 Games SKE A006	BTue:4 Maths ASK P003	BWed:4 Maths ASK P003	BThu:4 Physics RGT C107	BFri:4 History APB F109
AMon:5 PSHE LBM F108	ATue:5 English GGL S017	AWed:5 Drama JET B002	AThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	AFri:5 English GGL S017	BMon:5 Games SKE A006	BTue:5 English GGL S017	BWed:5 Drama JET B002	BThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	BFri:5 English GGL S017

Example Timetable : 20 spare lessons

AMon	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri	BMon	BTue	BWed	BThu	BFri
AMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	ATue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	AFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BMon:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BTue:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BWed:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BThu:Reg Tutorial LBM B106	BFri:Reg Tutorial LBM B106
AMon:1 Geography JAB F006	ATue:1 Biology SJE C101	AWed:1 History APB F109	AThu:1 English GGL S017	AFri:1 Geography JAB F006	BMon:1 Geography JAB F006	BTue:1 Biology SJE C201	BWed:1 Physics RGT C207	BThu:1 English GGL S017	BFri:1 GP JAL B005
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AMon:3 Games SKE A006	ATue:3 Physics RGT C107	AWed:3 Geography JAB F006	AThu:3 Maths ASK P003	AFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107	BMon:3 English GGL S017	BTue:3 Drama JET B002	BWed:3 Geography JAB F006	BThu:3 Biology SJE C201	BFri:3 Chemistry SGF C107
AMon:4 Physics RGT C209	ATue:4 Maths ASK P003	AWed:4 Maths ASK P003	AThu:4 Biology SJE C201	AFri:4 History APB F109	BMon:4 Games SKE A006	BTue:4 Maths ASK P003	BWed:4 Maths ASK P003	BThu:4 Physics RGT C107	BFri:4 History APB F109
AMon:5 PSHE LBM F108	ATue:5 English GGL S017	AWed:5 Drama JET B002	AThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	AFri:5 English GGL S017	BMon:5 Games SKE A006	BTue:5 English GGL S017	BWed:5 Drama JET B002	BThu:5 Chemistry SGF C107	BFri:5 English GGL S017

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....and it doesn't even exist anymore!

However, 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



Mr Audis

Head of Year 8

Top Tips



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What subjects should I choose?

- **Striking a balance can be difficult but is recommended**
- **Be mindful of your career aspiration**
 - E.g. Law requires humanities subjects alongside English
- **Play to your strengths**
 - What do you enjoy?
 - What do you excel in?
- **Keep as many options open as possible**

What subjects should I choose?

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



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



Avoid common pitfalls

- Don't base your decisions on your friends' choices
- Consider workload of each subject
- Consider assessment style of each subject
- Don't neglect a subject because you have not achieved a high grade
- Humanities, Arts and DT are incredibly employable
 - You can do both Geography AND History
 - All students do some core Religious Studies in personal development, but it is only light touch
 - Vast range of transferrable skills.
 - A lot of these subjects offer very exciting trips



Misconceptions

- “Languages aren’t useful unless you want to be a translator.”
- “Art and creative subjects aren’t academic.”
- “Universities only care about A-levels.”
- “Choosing an ‘easy’ subject guarantees a higher grade.”
- “You need to take Computer Science to work in tech.”
- "Geography is only learning about soil and rocks"
- "Options Evening is the only time I can get support with choosing my GCSE options"



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. (Thursday 29th 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 16 January, students will receive a link to a Microsoft Form
- Enter the choices on the Form
- Deadline Friday 6 February 9.00am
- Only make one submission (if you make multiple, most recent one will be used)

Work Experience

- Year 10 Work Experience: 6/7 – 10/7
- Any Parental Help?
- Please speak to Mrs Ellis or Mrs Haigh
- Careers@heckgrammar.co.uk

Thank you

If you have any questions....

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

Mr Tipler & Mrs Mr Audis will be available later





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