

# Y8 Options 2026/2027

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

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

Option subjects are given 5 lessons per cycle...

# Optional Subjects

You have 4 choices (5 lessons / cycle)

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

\*<sup>1</sup> can only choose 2D or 3D

\*<sup>2</sup> Can only chose one of these

\*<sup>3</sup> 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	A
7	B
6	C
5	D
4	E
3	F
2	G
1	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](mailto: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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