

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to help you think about the subjects that you want to study in Years 10 and 11. Through discussion with your parents/guardians, teachers and careers staff you need to decide on subjects that will suit you and keep your careers options open.

This booklet is divided into Sections.

Section 1 Making your Choice

This sets out the programme of help you will be given in Citizenship/Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHCE). It is to help you think about yourself and the general things you need to consider before deciding on subjects.

Section 2 The Framework for Choice

This tells you the framework within which you must choose.

Section 3 Subjects Offered

Tells you what is involved in the different subjects.

We hope that we will be able to provide the subjects that you choose. Sometimes this is not possible e.g. if more pupils choose a subject than we have teachers for; if too few pupils choose a subject or if we cannot fit the particular combination you choose on the timetable. This year because of financial constraints we shall only be able to run options that have viable numbers. We may have to withdraw some options if not enough people show interest in them. In all cases if we cannot provide the subjects you want when final choices are confirmed we will talk to you about the alternatives and give you the opportunity to discuss them with your parents.



SECTION 1

MAKING YOUR CHOICE - INFORMATION

WHAT DECISIONS DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE?

The Options Booklet tells you which subjects are available, something about their content and which examinations may be taken at the end of the course.

These people will be pleased to advise you:

- Your Form Tutor
- Your Subject Teachers
- Head of House and Deputy Head of House
- Mrs Gott (Director of Key Stage 3)
- Mr Fahidi (Careers/Connexions Co-ordinator)
- Our colleagues from Sheffield Futures (Connexions):
- Vivien Hancock (Careers Personal Adviser)
- Lucy Ruck (Connexions Personal Adviser)
- Mrs Hetherington (Off – site co-ordinator)



POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND

- 1 What is the content of the subject?
What will you know, what will you be able to do at the end of the course?
- 2 How is the subject taught? In small groups? In the classroom?
Will you be expected to find things out for yourself?
- 3 How is the subject examined? By continuous assessment, project work, written examination, oral examination?
- 4 What skills are needed to be successful in the subject?
- 5 Which subjects are you good or bad at?
- 6 Which subjects do you like or dislike?
- 7 What advice have your subject teachers given you?
- 8 Which subjects do you need for any career you are considering?
- 9 Will the choice you make allow you to change your mind about careers later on?
- 10 Which careers will be closed to you if you do not do certain subjects?
- 11 Which subjects should you study if you want to study the International Baccalaureate (IB) at post-16?

THE OPTIONS PROGRAMME

Each Year 9 form will be involved in a programme of activities designed to help pupils in the process of choosing their subjects. You should already have received a letter outlining the Year 9 Options programme but the following gives the range of planned activities.

● **TWO PARENTS' EVENINGS**

- **Y9 Parents' Evening with subject teachers**, form tutors, the Head of House, Deputy Head of House and the Director of Key Stage 3. This is the 'traditional' evening for parents to find out how their children are progressing in school. This takes place on **Monday, 23rd February 2009**.
- **Y9 Options Evening** – This includes a presentation for the framework of choice and an opportunity to find out additional information about specific subject areas, the International Baccalaureate (IB) and off – site courses. Our Careers Adviser will also be on hand to offer advice. This takes place on **Thursday, 5th March 2009**. Further details will be given nearer the time.

● **A SERIES OF CITIZENSHIP/PSHE LESSONS AND SCHOOL BASED ACTIVITIES**

- How to use a Careers / Connexions Library.
- An introduction to Careers ICT, including Kudos (Careers computer software).
- Individual Learning Plans (ILPs)

● **OPTIONS ASSEMBLIES**

- An 'Options' assembly outlining the framework for choice offered at High Storrs.
- A 'Vocational Course' assembly, outlining the vocational courses on offer.

● **NEW OPTIONS FORUM**

- This takes place on ?
- This is an extra opportunity to talk to staff about subjects students have not done before or have had only limited curriculum experience.

● **INFORMATION ABOUT ALL SUBJECTS**

All students receive information for use in Citizenship/PSHE lessons and at home to help with their thinking.

- **School Key Stage 4 Options booklet.**
This outlines all the courses on offer at High Storrs.
- **"Which Way Now?"**
This booklet is produced annually by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for all Year 9 pupils. It should be retained for information about careers, qualifications and entry requirements which are useful for Post-16 Options.
- The Connexions/Sheffield Futures booklet **'Look Ahead'**.

● **FINAL CHOICE**

Every student will have an **individual interview** with a member of staff, prior to making a final choice. **Final choices** are due by **Monday, 16th March 2009**.

Students' choices will be looked at and in some cases further counselling takes place, leading to an agreed final choice.

There may be some alterations to what is on offer in the light of students' choices. Students and parents will be informed if this is the case. We hope to be able to confirm students' final choices by the first part of the summer term.

● **TO SUM UP**

- 1 Choose a course which suits you.
- 2 Choose subjects you are interested in.
- 3 Make the most of your abilities.
- 4 Choose a balanced set of courses which will allow you a wide choice of careers.

ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed in most of the subjects you take in two ways:

- A final examination and/or regular module tests
- Coursework

In many subjects you will take GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations at the end of Year 11, but your final grade will depend on coursework as well.

Other courses, such as GNVQs, NVQs and ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness use regular modular type assessment and an external examination.

The table below shows the equivalence of different qualifications offered at High Storrs within the National Qualifications Framework.

NQF	Academic Awards	General Vocation Qualification	Key and Basic Skills	Employment led
Entry	Entry level Certificate	City and Guilds	ASDAN Certificate of personal effectiveness	
Level 1	GCSE (grade D - G)	GCSE in vocational subjects (grade D-G)	ASDAN Certificate of personal effectiveness Key Skills Level 1	NVQ Level 1
Level 2	GCSE (grade A*-C)	BTEC First Diploma GCSE in vocational subjects (grade A*-C)	Key Skills Level 2	NVQ Level 2
Level 3	A/AS GCE Advanced Ext Awards	A/AS levels	Key Skills Level 3	NVQ Level 3

Double Award GCSEs in **Applied Business** and **Health and Social Care** count as **2 GCSE grades each**.

GCSE EXAMINATIONS

There are now three types of GCSE. They all require the same level of attainment and are awarded using a range of letters from A* - G. Unsuccessful candidates are awarded a 'U' grade.

A double (dual) award GCSE needs at least double the time and has more content. Two GCSE grades are awarded, eg. A*A* - GG.

A full GCSE is what is offered in most subjects. Some subjects offer a short course GCSE. Only half the time is spent on them compared with a full GCSE and the content is less. (They may be more challenging than a full GCSE as there is less lesson time to practise the skills needed.)

REMEMBER : An employer or college may raise or lower the entry requirements depending upon the number of applicants and/or the personal impression made by the applicant.

Places at colleges and offers of employment will be gained by students with a good general education supported by a good school reference.

FINDING OUT ABOUT OPTIONS

In order to make a decision about whether to study a subject, you need to be very clear about what is involved.

Some subjects may be new to you, so you cannot know what they are like.

Where will you go to find out about the subjects available in our school?
Whom will you ask?

You could use these questions in order to find out about the subject:

- Will I have to read a lot of books?
- Will I have to write many essays?
- Will I need to do practical experiments?
- Will I need to make things?
- Will the subject involve me in working closely with other people in the class?
- What exactly will I learn about?
- Will the subject involve trips out of school (field trips, work experience, projects, etc.)?
- Will the subject help me learn about the world of work?
- Will there be much coursework and homework?
- Will it help my understanding of the subject if I also take another subject?
- What other questions could I ask to find out more about the subject?



SECTION 2

THE FRAMEWORK FOR CHOICE

It is important that your choice of options should give a **broad and balanced curriculum**. By this we mean a range of subjects that will keep open a wide range of possibilities for the future - you might want to change direction completely from the ideas you have now.

At High Storrs we recognise that students have different strengths and different learning styles. The framework we offer is flexible enough to allow you to follow any path with progression towards the world of work, to specialise more in an area of strength such as performing arts, science or languages, to follow a supported route, or to follow a general GCSE based course.

It maybe helpful, with advice from your teachers and tutors, **to identify a pathway that will suit you best**. There are four:

Specialist	Traditional	Mixed	Supported
A programme of courses that help you progress towards the world of work.	A programme of traditional GCSE courses.	A programme that contains a mixture of specialist and traditional GCSE courses.	A programme that contains opportunities for learning support and the further development of Key Skills.

We recommend that your range of subjects should cover the requirements of the National Curriculum. There is a **core** of subject areas that is **compulsory**, although we offer some choices within it. All students must study English, Mathematics, Science, Information and Communication Technology, Physical Education, Religious Education and Citizenship/Personal, Social and Health Education (which includes sex education, careers education and work related learning).

In addition students are **entitled** to study within each of the following areas: **The Arts, Design and Technology, Human and Social Sciences** and **Modern Foreign Languages**. In the interests of students creating a broad and balanced curriculum and because we believe that your choice of subjects should help you develop all aspects of your personality, **we strongly recommend** that students choose a range of subjects that contains a subject from each area of entitlement.

The following pages describe in more detail how a choice can be made.



CORE SUBJECTS

N.B. All pupils will take these core subjects

A. English

All students follow the same course – it can lead to two GCSEs in ‘English’ and ‘English Literature’.

4 hours

B. Maths

You will move into sets in Year 10 based on how you have done in maths so far. It can lead to one GCSE.

3 hours

C. Citizenship/Personal, Social, Health Education and Careers

You will continue to follow a course in this subject. There is no examination.

1 hour

D. Religious Education

You will follow a course that can lead to a Short Course GCSE.

1 hour

E. Science

You will study Core Science in Year 10 and Additional Science in Year 11.

5 hours

If you enjoy science and want to spend more time on it, you can choose to study all three Science subjects separately (known as **Extension Science**). This will use one of your options choices. Students taking this option will have 7 lessons of science a week. **The three separate sciences are more demanding and offer challenge for students highly motivated in science.**

All pupils must take PE and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

F. The Choice for Information and Communication Technology is:

You may choose to study Information and Communication Technology in one of three ways:

❖ GCSE Business Studies

2 hours

❖ GCSE ICT

2 hours

❖ BTEC Business

2 hours

ONE of the above courses can be done.

G. Physical Education

All students do one hour general PE.

1 hour

If you enjoy PE, are good at it and want to spend more time on it you can choose GCSE PE in the options.

There is not a choice needed in these subjects

Total 17 hours

Pupils must then choose subjects for the remaining 8 hours

ENTITLEMENT AREAS AND OTHER SUBJECTS

X Additions to Core

GCSE PE
GCSE Extension Science

2 hours

H. The Arts

Art and Design
Dance
Drama
Music

2 hours

I. Design and Technology

There are three different courses that are offered as full GCSEs.

D & T Food Technology
D & T Product Design
D & T Textile Technology

2 hours

The following is offered as a Specialist Course:

City and Guilds Entry Level Certificate in Food Studies - Entry Level 1 and 2

2 hours

You may only choose one of the above Design and Technology courses.

J. The Humanities

Classical Civilisation
History
Geography
Sociology
Business Studies

2 hours

Applied Business (Double Award)
Health and Social Care (Double Award)

4 hours

K. Modern Foreign Languages

You are strongly advised to study a language.

French
German
Spanish
Urdu

2 hours

L. Other Subjects

Latin

2 hours

Certificate in Personal Effectiveness (ASDAN)

4 hours

NVQ Level 1 Beauty Therapy
NVQ Level 1 Hairdressing
NVQ Level 1/2 Construction
NVQ Level 2 Beauty Therapy
NVQ Level 1/2 Engineering
NVQ Level 1 Motor Vehicle Maintenance

6 hours

Each 5 hours + 1 hour ICT/Life Skills

What are your decisions? You can try out different patterns on the next page.

TRYING OUT DIFFERENT PATTERNS OF CHOICE

Your choices after the 17 hours of the core must add up to 8 hours, not more or less.

Subject Possibilities (number of curriculum hours)	Hours
A English	4
B Maths	3
C Citizenship/PSHE	1
D RE	1
E P.E (Core)	1
F Science	5
G GCSE ICT 2 hrs OR GCSE Business Studies 2 hrs OR BTEC Business 2 hrs	2
H The Arts 2 hrs each	
I Design and Technology 2 hrs OR City And Guilds Entry Level Certificate In Food Studies 2 hrs	
J Human and Social Sciences 2 hrs each	
K. Modern Foreign Languages 2 hrs each	
L. Others Three Sciences (GCSE Extension Science) (In addition to Core) 2hrs Latin 2hrs Certificate in Personal Effectiveness (ASDAN) 4hrs All off-site NVQs 6hrs	

Total 8

Now write out your subject choices.

You may not need all the lines

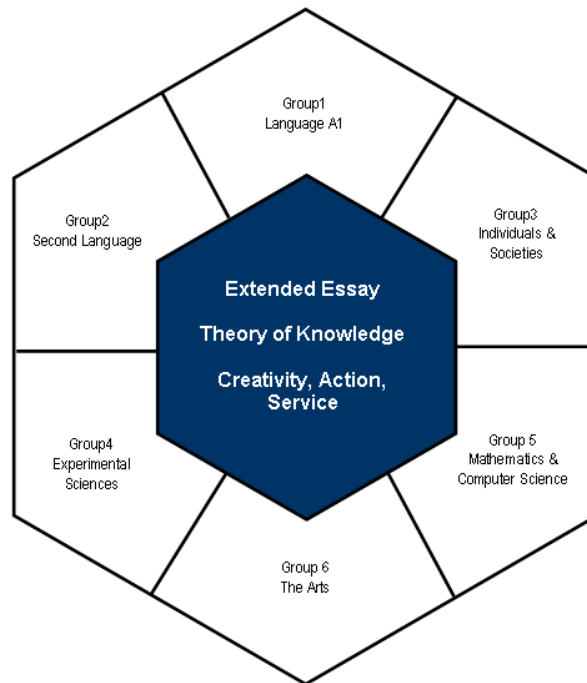
This is not your final choice form; you will be given a separate form for this.

	Subject	Number of hours
1.	English	4
2.	Maths	3
3.	Citizenship/PSHE and Careers	1
4.	RE	1
5.	PE (Core)	1
6.	Science	5
7.	ICT GCSE ICT (2 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> or GCSE Business Studies (2 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> or BTEC Business (2 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>please ✓</i>	2
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		

You will get a sheet in this format to give in when you have made your choices.

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)

You may already be aware that High Storrs is due to introduce this prestigious post-16 qualification in September 2009 subject to our authorisation as an IB School. In September 2011 the present Year 9s will, therefore, be the third group of students to proceed to this exciting, rigorous and challenging course. The hexagon below sets out the structure of the course. Students must take a subject from each of the 6 groups of subjects. Three subjects must be taken at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. The compulsory core elements of Theory of Knowledge, Creativity, Action, Service and the Extended Essay sit at the heart of the IB.



- In Group 1 all students will, take English.
- In Group 2, students must take a Modern Foreign Language. We are offering French at the moment.
- Group 3, offers History, Geography, Psychology.
- Group 4 offers Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Group 5 Mathematics.
- Group 6 The Arts(Art, Music or Theatre Studies) or a free elective. At present we are offering sciences.

If you are considering this option, the above information may influence student choice at Year 9.

As is suggested later in this booklet, it would be advisable to continue to GCSE level with a Modern Foreign Language or Classical Language. Also, ensure that you take a subject from group 3 and a subject from group 6 unless you wish to do a further science as an elective.

An information evening will be run for parents in May 2009 when the application process for the second cohort will begin.

Whom can I ask about this?

Ms Plant. You can also look under 'Curriculum' on the school website for lots more information.