



KS4 OPTIONS 2019



The information in this document outlines the KS4 Options Process for 2019.

This includes:

- 1) General Information
- 2) Timeline
- 3) Key Stage 4 Curriculum
- 4) Frequently asked Questions

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

At OPHS students commence Key Stage 4 from year 9. In year 8 students are supported to select their GCSE options in the Spring Term.

The following events have been planned to ensure all students and parents have been provided with the appropriate advice and guidance so that students can make well informed decisions when selecting courses.

2. TIMELINE

Date	Event	Aim
Wed 6/2/19	Careers Fair	Advice and guidance to enable students to consider future career options
Thurs 14/3/19	Yr 8 Parents' evening	An opportunity to discuss progress and suitability for courses
Thurs 21/3/19	Yr 8 Options Launch Assembly	Overview of process shared
Thurs 21/3/19	Yr 8 Options Evening	Displays for all KS4 courses with specialist teachers available to provide information and answer any questions
Fri 15/3/19 to Tues 26/3/19	Yr 8 Tutorial Programme	A range of specialised activities conducted, dedicated to ensuring the students understand the process and make appropriate KS4 choices
Fri 22/3/19	Yr 8 Options applications open	Assembly used to explain how to complete the online form
Wed 27/3/19	Yr 8 Options applications deadline	All forms must be completed online

We work hard to personalise the curriculum that we offer and stress the importance of providing a programme of study that is designed to meet the needs of individual students. Students are therefore afforded a personalised suite of choices from which they can select, they will be able to select four option choices to study, and two reserve choices in addition to some of the core subjects.

As you may be aware, the course content and level of challenge has increased with the introduction of the new GCSEs. As a school we must therefore respond to this to ensure that your child is well prepared for the more difficult examinations.

3. KS4 CURRICULUM

An overview of our KS4 Curriculum is shown below:

Year 8 KS4 Options

Compulsory Courses:
GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Maths
Science-GCSE Combined (2) or GCSE Separate Sciences (3)
Core PE (non examination)
PSHE (non examination)

Options:
History
Geography
Sociology
Health & Social Care-BTEC
Religious Studies
French
Spanish
Art & Design
Art Photography
Drama
Film Studies
Music
Product Design
Textiles
Construction
Food and Nutrition
ICT-OCR Nationals
Computer Science
Physical Education

More information on these courses can be accessed [here](#).

4. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Question: How can I decide which subjects to choose? I don't know where to start!

Answer: Start by asking yourself these questions: Which subjects am I most interested in? Which ones am I best at? Are there any new subjects I'd like to take up?

Question: I know what kind of career I want. Which will be the best subjects to study for it?

Answer: Have a chat with our IAG (Information, advice and guidance) team. This is made up of Ms Caluda, Mr McDonnell and Ms Wilson. They can help you make the right subject choices. They will be able to give you independent and impartial Careers Advice and Guidance. An appointment can be arranged by emailing Ms R Wilson (rwilson@oakspark.redbirdge.sch.uk).

Question: But what if I change my mind in a year or so about what career to do?

Answer: Well ... you might! A lot of people your age do. You can't be sure how you will change as a person over the next few years. You may find new things which interest you or develop new skills. And, you can't be sure how technology and the working world will change and exactly what job opportunities there will be when you are older and are going for a job. That's why it is a good idea not to specialise too early. A balanced choice of subjects is the best bet as it is likely to leave doors to lots of different careers open.

Question: My problem is that I've got no idea of what I want to do when I leave school. Does this matter?

Answer: No. It's a good idea to start thinking about what you may be interested in now but you don't have to make any definite plans. Go for subjects you are interested in and are good at. Try to keep your future choices open by choosing a range of subjects. Avoid too many similar subjects.

Question: I don't think that I'll start a job at the end of Year 11. I'll probably stay on in the sixth form and then go on to college or university. What options should I choose now?

Answer: Even if you think you know what you want to study at university, remember that colleges and universities expect you to have a good general education at Key Stage 4. If you follow your interests and abilities but keep a balance, you should be OK. If you're still worried, see your Pastoral Leader.

Dos and Don'ts

- Do choose subjects that you are interested in, do well at and enjoy.
- Do choose a range of subjects so that you keep your choices open for the future.
- Do research what your preferred career path requires in terms of subject choices.
- Do consider the hard and soft skills that your subject choices could provide you with and how these may help for the future.
- Don't choose a subject because your friends have. This is a very easy mistake to make. If you are hoping to be in the same group as them, you probably won't because most option subjects have more than one group. Anyway, we are all different so choose for yourself, not for someone else.
- Don't choose a subject because you like a particular teacher. You may not get the same teacher next year.
- Don't link all your option choices to a single career or interest. You might change your mind later on. You need your choices to be balanced so you are open to a variety of career opportunities.
- Don't panic! If you don't know what you want to do when you leave school. Most students in Year 8 have no idea and the ones that think they have can often end up doing something completely different. The important things are to follow the advice you have been given and then do as well as you can in all of your studies.

Contacts:

Should you have any further questions or queries please contact Ms L Burcombe(Pastoral Leader Yr 8) or Ms A Duggan (Assistant Headteacher for KS4) who will be happy to help.