

Year 8 Options 2017



**St Augustine's RC
High School**

Dear Parent/Carer,

In preparation for KS4 options, we would like to offer Year 8 pupils some choice in the Language and Design Technology areas they wish to start to specialise in.

Pupils who currently study two Modern Languages will be able to select one of their languages to continue with into Year 9. Pupils who only study one language will continue with the same language, enabling them to maximise the progress they have already made in Year 8. Year 9 pupils will be making a start to their GCSE language course and will be in a good position to continue with the subject in Years 10 and 11 should they wish to do so. Pupils will be able to choose from French, German and Spanish. However, in order to accommodate pupil choices it will be necessary to move some pupils across bands. As an example, if there are only enough children for one French group to run then all the pupils who wish to study French will need to be taught in the same band. In terms of teaching groups, pupils normally taught in Y1, Z1 or Z2 may move to X1 or X2 and vice versa.

Pupils will also have the choice of studying Drama alongside four Design Technology options. They will be able to choose three of the five options available, studying one each term. Pupils are asked to rank the Technology/Drama subjects from 1 – 5, with 1 being their favourite choice and 5 their least favourite. Although we cannot guarantee that every pupil will be able to study their top three options, every effort will be made to accommodate pupil choices.

There will be an opportunity for you to discuss the options with your child's subject teachers at Parents' Evening on Thursday 16th March 2017. The Language and Technology teachers will be able to answer questions regarding their relevant courses but pupils should speak to Miss McGuire regarding Drama.

Alternatively, you will be able to contact Miss Swindells [Curriculum Leader, Languages], Mrs Keigher [Curriculum Leader, Design Technology] or Mrs Munro [Options Administrator] who will be happy to help answer any questions.

The deadline for options choices to be returned to Mrs Munro is **Friday 24th March 2017**.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Wilkinson

Deputy Headteacher

LANGUAGES

Some pupils in Year 8 are currently studying two modern languages. In preparation for Key Stage 4 option choices, we would like to offer these Year 9 pupils some choice in the modern language they wish to start to specialise in.

Pupils are currently studying the following language combinations and we would highly recommend they continue with one of these languages, to maximise the progress already made. Pupils who currently study one modern language do not need to make a choice, as they will continue to consolidate their knowledge of that language in Year 9.

8A1	French / German
8A2	French / German
8B1	French / Spanish
8C1	French / Spanish
8C2	French / Spanish

The options available are French, German and Spanish*.

If pupils wish to take a language they are currently not studying, they will need to discuss the implications of this with their modern languages teacher. Parents' Evening on Thursday 16th March is an ideal time to discuss this. For the rare occasions in which pupils may consider a language they are not currently studying, this may involve swapping bands or sets on their timetable to accommodate their request.

Due to changes in the GCSE courses, we know that pupils who study one language in Year 9 will make more rapid progress. Therefore, the choice your son/daughter makes regarding their language choice should reflect the choice of the language they would like to continue with for GCSE.

Should you have any queries, please see one of your modern languages teachers or Miss Swindells, Curriculum Leader for Languages.

***Please note that these choices are subject to the number of pupils who opt to ensure viable group sizes.**

DRAMA

Drama is an excellent subject which enhances numerous life skills and attributes. From improving your child's personal development (building confidence and team-working skills) to allowing them to explore learning creatively; this subject aims to provide a holistic approach to your child's education. We will begin to build on skills needed at GCSE level. We will focus on selective ideas created by drama practitioners, incorporating their skills and techniques into individual and group work in class. Students will learn through a combination of role play and improvisation, leading to a main project at the end of the term.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Design Technology: Electronics Focus

This course is a continuation from Year 7 and year 8. The course further builds upon the knowledge gained in lower school. It is designed to take pupils into the world of alarm circuits and electronic games. The course involves designing a case to house the electronic circuitry. The course builds up the knowledge to a pre-GCSE level. It will cover materials, processes and electronic components.

Design Technology: Resistant Materials Focus

Resistant Materials in Year 9 will continue to build upon the subject skills and knowledge studied in Year 7 and Year 8. A lot of emphasis will be placed upon good designing to suit particular target audiences. The majority of the lessons will involve you enhancing your CAD skills on the '2D Design' software and 'LaserCut 5.3' software. These skills will then be used to model what the final product will look like prior to making the chosen design.



The CAD skills will then be used to produce the parts for a product which you will then be required to build in the workshop. The product currently being built in Year 9 is a money box.

Food Technology

You will continue to build upon your Food Technology skills gained in Year 7 and Year 8 by planning and making a range of more complicated dishes.

The course splits into 2 main themes:

"Fusion foods" – we will look at a variety of multi-cultural dishes that are popular in our diets today and then design a new food product that is a fusion of these.

"Desserts" – after making a basic layered dessert you will plan, design and make a new and interesting layered desert product of your choice.

If time allows we usually fit in a seasonal practical as well! e.g. a yule log in December and a summer trifle in July. This is the right choice for those may be interested in choosing Food Preparation and Nutrition at GCSE or for those pupils who have an interest in cookery and gaining more skills.

Advanced Food Technology

You can only opt for this if you have also opted for the ordinary Food Technology option above because this module builds on content taught there. This course is for those pupils who already feel strongly that a GCSE option of Food Preparation and Nutrition is likely for them next year and/or have a real passion for food and cookery – although we won't force you to take it in a year if it's not for you! [Also if you do not opt for Advanced Food, you can still take the GCSE next year]

This course builds on the skills from KS3 but actually starts to introduce higher level skills and more complex knowledge. It is an introduction to the GCSE course and pupils will study a variety of aspects e.g. nutrition, food experimental work, functions of ingredients and higher level practical skills in readiness for this. It will help them to make an informed decision about their GCSE options in a years' time.

YEAR 8 OPTIONS 2017

Please return this page to Mrs Munro by Friday 24th March 2017 at the latest.

Languages

French, German, Spanish

1st Choice

2nd Choice

Technology

Please Rank 1 – 5 [1 being your favourite]

*** If choosing Advanced Food you must also choose Food**

Drama _____

DT - Electronics _____

Food Technology _____

Advanced Food Technology _____

DT - Resistant Materials _____

Name:

Form:

Signed: (Parent/Carer)