

Key Stage 4 Options 2026

Curriculum Information for Students and Parents

Taporley High School
& Sixth Form College

- Autumn/Spring term Careers Preparation
- w/c 12th Jan Information in lessons
- 14th January Options Assembly
- 22nd January Year 9 Options Evening
- 5th March Year 9 Parents Evening
- 9th March Options Deadline



KS4 Options Process

Features of GCSEs:

- A grading scale of 9 to 1 is used, with 9 being the top grade
- Assessed mostly by exams at the end of Year 11



GCSE Grading

- ✓ **English Language**
- ✓ **English Literature**
- ✓ **Mathematics**
- ✓ **Science (Combined or Separate)**
- ✓ **(Physical Education)**
- ✓ **(Religious Education)**



The Core Subjects

Combined Science (Core)

- 2 GCSEs
- 9 hours of curriculum time
- Higher and Foundation Tiers



Separate Science (Core + 1 Option)

- 3 GCSEs
- 14 hours of curriculum time
- Higher Tier Only



Science Pathways

Combined Science (Core)

- This is a course suitable for students of all abilities.
- Students can transition to A Level Science from Combined GCSE.



Separate Science (Core + 1 Option)

- Students in top set Science should consider this option.
- Students in other sets should consider this course if they are achieving well in Science.

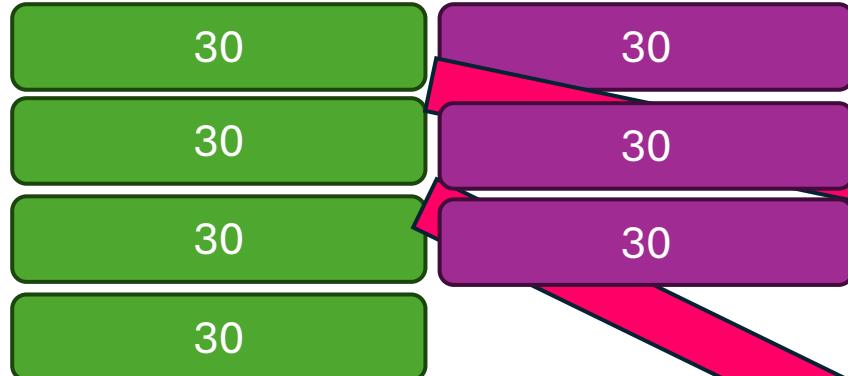


Science Pathways

X and Y Band in Core Subjects

- Currently there are 4 groups in the X Band and 3 groups in the Y band
- We add an extra class in core subjects for Year 10 and Year 11
- This is to support achievement in core subjects
- **We will move students to balance the bands**
- Students do not move tutor groups
- **Options are not taught in bands**

KEY STAGE 3: X and Y Band



There are two “sides” of the year: one with four forms and one with three. Our pupil admission number is 210 and necessitates this **imbalance**.

GCSE

CORE SUBJECTS

English X (4)

Maths X (4)

English Y (4)

Maths Y (4)

Com Science X
(3)

Com Science Y
(3)

CHEM X

PHY X

BIO X

CHEM Y

PHY Y

BIO Y

OPTION BLOCKS

1

2

3

4

Maths, English and Comb. Science have some **re-balancing** necessitating band moves.

Separate science require two **equal** classes in each band

Options are mixed groups from the entire year.

Your Own Pathway



Your Own Pathway

**Everyone must study
at least one of the
following:**

- French
- Spanish
- History
- Geography
- Separate Sciences

Your Own Pathway

Choose your remaining 3 options from the following:

- Food Preparation & Nutrition **
- D&T: Construction**
- D&T:Textiles**
- Computing
- Creative iMedia (ICT)
- Business Studies***
- Enterprise***
- Media Studies
- Religious Studies
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- PE

**These are Design & Technology subjects. You can only select one.

***These courses are very similar, therefore you can only select one.

Making Your Choices

Broad and Balanced-

This has always been a key principle, and we believe at this stage of education selecting a range of subjects from different areas keeps future options open.

To support this principle, we require all students to keep one traditional academic subject as part of their GCSE options.

Making Your Choices

Academic Rigour and Future Pathways-

- Many students of you may wish to go to university in the future and need to be aware that many courses require students to have studied particular subjects at A-level.
- Some Universities do ask for a minimum of two traditional academic subjects at A-level as a requirement for certain courses, these are often referred to as facilitating subjects.
- The facilitating subjects are **biology, chemistry, English literature, geography, history, maths, further maths, French/Spanish, and physics.**
- Some careers that you are considering might need specific A levels or Vocational Courses

Making Your Choices

Assessment-

- Some option subjects have coursework as part of their assessment and others are solely assessed by exams at the end of the course.
- Selecting subjects that are assessed in a different way may help spread workload and suit your learning style.

Making Your Choices

Personal Strengths and Aptitude-

- You should always consider the subjects that they enjoy and are good at!

Making Your Choices

Workload and Support-

- For some of you studying nine GCSES that are assessed at the end of the course through written examinations is not the best choice.
- Within the option choices there are subjects that have practical skills as part of their assessment, and we also have a Vocational option that does not lead to a GCSE or GCSE equivalent.
- For some of you a combination of options with practical assessment and the Vocational option is more suitable.

Possible Pathways

This student has **prioritised academic rigour and future choices** by selecting facilitating subjects:

Maths	1 GCSE
Separate Science	3 GCSEs
English Language	1 GCSE
English Literature	1 GCSE
Option Choices: French Geography History Separate Science	3 GCSEs
	9 GCSEs

Possible Pathways

This student has prioritised personal strengths and aptitude in creative subjects:

Maths	1 GCSE
Combined Science	2 GCSEs
English Language	1 GCSE
English Literature	1 GCSE
Option Choices Spanish Art Music Media studies	4 GCSEs
	9 GCSEs

Possible Pathways

This student has prioritised **assessment** by selecting subjects with practical skills and coursework:

Maths	1 GCSE
Combined Science	2 GCSEs
English Language	1 GCSE
English Literature	1 GCSE
Option Choices Spanish Enterprise PE Drama	4 GCSEs
	9 GCSEs

Possible Pathways

This student has prioritised workload and support by selecting the vocational option:

Maths	1 GCSE
Combined Science	2 GCSEs
English Language	1 GCSE
English Literature	1 GCSE
Option Choices Geography Vocational Option D&T Construction <u>iMedia (ICT)</u>	3 GCSEs
	8 GCSEs

Options Form (Please return to your tutor by Monday 9th March)

Name _____

Tutor _____

Please select your option choices below –

All students must select one from the first row of traditional GCSE subjects.

Spanish	French	History	Geography	Separate Science
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Please select a further three and a reserve choice from any row

Spanish	French	History	Geography	Separate Science
Food Preparation & Nutrition	**Design & Technology Construction	**Design & Technology Textiles	*Business Studies	***Enterprise
Drama	Music	PE	Art and Design	Religious Studies
Computing	Creative iMedia (ICT)	Media Studies	Vocational Option	

Please write your reserve option* choice below:

*Ensure you select a reserve option

**You should only select one Design & Technology subject.

***These courses are very similar, therefore only select one.

Parent/Carer Signature

Selecting Options

Option Blocks

The vast majority of option combinations will be accommodated, however:

- Subjects that recruit very small numbers, unfortunately will not run.
- A small number of combinations will not fit in the teaching blocks.
- In these cases, we will use the **reserve option**, however all students and parents in this situation will be consulted.
- For some subjects we have limited capacity and therefore this limits the number of groups we can offer.



Mr Pringle - SENCO



Miss Pryor – Year Leader



Mr Martin – Options Process

Speak to Subject Leaders and your teachers – they will be more than happy to talk to you.

Key Staff