



Joseph Leckie  
Academy

Joseph Leckie Academy  
KS4 Options



Joseph Leckie Academy  
Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG  
01922 721 071 / [www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk](http://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk)



# Importance of the Options Process

- Understanding our Key Stage 4/GCSE curriculum
- What subjects we include and why- CORE and optional
- What our pathways are and which options are available
- How to decide on choices
- What students can do between now and March when you will get your pathway option form



# Which Qualifications?

- Students will need to achieve at least 8 qualifications which are made up of different specific subjects
- **All students** will study a **CORE** curriculum of **English Literature and English Language, Maths, Science, PE and PSHE**
- All students will study a Humanities subject and can choose either **History, Geography, RE.**
- A number of students will also have to do a **Modern Foreign Language.**



# Core Subjects

- All students will study **Core**:
- English (Language and Literature – 2 separate GCSEs)
- Maths
- Science (Combined Science = 2 GCSEs or Separate Science 3 GCSEs)
- Physical Education core
- PSHE (Personal, Social Health and Economic (including RSHE))



## Subject Breadth- Range of key subjects

- These are important as they increase your chances of A Level and Level 3 qualifications, apprenticeships, university entrance and the work of work
- They are valuable in the skills and opportunities they provide for progression in career pathways and life experiences

### **In this school they include:**

- **Humanities-** History, Geography, RE
- **Science subjects-** Separate Science, Combined Science, Computer Science
- **Languages-** French and Community Languages
- **Creative subjects-** Art and Design, Drama, Music, Technology



# Core Science and Separate Science

- If you choose **Separate Science you will NOT do Core Science.**
- If you choose Separate Science – this is 3 GCSE's (Biology, Chemistry and Physics and you will do all three). This means that you will do 6 hours of science lessons a week, whereas people who do Combined Science will do 4)
- If you do choose Separate Science, this will take away one of your other options, as this is an extra GCSE to Combined Science.



# What are the Options Subjects

- All students must study either **Geography, History or RE**
- Some students will have to study **French** this will be indicated your option form\*
- **Students can still choose French** even if it is not a required subject
- Students will then have **some free choice**, the number of options will be indicated on the option form and depends on **your specific pathway based on predictions, current progress and assessments**



# Importance of grades and mocks

Pathways depend on:

- Your **SATs/CAT4** predictions
- Current **progress** in lessons
- **Assessments** you do in coming weeks
- The options pathways are bespoke and appropriate for your learning



# Why are options important?

- The **subjects studied at KS4 support your career choices** and help you to achieve your goals in life
- Successes at KS4 means that you will be able to progress to A-Levels or vocational Level 3 courses, apprenticeship and successful employment
- Success across all subjects including your English, Maths, Science, Geography/History and a language will lead to better employment opportunities and lifelong skills and knowledge



# A wide range of Option Subjects –L2

Art GCSE	Design Technology	History	Religious Studies (RE)
Art and Design (Tech Award)	Drama	ICT	Separate Science
Business GCSE	Food	Music Technology	Sociology
Child Development	French	Media Studies	Travel and Tourism
Computer Science	Geography	PE GCSE	Textiles ( Design Technology)
		Psychology	



# Art GCSE, Art and Design and Design Technology

You can choose **one from these two:**

- Art – is a GCSE in Art (based in the Art Block) or
- Art and Design – is Tech Award based in Design and Technology

**Only one from these two:**

- Design Technology GCSE or
- Design and Technology GCSE (Textiles)

Please ask subject heads (Miss Hocknull or Mr Radburn) for more information



# Options Form

- Each student will have **an individual option pathway** form which could be different from their friends
- **Pathways are selected based on student abilities and prior attainment** , as the best route for them to succeed
- **The Options Form will direct students how many options they have and which subjects they can choose from**
- **Some subjects have entry requirements.** These are explained on the options form
- **Some students who need additional support will be selected for a Vocational course and/or an ASDAN course** that will help them with future aspirations



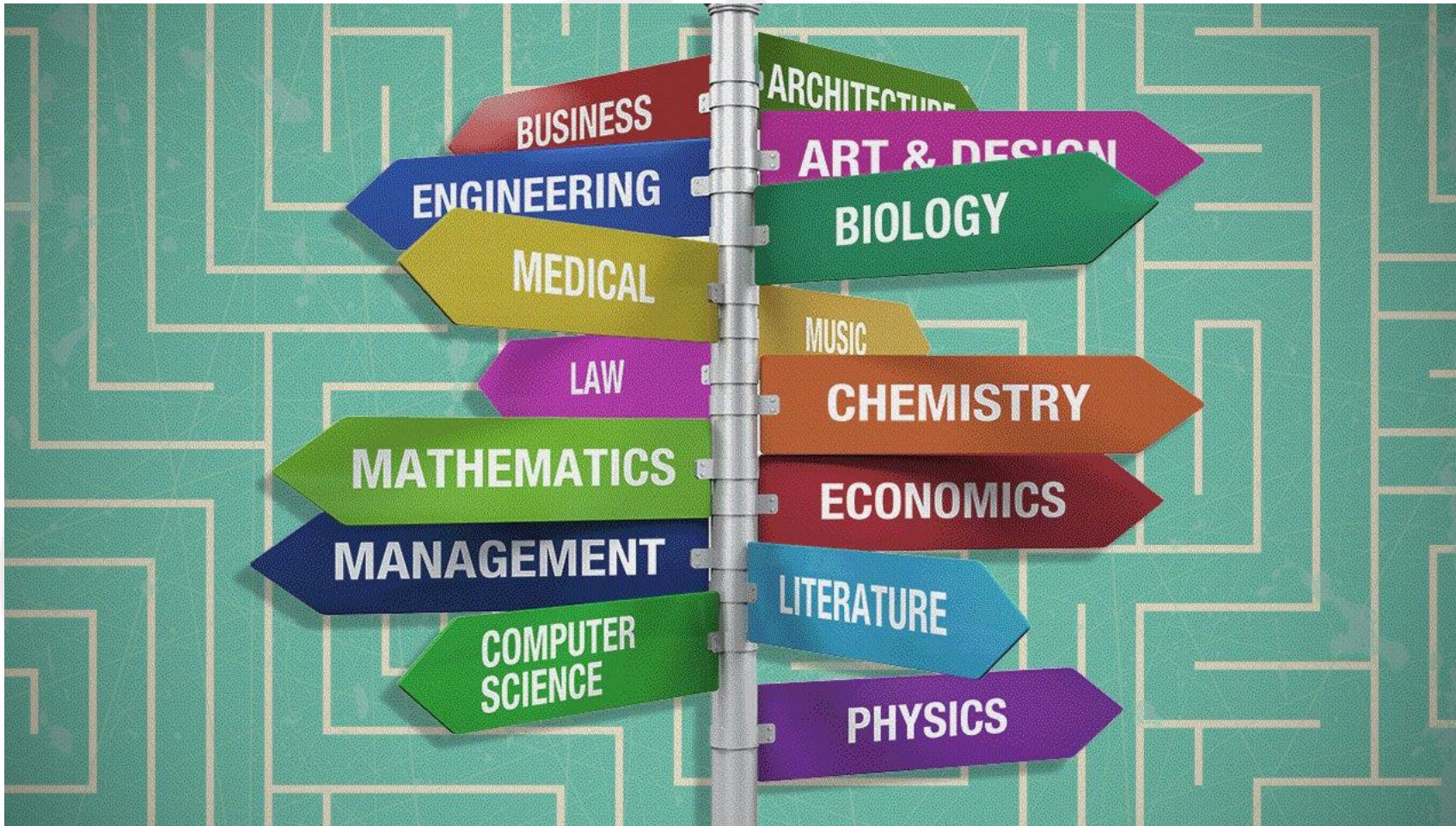
# Community Languages

- If students speak an additional home language, we can facilitate them to take an extra GCSE in this
- Ideally, students should be able to be able to **speak, read and write** in a home language that is offered at GCSE
- We will support with the qualification in school, but parents will need to support as we do not have specialisms in many of these languages
- Community Languages offered include: Arabic, Bengali, German, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Spanish, Portuguese, Panjabi, Polish, Turkish, Urdu, Russian and others...
- There is a space to indicate this on your options form
- For more information ask Ms Tutrice, Mrs Price or Mr Greaves



## Bands in Key Stage 4

- All students will be in J and L bands throughout Key Stage 4 studies in core subjects and the majority will remain in the band they are in now, but not necessarily the same class
- Please note that some students may change bands in KS4 for a variety of reasons including supporting with options
- Both of these bands are parallel and they are not based on ability



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# How to choose your options?

- Ask your teachers questions about their subject
- Ask your form tutor or HOY for help
- Listen to the presentations in assemblies and lessons
- Look at the presentations and key information on SharePoint



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## Making Informed Choices

- Read the subject information in the options booklets carefully
- Speak to your parents
- Attend Parents Evening (Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March) with your parents
- Library session in forms
- Careers sessions in form time and own research



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## Making choices



# Why should you choose a subject?

- You have enjoyed it at Key Stage 3
- You have done well in the subject at Key Stage 3
- It is a new subject, but you have read about it and it interests you
- It suits your learning style practical, exams, coursework...
- It will support your career choice (if you know this)
- However, remember we offer a broad curriculum, so you can still choose A levels/Level 3 courses even if you have not chosen a subject at KS4.



## Reasons you should NOT choose a subject

- Just because you like the teacher
- Your friends are choosing it
- You think it is easy
- You think it is all practical
- You're worried about what others will say



## Opportunities we offer to help you reach your potential

- A broad curriculum which allows you to change career pathways
- Starting in Year 9 to allow time to develop and embed relevant knowledge and skills
- Enrichment opportunities the curriculum offered by your teachers
- Period 6
- Excellent support from staff at all levels
- Still unsure? Ask for help...



# Understanding new grades

Old GCSE	New GCSE
<b>A**</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A*</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>High B</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Low B/High C</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Low C</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>F/G</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>



## Key Dates

- **WB 12th January and 19th January- Y8 'in class mock exams'**
- **Thursday 15th January- Y8 Options Evening (for parents)**
- **Tuesday 20th January- Extended assembly for Year 8- 8.30-10am- Outlining subjects that they don't do at KS3**
- **Thursday 5th March – Year 8 Parents Evening- forms to go out that day to students**
- **Friday 13th March- Submission of forms deadline**



...and finally

- All forms should be submitted to Ms N Murray (in the Art building) by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at the latest**
- Some options have **limited numbers**, so please remember if you miss this deadline, you may have more limited options.
- Some subjects combinations are not viable options such as choosing two subjects with similar subject content which discount each other, for example, Art, Art and Design courses and Technology courses.
- You will be advised if options are full or you have chosen the wrong combinations.