

February 2021

GCSE Options Launch – Class of 2026

Dear families,

As you may be aware, scholars at DMA select their option choices at the end of year 8 to allow them to start on their GCSE courses in year 9. This ensures that they are fully supported to climb their mountain to university or a real alternative.

Over the coming weeks, as we prepare to return to school, your child will be guided through the GCSE options process. Your child has already been sent (via email) an initial survey and video outlining the timeline and encouraging them to start discussing their preferences at home. Please ask your child about this. There are compulsory core subjects: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, Religious Studies, and core PE. The majority of scholars will also study Spanish. Your child will need to choose from the following options:

1 Humanities Option	1 Arts Option
History Geography	Food Preparation and Nutrition Art Music Drama Textiles Computing GCSE PE Product Design

More information about each subject will be explained to scholars in school as well as sent home and published on the website. Due to current restrictions, we will be holding a virtual options event on **Thursday 25 March**, where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's choices with staff and we will give more information about how to ensure your child takes the pathway that is best for them. More details about this event will be given closer to the time.

A brief summary of the options timeline is detailed below:

March	Options Launch, employability day, virtual options event and advisor phone calls. Subject information given to scholars during PDS lessons.
April	Tailored options guidance given in school and choices submitted.
June	Final options choices confirmed and communicated to scholars and families.

Please click the link [here](#) to ask any questions you may have about the options process.

Yours sincerely,



Lydia Gayle
Associate Senior Leader - Curriculum



