



Options 2012: Making Choices for Year 10

We want you to enjoy and achieve so we must guide and support you in making the right choices.

Qualifications and grades are important – the more you achieve the more options are available to you at every stage. Getting the right grades by the end of Year 11 will be essential for some college courses and university places.

Most students will be full-time at the Academy throughout Years 10 and 11, though some will attend college from the start of Year 10. You are expected to stay in some form of education or training after Year 11, and should be thinking of your progression route from age 14 to 19 and beyond. Many of you should be thinking about going to university so we need to ensure your choices now do not limit your opportunities in the future. For example, some of you may need a GCSE in a foreign language to help secure a particular university offer.

Choose carefully, work hard and join in. Make the most of this important opportunity.

Timetable of Events	
Options Introduction for Parents and Students Thursday 26 January, 7.00-8.00pm	Find out about the Options process.
Talk with Parents and Staff Options Assembly Wednesday 1 February	Discuss your strengths and weaknesses with your parents, teachers and tutors.
Options Fayre Monday 6 February, 4.30-6.00pm Sports Hall (Subject stalls, teachers & flyers)	Find out about option subjects and new subjects. Course flyers are published on the website ('Letters Home') if you cannot come along to collect them and talk to the teachers.
One-One Discussion 21 - 23 February	One-one short discussion to hear your ideas but also to be clear if there is a subject that you really must do to keep your options open, such as a foreign language.
Data Reports Tuesday 21 February	Check out your grades – those on track for Level 6+ should be considering university and taking a foreign language.
Parents' Evening Tuesday 28 February, 5.00-7.30pm	Finalise your options and reserves in discussion with your parents, teachers and tutors.
Hand In Options Form Friday 1 March	Complete the Options Form and hand in.

How much choice is there?

English, Mathematics, Science, PE, Careers Education, Health Education and Enterprise must all be fitted into Years 10 and 11. You have some choice about how much time you spend on these subjects. They may be on your timetable each fortnight or be scheduled as special sessions.

You also choose from a long list of GCSEs and vocational courses. We try very hard to help you get all your option choices and promise to talk to you if this is not possible (or unwise). Most students choose **4 additional option courses** in the form of GCSEs and BTECs.

Some students opt for more **specialised learning (usually off-site) for one whole day per week** together with two GCSE or BTEC option choices. Your attendance, punctuality, attainment and potential will determine the courses you can consider. For example, if your attendance is poor you are unlikely to be offered a place on a vocational course at Northbrook College. Your punctuality is relevant to whether you are suited to travelling to Brinsbury (e.g. Equine Studies), Worthing (e.g. Catering) or Shoreham (e.g. Aero Engineering).

Are you confused by the different qualifications and grades?

DON'T PANIC! We will be very careful to make sure you keep your options open – even if that means insisting you study something that you might not freely choose.

Nearly all courses for 14-16 year olds are Level 2 or Level 1. More than half our students achieve at least five Level 2 qualifications – and should be thinking 'College ... University'.

Level 2 includes GCSE grades A*-C, BTEC Level 2 and OCR National Pass and above. These grades equip students for A Levels and similar courses at TLA College (and elsewhere) or employment with further training.

Level 1 includes GCSE grades D-F and BTEC/NVQ/VRQ Level 1. These grades equip students for Level 2 courses in Year 12 at TLA College (and elsewhere) or employment with further training.

Entry Level courses help students work towards a GCSE grade G or equivalent by age 16.

Which subjects do you like doing?

You will probably try harder at the subjects you like and will enjoy them more.

Which subjects are you best at?

You stand a better chance of getting good results in these.

Are you better at exams or coursework?

Some qualifications more exam weighting than others and others are mainly assessed using tasks throughout the course. What works best for you? Check out how your preferred subjects are assessed.

Which subjects are recommended?

Sometimes teachers recommend that you take a particular subject. Find out what your teachers think.

Which subjects do you need?

If you have some idea of the career you wish to follow, you will probably need certain subjects as qualifications. You might need particular GCSE grades to get on to college courses and study at a higher level. Check out the details with the Personal Advisers who work from an office in the Hill Road building (see below).

Careers Guidance and Higher Education

Careers Guidance can be obtained from Mel Ponterosso and Jane Chew, Personal Advisers from Babcock, who are available to talk to both students and parents/carers. Students may visit Advisers in the Careers Interview Room (next to the Chapel). The days when Personal Advisers are on site are published on their office door.

Useful Career Guides

<http://www.careersetc.co.uk> – careers website

www.myfuturewestsussex.com – Access to a database for careers information

www.ucas.com – Information on universities (including entry requirements).

What if you have no career in mind?

You are young and have time to decide. Choose a broad, balanced range of subjects – enjoy and achieve!

What should you do now?

Show this to your parents and start talking about options and finding out. You and your parents are welcome to contact your Chapter Manager for help and advice at any point.