



Year 8

Options Booklet

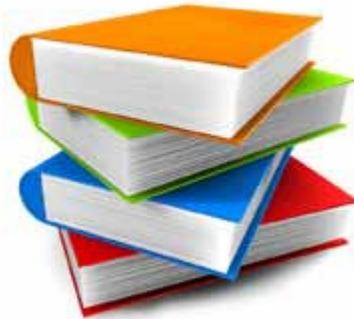
2021 - 2022

Student Name:

Reg Group:

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Dear Parent/Guardian

An important stage in the education of your child has been reached. It is now time to give careful consideration to the type of courses your son/daughter will study in Years 9, 10 and 11. Some courses are compulsory subjects, but others are optional. It is essential that students, parents and teachers discuss how these options are chosen.

This booklet will inform you about:

- core subjects (compulsory)
- subject pathways which will lead to either GCSE/BTEC qualifications
- how to complete the paper based option form or options online

In order to assist you further with option choices, we have arranged for each subject to provide further information about the content and structure of the subject through video/powerpoint presentations. These are now available on the school website (<https://boldonschool.com/our-school/curriculum/>) and your child will get an opportunity to view the presentations w/b 15 March 2021. The deadline for option choices is 26 March 2021 by either options online or a paper based form (*Options Online will be live 19 March 2021, no paper option forms should be brought in before this date*).

We emphasise the importance of good attendance in Years 9, 10 and 11. Some GCSE and BTEC subjects involve coursework. This counts towards their final grade and will occur at different stages throughout the course. It is only by attending school regularly that your child's chances of success are maximised.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Fairclough — Assistant Head Teacher

Curriculum

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students study a mixture of compulsory 'core' subjects and individually chosen subjects.

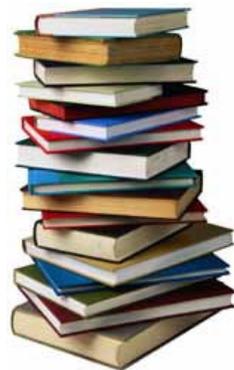
The compulsory 'core' subjects for Year 9 are:

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Modern Foreign Language - (D1 and D2, Y1 and Y2)
- Geography
- History
- Digital IT
- Religious education (RE)
- Physical education (PE) - non examination

Students will be able to choose 2 other subjects for 2 hours each per week in Year 9, 10 and 11 which will lead to final examinations at the end of Year 11.

At the end of Year 9 students will make a further choice of continuing:

- Geography or History
- Digital IT or RE



Core Subjects

English Language and Literature

The two GCSE subjects, English language and English literature, are taught in an integrated course, which develops the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

A wide range of literature is used in both subjects, which includes Shakespeare and modern literature. All written and oral activities in English result from a shared experience of novels, scripted drama, poetry and non-literary material, which includes the analysis of spoken language in its many forms.

Assessment for both English language and English literature is based solely on examination performance. For English literature,

Paper 1 - assesses students' understanding of Shakespeare as well as the 19th Century novel.

Paper 2 - assesses understanding of modern texts and poetry.

In English language, final assessment is also examination based:

Paper 1 - assesses understanding of creative reading and writing.

Paper 2 - assesses understanding of writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

Mathematics

All students will follow the GCSE course for mathematics in Years 10 and 11.

Students are set according to their mathematical ability/attainment data at the end of Year 8. This is monitored throughout the course to determine whether any movement between groups is necessary.

The subject content consists of number and algebra; shape, space and measures and data handling. Connections between sections are made as appropriate. Teaching styles will vary depending on content and individual needs of students. GCSE mathematics is assessed through 3 examinations taken at the end of the course.

Separate Science

All students will follow the separate science GCSE course in Years 10 and 11.

This course leads to three separate GCSE qualifications and all units are externally examined:

- Units B1, B2 leading to a biology GCSE;
- Units C1, C2 leading to a chemistry GCSE;
- Units P1, P2 leading to a physics GCSE.

All grades are independent of each other, i.e. the biology units and grades will have no influence on the chemistry or physics units.

All examinations are completed at the end of Year 11.

Students are set according to their scientific ability/attainment data at the end of Year 8. This is monitored throughout the course to determine whether any movement between groups is necessary.

The subject content consists of key scientific knowledge, scientific investigation skills and analysis and data handling.

This course is suitable for all students, and it will provide an excellent foundation for those students who wish to continue studying science at A-level and BTEC as well as providing a firm foundation for students who may go on to complete many apprenticeships.



Digital IT

The demand for IT & Digital skills is growing rapidly on a daily basis. Almost all jobs require employees to have some form of digital understanding. Jobs in Digital IT can be exceptionally well paid and rewarding and the opportunities are endless. The skills are transferrable, meaning you could travel anywhere in the world and pursue a career in Digital IT. Every business requires IT support to ensure digital products, services and systems work effectively.

Studying Digital IT will provide you with the ability to understand logic and processes and advance in the way you think and relate to the world. By studying Digital IT, see below the various types of jobs you can have with an IT qualification.

- Social Media Influencer / App Developer / Games Developer / Web Developer / Cyber Security / Video Game Designer
- You will develop knowledge in a range of key areas required to work in the IT sector. You will learn a range of topics including; social media influencing, social media applications, ethical hacking, cyber security, user interfaces and cloud technologies.



Physical Education

A variety of sporting and leisure activities. Helping to develop our mental, social and physical well being. Students will choose their own guided choice pathways to make the most out of their lessons.

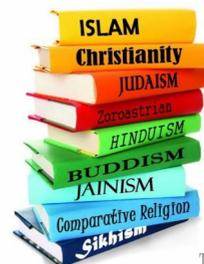
Religious Education

Religious studies is an integral part of the curriculum and students will follow the GCSE course set by the AQA examination board. This new specification provides students with the opportunity to learn about the beliefs and practices of 2 major world religions, alongside a variety of moral and ethical issues that impact the world today. This is a linear course which is assessed through two examinations in Year 11 and the units covered across Years 9, 10 and 11 are:

- An in depth study of 2 world religions. All students will study Christianity, with the second religion being either Buddhism or Judaism. For each religion students will learn about the key beliefs, teachings and practices.

The course also includes 4 thematic studies. These look at major issues in the world we live in from different faith perspectives.

- Relationships and families, which includes topics such as marriage, divorce, cohabitation, starting a family and gender roles and equality
- Religion and life, which includes topics such as the origins and values of the universe, the origins and values of human life
- Religion, peace and conflict, which includes topics such as the reasons for war, peace, reconciliation and forgiveness, Holy and 'Just' war rules, terrorism and the work of peacemakers
- Religion, crime and punishment, which includes topics such as the causes and impacts of crime, aims and forms of punishment, including arguments for and against corporal punishment and the death penalty. This unit also looks at the concept of forgiveness and how prisoners can reformed and rehabilitated.



The Nation

Geography

Geography is about understanding the world's people, places and environments. It illuminates the past, explains the present and prepares us for the future. Students will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of physical and human geography and the links between them as well as their cartographic, numeracy and enquiry skills. It is a linear course that is assessed through three exams at the end of year 11. The course is split into three sections:

Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment. This covers Natural Hazards (tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change), Ecosystems (including tropical rainforests and hot deserts) and Coasts & Rivers.

Unit 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment. This covers Urban Issues and Challenges, Changing Economic World and Resource Management (including food, energy and water).

Unit 3 – Geographical Applications. This includes fieldwork enquiries and an Issue Evaluation, based around a decision making exercise using a pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before the Unit 3 exam.

Course assessment

- Paper 1—Living in the Physical Environment (90 minute exam)
- Paper 2—Challenges in the Human Environment (90 minute exam)
- Paper 3—Geographical Applications (75 minute exam including pre-release)

History

The GCSE history content comprises of four sections, each will be examined by a one hour exam. The GCSE course will allow pupils to study a range of historical topics and develop useful skills for the future such as examining source material and developing an argument. Students will study the following elements:

- **Conflict and Tension: The First World War, 1894 – 1918**

This is an in-depth study of the First World War, why it happened and key events such as the Battle of Somme.

- **America, 1920 -1973: Opportunity and inequality**

This is a study of 20th century America that looks at key events including the rise of gangsters in the 1920s, the depression in the USA and the Civil Rights movement and actions of figures such as Martin Luther King.

- **Norman England 1066 – 1100**

This module takes pupils back to 1066, to learn about key events such as the Battle of Hastings and the building of castles across England. It touches on topics taught in Year 7.

- **Health and the People (1100 – Present day)**

This module looks at a history of medicine and health throughout time. It looks at diseases such as the black death and Smallpox and how certain diseases were treated through the work of individuals such as Edward Jenner. It also allows pupils to look at modern day events such as the formation of the NHS. This module is useful if pupils want to go into a career in nursing or medicine.

French /Spanish- D1 + D2 +Y1 + Y2 Only

The study of French at GCSE offers students an exciting opportunity to develop their thinking skills, to learn about the French-speaking world, to improve their understanding of how languages are connected and to clearly organise and express their own ideas and opinions. Students work towards competency in 4 skill areas: listening, reading, speaking and writing. They are examined in all four skills at the end of the course. (25% each). We follow the AQA French language course which is delivered in 3 themes.

Theme 1: Identity and Culture.

This theme covers relationships with family and friends; the pros and cons of social media; leisure activities and customs and festivals both in the UK and abroad.

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest.

Here we learn to describe our home and local area; we detail past, present and future holidays; explain how to stay fit and healthy including the bad habits to avoid; discuss social issues such as poverty and homelessness and issues surrounding the environment and climate change.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

In this theme we discuss our school subjects and express our preferences; we describe the school itself and we talk about wider school issues such as rules and stress. We compare school life in France and Britain and decide which system we prefer. We also study future options which enables the students to describe their next steps and future career ambitions.



Option Subjects

Sport Studies

OCR Cambridge National Sport Studies will be offered to all students. Each unit is assessed through centre-assessed coursework, with one externally assessed through an OCR set and marked 1 hour exam. Units are a mixture of practical and theoretical elements.

Contemporary issues in sport (25%): This unit sets the context of sport within the wider environment and how it reflects society and its values. Students will explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, as well as the promotion of values and ethical behaviour through sport. Students will also learn about the role of high-profile sporting events and national governing bodies.

Developing sports skills (25%): Students will practically develop their skills, techniques and use of tactics/strategies/ compositional ideas in both an individual and a team sporting activity. They will be required to evaluate their own performance. Students will also improve their understanding of the rules to allow them to act in a number of officiating roles within an activity.

Sports Leadership (25%): Students learn about different leadership roles and styles. They will then go onto to plan and practically deliver effective and safe sessions and evaluate their own performance.

Sport and the media (25%): Students will develop their knowledge of how sport is covered in the media, as well as the positive and negative impacts that media can have on sport. They complete a series of coursework based tasks.



Dance

Dance is part of the new RSL Awards where students are given the opportunity to gain an insight into the world of Performing Arts & Dance. The course allows students to explore professional repertoire (dance work) and is heavily based on students creating their own material as a soloist, in small groups and as a large whole class.

Dance ability is not essential, however an interest in being creative as well as following set choreography is essential.

It is taught over one internally assessed unit.

This unit is assessed and awarded at pass, merit or distinction (L1/L2).

Unit Title: Ensemble Dance – in this unit you will learn dance techniques in a variety of styles. You will learn short set sequences as well as working towards longer pieces of material. You will rehearse in order to improve your performance and interpretive skills. This unit is highly practical but you will also evidence work through written logs to support the practical dance element.

External Examination Unit – Students will be set a title from RSL Dance to explore eg changes. They will need to plan together as a group the way they are going to approach this. They will plan and research into the topic before choreographing and creating their piece of work. After their performance they will evaluate the work produced.



Child Development

Children's play, learning and development is designed for students who may be interested in working with children in a range of different occupations in their future, or they just have a general interest in how a child grows and develops (knowledge as a parent). The course will cover from birth into primary school age.

Students will spend time in various early years settings as part of their course.

Two units will be taught and assessed internally (**75%** final grade)

Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years:

Students will explore the equipment required for babies up to 5 years making informed choices as to the correct and necessary needs. They will also look into the nutrition and food requirements at different stages from milk to weaning and on to solids.

Understand the development of a child from birth to five years:

Students will be able to go into an early learning setting where they will get to explore and research the importance of learning through play. They will be able to plan various activities appropriate to babies through to children.

The externally set unit is examination based and will explore the health and well being for child development, including reproduction, antenatal care, preparation for birth and child safety.



Statistics and Further Mathematics (D1 and Y1 only)

This is **one** option choice and students will be given the opportunity to study either one or both of the following qualifications:

GCSE Statistics

GCSE Statistics will give you the opportunity to broaden your knowledge in a key component of mathematics that is relevant to everyday life. Real-life scenarios will capture your interest and give you an insight into the importance of statistics in the real world. You will



develop a core statistical grounding, as well as transferable skills and understanding that is applicable to a range of other subjects. It will also benefit you if you wish to progress to other A-level subjects such as the sciences, geography and psychology. Examination consists of 2 examination papers.

Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics

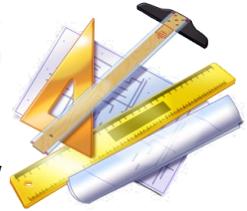
This qualification is suitable for students who are expected to achieve grades 7 and above in GCSE mathematics and who are likely to progress to A-level study in mathematics. It complements GCSE mathematics by encouraging students' higher mathematical skills, particularly algebraic reasoning, but doesn't infringe upon AS Level mathematics.

It gives high achieving students an introduction to AS level topics that will help them to develop skills in algebra, geometry, calculus, matrices, trigonometry, functions and graphs.

Examination consists of 2 examinations papers.

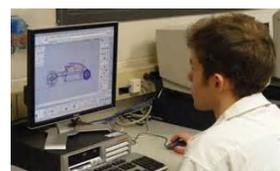
Design & Technology

Design and Technology will include all of the topics mentioned below. The first year is a foundation course for one of the design and technology specifications, allowing students greater knowledge and understanding of key issues before embarking on a full qualification. The course encourages students to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using wood, metal and plastic and various techniques. Students will be enthused and challenged by a range of practical activities.



Design and technology involves:-

- researching products and investigating how they are made
- investigating customer needs
- being creative and iterative
- working in a team
- developing design proposals
- developing design ideas for products using sketching techniques and computer simulations
- manufacturing products using a wide range of tools and equipment in the workshop
- using CAD to produce products
- working in wood, metal and plastics to produce various projects
- finishing materials to a high standard, to ensure commercial viability



Art

GCSE art will include the topics mentioned below. Each topic is derived from the GCSE specification and is designed to allow students to develop a wide range of different skills using different medium. It is a creative practical course, where students move on to develop their own practice in art as the course progresses.

Programme of Study:

- 3D sculpture and ceramics
- drawing and painting
- mixed media
- print making
- photoshop editing and digital drawing



Photography

GCSE photography will include the topics mentioned below. Each topic is derived from the current GCSE specification and is designed to allow students to develop appropriate skills.

Students have the opportunity to use our state of the art cameras and work in our photography studio. Work is manipulated in photoshop to produce individual outcomes.

Programme of Study:

- 8 rules of photography
- photography fundamentals, shutter speed, aperture, ISO
- photoshop editing
- painting with light
- pin hole camera making
- dark room developing
- presentation skills



Food Technology

Food technology will include all of the topics mentioned below.

This is a very exciting and creative subject to study. There is a lot to learn but most of the content will involve 'learning by doing'.

Food Technology involves:

- practical cooking lessons
- participating in restaurant evenings
- afternoon tea project
- learning about foods, ingredients, processes and techniques
- learning about all of the various jobs within hospitality working as a team
- experimenting, investigating and testing and tasting products
- being creative and designing your own products and dishes
- understanding how a product is developed in a test kitchen
- having an insight as to how products are made in industry
- developing individual skills that will aid students in making products
- understanding different diets, health and nutrition
- understanding hygiene standards in the food industry
- making choices as consumers



Textiles

This option will allow students to develop their practical and creativity skills.

Textiles is a very exciting, creative subject to study. The content will involve 'learning by doing'. Students gain knowledge and skills through making a variety of different textiles, techniques and products, moving on to be more creative with their own designs.

Textiles Art involves:

- drawing, art, pattern and print
- using machinery such as sewing machines and overlockers
- learning how to embellish fabric using various materials
- learning about different types of materials, why they are selected for products and understanding how they are made
- sketching designs and developments
- experimenting, investigating and testing materials
- being creative and designing your own products and clothing



Business & Enterprise

Business & Enterprise gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on the knowledge, understanding and skills required to research, setup, run, review and monitor an enterprise which includes:

- development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in planning and carrying out an enterprise activity including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, such as the features and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs
- attitudes and ways of working that are considered most important for enterprise, including communicating and interacting with customers

Course Structure:

Component 1: Exploring Enterprises

(Internal coursework worth 30% of the final mark)

Component 2: Planning for and Running an Enterprise

(Internal coursework worth 30% of the final mark)

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (External exam worth 40% of the final mark)



Health and Social Care

During this course learners will investigate how, in real situations, human development is affected by different factors and that people deal differently with life events. You will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to old age, this includes physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, and the different factors that may affect them.

Learners will also study and explore practically, health and social care services and how they meet the needs of real service users. They also develop skills in applying care values.

Learners will look at the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and how to design a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

Course Structure:

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

(Internal coursework worth 30% of the final mark)

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

(Internal coursework worth 30% of the final mark)

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

(External exam worth 40% of the final mark)



Creative Media

Creative Media is a media focused course preparing you for a digital world. You will study social media, mobile apps, gaming, graphics, television, animation and film. This will prepare you for a world when you leave school, that is dominated by media and technology. By 2024 in the United Kingdom, there will be more jobs available in media and digital technology than any other industry.

People with media and digital technology skills are now required more than ever in the UK and internationally, there is a major skills gap for digital jobs. A creative media qualification will provide you with the platform to choose which next step you want to take on your journey and career in the digital sector. You will have the options of an apprenticeship, college, sixth form or full time employment, you will not be limited.

See below the type of jobs that you can have with a digital media qualification;

- **Social Media Influencer**
- **Mobile App Developer**
- **Games Developer**
- **Web Design**
- **Animation industry**
- **TV / Film industry**
- **Digital Media industry**
- **Music industry**



Course Structure

You will develop knowledge in a range of key areas in the creative and digital sector. You will study the various units learning about design and developing digital products for social media / marketing. You will learn a range of techniques on how to develop professional products. You will learn about gaming technologies, digital video, digital graphics, digital sound and web design. You will learn how to develop interactive media products which are used in the digital and creative sector.

If you are an individual who struggles with the pressures of an exam determining your final grade, creative media is a combination of coursework and an examination. See below;

60% coursework

40% exam

Grading

Level 2 Distinction* (Grade 8/9)	
Level 2 Distinction (Grade 7)	Level 1 Distinction (Grade 6)
Level 2 Merit (Grade 6)	Level 1 Merit (Grade 5)
Level 2 Pass (Grade 4/5)	Level 1 Pass (Grade 4)



Music

Do you enjoy making music? Do you like listening to music? Have you ever wondered what it is like to study to be a professional musician? Do you want to play in a band? Work in a recording studio, learn about electronic music and DJ'ing?



Then the music option is for you!

Programme of study:

- developing the skills of a working musician
- developing instrumental or vocal skills, the choice is yours
- understanding popular music / learn about recording techniques
- produce recordings / design a music product
- organise a live sound event
- learn how to set up live sound equipment
- venue Health and Safety
- understand job roles within the industry

Many employers view a music qualification highly. It shows that the student is capable of individual discipline and also of having a creative and analytical mind. During the course, your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations, whilst the writing skills practised will help with all examination subjects. Your performing skills will give you confidence in playing or speaking to an audience – useful if you intend to pursue, for example, drama or law.



Performing Arts

Interested in drama and acting? Do you want to showcase your skills on the stage. Do you like to perform?

Then the performing arts option is for you.

Programme of study:

- You will develop the skills needed to read scripts
- You will learn to sight read scripts
- You will learn about modern and older scripts
- You will develop acting techniques
- You will learn to bring dialogue to life
- You will learn how to use your voice for dramatic effect
- You will perform to camera and to live audiences

This course is not just for people wanting to have a career in the arts, employers view a performing arts qualification highly. It shows that the student is capable of individual discipline and also of having a creative analytical mind.



Fashion and Retail

The retail and fashion industry is vital to the UK economy; in 2019 it generated £366billion worth of retail sales and employed 2.9 million people. Fashion & Retail is a new exciting course that will develop your skills and knowledge in this area to a high level. This course is equivalent to one GCSE.

This is one of most important employment sectors in the UK, exploring various aspects of retail/fashion and investigating a range of retailers from large chains and department stores through to independent and virtual online stores.

Course Content / Structure:

- Customer Experience
- Retail Operations
- Product Design
- Product Placement
- Retail Sector
- Experience Trips / Shop visits / Outside Speakers

Unit / Final Grading

Distinction

Merit

Pass



ASOS
discover fashion online

FLANNELS

Contacts

If you have any problems or queries please do not hesitate to contact the following members of staff at Boldon School:

Mr D Fairclough Assistant Head Teacher

Mrs J Patterson Assistant Head Teacher

Phone 0191 5362176

Email

david.fairclough@boldonschool.org.uk

joanne.patterson@boldonschool.org.uk

Disclaimer

The information contained within this subject guide is correct at the point of publication. It should be noted that although a course may be featured in this subject guide, it cannot be guaranteed to run, although every effort will be made to do so. If Government policies and guidelines change, Boldon School reserves the right to change courses to fit in with these policies and guidelines.

Options Online

Our preferred method for options return is to use the below SIMS Option Online system:

STEP 1 - You will receive an email to the primary contact email address we have for your child from noreply@sims.co.uk titled "Boldon School – SIMS Online Services Invite".

STEP 2 - To register for SIMS Online Services products, you will need one of the following accounts: Microsoft, Office 365, Google, Facebook, Twitter. The only one that will not work is SIMS ID. Follow the link in the email to be directed to the Sign in page.



Users should register with a Microsoft, Office 365, Google, Facebook or Twitter account. Click the icon for the relevant account and you will be directed to sign in using your existing details.

The first screen will be where your details are confirmed (your name and invite code will show here automatically):

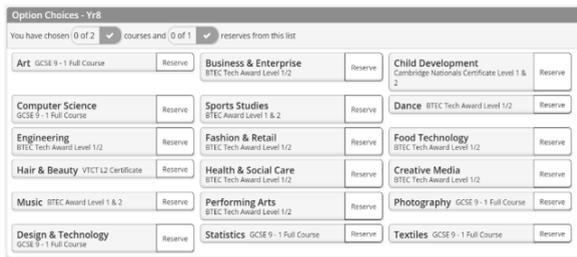


For verification purposes: Parents are required to enter the Date of Birth of one of their children attending the school. Students are required to enter their own Date of Birth.

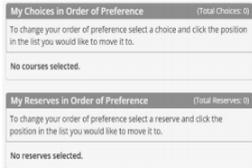
Please note, you only have to enter the invite code once for the process to work. For subsequent logins, simply go to the website: www.sims-options.co.uk. Simply sign in with the online service you used when you set your account up (e.g. Facebook).

STEP 3 - When you are successfully logged in, your profile may default to parent view. Use the "Current Role" drop down box in the top right corner to switch to the student view to bring up the options page.

Click on the name of the subject(s) you wish to choose (Select 2). A selected choice will be highlighted in blue and appear in the list of choices on the right of the screen:



It does not matter which option subject you pick first as we do not use the preference order system.



You can choose your one reserve choice in the Option Choices section by clicking on Reserve. It is essential to click the save button at the top of the screen before you sign out to save / submit your option choices.



Options (Paper based Form)

Option Subjects <i>(Select TWO options from the list below)</i>		Name
Art		
Business & Enterprise		
Child Development		
Computer Science		
Creative Media		
Dance		
Design & Technology		
Engineering		
Food Technology		
Fashion & Retail		
Hair & Beauty		
Health & Social Care		
Music		
Sport Studies		
Performing Arts		
Photography		
Statistics & Further Maths		
Textiles		

Reserve Option <i>(Write your ONE reserve choice below)</i>

Parent / Guardian Signature

**Please return to
 Mr D Fairclough or
 Mrs J Patterson by
 Friday 26 March 2021.**





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