

Year 9 IGCSE Options Workshop

Tuesday 14th January 2020 – MPH 2



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How should I choose my IGCSE subjects?

- 1. Enjoyment:** Choose subjects you think you will enjoy. This means researching content closely and asking teachers and others who know you well for advice.
- 2. Aptitude:** Choose subjects which you think you will be good at - you will be more likely to enjoy them as well. Think about why you might enjoy particular subjects and how committed you feel – e.g. drama: have you enjoyed performing previously? Do you like working collaboratively? Are you committed enough to rehearse for GCSE performance work in the evenings and maybe at weekends?
- 3. Prospects:** Think seriously about future ambitions. If you already have a university course in mind, check entry requirements for specific courses at university and work back from there.
- 4. Balance:** If you have no idea what you want to do in the future make sure that your options provide a broad and balanced programme.
- 5. Independence:** Don't choose on the basis of what friends are doing or on the basis of favourite teachers. Make your own decisions.



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How should I choose my IGCSE subjects?

What career do I want to have?

You should consider whether your chosen career will require you to get more qualifications in the future. For example, in order to become a doctor, you'll also need to have A-levels and then go on to study medicine at university. Although it may seem like a long way away, you might want to consider what qualifications you'll need to get into university (if that's your plan) because the subjects you take at IGCSE level could have an impact.

Should I keep my IGCSE options open?

On the other hand, if you don't have a clue what career you want in the future (like most students in Year 9, 10 and 11), then you should probably aim to keep your options open. Studying a range of subjects will provide you with a good overview of different topics and different ways of studying, which can help you identify what subjects you're best at. Talk to myself or Mrs Sundram (?) to see if you can get a feel for what kind of career you might like to do.



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How should I choose my IGCSE subjects?

Should I take the same IGCSE subjects as my friends?

A lot of students make the mistake of choosing the same subjects as their friends. Although being in the same classes as your friends has its advantages, you should bear in mind that everybody is different and everyone has subjects that they're better at than others. Just because your friends are taking a certain subject, that doesn't mean that you should take it too.

Should I choose my IGCSEs based on my teachers?

Although it can be tempting to choose your subjects based on what teacher you might get, we suggest that you resist. Everyone has their favourite teachers but there's no guarantee of who you'll get for your IGCSEs. You should base your decisions on the subject itself rather than the teacher who will be teaching you.



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Tasks

Activity 1 (10 mins) - discussion

- With your shoulder partners discuss how you plan on making your choices.
- What do you think is the most important factor in making these decisions?
- What is stopping you choosing certain IGCSE subjects?

Activity 2 (20 mins) – group work

- Working in groups of 6, make a list of ways in which you can help yourself make your IGCSE choices
- Now with another group, reduce your list to a 'Top 5'
- Finally...with another large group, make an 'Essential 3'
- Share your findings with the group!

Y9's 'Essential 3'

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



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What interests/motivates you?

A	B	C	D	E	F
Building things	Designing and displaying things	Helping people	Finding out how things work	Organising parties and other social events	Making plans
Being active and working outdoors	Being on television	Sorting out arguments	Doing experiments	Buying and selling things	Using a computer and calculator
Making and fixing things	Writing a book	Showing people what to do	Researching and testing ideas	Running a business	Arranging things over the phone
Using tools and machines	Playing in a band	Looking after people	Designing a new computer game	Entering competitions	Putting CDs/DVDs into the right order
Solving problems	Doing a makeover	Doing voluntary work	Doing calculations	Campaigning for change	

	Mostly?	Subject ideas
A =	<p><u>Mostly As:</u> You seem to like practical work. Look for options where you can use practical skills, do something active and work on different types of projects</p>	<p><u>Subject ideas:</u> Design and Technology, Food Technology, PE</p>
B =	<p><u>Mostly Bs:</u> You sound creative. Look for options where you can express yourself and work on new ideas</p>	<p><u>Subject Ideas:</u> Art, Drama, Music, Textiles</p>
C =	<p><u>Mostly Cs:</u> You seem to be a social person. Look for options where you can find out more about people and how society works</p>	<p><u>Subject Ideas:</u> Geography, History, Languages</p>
D =	<p><u>Mostly Ds:</u> It seems you like to investigate things. Look for options where you can use your number and thinking skills to find out more about why things are the way they are</p>	<p><u>Subject Ideas:</u> Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Maths, Physics</p>
E =	<p><u>Mostly Es:</u> You sound like an enterprising person. Looks for options where you can use your energy, communication, number and thinking skills to test your ideas about how to improve the world</p>	<p><u>Subject Ideas:</u> Business Studies, Economics, Accounting, Computer Science, Languages, Drama</p>
F =	<p><u>Mostly Fs:</u> Being well organised seems important to you. Look for options where you can use your planning, communication and computing skills to find out more about the systems and structures that keep the world working properly</p>	<p><u>Subject Ideas:</u> Business, Economics, Accounting, History, Computer Science</p>

What research can I do?

- Read all the options information the school gives you (Options booklet will be made available by Y9 PTC).
- Talk to teachers to see if they think that it is a good idea for you to do their course.
- Talk to people who are taking the courses that interest you (Y10 and Y11 will be visiting tutor time – subject presentations).
- Talk to your parents/guardians and find out what options they think you should do and why – it should be your choice ultimately!
- Come to Y9 PTC and IGCSE Options Evening with your parents/guardians.
- Fully engage with Taster Week – ask plenty of questions!
- Look up careers which interest you to find out which subjects, qualifications and grades you will need.
- Speak to your careers advisor (Mrs Sundram) and your Head of Year (me!), about your options choices and career ideas.



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Q&A



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Exit Cards

- On your way out complete the exit card provided.
- Anonymously write down 6 options you *currently* think you would like to take – this must include AT LEAST one science and BM if you are a Malaysian Passport holder (if not then one of BM, Mandarin or French).
- Write down one subject you think you will NOT take, and write a reason why. We hope to challenge the perceptions you may have of this subject during taster week!
- Prior to PTC, think about what we have discussed today, specifically the research you could be doing, and speak to your teachers about your options. You will get more information at Options Evening but *failing to prepare is preparing to fail*.



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