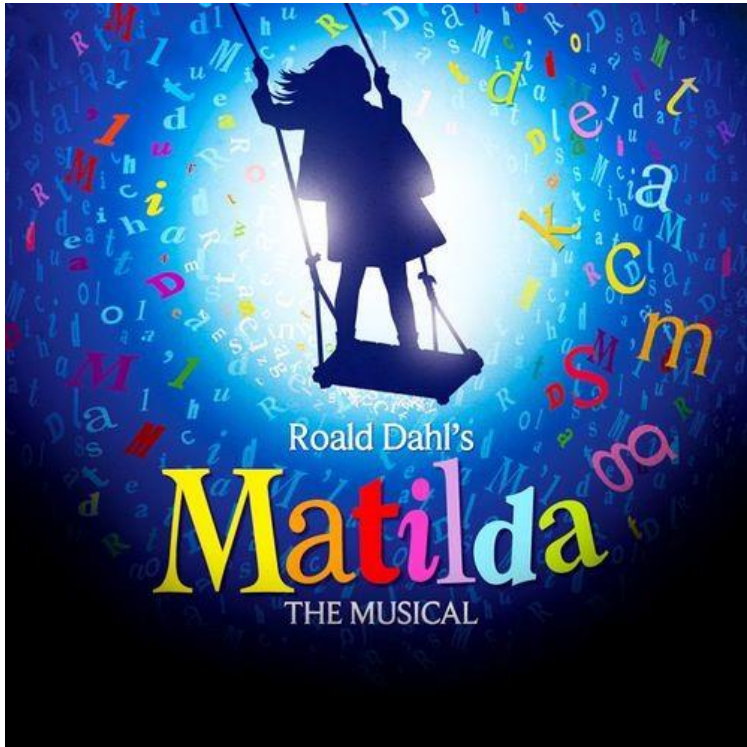


What will you do when you grow up?



WHEN I GROW UP from "Matilda"

When I grow up
I will be tall enough to reach the branches
that I need to reach to climb the trees
you get to climb when you're grown up.

And when I grow up
I will be smart enough to answer all
the questions that you need to know
the answers to before you're grown up.

And when I grow up
I will eat sweets every day
on the way to work and I
will go to bed late every night!

And I will wake up
when the sun comes up and I
will watch cartoons until my eyes go square
and I won't care 'cause I'll be all grown up!
When I grow up!

When I grow up, when I grow up
(When I grow up)
I will be strong enough to carry all
the heavy things you have to haul
around with you when you're a grown-up!

And when I grow up, when I grow up
(When I grow up)
I will be brave enough to fight the creatures
that you have to fight beneath the bed
each night to be a grown-up!

And when I grow up
(When I grow up)
I will have treats every day.
And I'll play with things that mum pretends
that mums don't think are fun.

And I will wake up
when the sun comes up and I
will spend all day just lying in the sun
and I won't burn 'cause I'll be all grown-up!
When I grow up!

When I grow up.
I will be brave enough to fight the creatures
that you have to fight beneath the bed each
night to be a grown-up.
When I grow up

Just because you find that life's not fair, it
doesn't mean that you just have to grin and
bear it.
If you always take it on the chin and wear it
nothing will change!

When I grow up

Just because I find myself in this story,
It doesn't mean that everything is written for
me.
If I think the ending is fixed already
I might as well be saying
I think that it's OK!
And that's not right!



Options 2026

driver
mechanic
soldier
astronaut
woman
baker
plumber
police

chef
farmer
solicitor
electrician
paramedic

engineer
dentist
teacher

doctor
actor
manager
builder

firefighter
geologist
singer
designer
nurse

architect
sailor
dancer
footballer
receptionist
butcher
pilot
fisherman
waitress

Wise King Solomon

In the Bible, we hear stories of people who faced choices, crossroads, and moments of uncertainty. One of those people was King Solomon. When Solomon became king, he didn't ask God for wealth, power, or success. Instead, he prayed for **wisdom** — the ability to make good decisions and to use his gifts well.

And God answered him.

Solomon reminds us that our decisions are not just about choosing subjects—we are choosing ways to grow, to discover how God has uniquely shaped us, and how we might use our gifts in the world.





Options

Just Ahead

*A guide to choosing
your future*

What do you want to be when you grow up?



What to consider?

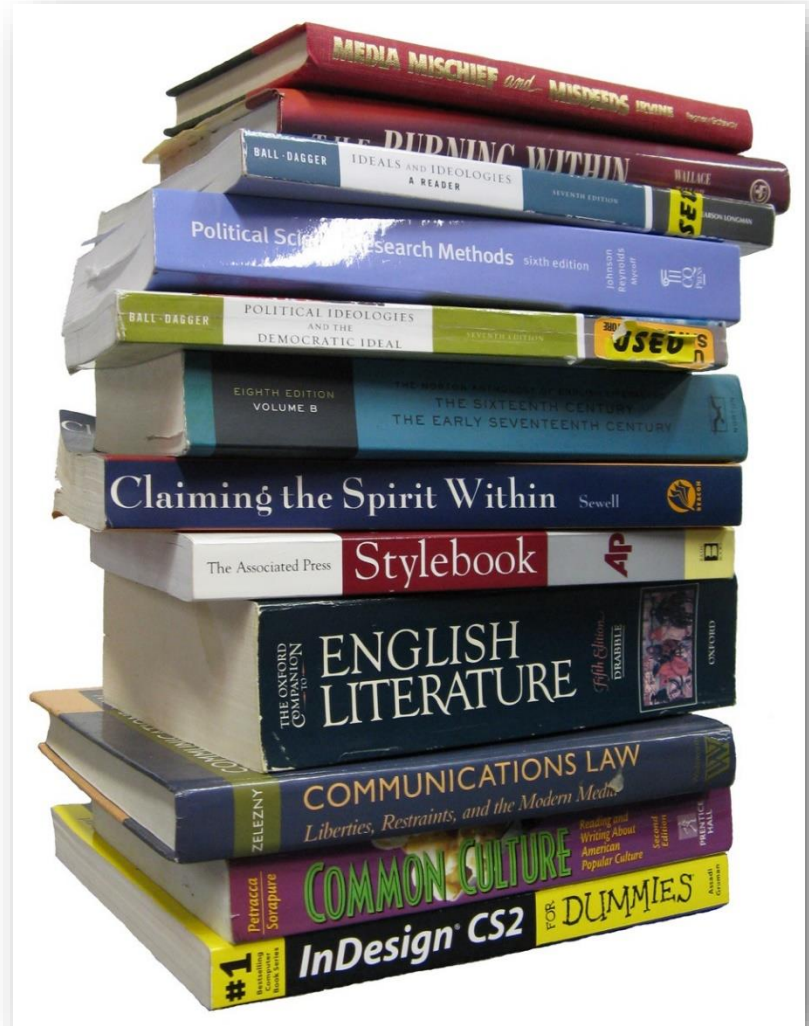
- During the Options Process, over the next term, you'll be choosing the subjects you study for the next two years, and it's no fun being stuck with one you don't really like.
- It's also worth looking ahead, as decisions you make now may determine your future choices.
- What do you want to do after year 11?
- Can this help you decide which subjects to choose?



**THINGS TO
CONSIDER**

Why choose?

- Sometimes you need a **GCSE in a subject in order to study it at college.**
- In the same way, **university courses** have set entry requirements and often **require certain subjects at A-level.**
- Check carefully as this is not always the case and you can start some subjects from scratch, both at A-level and university.



What do I have to study?

Subjects you must study are called compulsory subjects. All students must study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- RE
- Physical Education
- PSHE



What do I have to study?

- **English:** You study **English Language** and **English Literature**, leading to two GCSEs.
- **Mathematics:** one GCSE
- **Science:** All pupils must study Combined Science, this is a dual award course. You receive two GCSEs. Some of you may be offered the opportunity to take Separate Sciences, leading to GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- **RE:** one GCSE
- **Physical Education:** known as core PE, no qualification.
- **PSHE:** no qualification.

What can I choose and how do I choose it?

- **If you listen to nothing else today, listen to this bit.**
- **It is vitally important that you understand the options process.**



What can I choose and how do I choose it?

- You may choose 3 option subjects. You will study these subjects for 5 hours a fortnight, plus your 6 compulsory subjects, giving you 9 GCSEs in total.
- Students **must choose** at least one of either **Ancient History, History, Geography, Computer Science, Separate Sciences** or **a Modern Foreign Language**.
- The other subjects you may select from are:

GCSE Art & Design	GCSE Business Studies	Creative iMedia
GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Drama	Health & Social Care
Hospitality & Catering	GCSE Music	GCSE PE
Sport Science	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Sociology
GCSE Geology		

Careers - GCSE, BTEC or CTEC?

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

•**Assessment:** Mostly written exams at the end of Year 11 (some subjects include coursework).

•**Learning Style:** More **theory-based**, with a strong academic focus.

•**Best For:** Students who prefer exams, enjoy academic subjects, and may want to take A-Levels later.

BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council)

•**Assessment:** **Mostly coursework**, assignments, and practical tasks, with some externally assessed units.

•**Learning Style:** **Vocational and practical**, focused on real-world skills and applied learning.

•**Best For:** Students who prefer continuous assessment, hands-on tasks, and practical learning.

CTEC (Cambridge Technicals – OCR)

•**Assessment:** A mixture of **coursework and exams**, similar to BTEC but structured slightly differently.

•**Learning Style:** Also **vocational**, with applied learning linked to specific career sectors.

•**Best For:** Students who want practical learning with a balance of coursework and some exams.

GCSE, BTEC or CTEC? – A quick comparison

Qualification	Assessment Style	Learning Style	Pathways
GCSE	Mainly final exams	Academic/theory	Leads to A-Levels, sixth form, apprenticeships
BTEC	Mostly coursework	Practical/vocational	Leads to Level 3 BTECs, sixth form, apprenticeships
CTEC	Coursework + exams	Practical/vocational	Leads to CTECs, sixth form, apprenticeships

Tell me about the GCSE qualifications

How are GCSEs graded?

- In 2013 the Government announced an overhaul of the grading system for the GCSE examination.
- All of your GCSEs will be graded on a system of 9-1 with 9 being the highest grade.
- This diagram shows you how the new grading structure works:

Old grading structure	New grading structure
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
D	5
E	4
F	3
G	2
U	1
	U

How does this differ for BTECs/CTECs?

This table shows you how BTECs and CTECs are awarded a grade and what the GCSE equivalent is.

For example a Level 2 Distinction* is worth a GCSE grade 8.5.

Whereas a Level 2 Pass is worth a GCSE grade 4.

GCSE 9-1 Points		BTEC First Award		BTEC Tech Award	
Grade & Points	Grade terms	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
9		L2 D*	8.5	L2 D*	8.5
8					
7		L2 D	7	L2 D	7
6		L2 M	5.5	L2 M	5.5
5	Strong Pass (DfE)	L2 P	4	L2 P	4
4	Standard Pass (DfE)				
3		Level 1 Pass	1.75	L1 D	3
2				L1 M	2
1				L1 P	1.25
U		U	0	U	0

Good reasons for taking a subject

- You are good at it.
- You are interested in the subject.
- It gives you a balance in your choices.
- Dropping it might disadvantage you in the future.
- You need it for your future college course.
- You need it for your future career.



Bad reasons for taking a subject

- You couldn't think of anything else better to do.
- You like the teacher.
- Your friend is doing it.
- Your mum's best friend's brother's auntie's hairdresser's cousin did it and they really liked it.
- That 'cool' kid in your Tutor group is doing it and if he's doing it, it must be good.



So, who can help me make the right choice?

- Parents – who know you best of all.
- Subject teachers – who know your ability in their subject.
- Form Tutor - who sees you every day and is available to talk to about any issues.
- Key Stage leaders - who want the best for you as an individual and may follow up on your conversations with your tutor.
- Senior Leadership staff – who may follow up with you if there are any issues with your options.
- Careers adviser.



How can I help myself?

Arm yourself with information:

- What are my strengths?
- What are my areas for development?
- What subject skills do I need?
- Careful consideration of what subjects you choose on Taster Day



A word of warning

- In some practical subjects such as Art, Design & Technology and Catering class sizes will be limited due to health and safety requirements.
- We do our best to provide the choices that you have selected **but we cannot guarantee that this will be achieved in every case. A course cannot run if insufficient students have opted for it**, whilst other courses may be oversubscribed. As with other parts of the timetable, **the provision of any subject is dependent on the resources and staffing available.**
- It is essential, therefore, that you keep up with your work in all subjects on your present timetable and have a reserve choice in mind.

WARNING!

What are the options?

Compulsory Subjects

Subjects

English Language

English Literature

Maths

RE

Combined (or Separate Sciences)

**Subjects you must
choose at least one of:**

Subjects

Ancient History

History

Geography

Computer Science

Separate Sciences

A Modern Foreign Language

Non-Compulsory Subjects

Subjects

GCSE Art & Design

GCSE Business Studies

Creative iMedia

GCSE Design & Technology

GCSE Drama

GCSE Geology

Health & Social Care

Hospitality & Catering

GCSE Music

GCSE PE

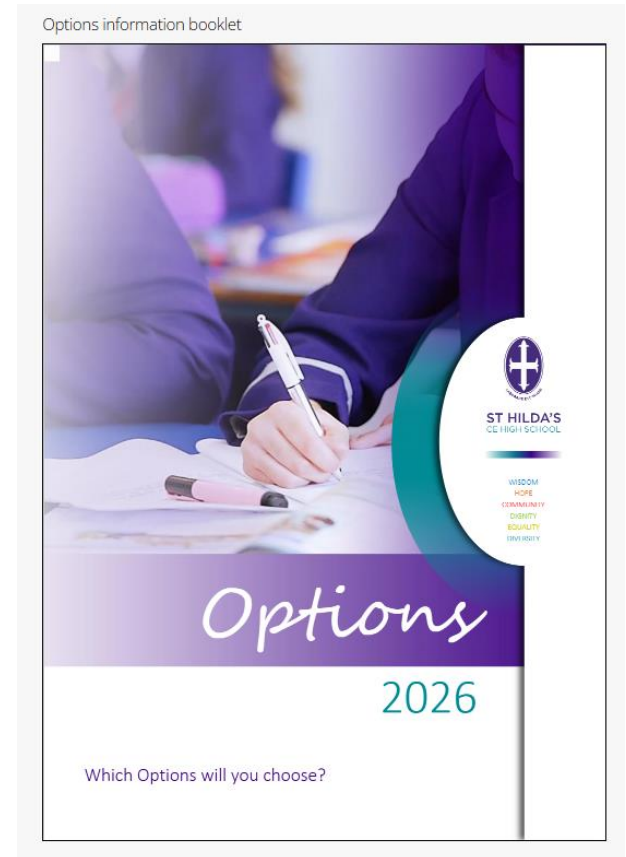
Sport Science

GCSE Psychology

GCSE Sociology

What now?

- Expression of interest – Microsoft Form, deadline Weds 9th February
 - Read the Options booklet
 - <https://www.st-hildas.co.uk/guided-options/>
- Taster Day selection – Microsoft Form, completed in Tutor time
- February half-term – Parents book on Options Evening and select the talks you are going to.
- March – Taster Day
- Thursday 5th March 2025, Options Evening. 4:30pm-7:15pm.
- March – Final submission
- When it comes to your final options choices you will select 5 options in order of preference.
- Remember you must choose at least one of the compulsory option subjects.



WHAT
NOW ?
🤔

Get thinking!
Talk to your teachers
and your parents.

Example 1

- A pupil that likes both Design & Technology and Hospitality and Catering but is not keen on any of the compulsory option choices.
- Unfortunately, they have to choose 1 in the compulsory choice block. So....

Subjects you must choose at least one of:

Subjects	Choice
Ancient History	
History	
Geography	X
Computer Science	
Separate Sciences	
A Modern Foreign Language	

Non- Compulsory Subjects

Subjects	Choice
GCSE Art & Design	
GCSE Business Studies	
Creative iMedia	
GCSE Design & Technology	X
GCSE Drama	
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality & Catering	X
GCSE Music	
GCSE PE	
Sport Science	
GCSE Psychology	
GCSE Sociology	

Example 2

- A pupil that likes Hospitality & Catering but has decided that Art is not for them.
- They like the idea of GCSE PE.
- They also like History.

Subjects you must choose at least one of:

Subjects	Choice
Ancient History	
History	X
Geography	
Computer Science	
Separate Sciences	
A Modern Foreign Language	

Non- Compulsory Subjects

Subjects	Choice
GCSE Art & Design	
GCSE Business Studies	
Creative iMedia	
GCSE Design & Technology	
GCSE Drama	
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality & Catering	X
GCSE Music	
GCSE PE	X
Sport Science	
GCSE Psychology	
GCSE Sociology	

Example 3

- A pupil wants to do all subjects from the compulsory list including 2 languages.
- This is fine, they decide on a very academic pathway.

Subjects you must choose at least one of:

Subjects	Choice
Ancient History	
History	X
Geography	
Computer Science	
Separate Sciences	
A Modern Foreign Language	X
	X

Non- Compulsory Subjects

Subjects	Choice
GCSE Art & Design	
GCSE Business Studies	
Creative iMedia	
GCSE Design & Technology	
GCSE Drama	
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality & Catering	
GCSE Music	
GCSE PE	
Sport Science	
GCSE Psychology	
GCSE Sociology	

Example 4

- A pupil taking Drama and Music also wants to take GCSE Business Studies.
- Unfortunately, this cannot happen. They have to choose one subject from the compulsory list.

Subjects you must choose at least one of:

Subjects	Choice
Ancient History	
History	
Geography	
Computer Science	X
Separate Sciences	
A Modern Foreign Language	

Non- Compulsory Subjects

Subjects	Choice
GCSE Art & Design	
GCSE Business Studies	
Creative iMedia	
GCSE Design & Technology	
GCSE Drama	X
Health & Social Care	
Hospitality & Catering	
GCSE Music	X
GCSE PE	
Sport Science	
GCSE Psychology	
GCSE Sociology	

What will you choose?

DISCUSS

LISTEN. THINK. DECIDE.