



PUDSEY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EST. 1905

Key Stage 4
Guided Choices 2022
General Guidance

Welcome to the guided choices process in Year 9. This is an exciting time for students, as they now have the opportunity to choose some of the courses they would like to take in Years 10 and 11.

This guidance will help students and their parents/carers understand the process and will give them some suggestions about how to choose the courses. There is also a lot of support at hand and students can discuss their choices with their subject teachers, form tutor, Director of Studies and parents/carers.

All students will be guided with their choices. We want the courses chosen by students to provide them with the best possible chance of success, as well as ensuring that their curriculum is broad, balanced and enjoyable.

Core Subjects

All students will take the following subjects in Year 10 and 11:

English Language and Literature GCSE,

Mathematics GCSE,

Combined Science (2 x GCSE).

Students will also take the non-examined courses of PE, RE and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education).

Important Dates in the Guided Choices Process

Guided Choices Assembly- Tuesday 15th March

Guided Choices pamphlet given to students – Wednesday 16th March

Subject Fair -Thursday 17th March 5-7pm

Guided Choice forms open - Friday 25th March

Deadline for completed forms – Wednesday 30th March

Meetings with some students to discuss choices – After Easter holidays

Letters to go to parents/carers with course selection -End of May

Guided Choices Pathways

In addition to the Core Subjects, **all** students must choose History or Geography.

Students are then on one of two pathways;

Pathway One - students must pick French, Spanish or Mandarin and two other courses.

Pathway Two - students must pick three other courses. Students on Pathway Two can pick French, Spanish or Mandarin if they wish.

Guided Choices Blocks

The courses must fit into the Guided Choices Blocks below, with one course from each of the 4 blocks. Students must also pick 2 reserve courses from any of the blocks just in case we are unable to offer the 4 preferred courses.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Art GCSE	Business Studies GCSE	Computer Studies GCSE	Art GCSE
Business Studies GCSE	Geography GCSE	*Enterprise BTEC	Design Technology GCSE
Drama GCSE	History GCSE	Food Technology GCSE	*Enterprise BTEC
Food Technology GCSE	*ICT BTEC	History GCSE	French GCSE
French GCSE	*Media Cambridge National	*Media Cambridge National	Geography GCSE
Geography GCSE	*Music BTEC	Photography GCSE	*Health & Social Care BTEC
History GCSE	Photography GCSE	RE GCSE	History GCSE
*ICT BTEC	PE GCSE	Spanish GCSE	Mandarin GCSE
*Sports Science BTEC	Spanish GCSE	*Sports Science BTEC	*Media Cambridge National

*These are vocational courses.

How to choose

Students should select courses that;

- they are interested in,
- they have the relevant skills in, or are keen to develop those skills,
- they can be successful in,
- may be relevant to any future career aspirations.

Types of courses

Students should also consider the type of course as well;

- many GCSEs (e.g. Hist/Geog) are 100% examined at the end of Year 11,
- practical GCSEs (e.g. Art, Drama DT) have a controlled assessment/coursework element (60%) as well as an examination (40%),
- vocational courses have larger coursework elements (approx. 75%) and much smaller examined elements (approx. 25%) than GCSEs,

Combinations of subjects

Students **cannot** choose the following subjects together;

- Sport Science (Cambridge National) and PE GCSE,
- Enterprise (BTEC) and Business GCSE,
- ICT (BTEC) and Computing GCSE,
- Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE and Design Technology GCSE.

What will happen if a course is oversubscribed or undersubscribed?

There is only one class for each of the courses in the blocks. The maximum size of a class depends on the type of course. For example, History GCSE classes can have a maximum of 32 students, whereas practical subjects like Design Technology GCSE are smaller with a maximum number of 25 students. If a course is oversubscribed we will use students' Key Stage 2 results, KS3 assessments and ATLs to help decide if they are suitable to take the course. A course may not run if the numbers are not viable.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The Government believes that schools should offer students a broad range of academic subjects at KS3 and KS4. The EBacc is a group of subjects at KS4 which gives this breadth of academic subjects, see below.

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
- History or Geography
- French, Spanish or Mandarin

It is the Government's ambition that more and more students should be studying the EBacc. **Pudsey Grammar School** strongly agrees with this as we believe it gives students the best knowledge and skills to prepare them for Post 16 and beyond. Students on **Pathway One** will automatically be taking the group of EBacc subjects. Students on **Pathway Two** can choose French, Spanish or Mandarin for one of their three choices if they wish and by doing so will then be taking the group of EBacc subjects. To achieve the EBacc students will also need good GCSE passes in these subjects.

How to find out more about the different courses

At the Subject Fair each of the subject areas will be represented and will have information about the courses they run. Students will be able to find out more about the different courses by talking to the teachers on that evening. There is also a great deal of information on the school website about each course including the content of the course, how it is assessed and examples of students' work.