

Isca Academy GCSE Options Process



How do we approach the GCSE Options Process at Isca Academy?

Our GCSE Options process begins in the Spring term of Year 8. Students make choices about which subjects they will continue towards a GCSE-level qualification. Our students begin to study their GCSE courses in Year 9 so that they have plenty of time to study the subject in depth. A three-year course allows students to engage with the complex ideas and knowledge the new GCSE specifications require.

All students study the following core subjects in Year 9:

English	Maths
Science (could be Triple Science)	RE
PE	D of E (Year 9 only)

Students must choose at least one subject from the group below. These subjects are known as the “EBacc” subjects.

French	Spanish	Geography	History	Computer Science
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These subjects are often needed to gain entry into academic courses at universities. A student achieves the EBacc if he or she achieves a Grade 4 or better in the following subjects

English Language and Literature	Maths	a language
Geography or History	the Sciences	

Students choose three subjects from the following list of option subjects:

Art	Computing	History
Photography	Spanish	Geography
Drama	Music	PE
Dance	Catering	Futsal
French	Resistant Materials	

Key: **Students may only choose one of these subjects**
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Our option subjects are grouped into blocks to enable timetabling and staffing to work across the school. Below is an example of the blocks model last year. **Students choose one subject from each block.** EBacc subjects are in ***bold italics***.

Option block A	Option block B	Option block C
<i>French</i> <i>Computing</i> <i>Geography</i> <i>History</i> Dance Resistant Materials Drama	<i>French</i> <i>Geography</i> <i>History</i> <i>Spanish</i> Art Drama Food and Nutrition Photography	<i>Geography</i> <i>History</i> <i>Spanish</i> Futsal PE Food and Nutrition Music

How much time do students spend studying each subject?

Y9	Hours per fortnight
English	8
Maths	8
Science	10
PE	5
RE	3
Option A	5
Option B	5
Option C	5
D of E	2
Total	50

What happens if a student wishes to change their Option course?

We want every student to make careful, informed choices for their Option subjects; this is why we devote considerable time in Year 8 to supporting students with advice and information before a decision is submitted. Where a student wishes to change a subject, we ask for written parental confirmation supporting this change, before examining whether a change is possible.

We consider this on a case-by-case basis, considering the reasons behind the wish to change subjects as well as restrictions that may exist because of timetable, staffing or group sizes. We have often been able to facilitate such changes but there have been instances where it has not been possible to change a student's GCSE course. Please be prepared for this.

Please note that no changes will be made after December of Year 9

The Options Process timeline:

