

HIGHCLARE SCHOOL



GCSE Options Presentation – 14th Jan 2025

For GCSE courses running 2025-27

Compulsory GCSE Subjects



- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science **or**
- Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics*

Non examined courses – PSHE and Recreational PE

* Students will be offered a place on the Triple Science pathway based on their performance and progress throughout the year. Combined Science Students can still reach grades of 9-9 and are free to continue to any Science A level they wish.

Optional GCSE subjects

Four option subjects from the list below:



- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Creative iMedia (Level 2 Certificate GCSE equivalent)
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education (L2 BTEC Sport)
- Spanish
- Religious Studies

We encourage all our students to consider taking the language they are currently studying through to GCSE, but it is NOT compulsory

Students in receipt of learning support may, in some cases, only choose 3 options



GCSE subjects with 'Tiered' Examinations

The following subjects run tiered exams

Mathematics, Science and Modern Languages

- *Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5)*

- *Higher Tier (Grades 4-9)*

The vast majority of our students will sit Higher Tier exams, with some exceptions

In Maths, set 3 will start on the Foundation route, but changes are possible. Tiering decisions in Science and Languages are often made later in the course, depending on student progress.

All other subjects have one pathway, with grades 1-9 available



Choosing your subjects

- What are my friends doing?
 - I like the teacher!
 - It sounds easy!
 - I don't know much about it, but it sounds fun!
- **What subjects do I enjoy?**
 - **What subjects am I interested in?**
 - Talk to teachers and family
 - Read about the GCSE content
 - What subjects do I get my best grades in?
 - Is there any particular subject I need for a possible career?





Can I choose any subjects?

- Not every combination will be possible
- Provisional first and second choices will help us plan four blocks of subjects from which final choices must be made
- It is our aim to secure everybody's first two choices, and as many other options as possible for as many students as possible after this.
- Whilst we intend to run every subject every year, if the level of interest in a given subject is very low (below 5) we would consider the viability of this



New GCSE examinations

- Linear courses with emphasis on examinations at the end of two years
- Reduction in controlled assessment and coursework (now known as non-examination assessment or NEA). The main exceptions are PE, DT, Art, Food & Nutrition and iMedia, where NEA still makes up a lot of the course
- Rigorous courses to prepare students for further study with increased content
- New grading system (9 to 1)

Key dates



GCSE information booklets issued
Options information/Parents' evening
Provisional options form (online)
Return provisional option form
Final option forms issued
Return final option form

Tuesday 14 Jan
Tuesday 14 Jan
Wednesday 15 Jan
Friday 7 Feb
Monday 3 March*
Friday 14 March*

* Approximate dates

ANY QUESTIONS?