

6th Form subject choices 2025: GUIDE FOR PARENTS

How to make choices

There are three key angles to take into account. The first two are usually the most important.

- **What they enjoy** - but remember, the Sixth Form curriculum is often very different to GCSE
- **What they are good at** - for this, they shouldn't just think about their current track record at GCSE, but also more broadly their abilities, aptitudes and skills.
- **What will take them in the direction they want to go in** - but they should only be swayed by this if they have a clear idea of their future. If they are not sure, the best guide is to be led by the first two factors.

Except in specialist areas which require particular A levels, experience has shown that **achieving high grades is far more important in gaining admission to UK universities than the actual subjects taken.**

Three or four?

- **Students should choose THREE subjects unless**
 - they might want to keep four throughout the 6th Form, or
 - they are not sure about their main three subjects and want to try out four.

BTECs/A levels

- BTECs differ from A levels in that
 - They are assessed by purely internal assessment (coursework) or by a mixture of coursework and exams
 - They are more vocational in subject content and are more practical in learning style: 'learning by doing'.
 - They involve a degree of employer engagement.
- BTECs have the same timetable as A levels, and gain equivalent UCAS points (eg. BTEC Distinction = A Level grade A)
- **If a student ends up with less than three 5s and two 6s, they will normally be required to take at least one BTEC.**

Option blocks

- Students can choose only one subject from each block. These are designed to permit as many of the likely combinations as possible. Unfortunately it is impossible to achieve this for every combination. If there is a clash between your son or daughter's preferences please talk to their tutor in the first instance.
- Students **should not end up with three subjects which include Business and BTEC Enterprise, or Maths and Further Maths** – **but they can choose Bus and BTEC Ent as part of an initial four subjects.**

YEAR 12 OPTION BLOCKS 2025-26			
A	B	C	D
BTEC Travel & Tourism	Art	Ancient History	BTEC Enterprise
Business	BTEC Sport	Art	Christian Theology
Chemistry	Business	Biology	Drama
Christian Theology	Design & Technology	BTEC Countryside Management	Economics
Economics	French	Computing	Geography
<i>Greek</i>	History	English Literature	History
Maths	Maths	Further Maths	<i>Latin</i>
Politics	<i>Music</i>		Physics
Spanish	Psychology		Politics

* Greek, Music & Latin
have some flexibility re.
blocks

GCSE recommended grades

- If your son or daughter does not make these requirements we would not normally let them take the subject, although there can be a discussion about this.

	<u>Minimum GCSE/IGCSE grades</u> These are recommended grades. There may be circumstances which make it possible to take the subject if a student does not meet these grades, but this can only be done after consultation.
BTEC Countryside Management	English Language 4
BTEC Enterprise and Entrepreneurship	Maths 4, English Language 4
BTEC Sport	Biology 5 or Double Science 55, GCSE PE recommended but not essential
BTEC Travel and Tourism	English Language 4
Ancient History	English Language 5; no requirement for GCSE Latin, Greek or History
Art	Art 6. If no Art GCSE then a discussion is required with the Head of Art
Biology	Maths 6, Biology 7 or Double Science 77 (essential)
Business	Maths 5, English 4
Chemistry	Maths 6, Chemistry 7 or Double Science 77 (essential)
Computer Science	Maths 6, Computer Science GCSE not necessary
Christian Theology	RE 6, but RE GCSE not essential; English 5
Design & Technology	D&T 6, but D&T GCSE not essential; Maths 5
Drama & Theatre	English Language 5, Drama GCSE not essential
Economics	Maths 5, English Language 5
English Literature	English Literature 6 & English Language 6
Geography	Geography 6, but Geography GCSE not essential; English Language 5
Greek	Greek 6
History	English Language 5, History 4, but History GCSE not essential
Latin	Latin 6
MFL (French, German, Spanish)	Level 6 in the relevant language, but starting a language ab initio is not impossible if some proven ability at languages
Mathematics	Maths 7 (essential)
Further Maths	Maths 8 (essential)
Music	Music 6 or ABRSM Grade 5 theory, AND ABRSM Grade 5 on at least one instrument
Physics	Maths 7, Physics 7 or Double Science 77 (essential)
Politics	English 5
Psychology	Maths 5 Biology 5 or Double Science 55