

Notes to accompany the GCSE Choices PowerPoint

Slide																																												
4	<p style="text-align: center;">GCSE Results</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>YEAR</th> <th>NO OF PUPILS</th> <th>AV. PASSES PER PUPIL</th> <th>% PASS</th> <th>% A*</th> <th>% A* / A</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>101</td> <td>8.9</td> <td>94.3</td> <td>34</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>80</td> <td>9.0</td> <td>94.2</td> <td>25</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>95</td> <td>8.9</td> <td>93</td> <td>29</td> <td>56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>96</td> <td>8.9</td> <td>92</td> <td>33</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>95</td> <td>8.8</td> <td>91</td> <td>34</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>96</td> <td>8.9</td> <td>92</td> <td>28</td> <td>52</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	YEAR	NO OF PUPILS	AV. PASSES PER PUPIL	% PASS	% A*	% A* / A	2013	101	8.9	94.3	34	60	2014	80	9.0	94.2	25	54	2015	95	8.9	93	29	56	2016	96	8.9	92	33	58	2017	95	8.8	91	34	54	2018	96	8.9	92	28	52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a broad range of ability • We punch above our weight, with results above the Independent Schools average • Part of this is getting the right choice of GCSEs for every pupil
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5	<p style="text-align: center;">DCS: Compulsory Subjects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English (leading to 2 GCSEs, Literature & Language) 2. Maths 3. A Modern Foreign Language (Either French or Spanish) (or English Language Training) 4. Science (“Double Award”, leading to 2 IGCSEs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are the compulsory exam subjects • All pupils do English (2 IGCSEs) & Maths • We expect all to continue with <i>either</i> French <i>or</i> Spanish (but it is possible to study both – <i>see slide 7</i>) <i>or</i> English Language Training • Science: All pupils take science in the core of the curriculum, covering all 3 sciences and leading to 2 IGCSEs (but it is possible to study Triple Science – <i>see slide 8</i>) 																																										

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)



4 set 1,2 or 3

- the compulsory MFL can be French *or* Spanish
- we encourage the most able to choose **both** languages, by taking French as their compulsory MFL & choosing Spanish as one of their four GCSE options

4 set 4 French

- will continue with French as their compulsory MFL

4 set 4 Spanish

- will continue with Spanish as their compulsory MFL

English Language Training (ELT)

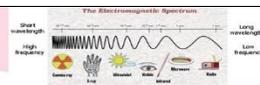
7

- At present, in year 9, sets 1-3 study both French and Spanish
- There are two set 4s, one set studying just French and the other, just Spanish
- These two sets will continue with their modern language next year in the compulsory part of the curriculum
- Those in sets 1 – 3 can choose whether to continue with either French or Spanish, as their compulsory modern language
- However, we encourage those who enjoy languages to continue with both. They do this by choosing French as their compulsory language and then choosing Spanish as one of their 4 GCSE choices

Sciences

Most pupils will study for the Edexcel IGCSE Double Award Science, leading to two IGCSE grades.

- Two thirds of the content of each separate science is studied. *This is sufficient to continue any of these sciences up to A level.*
- Some may want to take Triple Science. The **full** content of each science is taken, leading to three IGCSEs. Taking Triple Science is one of a pupil's four options.
- *N.B. Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary science: pupils are advised to take Triple Science*
- Fast track science



8

- ❖ Majority of pupils will study Double Award in the compulsory part of the curriculum
- ❖ Most schools offer this and a pupil can proceed to an A level individual science from the Double Award, if they make good progress
- ❖ However, some will want to study all three sciences to a greater depth. They choose Triple Science as one of their GCSE choices.
- ❖ Anyone considering Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science should take Triple Science
- ❖ We also have "Fast Track Science." This is for the top 10% in the year. It is an accelerated program which means all 3

Sciences

• Three routes

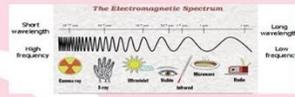
• **Double Award** Study two thirds of each science = 2 IGCSEs Leads to A level

• **Triple Award*** Study all three sciences in full = 3 IGCSEs Leads to A level

**Triple science is one of the four subject choices*

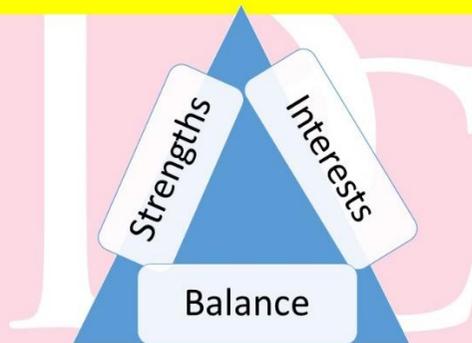
• **Fast Track**** Study all three sciences in full = 3 IGCSEs Leads to A level

***Fast Track is **not** one of the four subject choices; it is three full sciences taught in the same number of lessons as Double Award. Pupils are nominated for this by the Head of Science.*



9

Making GCSE choices



10

sciences are studied in full, within the compulsory part of the curriculum i.e. the pupil does not need to choose Triple Science as an option. It effectively gives one more choice

- ❖ We will advise pupils if this makes sense for them

○

- Here are 3 key elements in making choices
- Strong: pupils should play to their strengths
- Enjoy: two years is a long time to study a subject. It's important they choose subjects which they are interested in
- Balance: a few pupils will know exactly the academic route they want to follow. Most will not! For them it's a good idea to have a balanced set of subjects
- N.B., It is probably practically impossible to adhere to all three of these principles, so look to those which make most sense to your child

- Here is the complete set of 17 options.
- 4 are chosen, plus one reserve. *Every pupil musy put down a reserve choice. It can happen that two or three pupils cannot be given their top 4 choices. In this case the reserve choice is used and I will be in touch with you, should this be the case.*

GCSE options

Humanities	Classical Civilisation	Geography	History	Religious Studies		
Triple science	Triple science					
Social sciences	Business	Economics				
Other science	Computer Science					
2nd Modern Language	Spanish					
Classical languages	Latin	Gratin				
Creatives	Art	Drama	Music	Product Design Technology	Food Prep & Nutrition	Physical education

I am going to highlight a few of these:

- Triple science: for those who wish to study all 3 sciences in full
- Computer science is an increasingly important discipline
- Business and Economics GCSEs are new subjects. There is an upcoming assembly where the Head of Department will give more details. We wouldn't normally expect pupils to choose both Business and Economics
- Spanish: choose this to take *both* modern languages
- Latin & Gratin: these are choices open only to those who have been studying one or other of these languages this year.

Examples from current year 10 & year 11 pupils

	Choices				Science	MFL
1	Art	Drama	Economics	RS	Double Award	Spanish
2	Business	DT	History	RS	Double Award	Spanish
3	Drama	History	Latin	RS	Double Award	Spanish
4	Geography	History	RS	Triple Science		French
5	Computer science	DT	Drama	Food P&N	Double Award	Spanish
6	Art	Latin	RS	Spanish	Double Award	French
7	Drama	Economics	History	Triple Science		Spanish
8	Geography	Gratin	RS	Triple Science		French

- Here are a few examples from current year 10 & 11 pupils

- Pupil 6 has chosen Spanish as an option, so will be studying both languages
- Pupils 4, 7 & 8 have chosen Triple Science, as one of their four options
- Pupil 5 has chosen three creative subjects – unusual but fine if it is thought through
- Pupil 8 is studying Gratin, continuing from year 9

	Subject	HoD
1		
2		
3		
4		
Res		

Your signature	
Tutor signature	
Parent / HoM signature	

- The process here is deliberately old fashioned.
- Pupils are given an options card to complete over the course of this half term
- Teachers sign the card for their subject. The idea is to encourage conversation, albeit brief in some cases
- If a teacher does not think that a pupil should take their subject, and this happens rarely, then I will get in touch with you to discuss further

Time line: Lent term 2019

- Week 1: pupils receive their option forms
- **Tutorials** give time for discussion
- **Study Skills** lessons look at careers
- The **Parents Meeting** on **Friday 15th February** is a good opportunity for any final discussions with subject teachers, tutors and HsMs
- **Monday 25th February**: deadline for option forms to be handed in.

More information is on the Senior School Website, under Academic. At the foot of the page is the GCSE studies booklet, "GCSE 2019 – 2021", or click on the link below:

<https://www.deanclose.org.uk/senior-school-6th-form-13-18/academic/>