

GCSE OPTIONS FORUM 2017

WELCOME

Year 9 Option Process 2017

- A **two stage** process: Option Indications and Final Option Selection from Option Blocks
- Option Indications utilised to structure Option Blocks in order to allow **as many students as possible** to study their preferred option subjects
- Students may make **different** Final Option Choices from the Option Blocks than previously indicated
- One or more of the Option Subjects may not be available in the Option Blocks if insufficient demand exists for the subject

Year 9 Option Timetable 2017

Wed 11 th January 2017	Special Year Assembly in the Lecture Theatre	Option Booklet and Option Indication Letters given out
Wed 11 th January 2017 to Mon 23 rd January 2017	Student Consultations	Discussion of Student Option Choices with Senior Management Staff
Thurs 19 th January 2017 (evening)	GCSE Options Forum With Parents	Discuss Option and Core GCSE subjects with Teaching Staff
Tues 24 th January 2017		Return Deadline for Option Indication Forms
Wed 25 th January 2017		Report Issued to Parents
Mon 6 th February 2017	Year Assembly in the Lecture Theatre	Option Blocks and Final Option Choice Letters given out
Tues 7 th February 2017		Parents' Consultation Meeting
Mon 20 th February 2017		Return Deadline for Final Option Choice Forms

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM: QUALIFICATIONS EARNED

- **Core Studies:** GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Science (Double Award)
(or 3 separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
GCSE Short Course Religious Studies (Year 10)

 - **Optional Studies:** GCSE Language Option Choice
GCSE Humanity Option Choice
GCSE Free Option Choice 1
GCSE Free Option Choice 2
(to include 'Third Science if chosen)
- Total Qualifications:** **9 GCSEs, 1 Short Course GCSE**

Core: Mathematics Reformed Curriculum Model

- Reformed GCSE requires the coverage of broader and deeper mathematical content across six main domains
- Maintaining **two tiers of entry**, Higher and Foundation, with an increase in the challenge of questions at both tiers, including a greater focus on solving 'non-routine problems'
- Linear assessment structure (no coursework)
 - Increase in total assessment time to **4½** hours comprising:
 - *1 calculator paper lasting **1½** hours*
 - *2 calculator papers lasting **1½** hours **each***
 - Each paper will have an equal weighting and will cover all six domains
- Far fewer formulae given in examination papers – more to be memorised
- New grading structure based on **number scale from 9 to 1**
 - Grades 4 and 5 will be available through both tiers

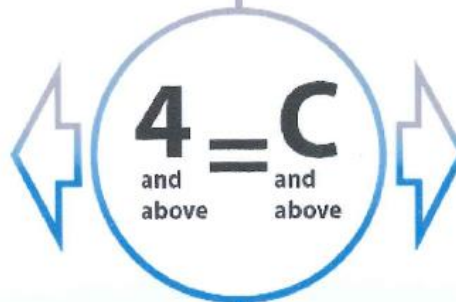
New GCSE Grading Structure

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 U



- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.

A* A B C D E F G U

CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE

Core: English Reformed Curriculum Model

Two separate GCSEs in English **Language** and English **Literature**:

- Reformed GCSEs have adopted a linear structure (no controlled assessment)
- A **single** tier of entry will cover all candidates
- New grading structure based on **number scale from 9 to 1**

English Language

- A Spoken Language component will be reported separately
- A skills-based specification will cover a range of reading and writing skills measured across four domains
- Total assessment time of **3¾** hours comprising:
 - a **1¾** hour paper on two domains, with a 40% weighting*
 - a **2** hour paper on other two domains, with a 60% weighting*

English Literature

- A skills-based specification that is applied consistently across four different genres
- Total assessment time of **4** hours comprising:
 - a **1¾** hour paper on two genres, with a 40% weighting*
 - a **2¼** hour paper on other two genres, with a 60% weighting*

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM: PRINCIPAL CHANGES

- **All** GCSEs based on reformed curriculum and assessed on a **linear examination** basis at the end of Year 11 using new grading structure based on number scale from 9 to 1
- **All** students take one fewer GCSE than previously studied
- **Required** to study History or Geography GCSE, but able to choose both with one as a free option subject
- Only **required to take one** Modern Foreign Language GCSE but can take two with one as a free option subject
- Each student can choose **2 Free Option Subjects**
- New courses in **Computing** and **Sociology** available, subject to demand
- **No coursework** for non-practical subjects

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM: OPTION SUBJECTS

Humanity Option Choices (1): GCSE Geography GCSE History

Language Option Choices (1): GCSE French GCSE Spanish*
GCSE German* GCSE Italian*
GCSE Russian*

Free Option Choices (2): GCSE Art & Design GCSE Textiles Technology*
GCSE Drama GCSE Graphics Technology*
GCSE History GCSE Computing
GCSE Music GCSE Geography
GCSE PE GCSE Sociology
GCSE Food & Nutrition GCSE French
GCSE Business
Third Science GCSE (if eligible)

Option Choice Constraints

- Only choose **German, Italian, Russian or Spanish** if previously studied in Year 9
- **Third Science, only choose if eligible** - counts as one of your Free Options
- Only **1 of the 2 Technology** courses (Graphics and Textiles) can be chosen
- Can add '**Religious Studies GCSE**' to reply slip if interested in taking full course as one of your Free Options
- Please choose a **Reserve Free Option**

**Return Indicative Choice Form by
Tuesday 24th January, 2017 at the latest**

Reply Slip



Name

Form

GCSE Option Choice Indications **(to comprise 1 Language Option, 1 Humanity Option and 2 Free Options) in order of preference:**

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

Reserve: Free Option.....

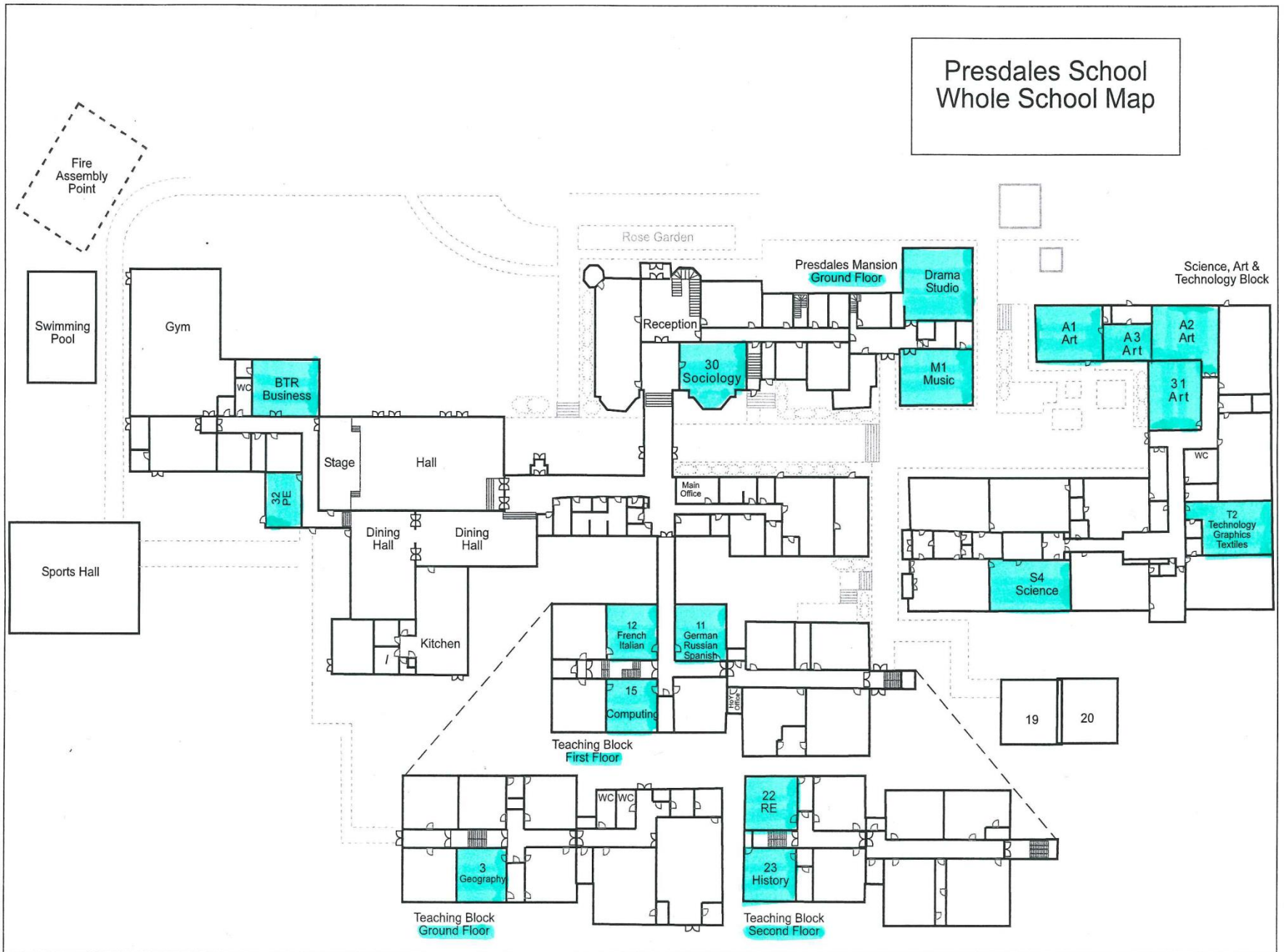
Signed by Parents/Guardians.....

TO BE RETURNED BY TUESDAY, 24th JANUARY 2017

Choosing Your Options

- Visit any subjects of interest tonight and **ask questions** on what the course involves and how it is assessed
- Choose only subjects that **interest you** and, if you take the subjects currently, that **you enjoy and are good at**
- **Do not choose** a subject because you like the teacher or because your friends are choosing it

Presdales School Whole School Map



GCSE OPTION FORUM 2017

ENJOY YOUR DEPARTMENTAL VISITS