King's School

THE OPTIONS PROCESS

THE JOURNEY

Step 5 →	**Career** ↑		
Step 4 →	**University** ↑	**College** ↑	**Training** ↑
Step 3	**KS5 They choose their degree/Higher/Further Education Courses**		
	A-level courses ↑	**Other Level 3 courses** ↑	**Apprenticeships & traineeships** ↑
Step 2	**They choose a from a wide range of courses or training routes**		
	KS4 GCSE/Level 2 courses ↑ **They work hard to get good GCSE grades**		
Step 1	**They must choose their GCSE options**		
	Key Stage 3 ↑ **Years 7 – 9**		

TIMELINE

8th Jan.

Options Information evening

Parents' Evening

28th Jan.

13th Feb.

Completion of Options choices deadline

SLT interviews

HOW WE HAVE DECIDED THE SUBJECTS

Government guidance

Experience from RET (our family of schools)

The school's ethos and character - RP

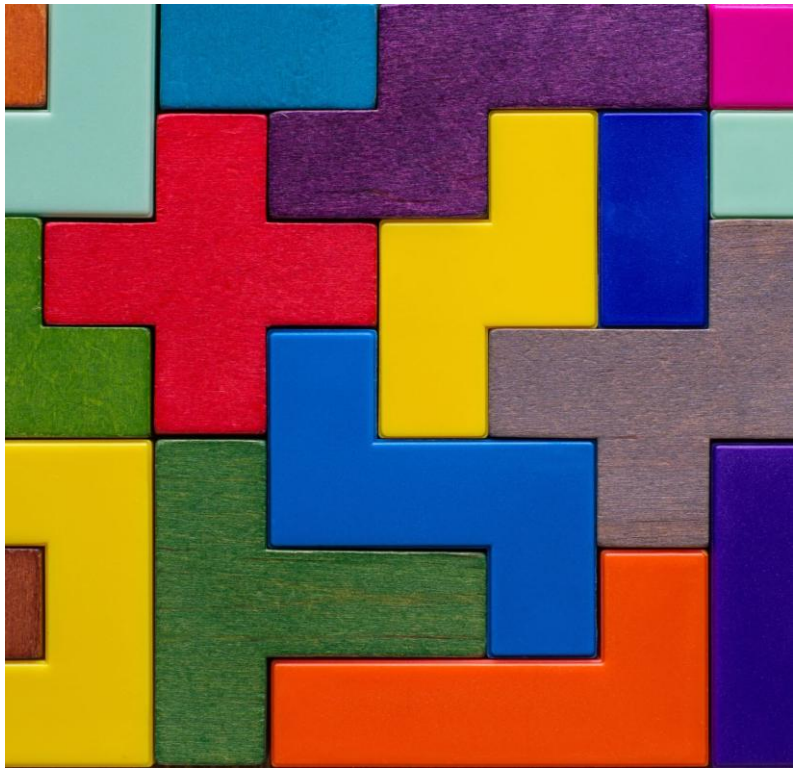
University entrance and ambitious careers

A broad curriculum

Opportunities to study the arts and practical subjects

WILL ALL STUDENTS GET THEIR FIRST CHOICE?

- We will try our utmost
- We have not created blocks ahead of options choices
- It may not be possible
- That is why we ask for a reserve option – please take this choice seriously.



HOW TO DECIDE

Good reasons to choose a course

- I am good at this subject
- I enjoy this subject
- I am interested in this subject
- This subject enables me to do well in the future

Bad reasons to choose a course

- My friend is choosing it
- I like the teacher
- I don't like the teacher
- It sounds easier

CORE CURRICULUM AND OPTIONS

GEOGRAPHY
HISTORY
MEDIA
MUSIC
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SPANISH

The core curriculum studied by all students will be:

- English and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (double or triple)
- Religion and Philosophy

- PSHE – Non-Examined
- Core PE – Non-examined
- Daily Worship – Non-Examined

= 6/7 GCSEs

Students will then choose 3 subjects from the list below.

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- **French**
- Food and Nutrition
- **Geography**
- **History**
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education
- **Spanish**

This means most students will complete 9/10 GCSEs

All students study	Set option subjects (choose 1)	Free Options to choose
Main core curriculum plus (6/7 subjects)	French, Geography, History or Spanish	Plus 2 more subjects

PATHWAYS AND BLOCKS

THE CHOICES WILL LOOK LIKE THIS

Preference 1	French, Geography, History or Spanish
Preference 2	
Preference 3	
Reserve choice	

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

WHAT IF I THINK MY CHILD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS THESE COURSES DUE TO A LEARNING NEED?

- **EHCP** – will have been discussed in annual reviews. SEND team will contact and discuss.
- **K coded (no EHCP)** – we believe our choices and our teaching make all option choices accessible.
- We have high expectations and ambitions for all our students, and we make our subjects inclusive for all.
- We believe that the choices we offer provide appropriate options for all students. If you have concerns or questions relating to this, contact the SENDCO inbox (sendco@kingsschoolhove.org.uk)

WHY LANGUAGES?

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

- Languages are rewarding subjects that broaden horizons and give travel and employment opportunities.
- It is normal for a student to feel they are not as good at languages compared to other subjects – they have usually been studying them for less time.
- Employers and Universities really value languages and studying a language can help open doors.

If your young person speaks, reads and writes in another language that is not studied in school they may be able to take a GCSE in this language.

WHY LANGUAGES?

"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. (The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

IMPLICATIONS FOR CHOICES

- We require the study of a humanities subject or a language.
- We recommend the study of both!
- This still leaves one other free choice
- It is possible to choose 2 languages, or History and Geography, or any combination of 3 of these subjects
- It is not necessary for students to take subjects at GCSE to go on to study them later or have careers in related fields.

THE CHOICES WILL LOOK LIKE THIS

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Preference 2	
Preference 3	
Reserve choice	

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- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

WHAT NEXT?

Discuss with your child

Read the options booklet carefully

Make appointments for year 9 parents' evening based upon your possible subject choices

Complete the options form together when they receive it and hand in to the office by half term

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Sign in at:
unifrog.org/sign-in

What is Unifrog?

Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where students can easily explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their next best step after school.

Unifrog will help you to explore your key interests and what career paths you can take to reach your goals!

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Exploring pathways

Use the tools in the *Exploring pathways* section to research the career pathways and subject fields that lie beyond school or college and understand how to access them.

- Careers library
- Subject library
- Know-how library
- MOOC
- Personality profile
- Interests profile

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Searching for opportunities

Use the tools in the *Searching for opportunities* section to compare universities, degree options, apprenticeships and college courses.

- UK universities
- US universities
- European universities
- Oxbridge
- Apprenticeships
- College / Sixth Form
- Canadian universities
- Asian universities
- Australasian unis
- Special opportunities
- Middle Eastern unis

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