



Year 8 Options

Year 8 into 9



Autumn
2026

to Summer
2027

“At Linton Village College our core purpose is to create successful, confident learners. Educational excellence is achieved through outstanding learning experiences in a supporting and caring culture.”
Helena Marsh
Principal

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Contents

1. Letter of Introduction
2. Important Dates
3. Subjects
 - Art & Design
 - Computer Science
 - Dance
 - Design & Technology
 - Drama
 - Food Preparation & Nutrition
 - Music
 - Science Pathways:
 - Combined Science
 - Triple: Biology, Chemistry and Physics
4. Notes for Option Choices

Important Dates in the Process

Monday 19th January

Year 8 into 9 options assembly.

w/c Monday 2nd February

Options booklet published to Satchel:One and the LVC website.

Thursday 5th March

Options Evening and Parent-Tutor Evening.

Monday 9th March

Options form published on Satchel:One for students to submit their choices.

Friday 20th March

Deadline for submitting option choices.

If you miss this deadline, you may miss out on your preferred subjects.

Dear Year 8 Student,

This year you will make the first important choices about your future. Firstly, we are asking you to choose the subjects you would like to study from the technology and arts subjects in Year 9. This is an opportunity for you to tailor your curriculum towards your areas of interest in these faculties. Secondly, you need to start thinking about whether you would like to study the Combined Science GCSE (worth two GCSEs) or three separate science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Years 10 and 11.

Curriculum Offer

Everyone will be following the same standard curriculum in Year 9:

Subject	Periods per Fortnight
English	7
Maths	7
Science	6
French/Spanish	5
Geography	3
History	3
Core RS	2
Core PE	4
PSHE	1
4 Option Subjects	$4 \times 3 = 12$

We strongly feel that all students should follow a broad and balanced curriculum and as a result you must choose **at least one subject from each block** in your four choices. We are asking you to **choose four subjects** from the seven available below. You will have three hours per fortnight for each of these subjects.

Arts Subjects	Technology Subjects
Art & Design Dance Drama Music	Computer Science Design & Technology Food Preparation & Nutrition

Please remember that when you enter Key Stage 4 most of you will be studying a language and History, Geography, or Computing. The subjects you select at this stage will be amongst those you can consider for your other options at Key Stage 4; those that are not studied in Year 9 may not be considered. (In other words, if you wish to study any of these seven subjects at GCSE, you must also choose them in year 9.)

The Options

It is very important that you take the process very seriously and that you gather as much information as you can about the subjects you might be interested in taking. Think carefully about what is said in the options assemblies. Read carefully all the information your teachers have given you in this booklet. You should make sure that you discuss your options with your parents, your teachers and your form tutor – listen to good advice.

If you already have a career you are considering, look at what the subject requirements are to ensure you are selecting subjects that could be important in your future.

This is the first of two stages in your options process. The second stage happens in Year 9 when you will select your final Key Stage 4 options from your current courses, with some additional choices.

Your subject teachers will share information with you about their subjects during lesson time.

Science Pathway

We also need to know if you would like to be considered for triple science. Triple science (three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics) is taught over 12 periods per fortnight in Years 10 and 11. The alternative pathway is combined science (worth two GCSEs covering all three science disciplines) and this is taught over 10 periods per fortnight in Years 10 and 11. The science department will advise and guide you throughout the remainder of Year 8 and the start of Year 9, and make the final decision on which pathway you will follow by the end of Year 9. The two extra lessons needed for triple science will come from the core PE time in Year 10 and 11. All students have two lessons of core PE in years 10 and 11. Combined Science students have two additional hours.

Submitting Your Options Choices

Your option choices will be submitted via a Microsoft Form that will be published on Satchel:One on Monday 9th March. The deadline for this to be submitted is **Friday 20th March**.

Availability of Courses

We will do our best to ensure that you are able to study your top four choices, but this may not always be possible because of timetabling constraints. You may have to study subjects that were not in your top four. If this happens, we will talk to you to make sure that you are happy with the final combination of subjects. I intend to be able to inform you of the outcome of the options process in June.



Cameron Fehr
Assistant Principal
February 2026

Art & Design

What will I study?

Art in year 9 is about developing your creative skills in an enjoyable yet challenging way. The course consists of a series of exciting and varied projects and workshops where you will begin to develop the skills, methods and approaches expected at GCSE level. You will start to build knowledge about and develop opinions on a range of artists and art movements. You will be able to experiment with different materials, styles and approaches including paint, print and 3D materials.

You will learn how to look and draw in a variety of challenging ways, so an open mind and determination will be needed. You will

be required to keep a sketchbook/journal to encourage you to develop your individual interests as well as completing classwork and home learning.



Where can I go with this subject?

There are dozens of art-related courses beyond Key Stage 4, from 'A' levels in specific art disciplines to practical/vocational courses and diplomas. Many students find that art supports a wide range of other subject areas as it builds independence, creativity and develops problem-solving skills. Students could go on to pursue degrees, higher diplomas or move straight into the workplace. Future career paths could include photography, film and theatre design, fashion, hair and beauty, art therapy, architecture, industrial design, animation, teaching, engineering, interior design, gallery and museum management and art practitioner. For a more exhaustive list see Mrs Myles-Baker or your Art teacher.

Who will this course suit?



This course will suit students who are hard-working, independent, creative, curious, practical, patient, determined and adaptable. A high level of drawing ability is an advantage but not essential: a willingness to get involved and really work at developing your skills is of the utmost importance.

Good organisation is something to be developed if it is lacking now, as it is central to the whole course! Students interested in any creative career would find art very rewarding although the problem-solving skills, independence and resilience developed would be an asset in any course of study or career.

Computer Science

What will I study?

- Programming in a modern programming language (Python)
- The different hardware components of a PC
- How and why data is stored in binary
- Computer networks
- Cyber security
- The impact of technology
- Database development



Where can I go with this subject?

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees.

Computer Science develops valuable programming and computational thinking skills, which are increasingly relevant to a wide variety of jobs. All companies need people in Computing, in designing websites, in communication and in technical support roles. The skills and knowledge you learn here will set you up to take the subject at GCSE and at post-16.

Possible career paths from this course:

- Software engineer
- Games developer
- Robotics
- Web developer
- Cyber security
- Electronics
- + Many more

Who will this course suit?

Computing relies on mathematical and logical skills. Being confident and enjoying mathematics is certainly helpful, but don't let this deter you. If you have a passion for computing, consider choosing Computer Science.

Computer Science is ideal for those interested in technology and understanding how computers work. It offers excellent preparation for both higher education and employment in the IT industry, which is currently facing a significant skills shortage. This course helps students develop problem-solving abilities and guides them through the entire system life cycle, from planning to testing and evaluating. Computing is here to stay; if you seek an exciting future in technology, Computer Science is the right choice for you.

Dance

What will I study?

Dance is an exhilarating and exciting way to convey ideas through different techniques and styles. Students will study a range of practical units which will explore a range of dance genres such as Street, Contemporary and Musical Theatre.



- **Dance technique and performance** – you will look at exploring and developing your technical ability in dance, through a range of techniques and performance opportunities.
- **Choreography** – you will learn the art of creating dances, from initial stimulus and dance intention through to how you use music, develop ideas, and use choreographic devices.
- **Appreciation** – you will begin to learn about how professional choreographers create dances, by studying professional dance works. The written analysis skills developed through this element of the course will compliment analysis skills in other subjects such as English Literature.

Where can I go with this subject?

Once you have completed Year 9, GCSE Dance enables you to learn different dance techniques in greater depth and to develop your technical and performance skills, more sophisticated choreography and appreciate professional dance works in the Dance Anthology. You will learn a range of dance styles, choreographic approaches and learn about what professional dance choreographers do to realise their artistic vision.

After GCSE Dance, many of the local sixth form colleges offer A Level Dance and Performing Arts. There are also BTEC courses available in Dance and Performing Arts. Following post-16 courses, students may wish to audition for Conservatoires and Universities which offer degrees in Dance, Dance Science and combined subjects. Students who have studied Dance at A level often proceed to degrees in other subjects such as Law, Psychology and Marketing. The key skills developed in Dance such as teamwork, creativity and independent learning are well received on University applications.

Who will this course suit?

Dance is an art form that anyone can access and the subject requires you to be physically active and creative. You should be open-minded and willing to learn new dance approaches. The course is highly collaborative and students need to be strong team-players in addition to being open to exploring different dance styles. If you feel that developing new performance skills, learning about different choreographers and developing leadership opportunities are skills you wish to develop, then Year 9 Dance is for you.

Design & Technology

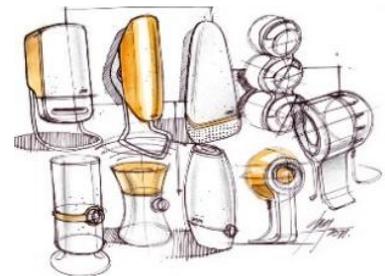
What will I study?

You will learn how to work through creative, iterative processes to produce suitable design solutions. This means identifying what research needs to be carried out, developing solutions and learning new practical skills and about modern manufacturing practices.

Working through these processes also means you will develop key employability skills needed for any industry in today's world.

Where can I go with this subject?

The creative, engineering and technological institutions in the UK are major, world leading employers, and it is they who are going to create the solutions to the majority of the problems facing our society. However, to do that, they need to be able to recruit creative, talented, skilled and knowledgeable employees which is what our Design & Technology course encourages in our students.



The skills you learn here will allow you to progress to Design & Technology GCSE in Year 10, which in turn provides the perfect stepping stone onto post-16 design courses such as the Product Design and Architecture A-Levels available at local colleges, and other similar courses such as engineering, electronics, fashion and apprenticeships in any of these areas.

Possible career paths from this course could include:

- **Design careers:** Architect, interior design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Eco Design...
- **Traditional Engineering careers:** Construction/Civil Engineering, Design Engineering, Industrial Design, Research and Development (R&D) Engineering, Electrical Engineers, Automotive Engineering, Manufacturing...
- **Aerospace and Defence careers:** Aerodynamicists, Aerospace Engineering...
- **Agricultural careers:** Product developers, Landscape Designers, Environmental Conservation...
- **Automotive careers:** e.g. Automotive Engineers...
- **Electronics:** Project Engineers...
- **Healthcare:** Product developers - to design and develop medical equipment...

Who will this course suit?

You will enjoy this course if you like to follow a project from the initial conception through the production to completion, and have the organisational skills that this requires. You will need to be equally prepared to explore the theory side of this process as well as the practical side.



Drama

What will I study?

The aim of Year 9 Drama is to allow students to experience all the elements of GCSE drama. We start the year looking at **performance skills**, with students aiming to develop their ability to create fully realised, detailed characters. Students then study a **Theatre Practitioner** and are encouraged to realise how theatre can challenge, educate and provoke an audience, rather than just entertain.



Students are also given the opportunity to **study a play** in more detail. Within this unit, students will look at **style** and **genre** and will experience what it means to work as with **script**. Students will **watch a play** and evaluate the effectiveness of the visual elements of the production, like set design and lighting. Finally, students will learn about **building tension** through devising their own theatre from a given stimulus in groups.

Where can I go with this subject?

Beyond GCSE drama there are further courses available, including Theatre Studies at AS and A2 Level and BTEC National Performing Arts (Acting). There are numerous different opportunities for careers varying from acting to stage management to technical skills.

GCSE Drama is a course that builds on many life skills essential for most careers, such as communication, collaboration, empathy and creativity. It is also brilliant at developing confidence and helps students with public speaking.

Who will this course suit?

If you enjoy the following, then this course is right for you:

- Expressing yourself in an active and exciting way
- Working in a group
- Contributing your ideas and taking on board those of others
- Exploring ideas by putting yourself in other people's shoes
- Playing many parts in different imaginary situations
- Creating your own drama work
- Looking at plays written by other people

Food Preparation & Nutrition

What will I study?

The aim of the Food Preparation & Nutrition course is to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and to apply the principles of food science, nutrition, and food provenance to their practice.

Food and Nutrition:

Students will build on their prior KS3 skills and gain a greater understanding of food science. They will learn about the functional and chemical properties of ingredients and how these are used in food preparation to produce high quality outcomes. Students will develop their nutritional understanding of food through a greater knowledge of vitamins, minerals, their sources, and functions. Learners will complete an extended project where they will have the opportunity to plan, prepare and cook in response to a given context.

Food Preparation:

Students will understand why food is cooked and will be able to select appropriate dishes for particular dietary needs. They will be taught a broad range of skills to produce high quality dishes that demonstrate a high level of demand and skill.

This will include Sauce making, setting hot and cold mixtures, use of raising agents, making doughs and pastry, de-boning and dish presentation.

Where can I go with this subject?

The GCSE course offered in KS4 provides learners with a broad and rich curriculum that enables them to make well informed choices about nutrition and diet. This course is science focused, it compliments both Science and Physical Education very well. Beyond year 11 there are numerous post-16 courses and apprenticeships for you to choose from. There are a vast range of careers that this could lead to including: Dietetics, Nutrition, Product Development, Chef/Baker, Food Journalist/Critic/Blogger, Environmental Health Officer, Health & Safety Inspector, Food Service Management, Delicatessen/Restaurateur, Food Wholesaler, Production & Manufacturing, Quality Assurance, Purchaser.

Who will this course suit?

If you have an interest in the food industry or enjoy creating meals and cooking dishes this course is for you. With the course having a significant scientific element, it will also suit those looking to develop and explore applied science. The course has very strong cross curricular links with Science, Physical Education and Sport. The course is taught through both practical and theoretical learning.



Music

What will I study?

Music in Year 9 is packed with activities that will continue to develop your understanding and enjoyment of music.

The course has a very strong practical element and in every lesson you will be performing or creating music. You will be exposed to a wide range of different styles and genres, with assignments ranging from composing your own section of a Baroque concerto to creating a film score for a James Bond trailer.

During the course of the year, you will perform a range of music and develop your musical literacy and ensemble performing skills. You will also have the opportunity to develop your vocal skills through singing. You will compose individually or in small groups, using computers if you wish. Finally, you will listen to music of various genres and be taught how to listen carefully and analytically and respond with musical terminology.



Where can I go with this subject?

The UK is the world's biggest consumer of music per capita and the British music industry offers a vast range of opportunities.

In reality though, most people who study music even at university level go on to pursue a wide range of different careers. Employers are often pleased to see music on an application form because musicians can work in teams, they can self-manage, communicate effectively, solve problems and have good business and customer awareness.

Who will this course suit?

This course will suit anybody who enjoys music and is ready to be challenged to further develop their skills as a performer, composer or listener.



Science – AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

What will I study?

Your AQA science courses emphasise scientific literacy and the knowledge and understanding which you will need to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues. The courses cover contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to students which we will approach through a range of teaching and learning activities.

Biology subject content includes:

B1 Cell Biology	B5 Homeostasis and response
B2 Organisation	B6 Inheritance, variation and evolution
B3 Infection and Response	B7 Ecology
B4 Bioenergetics	

Chemistry subject content includes:

C8 Atomic structure and the periodic table	C13 The rate and extent of chemical change
C9 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	C14 Organic chemistry
C10 Quantitative chemistry	C15 Chemical analysis
C11 Chemical changes	C16 Chemistry of the atmosphere
C12 Energy changes	C17 Using resources

Physics subject content includes:

P1-3 Energy	P8-10 Forces
P4 and 5 Electricity	P12 and 13 Waves
P6 Particle Model of matter	P15 Magnetism and electromagnetism
P7 Nuclear radiation	

How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

You will develop the skills and knowledge gained in Key Stage 3 by:

- Gaining scientific knowledge, and the skills you need to apply it in a variety of domestic, industrial and environmental settings;
- Understanding scientific ideas and how they are formed. Also learning how scientific ideas can be limited;
- Considering and evaluating your own results and conclusions, and those you get from other sources, using ICT when you need to;
- Evaluating the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments, including those related to the environment, personal health and quality of life, and considering ethical issues where these arise;
- Selecting, organising and presenting information clearly and logically, using appropriate scientific words and methods;

How will I be assessed?

You will sit six examinations:

Paper 1 in **Biology** (16.7%) (Topics B1-B4) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

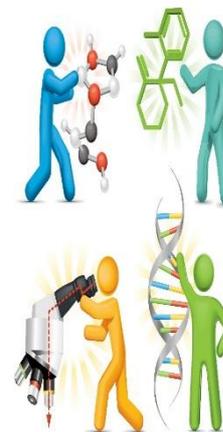
Paper 2 in **Biology** (16.7%) (Topics B5-B7) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 1 in **Chemistry** (16.7%) (Topics C8-C12) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Chemistry** (16.7%) (Topics C13-C17) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 1 in **Physics** (16.7%) (Topics P18-P21) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Physics** (16.7%) (Topics P22-P24) Written exam 1hour 15 minutes



Where can I go with this qualification?

If you take **Combined Science higher papers** you can take Science A levels at any of the local schools and colleges.

If you take **Combined Science foundation papers** and achieve the grades you need, you can take a Vocational Sciences course.

Who will this course suit?

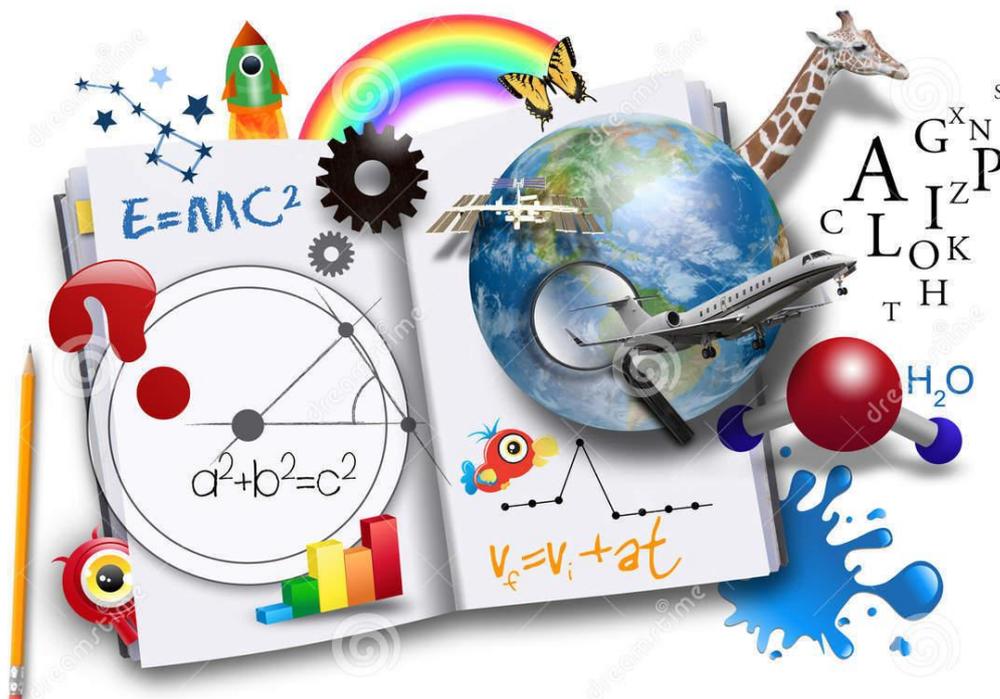
We have carefully designed our Double Science course so that most of you could benefit from and enjoy completing it. This is a core subject and will be studied by those students who have not been selected for Triple Science.

Exam Board & Specification

Course Code: AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

QAN: 601/8758/X

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>



Science – Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

What will I study?

You will study three separate GCSEs in **Biology, Chemistry** and **Physics**.

Your AQA science courses emphasise scientific literacy and the knowledge and understanding which you will need to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues. The courses cover contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to students which we will approach through a range of teaching and learning activities.

Biology subject content includes:

B1 Cell Biology	B5 Homeostasis and response
B2 Organisation	B6 Inheritance, variation and evolution
B3 Infection and Response	B7 Ecology
B4 Bioenergetics	B8 Key ideas

Chemistry subject content includes:

C1 Atomic structure and the periodic table	C6 The rate and extent of chemical change
C2 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	C7 Organic chemistry
C3 Quantitative chemistry	C8 Chemical analysis
C4 Chemical changes	C9 Chemistry of the atmosphere
C5 Energy changes	C10 Using resources

Physics subject content includes:

P1 –3 Energy	P8-11 Forces
P4 and 5 Electricity	P12-14 Waves
P6 Particle Model of matter	P15 Magnetism and electromagnetism
P7 Nuclear radiation	P16 Space Physics

How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

You will develop the skills and knowledge gained in Key Stage 3 by:

- Acquiring a systematic body of scientific knowledge, and the skills needed to apply this in new and changing situations in a range of domestic, industrial and environmental contexts;
- Acquiring an understanding of scientific ideas, of how they develop, of the factors which may affect their power, and of their limitations;
- Considering and evaluating critically your own data and conclusions, and those obtained from other sources, using ICT where appropriate;
- Evaluating, in terms of your scientific knowledge and understanding and your understanding of the processes of scientific enquiry and the nature of scientific knowledge, the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments, including those related to the environment, personal health and quality of life, and considering ethical issues where these arise;
- Selecting, organising and presenting information clearly and logically, using appropriate scientific terms and conventions, and ICT where appropriate;

How will I be assessed?

Higher tier exams in each of the three GCSEs

Biology - Your exams will be:

Paper 1 in Biology (50%) (Topics B1-B4) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Paper 2 in Biology (50%) (Topics B5-B8) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Chemistry - Your exams will be:

Paper 1 in Chemistry (50%) (Topics C1-C5) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Paper 2 in Chemistry (50%) (Topics C6-C10) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Physics - Your exams will be:

Paper 1 in Physics (50%) (Topics P1-P4) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes

Paper 2 in Physics (50%) (Topics P5-P8) Written exam 1hour 45 minutes



Where can I go with this qualification?

As long as you achieve the grades needed on the higher tier papers, you can take Science A levels at any of the local schools and colleges.

Who will this course suit?

You might want to choose Triple if you are particularly interested in science or if you think you might want to take any science subjects at AS or A level. There are a limited number of places for this course. Selection is based on grades achieved across KS3 module tests, and the end of KS3 tests. Approach to your learning in lessons across KS3 is also considered when making the final selection.

Exam Board & Specification

Course Code: AQA GCSE Biology (8461)

QAN: 601/8752/9

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

Course Code: AQA GCSE Chemistry (8462)

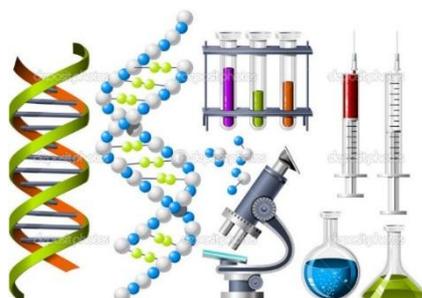
QAN: 601/8757/8

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

Course Code: AQA GCSE Physics (8463)

QAN: 601/8751/7

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>



Notes for Option Choices

From Monday 9th March you will have access to a Microsoft Form that will allow you to submit your option choices. This page is designed to help you prepare for completing the Microsoft Form.

Deadline: Friday 20th March (using Microsoft Form)

Remember to:

- Place the subjects in your overall preference order, from 1st-4th.
- Select from both groups.
- Rank your reserve subjects; number them 5, 6 and 7.

		Preference Order
Technology	Computer Science	
	Design & Technology	
	Food Preparation & Nutrition	
Arts	Art	
	Dance	
	Drama	
	Music	

You will be asked if you wish to be considered for Triple Science, although this is not a final decision at this stage.

You will also be asked to make us aware of any post-16 or future career plans you may have at this stage, so please use the box below to make a note of these and anything you feel you need to research before making your decision.

Post-16 Plans? Please indicate post-16 routes or careers you are considering at this stage.

Note: Every effort will be made to give you your four choices, but should it not be possible for any reason, we will discuss the alternatives available to you.