

KS4 Options Process

Welcome to
Year 8

Parents and Students.



Which subjects do students HAVE to study?



- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE and Statistics
- Physics, Biology and Chemistry (either taking Triple, or Core and Additional, at the end of the course)

and non –examined subjects:

- RS
- PE (this is not the same as GCSE PE, which is an option.)
- Soc. Ed (includes careers, work related learning, sex education, financial capability, citizenship etc..)

They then choose 4 option subjects from the list: Media, Psychology, PE, IT, Computer Science, Creative IT, Business Studies, 3D Design, Food, Art, Textiles, Graphics, Music, Performing Arts, French, German, Spanish, History, Geography.....



Very few people know, at the age of 12 or 13, what they want to do in the future!

Some people do not find the 'right' career until much later in life.

Some jobs haven't even been invented yet.....

You may have undiscovered skills and interests.

The current generation of school leavers will most likely change career several times.

So the answer is:



- Choose what you *enjoy*.
- Choose what you *are good at*.
- Aim to keep your choices as *broad* as possible. (Don't close doors in the future by having taken a narrow range of subjects).
- Aim high (be ambitious for your future) - but be realistic.
- Take lots of advice.

Keep your choices as *broad* as possible



Ideally everyone should:

1. Choose a Humanities subject (History, and/or Geography)
2. Choose an arts/creative subject (Music, Performing Arts, Design, Art, Graphics, Food, Textiles)
3. If you are capable of achieving in languages then do consider choosing French, German or Spanish.

This will provide a **broad and balanced** curriculum.

What is the EBacc?



The **English Baccalaureate** was introduced by the Government in 2011 as a *standard* that some students can aim for in their KS4 studies.

To achieve the English Baccalaureate, students must complete and obtain a grade 5 (Grade C) or higher in the following subjects:

- Maths
- English Language
- Two Sciences (note that at John Mason School, all students follow both Core and Additional Science)
- a Language (e.g. Spanish, French or German) and
- either Geography or History

Russell Group Universities



The Russell Group of Universities (a collaboration of 20 leading UK universities) are not only interested in the results that pupils achieve at GCSE and A Level, they are increasingly expecting students to have breadth of study as well as rigour in what they study. This generally means they consider the traditional academic subjects such as those included in the EBacc as more appropriate for entry to their universities.

Students of mid-high ability should aim to stretch themselves by considering choosing options that have academic rigour, such as History and a Modern Foreign Language.



Tonight:

- ✓ Visit all Options Subjects that you are considering
- ✓ Ask the members of staff about the course, how you'll be assessed and if your skills are well suited to the course
- ✓ Annotate your Options Booklet

Adviza (Independent advice and guidance)



Terry Bianchini, our careers advisor, is available in M4 this evening.

Students can also make an appointment to see Terry after this evening, via their tutor/HOY

Information Advice & Guidance (IAG)

Students are able to gain IAG from online sources – students access these careers education sessions during Social Education (Soc. Ed) lessons and tutor times, but can also access the sites from home.



We have taster lessons and assemblies this term to inform students about ‘new’ subjects. Their ‘IAG booklet’ is to be filled in and referred to as a source of information.



John Mason School
Excellence Through Creativity

How NOT to choose!

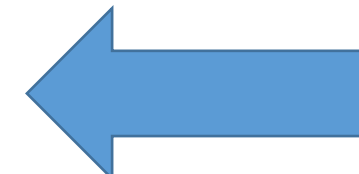
DO NOT choose a subject:

- Because your friends are choosing it
- Because you like the teacher

The Choices Form



Additional Learning: Option Boxes			
A	B	C	D
History	Art	Music	Art
Geography	French	Computer Science	Textiles
Art	German	IT	Food
Performing Arts	Spanish	Business	Graphics
Creative IT	Business	PE	3D Design
Media	Geography	Psychology	Geography
	Health and Social Care	Media	History

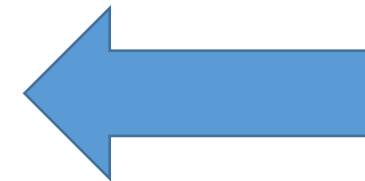


You will choose **one** subject from each column

Column	Main Choices
A	
B	
C	
D	

Column	Reserve Choices
1 st choice	
2 nd Choice	

Please feel free to add notes here regarding any issues or clashes:



Reserve choices are important: we won't be able to accommodate everyone's first choices, but we will try.

The Choices Form



Additional Learning: Option Boxes			
A	B	C	D
History	Art	Music	Art
Geography	French	Computer Science	Textiles
Art	German	IT	Food
Performing Arts	Spanish	Business	Graphics
Creative IT	Business	PE	3D Design
Media	Geography	Psychology	Geography
	Health and Social Care	Media	History

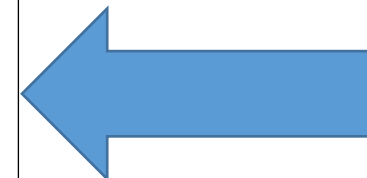
If you have an absolute 'must have/highly desired' subject, then please do let me know.

Column	Main Choices
A	
B	
C	
D	

Column	Reserve Choices
1 st choice	
2 nd Choice	

Please feel free to add notes here regarding any issues or clashes:

If you have a clash and can't decide – let me now – there is a box for comments



If four Options is not appropriate...



If students are struggling with four options subjects, we can reduce the timetable and students may:

- Replace a GCSE option with a college course e.g. in hair and beauty, construction, equine studies, motor vehicle studies etc.. (**Only available in Year 10 and 11**)
- Do only three options instead of four, and have some study/catch up/over-learning time. Available from Year 9.

Form tutors, Mrs. Munro and/or Mrs. Fox-Orband (SENCO) may recommend one of these routes to you. Feel free to enquire about this possibility on the options form if you are interested.

Time line:



‘Taster’ lessons will be offered from this week.

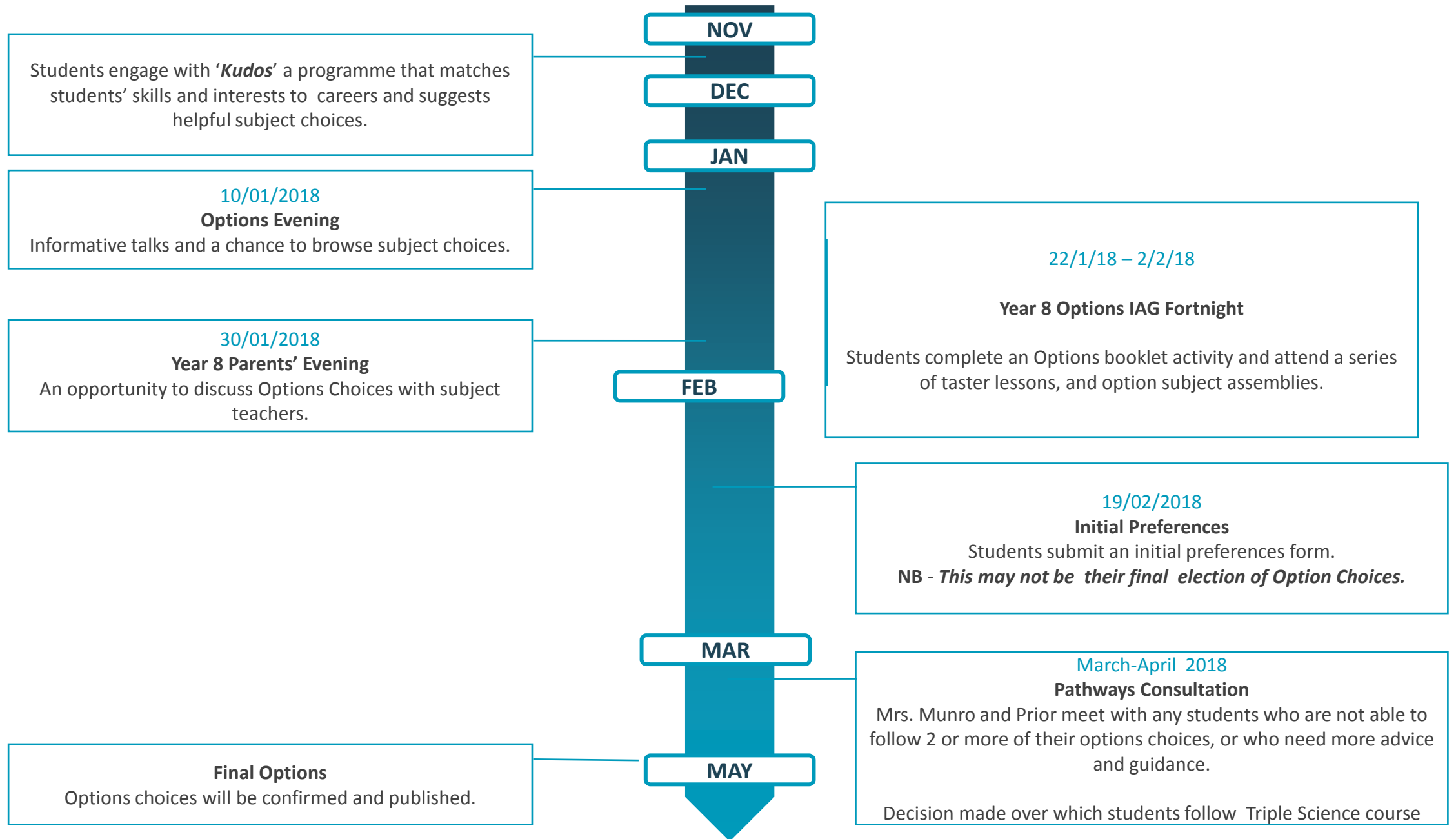
Year 8 Parents Evening is on **30th January**.

Option Choice forms need to be handed in by **Monday 19th February**

(Your choices might be changed later in the year if they are not right for you; the options form itself may change if courses are under or over subscribed: all communication will be clear and timely).

Final Options will be confirmed by **May**.

Decisions over triple science will be confirmed in May.



Don't worry about these decisions:



1. Although the deadline for option choices is close, things can change between February
2. and June.
3. There is plenty of advice on offer.
4. If a course is oversubscribed or if there are lots of students who can't get their choices, we *may* be able to add an additional subject in an option column.
5. If you want any more information at any point after tonight, just ask.
6. Most employers and college admissions tutors want to see that you:
 - Have followed a broad curriculum
 - Are punctual, honest and reliable, show initiative, communicate well
 - Have enthusiasm for the course or job you are applying for
 - Have made the best of your education and the opportunities you have had.

These are more important than the option choices you have made!