

Westcliff High School for Girls

Options Talk

Year 9 Options for GCSE 2017 - 2019

**Please turn off your
mobile phones.**

Thank you.

Westcliff High School for Girls

Year 9 Options Talk

Dr P B Hayman, Headteacher

Mr S J Clarke, Assistant Headteacher

Miss A Overton-Smith, Year 9 Learning Manager

Mr S McHale, Data Manager

Pupil Monitoring & Tracking

- Pupil Tracking 4 times a year
- Reports to parents 4 times a year

- School End of Year Examinations for Year 8 are in the 3rd week of June.

New GCSE Grades

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Relating New and Old GCSE Grades

Current Grade	New Grade
Top 20% of A - A*	9
Middle 40% of A - A*	8
Lower 40% of A - A*	7
Top Two Thirds of B	6
Top Third of C and Bottom Third of B	5
C (Lower Two Thirds)	4

Estimated Grades

- Set at the start of Year 9
- Based on prior attainment using FFT analysis
- 2 Targets - Estimated Predicted Target & Aspirational Target
- Estimated Predicted Target shows an average level of expected progress.
Aspirational shows a high level of progress.

Current Grading		New Grading		Our Internal Grading
A*		9		9+
				9
				9-
A		8		8+
				8
				8-
		7		7+
				7
				7-
		6		6+
				6
				6-
B		5		5+
				5
				5-
C		4		4+
				4
				4-
D		3		3+
				3
				3-
E		2		2+
				2
				2-
F		1		1+
				1
				1-
G				

WHSG Progress Grades

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017

Ofqual

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
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- 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.

CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE

A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
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September 2014 Ofqual/14/5517

Implications for pupils' future progress

- The Current Attainment grade does not represent any kind of 'gatekeeper' to girls' future progress.
- The core subjects set pupils by ability; Mathematics and Science. In each case the internal levels will be only one of many pieces of evidence considered when creating Year 10 sets.

Importance of GCSEs

- First major set of qualifications
- Recognised and understood
- Excellent results at WHSG – every girl has the chance to achieve her potential

Some Statistics

- Past 3 years results on handout
- Very hard work by pupils to achieve A & A* grades
- Basis of Advanced Level study
- Measure of future success
- All pupils need to aim for the highest grades in the mainstream academic subjects

The EBacc

Facilitating Subjects:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- 2 Sciences
- Modern Foreign Language
- Humanity

EBacc Principles

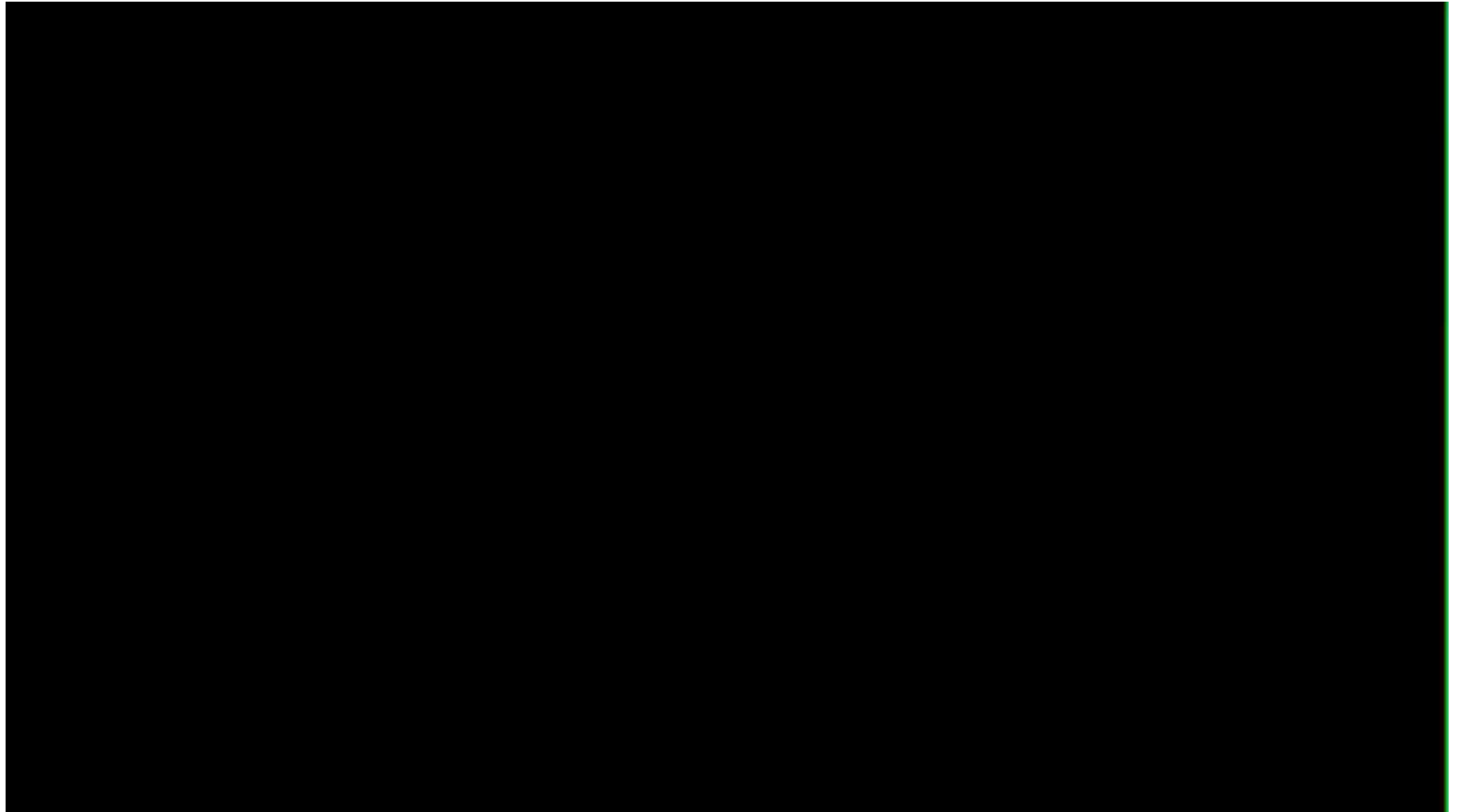
- Core subjects of curriculum
- Maximising future choice
- Emphasis on academic subjects
- Some pupils will reach barriers;
importance of realising barriers can be overcome and satisfaction in that achievement
- May become important for university application

The Core Curriculum

All pupils must study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science - Biology
- Science - Chemistry
- Science - Physics
- Religious Studies
- PSHEE (to include Preparation for Working Life Level 2)
- Physical Education

The Russell Group



The Need for Balance

- Do the choices made provide breadth
- In most cases, too early to specialise
- Most students will ultimately choose 3 or 4 A Levels

GCSE Loading

- Normal expectation in this grammar school is 11+ GCSEs
- Consider the amount of Controlled Assessment
- Homework (at least 1 hour per subject per week)
- Study Support option will be a guided choice

Balancing the Load

- Some subjects have a big volume of Controlled Assessments with a high weighting:
- Art, Design & Technology, Drama, Music
- Interim deadlines
- Final deadlines

Controlled Assessment

- High control – formal supervision
- Medium control – informal supervision
- Low control – limited supervision

Subject	Final Exam	Controlled Assessment
English Language & Literature Science - Biology Science - Chemistry Science - Physics Combined Science Mathematics Religious Education PSHEE Geography History	100%	
Art	40%	60%
Business Studies	100%	
Computer Science	80%	20%
Drama	40%	60%
Food Preparation & Nutrition	50%	50%
Design Technology: Graphics Textiles	50%	50%
Music	40%	60%
French and Spanish	25% Listening Exam 25% Reading Exam 25% Writing Exam	25% Speaking Exam
Engineering	40%	60%

All of this information is in the Options Booklet

New GCSE Specifications

New specifications are in place for English and Mathematics.

During the past year new GCSE specifications have been issued in:

- Science - Biology
- Science - Chemistry
- Science - Physics
- Art and Design
- Business Studies*
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Engineering*
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- Graphics*
- History
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Textiles*

Extra Time to Secure Success

- The professional view of our staff is that, based on the delivery of the new specification, English and Mathematics need additional time to ensure students are taught the content and prepared to tackle questions aimed at the highest grades
- Having now received all the remaining new specifications, we believe this to be true for all subjects

Creating Extra Time for Year 10

- For the next two years:
- English and Mathematics will be taught in 7 (6) periods per fortnight
- Science will be taught over 12 (9) periods per fortnight
- Each option subject will receive 5 (4) periods per fortnight

Year 10 & 11 Curriculum 2017

Year 9 Options

Core Curriculum - Year 10 & 11

English:

**7 hours
per
fortnight**

Maths:

**7 hours
per
fortnight**

Science:

**12 hours
per
fortnight
(4 per
subject)**

RS:

**2 hours
per
fortnight**

PE:

**4 hours
per
fortnight**

PSHCEE:

**3 hours
per
fortnight**

PE Courses

- Students are offered the opportunity to complete 1 of a number of qualifications as part of their Physical Education.
- Cambridge Award Level 2
- Dance Leaders Award
- JSLA

Additional Curriculum

- Preparation for Working Life (Level 2)
- Duke of Edinburgh scheme
- Drama, Music & Dance
- Activity Days
- Wide range of extracurricular activities

Options

- Students have 3 completely free choices from all other subjects
- EBacc should be carefully considered
- As should coursework and exam weighting.

Options Blocks

3 Free Choices from any of the following:

Art

Business Studies

Computer Science

Drama

Music

French

Spanish

History

Geography

5 hours per fortnight each.

Food Preparation & Nutrition*

Design & Technology: Polymers*

Design & Technology: Graphics*

Design & Technology: Textiles*

*Only 1 Technology can be taken in the free choice section

The Option Blocks

- The blocks are being designed to reflect pupils subject preferences – as well as what can be timetabled
- We try to spread subjects across a number of blocks
- Not every combination is possible – but this is a very broad offer

Option Form 2017-19 - Optional Subjects

Curriculum 2017 – 2019 – Option Form

Core Curriculum - You will study

English Language and English Literature – GCSEs	Mathematics – GCSE
Separate Sciences (Chemistry, Physics, Biology) - GCSEs	Religious Education - GCSE
Core Physical Education – Students will work towards leadership qualifications or have the opportunity to study Level 2 Cambridge National Award in Sports Studies.	PSCHEE – to include Work Related Learning Level 2 qualification.

Optional Subjects
You start these in Year 10 and will have free choice of any 3 of the following subjects:

Art – GCSE	Music - GCSE
Business Studies - GCSE	Spanish - GCSE
Computer Science - GCSE	Design & Technology: Papers & Boards*
Drama – GCSE	Design & Technology: Polymers*
French – GCSE	Design & Technology: Textiles*
Geography - GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition- GCSE*
History - GCSE	

Please note – You cannot study more than one starred* subject. Look carefully at the balance of controlled assessment expected in each GCSE you wish to study. Try to avoid subject combinations where you will have to produce lots of controlled assessment / coursework. Refer to the information in the courses booklet.

Please list your preferences 1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th – you will study 3 from the list. You **must** indicate a 4th preference.

1.	2.	3.	4.

Agreed by Parent / Carer _____ signature	Checked by: - Form Tutor
Please Print name _____	Please initial _____

Optional Subjects

You start these in Year 10 and will have free choice of any 3 of the following subjects:

Art – GCSE	Music - GCSE
Business Studies - GCSE	Spanish - GCSE
Computer Science - GCSE	Design & Technology: Papers & Boards*
Drama – GCSE	Design & Technology: Polymers*
French – GCSE	Design & Technology: Textiles*
Geography - GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition- GCSE*
History - GCSE	

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How to choose?

- Interest in subject
- Likelihood of success
- Balance
- Is it necessary for A Level studies?

Informing the Decision

Find Out As Much As Possible About The Courses

- Learning Styles
- Individual/Teams
- Analysis Or Synthesis
- Academic Or Creative
- Method Of Assessment
- Deadlines – Short/Long
- Career Pathways

How Not to Choose!

- Friends?
- Teachers?
- Gender Stereotypes?
- Parents?
- Easy Options?
- Novelty Value / Trips?

Throughout GCSEs

- Parental interest & involvement
- Full attendance
- Sensible time on homework
- Encourage hobbies, activities, relaxation
- Advise against paid employment
- Home-School contact

Support and Guidance

- Pastoral Support Co-ordinator
- Learning Manager
- Action Plans
- Catch-up plans
- Monitoring
- Mentors

The Future

- 6th Form Taster Days in Year 10 & Year 11
- A Level Choices at the start of Year 11
- Open Evening for Lower Sixth Choices
- Personal meeting with a senior member of staff to select a 6th Form course of study

This evening

- Questions
- Opportunity to find out about different subjects, demands, expectations & suitability

**Thank you for
coming this evening**
**We hope it is an
informative and
useful occasion.**