

Options Frequently Asked Questions for 2022/2023

Q: The combination doesn't work for my child – will the form change for Straw Poll 2?

A: Within straw poll 1 is a feedback box, for students to write in, if the combination of subjects doesn't work for them. There are usually minor changes between forms right up to the issue of the final form on Thursday 19th January 2023. As a whole year group, we will be managing over 800 choices (4 per child), so finding a combination that suits every child's choices isn't always possible.

Q: It feels really early for my child to be making these types of decisions – how can they get support?

A: We absolutely appreciate that it feels early for your child to be thinking about Options. They will have specifically guided sessions on Personal Development Days, as well as dedicated options assemblies with Miss Shelton throughout the year. They will be offered taster sessions in subjects they'd like to learn more about, and can talk at any time to the older students in their tutor group, friends, family, their tutor or their subject teachers in order to learn more. The Options booklet will be placed on the website ready for straw poll 2 and it will contain detailed outlines of all the courses, as does the noticeboard next to the library. Currently on the website is "Subjects at a Glance" which outlines subject overviews.

Q: Why can't I study Photography AND Art?

A: These are essentially specialisms within the same course. Students must choose one or the other, rather than both.

Q: What if the courses my child chooses are oversubscribed?

A: In cases where numbers far exceed the amount of places in a class, names will be pulled out of a hat to ensure complete fairness of opportunity.

Q: If my child can't have all 4 of their choices, how do you decide which one they can't do?

A: On the final form, students rank their choices by how much they want to study them. We use this 'priorities' box at the bottom of the final form in order to ascertain which choice to compromise if we need to. We always aim to never compromise on priorities 1, 2 or 3.