WEST ISLAND SCHOOL

PRE 16 OPTIONS GUIDE
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW 2013-2014
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Our Mission, Aims and Values

Strength from Diversity: inspiring students to become responsible global citizens

Our Mission, Aims and Values

We seek to encourage individuality; foster respect for difference and value learning from others within an international community school.

We strive to inspire and support all students in achieving their individual potential for a successful life as responsible global citizens.

Values Statement

At West Island School we value –

Community: Collaboration, team work and unity of purpose
Compassion: Service and action at school, locally and globally
Consideration: Honesty, tolerance and respect for others
Commitment: Recognition of our place and responsibilities within the communities in which we live
Courage: To challenge ourselves as individuals and as a community

West Island School Aims

• To promote excellence and enjoyment in teaching and learning.
• To motivate through high expectations of personal initiative and individual achievement.
• To challenge in academic, sporting and creative endeavour.
• To provide an inclusive, balanced and culturally diverse curriculum which is centred on the attributes of the WIS Learner Profile.
• To encourage the ethical, emotional and physical development of each individual.
• To provide a safe, supportive and happy environment.
• To commit to holistic education in providing a diverse range of meaningful opportunities beyond the classroom.
• To develop lifelong learners who approach the world with confidence and curiosity.
Welcome and Introduction

Dear parents and students,

This guide is about learning at West Island School in Years 10 and 11. It gives some information about the courses we plan to run and the choices that have to be made by students at this stage of their education.

West Island School Pre 16 Curriculum – An overview

We have developed a curriculum that aligns with our vision, is matched with the aspirations of our community and is preparing students for a future beyond school; at university and in the world of work.

The underlying principle is that students are entitled to a learning experience which is broad and balanced but flexible enough to allow for personal interest, enrichment and/or extension.

This range of experience is achieved by providing a core of compulsory subjects, a set of optional subjects and elective courses for students to choose from.

How many GCSEs does a student need for successful entry to university/college?

We have researched carefully the provision of other leading schools around the world, and acted upon the advice from the best universities globally. In so doing we have adopted the recommendation of the UK’s leading research universities (the Russell Group) that 9 or 10 (I)GCSE certificates is the maximum desired number for study by students in Year 10 and 11.

We have also ensured like other leading independent schools such as Bedales School, Wellington College and Dulwich College that (I)GCSE and/or BTEC qualifications are balanced by a range of extension, support and/or enrichment courses we have called THE ELECTIVES as an additional choice for most students.

Specifically, the Year 10 and 11 curriculum framework for 2014-2015 includes “core” (I)GCSEs (English, Science, Mathematics, Global Perspectives and at least one Language), optional IGCSE and BTEC choices, as well as an expectation that most students will add to these with a range of externally accredited elective courses.

We will be talking more about these options and electives at a Parent Forum on Oct 24 at 6pm; Please attend this evening.

Over the next few weeks, students can get more information about the courses from their subject teachers, and their form tutors will be helping them with the choice procedure. If you would like more details about any aspect of the pre 16 curriculum for Year 10 and 11, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to discussing the students’ options at the Pre 16 Options Evening on Thursday 21 November.

Mr Paul Tough
Vice Principal

Mrs Clare Haworth
Director of Pre 16 Learning

Mr Jonathan Cornes
Head of Year 9
Introduction for students

The rest of this booklet is written for you, although we recommend that you read it together with your parents.

In August 2014 you will move into Year 10 and start a two-year programme of study. This booklet tells you something about your courses over that two-year period.

Contents
1. The plan – an overview of Years 10 and 11
2. Achieving a broad and balanced curriculum – keeping doors open
3. The electives
4. Looking ahead to Year 12
5. What to aim for – a word or two about (I)GCSE.
6. Reasons why – explaining the plan
7. What next? How you tell us your choices
8. Supporting EAL and Individual Needs Students
9. Useful Contacts

A separate booklet which details the Courses and Subjects available is also provided.

Getting ready to make your choices

You will get help with your option choices through the Year 9 ‘Careers and Options Unit’ of Learning for Life.

Remember that there is a limit to how much information and advice you can get from a booklet like this. Talk with people; ask questions; listen to what they say.

- Talk to your parents – they know you best. They, and you, are invited to a Parent Forum on the Electives on the 24 October and the Options Evening on 21 November at West Island School.
- Talk to your Tutor – your Tutor is probably the teacher who knows you best.
- Talk to your subject teachers to get further details about their courses.
- Talk to Mr Cornes (Head of Year 9) – in fact, anyone who you think might be able to help you. It is better to spend the time now, rather than risk being unhappy next year.
The plan – an overview of Years 10 and 11

To get a picture of your typical school week for the next two years, it is best to think of different groups of subjects you might take. The first group – the core – contains certain subjects, which you all have to study. Here is the list:

**Core Subjects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>IGCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>IGCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>IGCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>IGCSE Double Award or Triple Award or BTEC Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>(at least one from IGCSE Chinese, Spanish or French – exceptions are made for some students with guidance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Perspectives</td>
<td>IGCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>(non-examined)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning for Life</td>
<td>(non –examined)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The second group of subjects – the electives and option block subjects – is where you have lots of choice. You will be carefully guided in that choice.

The elective subjects are listed here first and are as follows:

**Accredited Electives Courses**

- Adobe Certified Expert ACA (Adobe Certified Associate)
- Cantonese Asset Languages: Speaking and Listening (OCR Examination Board)
- Computer Science IGCSE
- Critical Thinking Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level Course
- Developing Enterprise Skills NCFE Certificate (Northern Centre of Further Education)
- International Basic First Aid Certificate
- Jamie Oliver Cooking Skills BTEC Level 1
- Practical Music and Music Theory
- Public Speaking, Presentations and Personal Presence
- SolidWorks - Certified SolidWorks Association
- Sports Leadership (Sports Leaders UK Group)
- Statistics GCSE
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Certificate

**Non Accredited: Supervised Study**
Option Block Subjects

Art and Design: Fine Art  
Business Studies  
Dance  
Design & Technology (Food Technology)  
Design & Technology (Graphic Products)  
Design & Technology (Resistant Materials)  
Design & Technology (Textiles Technology)  
Design & Technology (Hospitality)  
Design and Technology (Engineering)  
Drama  
Economics  
ESL (English as a 2nd language) IGCSE  
Geography  
History  
Film Studies  
Music  
Physical Education  
Religious Studies

Creative Arts Faculty  
Individuals and Societies Faculty  
Creative Arts Faculty  
Technology Faculty  
Technology Faculty  
Technology Faculty  
Technology Faculty  
Technology Faculty  
Creative Arts Faculty  
Individuals and Societies Faculty  
EAL Department  
Individuals and Societies Faculty  
Creative Arts Faculty  
Physical Education & Sport Faculty  
Individuals and Societies Faculty

Optional Non Examined Courses

EAL (English as an Additional Language) Support  
EAP (English for Academic Purposes)  
Strategies for School  
Core Literacy Skills

EAL Department  
EAL Department  
Individual Needs Faculty  
Individual Needs Faculty

Achieving a broad and balanced curriculum

Keeping doors open

In making your choices, you should try to ensure that you will experience all eight areas of learning through your core, optional and electives courses. The areas of learning are:

- Expressive and creative
- Linguistic and literary
- Mathematical
- Physical and recreational
- Scientific
- Human, social and environmental
- Religious, spiritual and moral
- Technological

Much of this is covered by the CORE subjects.
There are some special combinations and choices which need to be carefully considered. This includes ESL, Strategies for School and Design Technologies as follows:

Students who are advised to take (I)GCSE ESL will be counselled individually on the breadth and balance of their choices.

The Strategies for School course is typically open to students who are advised by the Individual Needs team to take it. Other students who think that they may not be able to cope with 3 examined options should talk to their tutor about this.

Special note on Technologies: There is a considerable overlap between the Design Technologies on offer and students are not permitted to take more than one of these.

**How many (I)GCSEs should I take in total?**

It is important you decide based on what is best for you. No university requires more than 8, 9 or 10 maximum (I)GCSE qualifications. You should only consider doing more if you wish to extend yourself or for a particular reason.

**The Electives**

The electives are an exciting new addition to the Year 10 and 11 curriculum this year and we expect most students to take an elective group of subjects rather than an additional (I)GCSE option beyond 9 or 10 (I)GCSEs in total. These are often short courses with immediate accreditation so you gain several qualifications rather than just one (I)GCSE in most cases. They are designed to:

- Advance students’ personal achievement and skills
- Extend students’ individual and specialist interests
- Challenge in particular areas of expertise

With the exception of study support which is designed to help address exam pressure in Year 11, all courses are stimulating and offer a variety of different learning experiences while some are designed to stretch the very able. The majority of the elective courses are externally accredited and lead to certification. We know that universities especially non Russell Group UK, American universities of all levels, Canadian and Australian Universities value students who have a broader skill set than GCSEs. We also know the maximum required number of GCSEs is 9 or 10.
## Electives Courses 2014 – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TERM 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>TERM 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>TERM 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPUTING</td>
<td>IGCSE (2 year course)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRITICAL THINKING</td>
<td>AS Level Course (2 year course)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATISTICS</td>
<td>GCSE (2 year course)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Practical Music and Theory</strong></td>
<td>1 term course</td>
<td>2 term course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adobe Suite ACA</strong></td>
<td>TEFL Certificate</td>
<td>Supervised Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developing Enterprise Skills</strong></td>
<td>NCFE</td>
<td>NCFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jamie Oliver Cooking</strong></td>
<td>BTEC Level 1</td>
<td>Supervised Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SolidWorks CSWA</strong></td>
<td>Supervised Study</td>
<td>Supervised Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sports Leadership (L1)</strong></td>
<td>1 term course</td>
<td>2 term course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cantonese OCR (L1)</strong></td>
<td>Cantonese OCR (L2) must have L1</td>
<td>Cantonese OCR (L1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Aid Cert</td>
<td>First Aid Cert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 term course, 2 term course, 1 year course, 2 year course*
The following are three examples of possible electives selections over 5 terms in Years 10 and 11.

Helen's selections are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
<td>TERM 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Leadership (L1)</td>
<td>Sports Leadership (L2) must have L1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long Tim's selections are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
<td>TERM 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>AS Level Course (2 year course)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Akshat's selections are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
<td>TERM 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Music and Theory</td>
<td>TEFL Certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Looking ahead to Year 12

In Year 12, most of you will stay at West Island and enrol on one of the diploma courses that will be on offer:

- IB Diploma
- International Diploma

It is anticipated that you will want to keep your Year 12 Diploma choices open at this stage. Any combination of GCSE options will leave your choices open for the International Diploma. However, this is not necessarily the case for the IB Diploma and a bit of knowledge about the IB Diploma is useful. The IB Diploma involves six courses, three at standard level and three at higher level. Look carefully at the section of this booklet which explains the courses on offer in Year 12 and Year 13. We will also ask to give us a broad idea of the subjects you may wish to take for Post 16 in the future. You need to use this section to let us know what your plans are. This information will help us to guide you in your Year 10 choices and make sure that you keep your options for Year 12 open. The table on the next page offers some advice on taking an IB subject in Year 12 if you don’t take it for GCSE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IB Subject</th>
<th>Must you take this subject at Pre 16 to study it for IB?</th>
<th>Advice if you are wishing to take this subject for IB but did not study it for GCSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>It is useful to have taken the IGCSE course as it provides an excellent foundation for the knowledge and understanding that is required for IB geography. Students who have an interest in global issues and the impact of the environment will enjoy this subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The history course will involve using a range of different sources. You should enjoy reading widely around the subject; enjoy debate and discussion and have an interest in current affairs and world politics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>No (not offered at GCSE)</td>
<td>An interest in philosophy is essential. You should enjoy debate and thinking critically about philosophical arguments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>No (not offered at GCSE)</td>
<td>Students should have an interest in scientific issues. Psychology looks at behaviour and the development of the mind. Students should enjoy discussion and reading widely around the subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>It is useful to have taken the GCSE course as it provides an excellent foundation for IB level business &amp; management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>It is useful to have taken the GCSE course as it provides an excellent foundation for IB level economics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Systems</td>
<td>No (not offered at GCSE)</td>
<td>Students should have an interest in environmental issues. A basic background in biology would be useful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>It is useful to have taken the GCSE Design and Technology course as it provides an excellent foundation for the knowledge and understanding that is required for IB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB Subject</td>
<td>Must you take this subject at Pre 16 to study it for IB?</td>
<td>Advice if you are wishing to take this subject for IB but did not study it for GCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>To be successful in this subject you should have strong mathematical skills and logical thought processes and enjoy problem solving. An interest or prior experience of computer programming is advisable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>It is very useful to have taken the GCSE course as it provides an excellent foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>It is necessary for you to be able to play a musical instrument and/or sing. You should be able to read music fluently as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Students don't need to have studied GCSE media, although it would be an advantage. You should be very interested in both the process of making and editing films and analysing films from a range of genres and through history. This is a specific and technical film course only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Prior study at GCSE level is desirable for the IB visual arts course but not essential. It is however important to have an interest in the visual recording of ideas and images, a desire to develop your creative potential and the tenacity to work to deadlines as you produce a series of artistic outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Previous drama experience is advisable, either through GCSE drama or work outside of school. The course requires strong English language skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language B - Higher Level (French, Spanish, Chinese)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This is for the foreign language learner who has 2 to 5 years’ experience of the language. This course is at a high level which can enable the student to study the language further at degree level if they wish. A GCSE grade A*-C is advisable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language B - Standard Level (French, Spanish, Chinese)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>This is for the foreign language learner who has 2 to 5 years’ experience of the language. It is a course which aims to enable the student to attain a high level of language competence. A GCSE grade A*-C is advisable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language ab initio Standard Level (French, Spanish, Chinese)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><em>Ab initio</em> means <em>from the</em> beginning. This course is for the beginner with little or no previous knowledge of the language. It is a challenging course as it aims to go beyond GCSE level in just two years. It is beneficial, if possible, to visit the target language country and learn as much as you can about the language and culture before the course starts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What to aim for – a word or two about (I) GCSEs

English, mathematics, science, most optional subjects and some electives lead to a qualification called the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), or its international equivalent, the (I)GCSE. GCSE/(I)GCSE pass grades go from G up to A*.

In some subjects, there are different levels of examination. If you are good at the subject, you can show your full abilities on the hardest paper. If you find the subject difficult, you can still show that you know the basics by doing well on an easier paper. We do not need to decide on your level of entry until much nearer the time – entry deadlines will be about two years after the time you first read this booklet. All the grades of GCSE/(I)GCSE results represent worthwhile achievement.

Reasons why – explaining the plan

Why do you have to do all of the core subjects?
No secondary school student's curriculum could possibly be complete without mathematics, science and (in an English language school) English. These are the first three subjects on the list. Virtually all higher education institutions worldwide expect you to have a qualification in English and mathematics and in a world increasingly affected by science, a good grounding in scientific thinking is essential.

Education is not just about passing examinations, important though they are. It is also about learning to be a healthy, active and useful member of society, with the right balance of self-interest and concern for others.

The core physical education programme is practical; the emphasis is on skill development, fitness and tactical awareness. In Year 11 students have the opportunity to specialise in a sport/s of their choice. Core PE is non-examination and is an integral part of the Pre 16 programme due to the great benefits regular exercise has on health and wellbeing.

The Learning for Life course prepares you for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of the adult world – a world you are rapidly approaching. To live and work effectively in an increasingly complex and changing world, you need to develop a broad range of knowledge, understandings and skills, particularly the aptitude to be a flexible, lifelong learner. Furthermore you need to work out your own views and values, as well as appreciate and respect other people who hold views and values different to your own.

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is a compulsory subject in Years 10 and 11 and is favoured by the school because it encourages students to be independent critical thinkers with an interest in global and local affairs. The course’s assessment components emphasise the quality of students’ individual voice on key world issues. The course supports students’ preparation for the Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay core
components in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in Years 12 and 13. The course also aids students in their development of important information research and digital literacy skills.

**Why do you have to choose optional or elective subjects?**

The main reason you cannot take all subjects is time. Add up the total number of subjects mentioned in the core, options and electives together. To study all the subjects in the sort of depth appropriate to your age would require a school day about twice as long as ours, and think of the homework!

Learning languages helps increase listening ability, memory, creativity and critical thinking - all of which are thinking processes that increase learning in general. As well as developing thinking skills, additional language study exposes you to other ways of looking at the world. This is important as it will allow you to successfully interact with a new culture and function in societies different from your own. It will also increase your own personal opportunities for work, entertainment and travel. Looking ahead to IB level, you will also need to study a language. Keeping up with your languages study now will help you further develop the skills necessary for Year 12 and Year 13.

**Reasons for choosing**

Does it really make any difference which courses you choose? Let us look at some of the reasons for choosing some subjects and not choosing others. Some of the reasons are good, some not so good.

You may think that a particular subject will be useful for the future course or career you have in mind. That is a good reason. For instance, if you want to go into catering in a serious way, design and technology (food) or Jamie Oliver cooking in the electives might be good choices; if urban planning appeals to you, geography would provide some useful background; and if you feel your future lies in China, then perhaps you should study Mandarin and/or Cantonese in the elective block.

However, there are very few courses and careers that require particular subjects, with the exception of English, mathematics and science. Your tutor will be able to help you with this.

Here are four more good reasons for choosing a subject or an elective:

- because you enjoy it
- because you are good at it
- because you want to challenge yourself
- because you want to develop a special interest

Be careful, though. Make sure that it is the subject or elective you like and not just the particular teacher you have this year. You may well have a different teacher next year.
To sum up, the school has a clear expectation that students need to follow a broad and balanced range of courses to ensure that their future education and career options are safeguarded. The school will advise and guide you and your parents in making your decisions so that they are consistent with the curriculum principles explained in this booklet.

**What next? How you tell us your choices**

Between the **22 November and 7 December** you will have an opportunity to make your option choices online. Please make sure you have read this booklet and the additional Subject booklet carefully and discussed your thoughts with your parents, teachers and friends before completing the online process as follows.

When completing your Pre 16 options online we will also ask you to give us an idea of possible courses you may wish to consider for Post 16 in the future. You will not be making a formal selection for Year 12 now but this information will help the school plan for the future.

Also, try to think ahead two years to what you might want to do in Year 12. We do not want you to close down any options for the future. If you think you might want to take the International Diploma, you can do this with any combination of (I)GCSEs and electives. However, if you think you might want to take the IB Diploma, you need to be more careful with the choice of GCSEs (electives are fine here too). Look at the options information for Year 12 included in this booklet as a guide for your future choices.

Students who complete the online process early will not get any special treatment, however, please remember that the deadline for making choices is the **7 December**. Following the deadline you will receive a paper printout of your choices from your tutor. You will need to return this to the school with a parent's signature by 16 December.

**The Pre 16 Online Options Process**

When making your selections online, identify the options you would like to do in the order highlighted below. Also make clear your preferred Science pathway. Then select two “reserve” choices in case we cannot provide one of your first three, or in case we find that your first three don’t suit your future plans.

If you are currently in a Strategies for School or EAL class then ensure you discuss your options with your teacher before making the final submission.
1<sup>st</sup> Select an I&S subject
All Students

2<sup>nd</sup> Select a Technology, PE or Creative Arts subject
All Students

3<sup>rd</sup> Select the electives pathway and identify your preferred course or combination of courses. (Some Students)

Or

Select another subject from option blocks 1 or 2 or another language. (Some Students)

Science Double, Triple or BTEC?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; RESERVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; RESERVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: you can only select one D&T subject.

**Important:** Remember that you have already made your language selection in Year 8, however, if you have an interest in taking a second language please identify this in the 3<sup>rd</sup> option choice section – “Select another subject from blocks 1 or 2 or another language”. As student numbers for this option tend to be very low the school may not be able to schedule additional language option, however, if timetable and staffing considerations allow we will do our very best to accommodate this preference.

**Using the Online Options System**

**Step 1**
Make sure you are logged-in to your Wisdom Gmail account before accessing the Student Portal to select your options.

**Step 2**
Open a new tab or window on your browser and go to: [http://newportal.wis.edu.hk/students/](http://newportal.wis.edu.hk/students/)

**Step 3**
Click the link “Click here if you’re already on WISDOM Gmail” and select “Pre16/Post16 Options”.

**Step 4**
Click the “Choose your options link”, select your subjects and click “Save”.

**Step 5**
Confirm your selection by clicking “OK” or click Cancel to change subjects.
Supporting EAL and Individual Needs students

Nervous about going into Year 10?
Anxious about how hard the lessons might be?
Worried about the coursework you will have to do?

All the staff in the school are dedicated to making sure that you do your best over the next two years … so do not worry. Always ask. Do not assume that you are the only one who does not understand things!

EAL and Individual Needs teachers will be available to you if you feel that you may need extra help with your (I)GCSE courses. We offer EAL or Strategies for School. These options provide the extra support you need to improve your performance in the (I)GCSE curriculum. During this time you will be following a set schedule for learning. This may involve:

- revising important ideas, concepts or language used in your (I)GCSE course;
- spending extra time to complete coursework to a higher standard;
- doing a specific course to improve your skills in language, studying and revising;
- working on tasks which address your specific learning needs.

You will probably be familiar with the way we work; we support students during lessons, run activities at lunchtimes and help individuals outside of lessons. If you have received our help in the past, you may be advised to take the EAL or the Strategies for School options. EAL is for those students who would like some help with (I)GCSEs simply because English is not their first language and academic language for examinations and coursework may be a little difficult for them. Strategies for School is for students with wider learning needs by offering reinforcement with their core skills that embed English, maths and ICT into their learning. Additionally, students will be offered support with their coursework and supplementary assignments. Read the sections dedicated to them in the booklet.

You may not have needed help before, but may now feel that you are more comfortable with taking 2 option subjects. You might want to improve your research and study skills or spend more time on certain subjects. Talk to your tutor about this in the first instance and get some advice on what you might be able to do. If you have had EAL lessons before, check with your EAL teachers on whether it would be beneficial to take EAL or (I)GCSE ESL.
### Useful Contacts

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