



# AVANTI HOUSE

## Year 9

KEY STAGE 4 CHOICES

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# The Avanti House Curriculum ABC: Academic, Balanced, Creative

The subject choices you make for your studies at key stage 4 can have an enormous impact on your future career opportunities. It is important to take time, to take good advice and to choose wisely.



To keep as many career options open to you as possible, you should have a *balance* of subject choices. That is why, at Avanti House School we call ourselves the 'school of choice' – you have up to five option choices, whereas in most schools you might only have three or four.

Ours is a curriculum with an *academic* core. However, it is also *balanced* offer; the choices you have including all-important *creative* and *practical* options from which you can choose – ensuring that your studies play to all of your strengths and future plans.

This is the ABC of choices at Avanti House – **Academic, Balanced, Creative.**

## The Academic Core

The Governing Body recently agreed to a curriculum at key stage 4 where **ALL** students will study the following *compulsory* GCSE courses for two years:

**GCSE English Language (and for the majority of students, English Literature)** (new 2015 specifications – graded 9 to 1 NOT A\*-G)

**GCSE Mathematics** (new 2015 specification – graded 9 to 1 not A\*-G)

**GCSE Religious Studies (Philosophy, Religion and Ethics)**

**GCSE Chemistry (and at least ONE other science, Biology or Physics – OR all three if you choose)**

**GCSE Geography or History** (you can of course choose both by selecting the other one as one of your options)

Students will also do non-examination **PE** for 3 lessons each week

You will THEN have:

- a) **5 free choices** IF you are doing only two of the three sciences (including the compulsory chemistry) or
- b) **4 free choices** if you have chosen to do all three sciences (chemistry, biology and physics).

## The English Baccalaureate – for the top-ranking Universities

You may have heard of a group of qualifications called the **English Baccalaureate**. This idea came into being about three years ago.

For most students and in particular the most able, the English Baccalaureate, is considered to be the *very best set* of subject choices. This is because the subjects in the English Baccalaureate are those most highly favoured by the highest-ranking research-based (RUSSELL Group) universities in the UK and beyond.

The subjects in the **English Baccalaureate** are called the *facilitation* subjects. By being awarded the **English Baccalaureate**, you automatically keep open the most doors for you to be able to study at the top Universities.

If **YOU WANT TO QUALIFY** for the English Baccalaureate then, in addition to the above compulsory core, **you MUST ALSO** choose to do a modern foreign language (**Spanish or French**)

Then, if you go on to achieve a grade A\*-C in all of the above academic core subjects AND in your option choices AND a foreign language, you would have achieved and be awarded the **English Baccalaureate**.

Without a GCSE, grade A\*-C in Spanish or French you **cannot** achieve the English Baccalaureate. Sanskrit, although a valid GCSE in itself, is NOT included in the English Baccalaureate.

**If you are considered able enough to achieve the English Baccalaureate, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you choose a modern foreign language; French or Spanish, as one of your options.**

## How to make your choices

Because these are such important decisions you are about to make, these are the resources we shall make available to you:

- **This Choices Booklet** – read it through, thoroughly and carefully many times
- **A Choices Mentor** – all of you will be assigned a mentor to help guide you through the choices you are to make. You might meet 1:1 with your mentor. You might also invite your parents to meet with you.
- **Careers Advisor** – for students who would like to have some independent careers advice, that opportunity will be made available. This is more important for choices going into the sixth form; nevertheless, an appointment can be arranged for you – through Mr. Patel or Mrs. Kahn.
- **Choices Assemblies** – we shall introduce some of the courses available for study (especially the newer ones) through assemblies. Again, Mr. Patel and Mrs. Kahn will arrange these.
- **Parents' Evening** – Advice will be available at the first parents' evening for year 9 in early February.

Talk with your parents and subject teachers; and do your own research.

***Do not choose subjects JUST because your friends are choosing them or because you 'like the teacher'. Choose them because you want to study them, because they provide a good balance to your studies and because they lead you to where you would like to go.***

## The 'Free Choices' available for the two GCSE years 2015-2017 are as follows:

### **GCSE Biology and/or GCSE Physics**

*(You **MUST** choose at least one of these to supplement your compulsory GCSE Chemistry. If you were thinking of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, nursing or any other medical career you would probably choose biology to go with your chemistry. If you were thinking of engineering, you would probably choose physics to go with your chemistry. If you were not thinking of either of these two routes then you could choose either. You can always choose to study all three sciences – the most able students in the UK often do; to keep their career options wide open.)*

### **GCSE History or GCSE Geography**

*(You **MUST** choose one of these – the second **CAN** also be chosen in the Free Choices below)*

**GCSE History** (if you have chosen geography above and wish to do both)

**GCSE Geography** (if you have chosen history above and wish to do both)

**GCSE French**

**GCSE Spanish** (you must do **French or Spanish** if you wish to be awarded the **English Baccalaureate**)

**GCSE Sanskrit**

**GCSE Business Studies**

**GCSE Art and Design – (any medium – can include photography)**

**GCSE PE**

**GCSE Drama**

**GCSE Music**

**GCSE Dance**

**GCSE Design Technology**

**GCSE Food Studies**

**GCSE Media**

**GCSE Citizenship**

For a small number of students, who work very closely with the Inclusion Department, they will be approached before and after they have made their choices to look at tailoring their option choices even further.

As a school and in addition to our regular after school clubs, we shall also be introducing a broad range of extra-curricular initiatives and these shall include the **Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme**™



## **Subject Details**

What follows is some basic information about each of the subjects – the compulsory, academic core and the free choices. You will receive a lot more information from your Choices Mentor, also during assemblies and in other ways during the two-month period below.

In the subject details, for each subject, the “Assessment” section is marked with an asterisk\* as we have NOT finalised the examination boards for many of the subjects just yet.

***Note to parents/carers:** Whilst our own new build is still going through the design process through the Avanti Schools Trust and a contractor, for a proposed 2016/17 opening, we do now appear to be quite close to being able to announce the next location for the secondary site - from September 2015. This Harrow-located site is an extremely-well provisioned school building, fit for purpose to deliver an excellent key stage 4 curriculum. However, whilst discussions behind the scene continue, as of early January 2015, the DfE will not yet allow us to make this public.*

Some of the following information may be subject to change. The exact examination board information will be provided at a later date.

After that section, you will then be given some examples of good choices and not so good choices and a timeline for getting your option choices forms completed and handed in.

**At the very end you will find your Choices Form – you will need to complete this and hand it in to Ms Reilly no later than 6th March 2015.**

### **CHOICES TIMELINE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> January	Option Booklet published online	Mr. Bennison
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Choices Mentors list published and Careers Service appointed	Mr. Patel & Mrs. Kahn
20 <sup>th</sup> January	This Option Booklet printed and issued	Mr. Bennison
5 <sup>th</sup> February	PR2 Reports Issued	Mr. Bennison
	Year 9 Parents’ Evening and Options Information	Mr. Patel & Mrs. Kahn
6 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Options Assemblies – including visiting speakers	Mr. Patel & Mrs. Kahn
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Choices mentor meetings – with students and/or parents	Mr. Patel & Mrs. Kahn
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Final Deadline for Option Choices Forms to be handed in	Ms. Reilly
6 <sup>th</sup> March – 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Finalising Options and Timetable Construction	Mr. Bennison & Mrs. Zeller

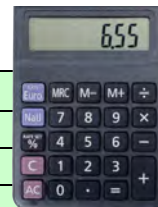


## SUBJECT INFORMATION – COMPULSORY CORE

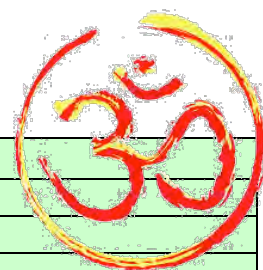


<b>Compulsory Academic Core</b>	
<b>GCSE Subject</b>	<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE</b>
Subject Leader	Head of English: Ms. Vasudeva
Senior Line Manager	Deputy Principal: Mrs. Morris
Basic Information:	English is a compulsory core subject – one of the first of the new specification GCSEs to be graded 1-9 (G to beyond A*). At least a Grade 4 (and probably a 5) at GCSE will be needed in order to later go on to University to study <b>any</b> subject. 19 <sup>th</sup> Century fiction is studied for the fiction paper and both creative writing and 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> century literary and non-literary non-fiction is studied for paper 2.
*Assessment	Untiered (no lower or higher tier), linear (both examinations must be taken at the end of the two years) and no coursework – although there is an internally assessed, separate endorsement of Spoken English. Two examinations: Paper 1 (40%) Fiction and Imaginative Writing, Paper 2 (60%) Non-Fiction and Transactional Language.  The qualification will be graded and certificated on the new nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade. Grade 4 will set approximately at the level of a current Grade C although Grade 5 is the 'international benchmark standard' and may well become the new benchmark for having achieved a 'higher-grade GCSE pass'.
Career Pathways	GCSE English (and at a higher grade) is required for most jobs and career pathways. You need a higher-grade pass at GCSE to simply get into University. To study English at University, you will also need to have been successful in GCSE English Literature

<b>Approximately 80% of students will also complete a second GCSE in English Literature. However, those on the cusp of a higher grade in English Language would have more time devoted to that instead.</b>	
<b>GCSE Subject</b>	<b>ENGLISH LITERATURE (essential choice for those wishing to attain the English Baccalaureate)</b>
Subject Leader	Head of English: Ms. Vasudeva
Senior Line Manager	Deputy Principal: Mrs. Morris
Basic Information	Broaden your literary horizons- discover fascinating stories; visit famous places and people such as some of Shakespeare's popular villains; delve into poetry and enhance your skills of creativity, critical reading, thinking and analysis! Studying Literature brings a great source of magic, wonder and joy to your world; you get to see and experience things in the world around you from the past, present and future; it allows you to sharpen your intelligence in not only reading language but reading people and analysing perspectives. Lessons in Literature will remain with you for eternity.
*Assessment	Un-tiered (no lower or higher tier), linear (both examinations must be taken at the end of the two years) and no coursework. *Depending on the final choice of specification – something like:  Two examinations: Paper 1 (40%) Shakespeare and the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Novel; Paper 2 (60%) Modern Texts and Poetry.  Like English Language and mathematics, this qualification will be graded and certificated on the new nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade. Grade 4 will set approximately at the level of a current Grade C although Grade 5 is the 'international benchmark standard' and may well become the new benchmark for having achieved a 'higher-grade GCSE pass'.
Career Pathways	A study of English Literature is essential if you wish to study English or related subjects at University. Careers for graduates in English Literature include: law, marketing, journalism, media – including television and the film industry, public relations, teaching, lecturing, library work, writing, publishing, history and politics – and many more



Compulsory Academic Core	
GCSE Subject:	MATHEMATICS
Subject Leader:	Head of Mathematics: Ms. Bardsley
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	Mathematics is a compulsory core subject, one of the new specification GCSEs and one of our specialisms. At least a Grade 4 (and probably a 5) at GCSE will be required in order to later go on to University to study any subject.
*Assessment	<p>Tiered – Foundation (1-5)/Higher (4-9), linear (all three examinations must be taken at the end of the two years) and no coursework. 2/3 is calculator, 1/3 is non-calculator.</p> <p>The qualification will be graded and certificated on the new nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade. Grade 4 will set approximately at the level of a current Grade C although Grade 5 is the 'international benchmark standard' and may well become the new benchmark for having achieved a 'higher-grade GCSE pass'.</p>
Career Pathways	GCSE mathematics (and at a higher grade) is required for most jobs and career pathways. You need a higher-grade pass at GCSE to simply get into University.



Compulsory Academic Core	
GCSE Subject:	RELIGIOUS STUDIES: (PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION and ETHICS (PRE))
Subject Leader:	Head of PRE – Mrs. Kahn
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>As an all-through, Hindu-designated faith school, the foundations of our PRE curriculum, from Reception through to year 9 have a strong, Hindu focus, whilst also embracing comparative study from all of the world's major religions and philosophical traditions.</p> <p>At GCSE the PRE curriculum will culminate in the choice of a Religious Studies specification, which allows students to demonstrate what they know and understand from the Hindu tradition alongside a broader assessment of philosophy and ethics influencing those of all religions and none.</p>
*Assessment	<p>A full-award GCSE (RS/RE is compulsory at key stage 4 <i>in all schools</i>. However, some students in other schools do short-course, half-GCSE RE or get no qualification at all)</p> <p>Specification (2012 onwards) not yet determined</p> <p>Two examinations. Overall award graded A*- G</p>
Career Pathways	Any humanities qualifications at GCSE provide a good basis for study post-16 and on into positions in people-orientated career pathways – e.g. administration, consultation, law, communications, social service, public service, teaching

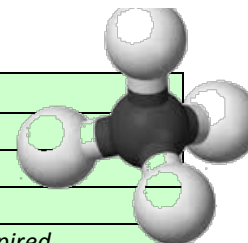


<b>Compulsory Academic Core (either this or geography)</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>HISTORY</b>
Subject Leader:	Senior Leader (Achievement) Mrs Quelch (maternity – contact Mr. Heffernan)
Senior Line Manager:	Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Dr. Pinkus
Basic Information:	Depending on the chosen specification, students will follow a Modern History course covering Twentieth Century topics such as War & Society in Britain 1903-1928, USA 1919-1941, Cold War & Divided Union of the USA 1945-1970. Film and document analysis will complement a variety of other activities including using books, maps, photographs.
*Assessment	Assessment is likely to be 75% written assessment and 25% coursework. Final grading: GCSE A* - G
Career Pathways	Any humanities qualifications at GCSE provide a good basis for study post-16 leading on into positions in people-orientated career pathways – e.g. administration, journalism, marketing, consultation, law, communications, social service, public service, teaching alongside archaeology, government and politics.



<b>Compulsory Academic Core (either this or history)</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>
Subject Leader:	Senior Leader (Achievement) Mrs Quelch (maternity) – contact Mr. Driscoll
Senior Line Manager:	Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Dr. Pinkus
Basic Information:	<p>Geography at GCSE encompasses a variety of learning styles including independent study, group work, field work, use of ICT, case study analysis, map skills, understanding theory, and debate.</p> <p>The GCSE consists of three parts:</p> <p><b>People and the physical environment</b> – the fascinating study of coasts, rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and how and why they are formed / happen / managed</p> <p><b>People and the human environment</b> – which builds on Year 9 work through the study of population, tourism, development, interdependence and globalisation</p> <p><b>Controlled Assessment</b> -This requires candidates to collect primary data, locally, to investigate one question or hypothesis</p>
*Assessment	<p>GCSE assessment consists of three parts</p> <p><b>Paper 1 - People and the physical environment – 37.5%</b> - encompasses the study of geographical skills, and the interaction of people and the natural environment;</p> <p><b>Paper 2 - People and the human environment – 37.5% (Human geography)</b></p> <p><b>Paper 3 - Coursework - 25% (Controlled Assessment)</b></p> <p>Final grading: GCSE A* - G</p>
Career Pathways	Any humanities qualifications at GCSE provide a good basis for study post-16 and onto careers in people-orientated career pathways – e.g. administration, journalism, marketing, consultation, law, communications, social service, public service, teaching alongside archaeology, NGOs, government and politics.

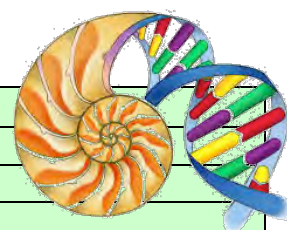




<b>Compulsory Academic Core</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>CHEMISTRY</b>
Subject Leader:	Head of Science: Ms. K.Patel
Senior Line Manager:	Deputy Principal: Mrs. Morris
Basic Information:	<p><i>The Edexcel GCSE qualifications in all three sciences encourage students to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. They provide insight into and experience of how science works, stimulating students' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with science in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study and career choices.</i></p> <p>The areas covered in the first chemistry unit (Chemistry in our world) are The Earth's sea and atmosphere, Materials from the Earth, Acids, Obtaining and using metals, Fuels. In the second unit (Discovering Chemistry) we look at atomic structure, compounds, the periodic table and chemical reactions and in the third unit (Chemistry in Action) we look at chemical analysis, electrolysis, gases and organic chemistry.</p> <p><i>The Edexcel GCSEs in all three sciences provide students with opportunities to develop the ability to plan practical ways to answer scientific questions and test hypotheses. They devise appropriate methods for the collection of numerical and other data; assess and manage risks when carrying out practical work. Students collect, process, analyse and interpret primary and secondary data including the use of appropriate technology; draw evidence-based conclusions; evaluate methods of data collection and the quality of the resulting data. Additionally students have the opportunity to communicate scientific information or ideas and scientific, technical and mathematical language, conventions and symbols.</i></p>
*Assessment	<p>There are three examination papers, C1, C2 and C3, all taken at the end of the two-year course. There is also an internally assessed piece of controlled assessment (coursework).</p> <p>Final subject grading: GCSE A* - G</p>
Career Pathways	<p>Of the three sciences, chemistry is the 'gateway' science.</p> <p>It is the only science that is an absolute requirement (at A level or IB) for medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and related medical professions and also, with a good A level in mathematics, for many university courses in engineering.</p> <p>In addition, chemistry paves the way for careers in laboratory based research, the power industry, pathology, forensic science, biomedical sciences and teaching; to name but a few.</p>



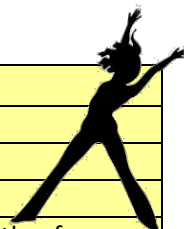
<b>Compulsory Academic Core</b>	
GCSE Subject	<b>PHYSICS</b>
Subject Leader	Head of Science: Ms. K.Patel
Senior Line Manager	Deputy Principal: Mrs. Morris
Basic Information	The areas covered in the first physics unit (Universal Physics) are the electromagnetic spectrum (including visible light), waves and the Universe, waves and the Earth, generation and transmission of electricity and energy in the future. In the second unit (Physics for Your Future) we look at static and current electricity, controlling and using electricity, forces, motion and energy, nuclear fission and fusion and radioactivity and in the third unit (Application of Physics) we look at radiation in medicine, X rays and ECGs, production and use of radioactivity, motion of particles and kinetic theory.
*Assessment	There are three examination papers, P1, P2 and P3, all taken at the end of the two-year course. There is also an internally assessed piece of controlled assessment (coursework).  Final subject grades: GCSE A* - G
Career Pathways	Physics (at A level/IB) alongside mathematics can be important for entry into many also university courses for engineering. In addition, a qualification in physics paves the way for careers in teaching, laboratory based research, the power industry, forensic science and biomedical sciences to name but a few.



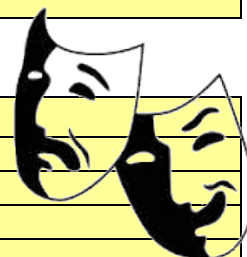
<b>Compulsory Academic Core (either biology or physics or both – with chemistry)</b>	
GCSE Subject	<b>BIOLOGY</b>
Subject Leader	Head of Science: Ms. K.Patel
Senior Line Manager	Deputy Principal: Mrs. Morris
Basic Information	The areas covered in the first biology unit (Influences on Life) are classification, variation and inheritance, responses to a changing environment, problems of and solutions to a changing environment. In the second unit (Components of Life) we look at the building blocks of cells, organisms and energy and common systems. In the third unit (Using Biology) we look at control systems, behaviour and biotechnology.
*Assessment:	There are three examination papers, B1, B2 and B3, all taken at the end of the two-year course. There is also an internally assessed piece of controlled assessment (coursework).  Final subject grades: GCSE A* - G
Career Pathways	Biology (in addition to chemistry) can be a useful addition (at A level/IB) for entry into medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and related medical professions and also for some university courses for bioengineering. In addition, biology paves the way for careers in laboratory based research, pathology, forensic science and biomedical sciences to name but a few.

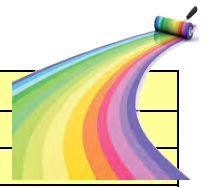
## SUBJECT INFORMATION – COMPLETELY FREE CHOICES

Free Choices	
GCSE Subject	<b>DANCE</b>
Subject Leader	Dance Co-ordinator: Ms. Onuphre
Senior Line Manager	Senior Leader: Climate for Learning and Head of Year 7 – Mrs. Dunckley
Basic Information	<p>GCSE Dance at Avanti House School combines practical and written skills with a focus on dance technique, choreography and performance, as well as analysis and criticism of dance. Dance incorporates written work (Critical Appreciation of Dance) and practical aspects of Dance, including performance of a Set Dance, of a solo Composition plus devising and performing Choreography in a solo, duo or group. All GCSE pupils take classes in Contemporary Dance as part of their studies.</p> <p>Professional works are mainly Contemporary Dance based, and students have opportunities to see live performances as well as taking part in specially arranged Workshops run by professionals currently performing in the works they are studying.</p>
*Assessment	Assessment is varied through written and practical examination and controlled assessment. GCSE grades are awarded from A*-G
Career Pathways	Dance provides a solid foundation for a career in dance or performing arts and/or further studies in dance or performing arts, including A-level Dance.



Free Choices	
GCSE Subject:	<b>DRAMA</b>
Subject Leader	Drama Co-ordinator Ms. Grant
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Climate for Learning and Head of Year 7) – Mrs. Dunckley
Basic Information:	<p>A GCSE in Drama encourages students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop a personal interest in why drama matters and be inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study</li> <li>work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas</li> <li>consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities</li> <li>reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others</li> <li>develop and demonstrate competence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills</li> <li>develop a basis for their future role as active citizens in employment and society in general, as well as for the possible further study of drama</li> <li>actively engage in the process of dramatic study in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.</li> </ul>
* Assessment	<p>Depending on the choice of specification, there are three units in GCSE drama – e.g.</p> <p><b>Unit 1:</b> Drama Exploration (internally assessed) – 30%; This unit requires students to engage in a programme of work that will help them appreciate how a variety of drama activities can be used to deepen their understanding of drama form.</p> <p><b>Unit 2:</b> Exploring Play Texts (internally assessed) – 30%, This unit introduces students to the content of plays written for the theatre. They will learn how to interpret a play in various ways and understand how a play works in performance.</p> <p><b>Unit 3:</b> Drama Performance (externally assessed) – 40% This unit provides students with the opportunity to: a) demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of practical drama skills through their application to a live performance and b) communicate to a live audience.</p> <p>Final grading: GCSE A* - G</p>
Career Pathways	In addition to GCSE Drama providing a strong and appropriate foundation for further progression to drama courses, including A-level Drama and Theatre Studies, beyond this it can contribute to career aspirations in the media and performing arts industries as well as teaching.

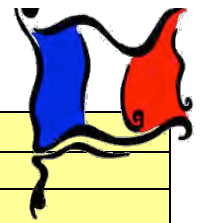




Free Choices	
GCSE Subject:	<b>ART &amp; DESIGN (Unendorsed) – can include GCSE Photography</b>
Subject Leader	Head of Art: Ms. Devalia
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Climate for Learning & Head of Year 7): Mrs. Dunckley
Basic Information:	<p>An exploration of practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and new media technologies.</p> <p>This is an <i>unendorsed</i> course. This just means that students are able to work in appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes dependant on their interest and individual abilities.</p> <p>Students are able to produce practical and contextual work in <b>two or more of the areas</b> (endorsements) below:</p> <p>Photography (lens-based and light-based media), applied art, fine art, three-dimensional design, graphic communication.</p>
*Assessment	<p>Unit 1: Portfolio of work, controlled assessment – Set by the centre 60% of total mark. Unit 2: Externally set task – set by examination board - 40% of total mark. 10 hours of sustained focused study.</p> <p>Overall grading: GCSE A* - G</p>
Career Pathways	<p>A range of career opportunities are available to graduate artists – for example in the fields of: photography, animation &amp; illustration, arts heritage: conservation &amp; restoration, book arts: production &amp; papermaking, design: Architecture/crafts/fashion/product/landscape/interiors, fine art, graphic design (print and web) as well as in teaching and consultancy.</p>



Free Choices	
GCSE Subject:	<b>MUSIC</b>
Subject Leader:	Head of Subject: Ms. Chand
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Climate for Learning & Head of Year 7): Mrs. Dunckley
Basic Information:	<p>GCSE music provides students with a greater understanding of music theory and how to perform and compose music; whilst also allowing them to play in a band situation and practise a wide range of different musical genres.</p> <p>What you will study Possible practical activities: Composition 1 &amp; 2 Composition and Appraising Solo performance Group performance</p> <p>Theory content: Rhythm and Metre Harmony and Tonality Texture and Melody Timbre and dynamics</p>
*Assessment	<p>Practice compositions and performances assessed internally and then final compositions and performances assessed by an external moderator. The theory content is assessed by one written paper in May at the end of Year 11</p>
Career Pathways	<p>In addition to GCSE music providing a strong and appropriate foundation for further progression to music and music technology courses, including A-level music/music technology; beyond this it can contribute to career aspirations in the media and performing arts industries as well as teaching.</p>



<b>Free Choices</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>FRENCH</b> – you must study one language to achieve the English Baccalaureate
Subject Leader:	Head of Languages: Ms. Justine
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Achievement) Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Students will be encouraged to develop an understanding and the use of the target language in a variety of contexts, knowledge of the language and language learning skills. They should end the course able to communicate effectively in the language and have an awareness and understanding of the country and communities where the language is spoken:</p> <p>Students will cover            Lifestyle: Choices, relationships, future plans, social issues, equality            Leisure: Free time, shopping, money, fashion and trends, technology, holidays            Home and Environment: Special occasions celebrated in the home, the environment            Work and Education: School/college, getting a job, different jobs</p> <p><b><i>It is hoped that a visit to France for GCSE French students will form part of the course.</i></b></p>
*Assessment	40% Terminal Examination Listening and Reading 60% Controlled Assessment Tasks (2 speaking and 2 writing tasks) Final grading: GCSE A*- G
Career Pathways	Highly regarded by Universities as a facilitation subject, there are specific career opportunities, which include teaching, translating and interpreting. The ability to offer a language is welcomed in many aspects of business, science, engineering and the medical profession. The ability to work in France – business, law firms, estate agents, catering, film, tour –operators, airline industry etc.

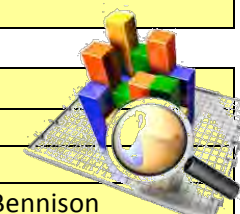


<b>Free Choices</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>SPANISH</b> – you must study one language to achieve the English Baccalaureate
Subject Leader:	Head of Languages: Ms. Justine
Senior Line Manager:	Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Students will be encouraged to develop an understanding and the use of the target language in a variety of contexts, knowledge of the language and language learning skills. They should end the course able to communicate effectively in the language and have an awareness and understanding of the country and communities where the language is spoken:</p> <p>Students will cover            Lifestyle: Choices, relationships, future plans, social issues, equality            Leisure: Free time, shopping, money, fashion and trends, technology, holidays            Home and Environment: Special occasions celebrated in the home, the environment            Work and Education: School/college, getting a job, different jobs</p> <p><b><i>It is hoped that a visit to Spain and/or Spanish links via video-conferencing for GCSE Spain students will form part of the course</i></b></p>
*Assessment	40% Terminal Examination Listening and Reading 60% Controlled Assessment Tasks (2 speaking and 2 writing tasks) Final grading: GCSE A*- G
Career Pathways	Highly regarded by Universities as a facilitation subject, there are specific career opportunities, which include teaching, translating and interpreting. The ability to offer a language is welcomed in many aspects of business, science, engineering and the medical profession. The ability to work in France – business, law firms, estate agents, catering, film, tour –operators, airline industry etc.

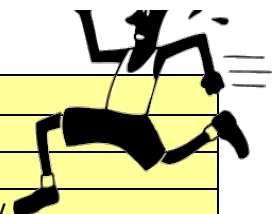




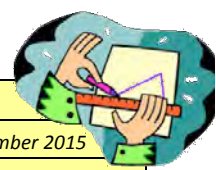
Free Choices	
GCSE Subject:	<b>SANSKRIT</b> – does <i>not</i> count towards English Bacalaureate
Subject Leader:	Head of Languages: Ms. Justine
Senior Line Manager:	Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Sanskrit is an International GCSE (iGCSE) – this IS equivalent to a UK GCSE</p> <p>There are three assessment objectives to be worked towards in iGCSE Sanskrit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comprehend, appreciate and translate unseen or prepared passages of Sanskrit.</li> <li>2. Translate into Sanskrit and, at higher level, use sandhi (euphonic combinations).</li> <li>3. Answer questions on Sanskrit Epic Civilisation.</li> </ol>
*Assessment	<p>All examinations are taken at the end of year 11.</p> <p>At Foundation level (two examination papers) grades C – G are available to students At Higher level (two examination papers), grades A*- D are available to students</p> <p>The entry level for students will be decided towards the end of year 10.</p>
Career Pathways	Highly regarded by Universities as a facilitation subject, there are specific career opportunities, which include international teaching, translating and interpreting. The ability to offer a language is welcomed in many aspects of business, science, engineering and the medical profession.



Free Choices	
GCSE Subject:	<b>BUSINESS STUDIES</b>
Subject Leader:	Not yet appointed – tbc by May 2015
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Achievement) Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Businesses are part of our everyday lives, providing us with the products we need, communicating relentlessly with us through advertising, providing employment and inventing new products and services that transform how we live. This course focuses on what businesses are and how they organise themselves to achieve their objectives. You do not actually <i>set up a</i> business when you study Business GCSE.</p> <p>There are three units: Unit 1: Setting up a business: starting a business enterprise, marketing, finance, people, operation and management. Unit 2: Growing a business: the organisation, legality, marketing, finance, people, and operations. Unit 3: Investigating Business – controlled assessment.</p>
*Assessment	<p>Units 1 and 2 contribute 40% and 35% respectively to the final grading and Unit 3 (internally assessed) contributes 25%.</p> <p>Final grading: GCSE A* - G</p>
Career Pathways	A good GCSE in Business Studies (grades A*-C) contributes towards entry into the sixth form to study A levels/BTEC nationals. For those considering working in the private sector or studying business at university it forms a useful, though not essential, foundation.



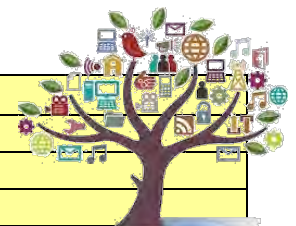
<b>Free Choices</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>PE</b>
Subject Leader:	Head of PE (Acting): Mr. Hindes
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Climate for Learning and Head of Year 7): Mrs. Dunckley
Basic Information:	<p>This specification follows on from the Key Stage 3 Physical Education programme of study by providing students with exciting opportunities to lead a healthy and active lifestyle by choosing from a variety of roles and activities in which to participate in physical activity.</p> <p>The content of this GCSE Physical Education specification is designed to enable students to enjoy and understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle; to provide a route to further study in Further Education awards, such as A levels and to Higher Education in PE as well as to related career opportunities.</p>
*Assessment	<p>The course takes place over two years and consists of practical and theoretical components in the following format:</p> <p>Practical Component - 60% Theoretical component - 40%.</p>
Career Pathways	A GCSE in Physical Education can lead to AS Physical Education or BTEC in Sport. It is an excellent foundation for careers in areas such physiotherapy, sports science referee/umpire, sports management/sports medic, sport/fitness instruction,, coach/training, teaching, sports administration, athletics



<b>Free Choices</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (Graphic Products)</b> – subject to facilities at the secondary site from September 2015
Subject Leader:	Head of Technology: Mr. Patel
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Students study a range of skills in drawing techniques, rendering, modeling, presentation, Photoshop, industrial manufacture, and making.</p> <p>In Year 10 students complete focused tasks on particular foundation skills in Graphics and a one term Design and Make project, which is based around using Graphic skills to produce an effective solution for a client.</p> <p>They are given a set Design Brief to solve and produce a valid and marketable solution. They will use CAD and CAM to make good quality products using different graphic materials.</p>
*Assessment	<p>Written Paper: 40% Graphics – design and make: 60%</p> <p>Final grading: GCSE A* - G</p>
Career Pathways	Possible career routes, following graduation or apprenticeship include engineering, applied mathematics, architecture, interior design, surveying, product Design, illustration and advertising.



Free Choices		
GCSE Subject:	<b>CATERING</b> – <i>subject to facilities at the secondary site from September 2015</i>	
Subject Leader:	Head of Technology: Mr. Patel	
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison	
Basic Information:	<p>The GCSE Hospitality and Catering specification offers a unique opportunity for candidates to develop their knowledge and extend their skills within hospitality and vegetarian catering even without a significant background in catering/food studies at key stage 3.</p> <p>It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education. It will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work in this area.</p>	
*Assessment	UNIT 1: Catering skills related to vegetarian food preparation and service Controlled Task 120 marks -Two practical tasks selected from a bank of six WJEC set tasks. Internally assessed using WJEC set criteria and externally moderated. 45 hours in total.	60%
	UNIT 2: Catering, food and the customer  Written Paper 1 1/4 hours 80 marks (80 UMS) - One paper which will be externally set and marked. All questions compulsory and targeted at the full range of GCSE grades. The paper will contain short-answer, structured and free response questions drawn from the catering content. This examination will be available either as an electronic assessment or as a traditional written paper.	40%
Career Pathways	Higher level study in catering and hospitality at sixth form or college as well as movement into apprenticeships in the catering industry. Food science and technology at university is also a possible pathway.	



Free Choices	
GCSE Subject:	<b>MEDIA</b>
Subject Leader:	Head of Technology: Mr. Patel
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Media covers responding critically and analytically to a range of mass media texts, web materials and audio-video; engaging with and publishing to the world of media through a range of technologies.</p> <p>All students will study Units 1 &amp; 2, which will lead to Media Studies GCSE.</p>
*Assessment	<p><b>Unit 1: Investigating the media</b>            The exam takes the form of a controlled test, which constitutes 40% of the GCSE. The controlled test takes place towards the end of Year 11 and is marked externally by the examination board            The external assessment takes a case study approach.            The stimulus materials for the test are sent to the school and candidates are given approximately four weeks to prepare. Candidates are given one and a half hours to complete their responses.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Understanding the Media – coursework</b>            60% of the GCSE.            Students are required to produce three written coursework assignments. The topics that can be studied are Moving Image (Film), Newspapers, Promotion Of Music, Magazines and Comics, Television and Radio, Web-based media, Packaging of DVDs.            Assignment1: Introduction to the Media.            Assignment2: Cross-Media Study            Assignment3: Practical Production and Evaluation</p>
Career Pathways	This GCSE course will allow students to study media at AS and A2 level. There are a variety of media type courses at universities leading to careers, for example in broadcasting, production, marketing and advertising.



<b>Free Choices</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>Information Technology (Computing)</b>
Subject Leader:	Head of Technology: Mr. Patel
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>The aims of a GCSE in Computer Science are to enable learners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science</li> <li>• develop and apply computational thinking skills to analyse problems and design solutions across a range of contexts</li> <li>• gain practical experience of designing, writing, and testing computer programs that accomplish specific goals</li> <li>• develop the ability to reason, explain and evaluate computing solutions</li> <li>• develop awareness of current and emerging trends in computing technologies</li> <li>• develop awareness of the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues</li> <li>• communicate computer science concepts and explain computational solutions clearly and concisely using appropriate terminology.</li> </ul> <p>This very modern approach to IT should not be compared to previous ICT specifications – which had very little, if any programming and emphasised the development of skills, primarily in the Microsoft Office suite of Word™, Excel™, PowerPoint™, Publisher™ and Access™ - alongside imaging and other packages.</p> <p>Computer programming – at the very heart of this option choice along with a study of the hardware, firmware and software of computers and computer networks is a challenging discipline and often suits those with a preference for mathematical thinking/logical reasoning.</p>
*Examination and Grading:	<p>Depending on the final specification chosen the examination profile would be something like this:</p> <p>The written paper, ‘Principles of Computer Science’, is a rigorous, intellectually challenging examination with a weighting of 75% that requires a high level of computational thinking.</p> <p>Practical programming skills are assessed in the controlled assessment, which has a weighting of 25%.</p> <p>This is similar to the approach taken by high-performing jurisdictions in other parts of the world, such as India, Israel and Singapore.</p>
Career Pathways	<p>We would hope to include a post-16 computing/programming course in the sixth form. Students who go on to study computing in the sixth form often gain apprenticeships in programming firms or go on to study at University with openings in management, consulting, teaching and many other fields. Almost all career paths/industries have openings for those with programming skills – for example engineering, medicine, finance to name a few</p>



<b>Free Choices</b>	
GCSE Subject:	<b>CITIZENSHIP</b>
Subject Leader:	Senior Leader (Achievement) Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Mr. Bennison
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Achievement) Mrs. Quelch (Maternity) – contact Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Citizenship is the fastest growing GCSE subject in Britain.</p> <p>Students who like to engage with current political and social issues in an active, philosophically evaluative and analytical manner will find this course very appealing.</p> <p>Citizenship requires and enhances the skills of public speaking, advocacy, critical thinking and responsible participation.</p> <p>There are three areas of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power, politics and media</li> <li>• Rights and responsibilities</li> <li>• The global community</li> </ul> <p>There are also two pieces of coursework – together contributing 60% of the overall grading.</p>
*Examination and Grading:	<p>40% written examination at the end of the course</p> <p>60% two pieces of coursework</p> <p>Overall grading: GCSE A* - G (Full GCSE – there is also a short course available).</p>
Career Pathways	Any humanities qualifications at GCSE provide a good basis for study post-16 and onto careers in people-orientated career pathways – e.g. administration, journalism, marketing, consultation, law, communications, social service, public service, teaching alongside archaeology, NGOs, government and politics.

What follows are two imaginary examples of students making choices – one who has thought carefully and made some sensible choices and the other who has limited his choices and as a result, he has restricted himself when it comes to further study and career options.

Finally, there is the option form that you must complete and hand in.

If you have any difficulty at all with your option choices or completing the form then please talk to one of these people:

- Your Choices Mentor
- Mr. Patel
- Mrs. Kahn
- Mrs. Morris
- Mr. Bennison



## Examples of Good and Poor Choices

The student below, **Sangita**, has made GOOD choices. She has chosen to do ALL three sciences and also to complete the **English Baccalaureate** by choosing a **modern foreign language**

To ensure her curriculum was balanced and included something creative/active – Sangita opted for GCSE art AND also GCSE dance as well as IT (Computing).

Just in case one of her options was NOT available to her, she also chose two reserves – GCSE Drama and GCSE Media

Overall, **Sangita**, has chosen to do the following – a good balanced set of choices and the ability for her to go on to achieve the English Baccalaureate too.

### **Core Compulsory**

GCSE English Language (and GCSE English Literature)

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Philosophy Religion and Ethics

PE (compulsory non-exam)

GCSE Chemistry

GCSE Physics

GCSE Biology

GCSE History

### **Free Choices**

1. GCSE Spanish

2. GCSE Art

3. GCSE Dance

4. GCSE IT (Computing)

### **Reserve Choices**

GCSE Drama

GCSE Media

**Niraj** on the other hand, *did not choose well*. He is a very able student, so **should** have thought carefully about perhaps studying all three sciences and also a modern foreign language.

He has also chosen far too many practical/creative subjects – even for his reserves!

Niraj would like to become a lawyer – he definitely needs a little extra help to look again at these choices so that he able to do what he wants to do when he leaves school.

Before getting this extra help, Niraj's early choices were to do the following – not very balanced

### **Core Compulsory**

GCSE English Language (probably will not be entered into English Literature – struggling to achieve a grade 4)

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Philosophy Religion and Ethics

PE (compulsory non-exam)

GCSE Chemistry

GCSE Biology

GCSE History

### **Choices**

1. GCSE Art and Design

2. GCSE Dance

3. GCSE Drama

4. GCSE Music

5. GCSE PE

### **Reserve Choices**

GCSE IT (Computing)

GCSE Catering

# AVANTI HOUSE SCHOOL – YEAR 9 OPTION CHOICES FORM

To be completed, checked by your Choices Mentor and handed into Ms. Reilly NO LATER than **Monday March 6th 2015.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Choices Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

You will study the following compulsory GCSE courses:

**English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Philosophy, Religion & Ethics, Chemistry as well as PE (non-exam)**

You **MUST** also study either **GCSE History** or **GCSE Geography** – **write one** of these down here – you can choose the other one in Free Choices later *if* you want to study both.

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You **MUST** also study either **GCSE Biology** or **GCSE Physics** OR **BOTH** – write **one or both of them** down here.

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**IF YOU HAVE CHOSEN BOTH Biology AND Physics, you now have 5 FREE CHOICES**  
**IF YOU HAVE CHOSEN JUST ONE OF Biology OR Physics, you now have 6 FREE CHOICES**

The LIST of subjects for FREE CHOICE is as follows:

<b>History, Geography, French, Spanish, Sanskrit, Business Studies, IT (Computing), Art and Design, PE, Drama, Music, Dance, Design Technology, Catering, Media, Citizenship</b>
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Remember, if you WANT to be awarded the **English Baccalaureate**, your choices *must* include **French or Spanish**. Also, having chosen history above, *if you wish*, you CAN choose geography here (and vice versa)

From the list in the **yellow** box above, write down your FOUR (or FIVE) CHOICES in the boxes below – IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE (the most important to you at the top).

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	If you have chosen biology AND physics, do not put anything in this box but still put two reserves below. If you have chosen only ONE of biology or physics, put your fifth choice in this box.

Now choose **TWO** reserve option choices in case one or more of your choices do not work out for you

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