




1


Subject Cluster Code	Subject Cluster	Subjects Offered at PCSA
1	Art & Design	Art and Design (Fine Art) / Photography
2	Business & Finance	Business Studies
3	Care & Services	Health and Social Care / Hospitality and Catering / Child Development
5	Construction, Engineering & Manufacturing	Construction / Engineering
6	Design & Technology	Hospitality and Catering (Food Technology)
7	English	English Literature / English Language
9	Humanities	History / Geography / Religious Education
10	ICT	Information Technology
11	Languages	French / Spanish
12	Mathematics & Statistics	Mathematics / Statistics
13	Media	Media Studies
14	Performing Arts	Drama / Music
15	Physical Education & Sport	Sport Science / Sport Studies
16	Science	Science / Triple Science / Computer Science
17	Social Studies	Sociology



**Department for Education (DfE) Subject Clusters**

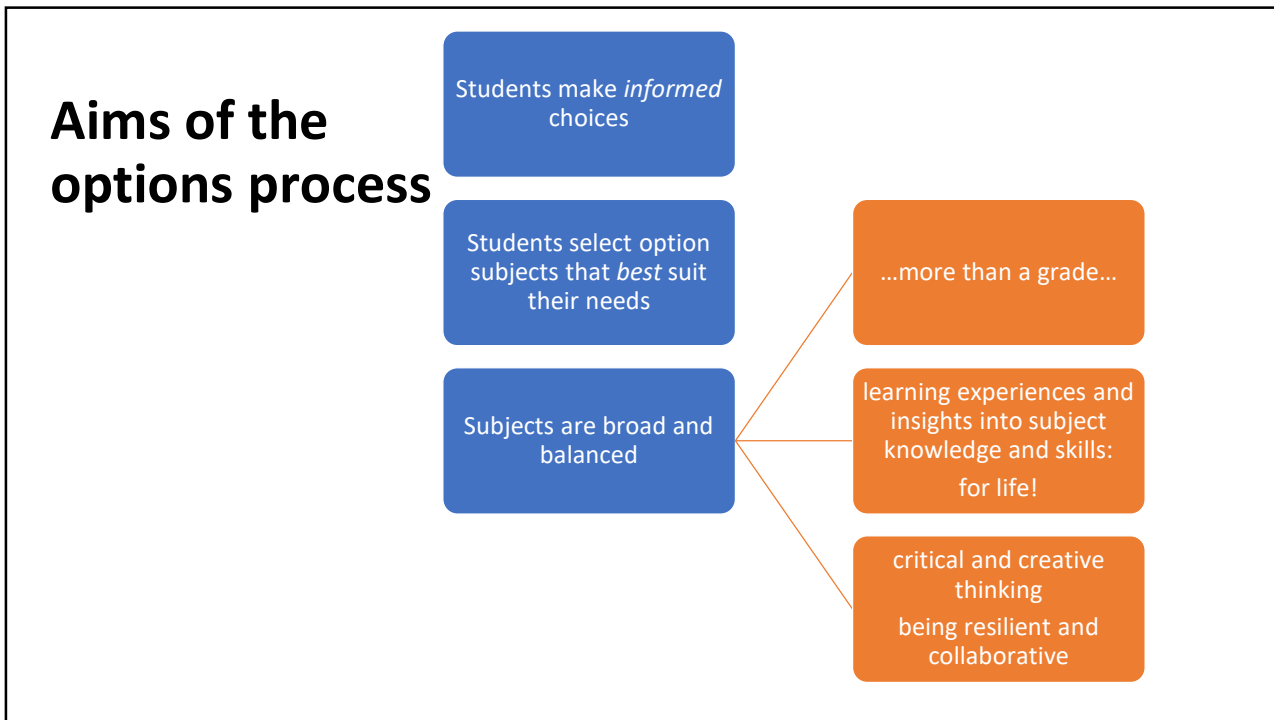
We are pleased to offer 15 of the 17 DfE subject clusters. The only clusters not offered are:

- **Classical Studies** e.g. Classical Civilisation or Latin
- **General Studies** e.g. Critical Thinking

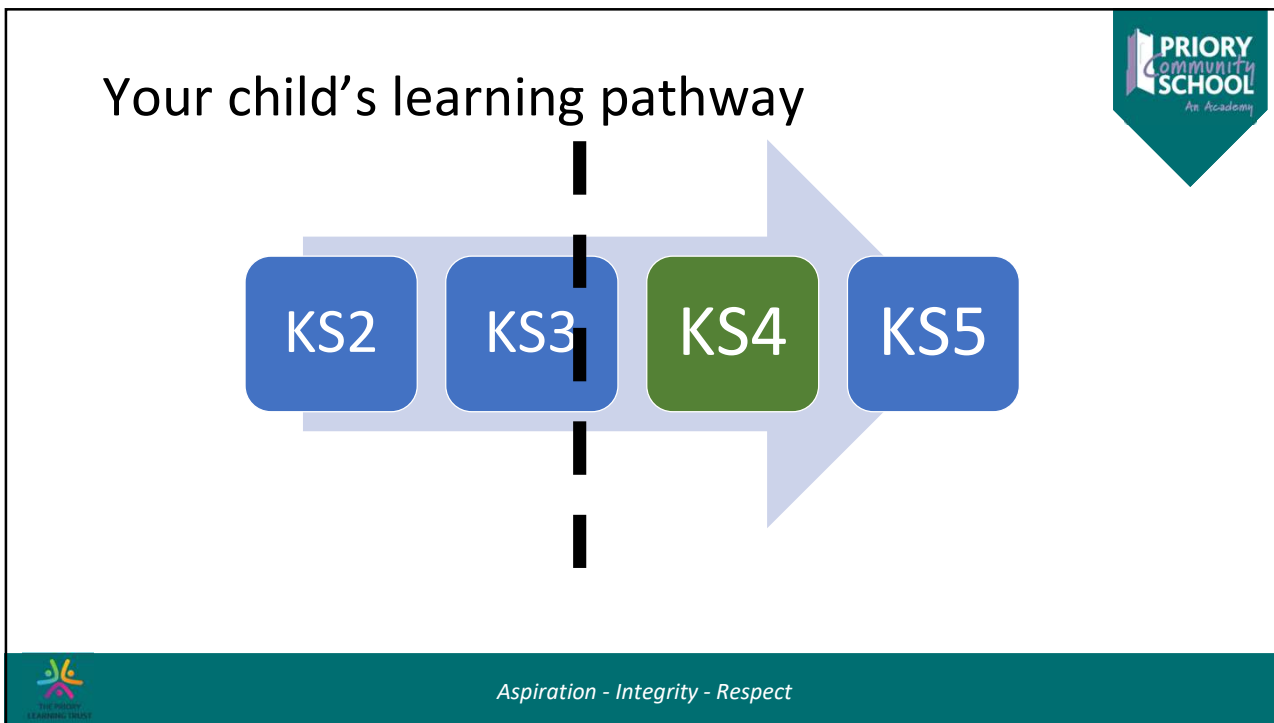


*Aspiration - Integrity - Respect*

3



5



6

## Key Stage 4 Qualifications



### GCSE

- General Certificate of Secondary Education
- Offers an academic, theory-based and general study of a subject
- Exam boards set out the content and assessment (Exams and Coursework)

### Vocational

- Practical application of knowledge
- Focussed on a specific industry and real world situations
- Exam boards set out guidelines for assessment and some exams, but teachers have some flexibility to adapt coursework assessment to suit their students' interests



*Aspiration - Integrity - Respect*

7

## GCSEs



All new GCSE specifications between 2016-18



Increased knowledge content



Less coursework (Non-Exam Assessment)



Most assessment is at the end of the course (end of year 11)



GCSE grading is on a 1 – 9 scale.



*Aspiration - Integrity - Respect*

8

## GCSE Grades – Comparing old with new

“Strong  
Pass”

“Standard  
Pass”

New GCSE	Old GCSE	Point Score
9		9
	A*	8.5
8		8
7	A	7
6		6
	B	5.5
5		5
4	C	4
3	D	3
2	E	2
	F	1.5
1	G	1
U	U	0



Aspiration - Integrity - Respect

9

## Vocational Qualifications



Vocational courses on offer  
at PCSA:

*Child Development*  
*Construction*  
*Engineering*  
*Health and Social Care*  
*Hospitality and Catering*  
*IT*  
*Sports Science*  
*Sports Studies*



Vocational courses are  
Level 2 qualifications and  
equivalent to GCSEs.



More flexible and practical  
approach to learning and  
assessment. Assessment is  
on-going throughout the  
course.



Allows progression to study  
A Levels and/or Level 3  
vocational qualifications.



Aspiration - Integrity - Respect

10

## Vocational grades explained

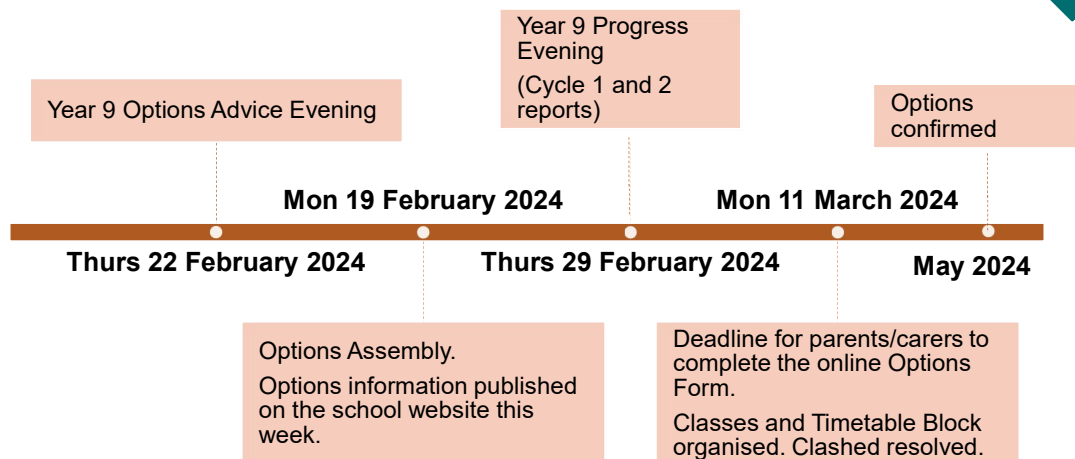
New GCSE	Vocational	Point Score
9		9
	Distinction* (Level 2)	8.5
8		8
7	Distinction (Level 2)	7
6		6
	Merit (Level 2)	5.5
5		5
4	Pass (Level 2)	4
3	Distinction (Level 1)	3
2	Merit (Level 1)	2
	Pass (Level 1)	1.25
1		1
U	U	0



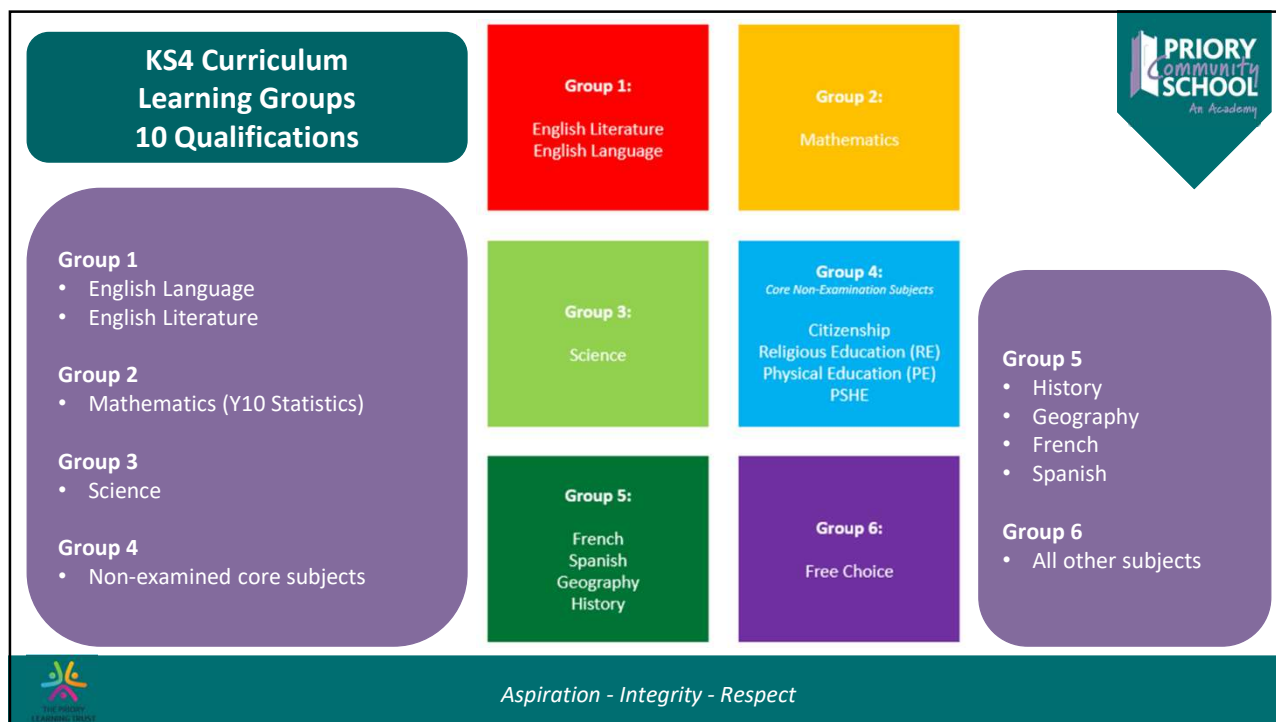
Aspiration - Integrity - Respect

11

## The Year 9 Options Process



12



13

<b>You choose 4 from 22 Subjects:</b>		Art
Business Studies	Child Development	Computer Science
Construction	Drama	Engineering
French	Geography	Health and Social Care
History	Hospitality and Catering	Information Technology
Media Studies	Music	Photography
Religious Studies	Sports Science	Sports Studies
Sociology	Spanish	Triple Science

1 option must be:  
French  
Spanish  
History  
Geography

Select a **broad** range of subjects.

14

<b>You choose 4 from 22 Subjects:</b>		Art	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     Invitation Only:                      Computer Science                      Sociology                      Triple Science                 </div>
Business Studies	Child Development	Computer Science	
Construction	Drama	Engineering	
French	Geography	Health and Social Care	
History	Hospitality and Catering	Information Technology	
Media Studies	Music	Photography	
Religious Studies	Sports Science	Sports Studies	
Sociology	Spanish	Triple Science	

15

<b>You choose 4 from 22 Subjects:</b>		Art	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     Maximum 2 Design Subjects                 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                     Limit on who does both sports courses                 </div>
Business Studies	Child Development	Computer Science	
Construction	Drama	Engineering	
French	Geography	Health and Social Care	
History	Hospitality and Catering	Information Technology	
Media Studies	Music	Photography	
Religious Studies	Sports Science	Sports Studies	
Sociology	Spanish	Triple Science	

16

Learning Pathways – Options 2024 – 2026					Please use the Google Form link that will be provided to you to complete the Option Choices. Forms are to be completed by: <b>Monday 11 March 2024</b>																																																																																																																								
Full Name:			Tutor Group:																																																																																																																										
<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Group 4</b>	<b>Group 5</b>	<b>Group 6</b>																																																																																																																								
English Literature English Language	Mathematics	Science	Citizenship Core RE PE PSHE	Free Choice																																																																																																																									
This is part of the core offer for all students	This is part of the core offer for all students  All students will be entered for the Statistics exam at the end of Year 10.	This is part of the core offer for all students  (2 GCSEs) is taken by all students not doing Triple Science (3 GCSEs)	This is part of the core offer for all students  Core Non-Examination Subjects	All students to choose four option subjects from Groups 5 and 6. At least one option subject <u>must</u> be from Group 5.  <b>*If you wish to study Sport Science and Sport Studies, please speak to the Head of PE</b>  O = Option Choice R = Reserve Choice (x1)																																																																																																																									
				<b>Students need to pick at least one subject from Group 5. Those wishing to obtain the EBacc will need to choose at least two – a language and a Humanities subject.</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject</th> <th>O</th> <th>R</th> <th>Subject</th> <th>O</th> <th>R</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>History</td><td></td><td></td><td>Art and Design (Fine Art)</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Geography</td><td></td><td></td><td>Drama</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>French</td><td></td><td></td><td>Music</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Spanish</td><td></td><td></td><td>Photography</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Hospitality and Catering</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Engineering</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Construction</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Information Technology</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Business Studies</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Sport Science*</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Sport Studies*</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Health and Social Care</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Media Studies</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Religious Studies</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Sociology (invitation only)</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Child Development</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Triple Science (invitation only)</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Computer Science (invitation only)</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Core Booster (offered to students by SENCO)</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Subject	O	R	Subject	O	R	History			Art and Design (Fine Art)			Geography			Drama			French			Music			Spanish			Photography						Hospitality and Catering						Engineering						Construction						Information Technology						Business Studies						Sport Science*						Sport Studies*						Health and Social Care						Media Studies						Religious Studies						Sociology (invitation only)						Child Development						Triple Science (invitation only)						Computer Science (invitation only)						Core Booster (offered to students by SENCO)		
Subject	O	R	Subject	O	R																																																																																																																								
History			Art and Design (Fine Art)																																																																																																																										
Geography			Drama																																																																																																																										
French			Music																																																																																																																										
Spanish			Photography																																																																																																																										
			Hospitality and Catering																																																																																																																										
			Engineering																																																																																																																										
			Construction																																																																																																																										
			Information Technology																																																																																																																										
			Business Studies																																																																																																																										
			Sport Science*																																																																																																																										
			Sport Studies*																																																																																																																										
			Health and Social Care																																																																																																																										
			Media Studies																																																																																																																										
			Religious Studies																																																																																																																										
			Sociology (invitation only)																																																																																																																										
			Child Development																																																																																																																										
			Triple Science (invitation only)																																																																																																																										
			Computer Science (invitation only)																																																																																																																										
			Core Booster (offered to students by SENCO)																																																																																																																										
Parent/Carer Signature:																																																																																																																													
Date:																																																																																																																													

17

Home
OptionsParent UAT  
PARENT

Student Choices – Toby Cox (004382)
Show Notes
Hide Notes

**Option Set A**

You have chosen 0 of 2 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	Business Studies (2) GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
Chemistry GCE Advanced Subsidiary <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	Economics GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
German GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	Geography GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
Physical Ed (2) GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	Sociology GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
Theatre Studies GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	CDT:Des & Real (1 of 4) GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>

**Option Set B**

You have chosen 0 of 3 courses from this list

Biology GCE Advanced Subsidiary <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	Construction (3) BTEC Diploma Level 3 <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
CDT:Des & Real (3 of 4) GCE Advanced <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	French GCE Advanced Subsidiary <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
Hair & Beauty (2) BTEC Diploma Level 3 <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	History (2) GCE Advanced Subsidiary <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
Health & Social (3) BTEC Diploma Level 2 <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	Information Tech (2) BTEC Diploma Level 3 <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>
Law GCE Advanced Subsidiary <span style="float: right;">Reserve</span>	

**My Choices in Order of Preference** (Total Choices: 0)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No courses selected.

**My Reserves in Order of Preference** (Total Reserves: 0)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

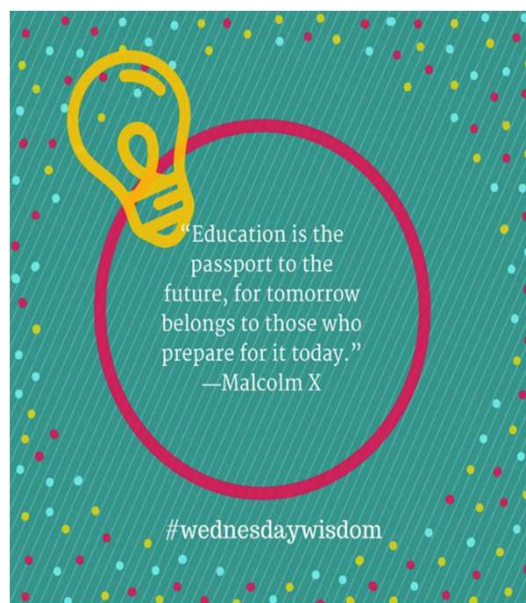
No reserves selected.

18



## Some advice when choosing your options...

- Choose things you enjoy, are interested in and passionate about.
- Choose what will help **YOU** achieve your goals.
- Do not choose subjects based on your friends or the teachers you like.
- Computer Science, Sociology and Triple Science are by invitation (can be discussed/invite does not guarantee a place).
- Must choose **4** options plus **1** reserve.



Aspiration - Integrity - Respect

19



## The Careers Team How can Miss Silmon and Mr Wilmot help?

Activity	What is it?	When?	Where?	Who?	Careers contact details:
Student 121s	The careers office is always open to students who want to talk through their options	Monday-Friday all day every day.	The careers office	All year 9 students are welcome to reach out	<a href="mailto:jodie.silmon@pcsa.theplt.org.uk">jodie.silmon@pcsa.theplt.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:james.wilmot@pcsa.theplt.org.uk">james.wilmot@pcsa.theplt.org.uk</a>
Family conversations	The careers office is always open to families where we can guide and support	Monday-Friday all day every day or some evenings	The careers office or zoom	All year 9 families are welcome to reach out	
Tutor time career sessions	A series of discussion points and activities to help students make the option choices	Thursday afternoon tutor time	Tutor rooms	All year 9 students	

- Need some help? Family or 121 appointments in school - or see Miss Silmon tonight.
- Plenty of resources available to help with career ideas and planning that we will send home via Weduc.
- Your subject teachers are the experts - talk to them as well

20