



Monday 22nd February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

This week we begin the formal process of enabling our Year 8 students to select the option subjects they would like to study in Years 9-11. We appreciate that being in 'Lockdown' adds an additional challenge to this process but we would like to reassure you that we have taken a number of steps to carefully guide you and your child through this process.

I would like to draw your attention to our website, which contains all the information you and your child will need to guide you through this process: <https://iscaexeter.co.uk/students/year-8-options/>

We have written an 'Options Booklet', which details what your child will study as part of their 'core' curriculum and what subjects they can choose to study as their options. We have included a hyperlink to each examination specification so you can glean more information should you wish. We have also made very clear links to work-related learning opportunities and possible career pathways for each subject. The back of the booklet explains how to access further careers' information, advice and guidance. In addition, we have posted a series of short films that the Heads of Department have made, giving further information about what each course entails. I would encourage you to watch them, as they are both informative and entertaining!

We are really excited to be able to offer four new qualifications this year: Construction (Technical), Health and Social Care (Technical) Further Maths / Statistics (GCSE), Travel and Tourism (Technical). The additional courses on offer will ensure we prepare our students well for the demands of the local and national labour market, while also meeting the needs of our students in terms of assessment style. A Technical qualification is a level 2 qualification (GCSE equivalent) but is often more practical in how it is both structured and examined.

As part of the options process, we will ask you to complete a Google Form (see link below) with your child and we will ask you both to make a number of choices:

1. Your child will continue to study both History and Geography in Year 9 but they will **pick one** to continue into years 10 and 11. If they want to study both, they will need to select one of them as an option subject as well.
2. Your child will **continue to study** the modern foreign language they are currently studying. If they want to study a second modern foreign language, they will need to select it as an option subject.
3. Finally, we will ask them to pick **four** subjects (**two in Block A**, one of which will be a reserve choice and **two in Block B**, again, one of which will be a reserve choice). There is a wide choice of subjects for them to pick from. Below are the options blocks for your reference:

Block A	Block B
Art	Art
Photography	Photography
Hospitality and Catering	Hospitality and Catering
Design Technology	Design Technology
PE(GCSE)	PE(GCSE)
Computer Science	Computer Science

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I S C A A C A D E M Y
I N S P I R A T I O N F O R L I F E

iMedia	iMedia
Health and Social Care	Health and Social Care
Drama	Drama
Music	PE (Sports Studies)
Construction	History
Travel and Tourism	Geography
French (as second language as well as Spanish)	Religious Studies (GCSE)
Dance	Statistics

I have explained to the students in the letter that I have written to them, that although we will try to respect their first choices wherever possible, there may be occasions where they will be asked to take their reserve choice. If so, they will be contacted and given a chance to express their views and you will be most welcome to accompany them for this discussion. Equally, not every subject on the list may run. Factors such as numbers of students opting for a subject and also staffing constraints, will influence the final offer.

Miss Mitchell, Mr Potter and I will also be hosting a live-streamed event through our YouTube channel on Thursday the 25th February at 17.00. At this event, we will carefully explain the options process and respond to any questions you might have for us. Please visit [the website](#) to submit questions in advance. This page will be updated shortly before the presentation with links to watch live on the evening.

The options process is a really exciting time for students, where they begin to look ahead and think about what life beyond Isca might look like. In the letter to students, I have advised them on what to consider when making an options course decision and would welcome your support in ensuring the subjects they pick, will allow them to follow their chosen career pathway in whatever field that might be. If their chosen career is unknown, it is important that they select a broad range of subjects which they both enjoy and can succeed in. To help support them further, we will be arranging an options phone call by a member of staff to discuss which options they are thinking of choosing and why. This process is intended to be supportive and allow them to ask any questions but also for us to explore their understanding of the decisions that they have made. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any additional information, advice or guidance.

Finally, please complete the Year 8 Options Form (Final) via Google Forms with your child by Friday the 12th March: <https://forms.gle/21QzpxxEx3dCVxj48>

Yours Faithfully,

Miss Anna Mills
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