



Monday 22nd February 2021

Dear Student,

You are about to begin the exciting process of choosing your 'option' subjects. The process this year will look different to normal, as we are still in 'lockdown' but we want to reassure you that we will help and guide you carefully through this process.

We have written an 'Options Booklet', which we would like you to read with your parents / carers. The booklet explains what you will study as part of your 'core' curriculum and what subjects you can choose to study as your 'options'. On our website, we have posted a series of short films that your teachers have made where they tell you more about their subject. We hope you like them, as they are both entertaining and informative! 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. All of the information for this event can be found: <https://iscaexeter.co.uk/students/year-8-options> At this event, we will carefully explain the process and respond to any questions you might have.

While this is a very exciting time for you, it can also be difficult and a little overwhelming to make decisions now that will have an impact on what you are going to study when you leave Isca Academy. To help support you in the choices you will make, a member of staff will arrange an options phone call to discuss which options you are thinking of choosing and why. This is to ensure that the subjects you pick, will allow you to follow your chosen career pathway in whatever field that might be and also to allow you to ask any questions that you may have. **Please wait and do not complete the options form until you have had this conversation with the member of staff.**

As part of the process, we will ask you to complete a Google Form with your parents / carers and will ask you to make a number of choices:

1. You will continue to study both History and Geography in Year 9 but you will **pick one** to continue into years 10 and 11. If you want to study both, you will need to select one of them as an option subject as well.
2. You will **continue to study** the modern foreign language you are currently studying. If you want to study a second modern foreign language, you will need to select it as an option subject.
3. Finally, we will ask you 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 you to pick, some are GCSEs and others are called 'Technical' qualifications. These are equivalent to GCSEs but are often more practical in nature.

This year, we are excited to offer three new qualifications too: Further Maths / Statistics (GCSE), Health and Social Care (Technical) and Travel and Tourism (Technical).

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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

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
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

It is important for you to know that although we will try to respect your first choices wherever possible, there may be occasions where you will be asked to take your reserve choice. If this happens, you will be given a chance to express your views. Equally, not every subject on the list may run. Factors such as the number of students opting for a subject and also which teachers we have available, will influence the final offer.

Finally, listen to the advice of your teachers and parents/carers before you make your final choices. It is sensible to choose subjects which you enjoy, or those where you know you are capable of doing well. Please avoid choosing subjects just because your friends want to study them, you may not be in the same teaching group as them next year, and it is not a sensible way of making a decision. Also do not choose on the basis of liking, or disliking, a particular teacher's lessons this year, as you may not get the same teacher in the coming years. Try to choose based on the content and skills of the subject as well as your interests and ability. If you are worried or would like to speak to someone in more detail about your options, please contact us and we will help and support you.

Yours Faithfully,

Miss Mills
Senior Deputy Headteacher

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