



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Dear Parents/Carers

GCSE Options

We have made some changes this year to our GCSE Options' process in order to ensure that every girl is following an examination pathway that maximises her chances of securing good grades and hence optimises her choices for further study or employment post-16.

All girls study for GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Maths. They must also follow a GCSE Science course and will either take a GCSE Combined Science which covers all three science disciplines and is worth two GCSEs or they will take each of the sciences as a separate GCSE (also called Triple Science). Your daughter's science teachers will advise on the best route based on all performance in this subject to date. Additionally, all girls will have lessons in PE and Life Skills which do not lead to examinations.

Regarding options, girls will be able to take up to 4 subjects, either GCSE or BTEC and this will vary slightly depending on which of two routes, X or Y, we advise your daughter to follow. Girls on Route X will choose four subjects and a reserve from Block A on the Options' Form; girls on Route Y will choose three subjects and a reserve from Block A and one subject from Block B. Whilst this gives all girls the facility to opt for up to four subjects, this structure will enable girls on Route Y to have one more lesson of English than those on Route X. This is intended to ensure that all girls have the best chance possible of securing good English grades which are so vital for the next stage of their education/employment. We have considered your daughter's progress in both her English learning and her overall attainment in all subjects when making this decision.

I urge you to make time to attend the GCSE Options' Evening on 28th February at 6pm to get more information regarding the options' process and also the Parents' Consultation Evening on 7th March in order to speak to your daughter's teachers and explore which option subjects they advise she studies at GCSE.

Yours sincerely

Ms T Nickson and Mr A Wood
Co-Headteachers