



The
Featherstone Academy



Options Booklet

Year 10 GCSE Prospectus

2022 – 2024



The Featherstone Academy

March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Options Process

Your child is about to make their choice of optional subjects to study during Key Stage 4. In order to support them in making these choices, we have created this booklet about each of the subjects we offer at GCSE.

We aim to ensure that the information and guidance provided will support your child through the options process. It is important that each student, with support from their parents/carers, understands their own strengths and weaknesses so that they can optimise their chances of success. We recommend that students select courses that they enjoy and that they may wish to study when they continue their education at either a college or sixth form.

Due to the increased number of exams students sit at the end of Year 11, we now offer a one year GCSE for two of the students' options. This means your child will study and sit one GCSE in Year 10 and then choose another GCSE option in Year 11 to study and sit.

All students will study GCSE French and will choose either GCSE Geography or GCSE History - French, Geography and History are two year GCSEs. They will then make one further 'open' choice and one 'reserve' choice to study in Year 10. At the end of Year 10, they will choose another 'open' choice and one 'reserve' choice to study in Year 11. The list of subjects they can choose from is shown overleaf.

All choices should be completed on the SIMS Options website – [full instructions on how to do this are noted near the end of this booklet.](#)

Options should be chosen online by Wednesday 6 April 2021.

If you have any queries or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the academy on 01977 698000 or e-mail: admin@featherstone.academy

Yours sincerely

Ms Diana Townshend
Principal



Curriculum Structure

Core Curriculum (blue section)

Students will study towards GCSEs
in the following core subjects:

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Combined Science

Option Subjects (purple and green sections)

Students will study the following subjects
over the next two years:

GCSE French
GCSE Geography **OR** GCSE History

Students will study one of the following
in Year 10 and one in Year 11:

GCSE 3D Art*
GCSE Art and Design*
GCSE Business
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
GCSE Geography**
GCSE History**
GCSE Media
GCSE Performing Arts
GCSE Physical Education

*only one can be studied in Key Stage 4

**must be different choice to purple option above –
these will be studied over one year

Get in contact: admin@featherstone.academy



English Language

All students in KS4 will study English Language. The course is 100% examination and will be assessed at the end of the two-year course. Students will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th century to the present day. They will learn to write analytically, exploring the different ways writers create meaning. English Language will also offer students opportunities to write creative fiction and purposeful non-fiction texts. Alongside their reading and writing skills, students will have opportunities to develop their use of spoken language in a variety of formal and informal scenarios.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing

A study of fictional texts from across the ages. Students will analyse language choices, structural features and write an evaluative essay on an unseen text. They will apply this understanding to their own narrative or descriptive writing piece.

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

A study of non-fiction texts from across history and genre. Students will explore how writers express their ideas clearly and use language to impact a reader. In this element of the specification, students will learn to compare two texts, exploring their different attitudes and ideas. They will apply their understanding of non-fiction writing to their own non-fiction writing piece.

Course Structure and Assessment

English Language (AQA 8700)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2

- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (0%)

Component 3

- Spoken language
- Complimentary qualification
- No time limit

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE English Language is a requirement for most post-16 courses, apprenticeships and jobs. The study of English Language will develop student skills towards all humanities based subjects – including sociology, psychology and criminology. The study of English Language itself at post-16 is a respected and highly-valued academic discipline.



English Literature

All students in KS4 will study English Literature.

This course is designed to offer students a wide breadth of experiences with challenging literature texts from across history. Students will explore how writers create stories to inspire, challenge and reflect their societies, ideals and beliefs. Students will learn to make their own interpretations, use evidence to support their arguments and develop coherent analytical essays.

What will be studied?

Paper 1:

'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson

Paper 2:

'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley

Power and Conflict Poetry – a collected anthology by fifteen poets

Unseen Poetry

Course Structure and Assessment

English Literature (AQA 8702)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

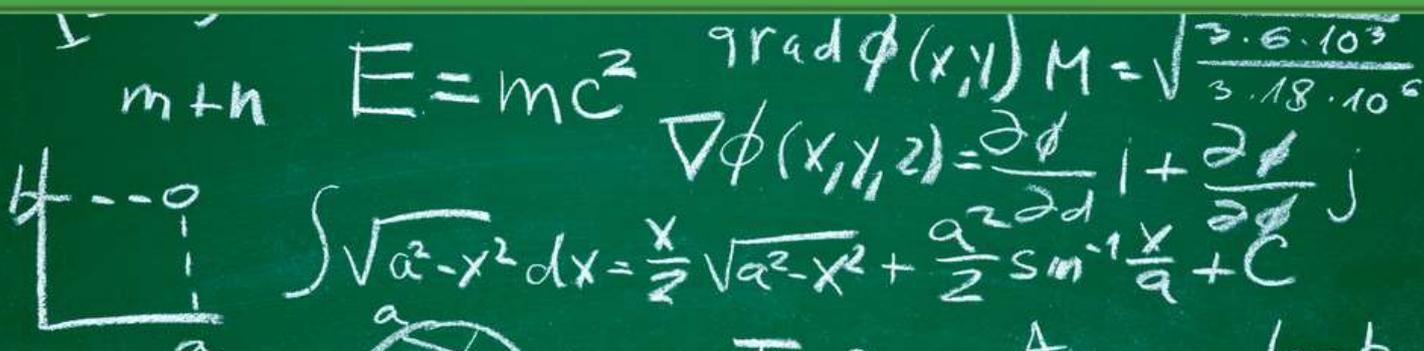
- Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
- 40% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2

- Modern Texts and Poetry
- 60% of GCSE
- 2 hours 15 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE English Literature is a well-respected and valuable GCSE course; it is valued very highly by colleges and potential employers. The study of English Literature will develop student skills towards all humanities based subjects – including sociology, psychology and criminology. At post-16, A-Level English Literature, or English Literature degrees, offer a breadth of career opportunities like journalism, law, sales and advertising or marketing.



Mathematics

In Year 10 and 11, students build on the Mathematics they have studied in their education so far including work on number, algebra, ratio, proportion, geometry, probability and statistics.

All the examinations are taken at the end of Year 11. Students will take either the Higher or the Foundation tier.

What will be studied?

Number: Arithmetic, fractions, decimals, percentages, use of calculator, properties of numbers and indices.

Algebra: Algebraic notation, graphs, equations, inequalities, formulae and sequences.

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change: Applying percentages, using ratio and proportion, work with compound measures. **Geometry and Measures:** Properties of shapes, angles, symmetry, circles, area, volume, trigonometry, constructions and transformations.

Statistics: Collecting, representing, analysing and interpreting data. **Probability:** Theoretical probability, relative frequency and experiments.

Course Structure and Assessment

Mathematics (Edexcel 1MA1)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Non-calculator exam
- 33.3% of total marks
- 90 minutes

Paper 2

- Calculator exam
- 33.3% of total marks
- 90 minutes

Paper 3

- Calculator exam
- 33.3% of total marks
- 90 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Mathematics is a requirement for many jobs and post-16 courses. Further qualifications in Mathematics open many doors. Post-16 qualifications in Mathematics carry a lot of respect and will be valuable for many careers. You can study Mathematics or Further Mathematics at A-Level.



Combined Science

GCSE Sciences enable students to access Science at any level, whether they intend to study Science further or not. Most students will gain two GCSEs in Science.

What will be studied?

Biology - students will study topics such as how the environment affects plants and animals.

Chemistry – students will study topics such as how atoms interact and how these interactions affect reactions.

Physics - students will study topics such as how forces affect matter and the energy changes that occur during interactions.

Course Structure and Assessment

Combined Science Trilogy (AQA 8464)

Examination (100%)

Components

- Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2, Physics 1, Physics 2
- Papers 1 – 6 (16.7% each of 2 GCSEs)
- 1 hour 15 minutes each

OR

Biology (AQA 8461), Chemistry (AQA 8462) and Physics (AQA 8463)

Examination (100%)

Components

- Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2, Physics 1, Physics 2
- Papers 1 – 6 (50% each of 3 GCSEs)
- 1 hour 45 minutes each

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Sciences are a requirement for many jobs, and desirable for many post 16 courses. Further qualifications in Science open many doors. Post-16 qualifications in Sciences carry a lot of respect and will be valuable for many careers. Students can study Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A-Level, as well as applied science.



Triple Science

Separate Sciences enable students to access Science at a higher level, especially those who intend to study Science further after secondary school. It is also highly beneficial for any student as it shows a student is hard working and committed to studying more difficult content.

Most students will gain three GCSEs in Science – one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics.

What will be studied?

Biology - students will study topics such as how the environment affects plants and animals like Combined Science but in greater detail.

Chemistry - students will study topics such as how atoms interact and how these interactions affect reactions like Combined Science but in greater detail.

Physics - students will study topics such as how forces affect matter and the energy changes that occur during interactions like Combined Science but in greater detail.

Course Structure and Assessment

Biology (AQA 8461), Chemistry (AQA 8462) and Physics (AQA 8463)

Examination (100%)

Components

- Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2, Physics 1, Physics 2
- Papers 1 – 6 (50% each of 3 GCSEs)
- 1 hour 45 minutes each

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Sciences are a requirement for many jobs, and desirable for many post 16 courses. Further qualifications in Science open many doors. Post-16 qualifications in Sciences carry a lot of respect and will be valuable for many careers. Students can study Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A-Level, as well as applied science.



French

Students currently studying French in Year 9 will continue to study French in Year 10 as a two-year course. They will study the AQA French Full Course new specifications. This course encourages candidates to: develop their understanding of French in a variety of contexts, develop their language learning skills, develop the ability to communicate effectively in French and develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where French is spoken.

What will be studied?

Theme 1: Identity and Culture - including units on family, technology and free time activities, customs and festivals. Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest - including units on house and home, social issues, global issues, poverty and homelessness. Theme 3: Current and future study and employment - including units on life at school/college, education post-16, jobs, career choices and ambitions.

Course Structure and Assessment

French (AQA 8658)

Examination (75%)

Paper 1

- Listening Examination
- 25% of GCSE
- 35 or 45 minutes

Paper 3

- Reading Examination
- 25% of GCSE
- 45 minutes or 1 hour

Paper 4

- Writing Examination
- 25% of GCSE
- 1 hour or 1 hour 15 minutes

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (25%)

Paper 2

- Speaking Assessment
- 25% of GCSE
- 7-9 or 10-12 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

By studying a language, students are able to enhance their future employment possibilities. They will have an in depth insight into another culture and society which will help them, not only with their communication skills, but also their interpersonal skills. The course provides students with a sound basis for further study at AS and A2 level and also at University by developing their written communication and their independent learning skills.



Geography

Geography will help students to be more aware of everyday situations and issues faced by the people who live around them and in other parts of the world. They will study the AQA GCSE Geography (8035) specification. Geography is a highly topical subject; ever changing as world events unfold. When students see newspaper articles or television reports about a potential cataclysmic 'super-volcanic' eruption in the USA, then Geography will help them make sense of what is going by making balanced judgements.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: The Challenge of Natural Hazards. The Living World. Physical Landscapes in the UK. Paper 2: Urban Issues and Challenges. The Changing Economic World. The Challenge of Resource Management. Paper 3: Issue Evaluation.

Fieldwork - Students need to undertake two geographical enquiries and show an understanding of both physical and human geography.

Course Structure and Assessment

Geography (AQA 8035)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Living with the Physical Environment
- 35% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2

- Challenges in the Human Environment
- 35% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3

- Geographical Applications
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour 15 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

Geography would be useful if you were considering a career in town and transport planning, weather and climate, teaching, emergency management, natural disasters, engineering, tourism, nature conservation, local government, geology and many more.



History

History is a popular option subject and will be of interest to any student who enjoys finding out about the past and how the past affects the world we live in today.

Throughout the course, students study a range of History and will develop their ability to investigate and analyse in a historical context. Key skills include, inference, source work, extended writing and debate.

What will be studied?

Students will study:

- Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship
- Conflict and Tension: First World War 1894-1918
- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- Norman England, c1066–c1100

Course Structure and Assessment

History (AQA 8145)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Understanding the Modern World
- 50% of GCSE
- 2 hours

Paper 2

- Shaping the Nation
- 50% of GCSE
- 2 hours

Progression beyond GCSE

History is a traditional academic subject with an excellent reputation with institutions of Higher Education and employers alike. History students are highly sought after by the legal profession, armed forces, management sector and even the entertainment industry due to the analytical skills developed by the study of the subject.

Art and Design

Students will have the opportunity to study a variety of artists' work to inspire and develop their responses, usually from a given theme. Using a variety of techniques and materials students will learn how to develop ideas into an individual outcome.

GCSE Art students are encouraged to make their research personal, imaginative and exciting in order to promote independent work.

What will be studied?

Students will be taught how to study artists' work, developing ideas and samples using appropriate media. They will learn skilful recording of ideas through drawing and photography. Through the experimentation of techniques learnt, students will be encouraged to develop a personal response. The exam is an opportunity to showcase skills and concepts learnt through the coursework, but with greater independence.

Course Structure and Assessment

Art and Design: Art, craft and design (AQA 8201)

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (100%)

Component 1

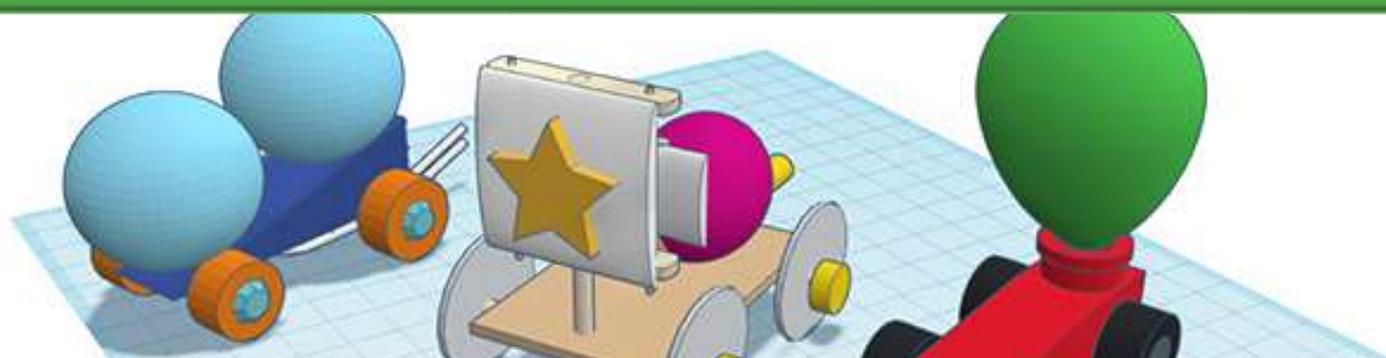
- Portfolio
- 60% of GCSE
- No time limit

Component 2

- Externally set assignment
- 40% of GCSE
- Preparation period followed by 10 hours of supervised time

Progression beyond GCSE

Students can progress from GCSE Art and Design to study a more advanced course, for example A level Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Photography at college or sixth form. Alternatively students could progress to art college and study a Level 3 BTEC course in order to access degree level qualification.



Art and Design: 3D Design

This course is a 3D design course. Students will have the opportunity to study a variety of designers' and artists' work to inspire and develop their responses, usually from a given theme. Using a variety of 3D techniques and materials, students will learn how to develop ideas into an individual outcome. This course is primarily delivered through Product Design.

GCSE Students are encouraged to make their research personal, imaginative and exciting in order to promote independent work.

What will be studied?

Students will be taught how to study designers' and artists' work, developing ideas and samples using appropriate media. They will learn skilful recording of ideas through drawing, modelling and annotation. Through the experimentation of techniques learnt, students will be encouraged to develop a personal response. The exam is an opportunity to showcase skills and concepts learnt through the coursework, but with greater independence.

Course Structure and Assessment

Art and Design: 3D Design (AQA 8205)

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (100%)

Component 1

- Portfolio
- 60% of GCSE
- No time limit

Component 2

- Externally set assignment
- 40% of GCSE
- Preparation period followed by 10 hours of supervised time

Progression beyond GCSE

Students can progress from GCSE 3D Design to study a more advanced course, for example A level Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles 3D Design and Photography at college or sixth form. Students may also pursue Design and Technology at a higher level. Alternatively students could progress to Level 3 BTEC course in order to access degree level qualification.



Business

This is a Business course focusing on both the theoretical and practical aspects of establishing and running a business. GCSE Business allows students to understand the external influences that dictate whether a business succeeds or fails, such as political, economic, financial or environmental issues. Students are encouraged to look beyond the classroom, putting themselves in the shoes of an entrepreneur looking for the next big business opportunity.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: Topics such as enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective, and understanding external influences on business.

Paper 2: Topics such as growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions and making human resource decisions.

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Business (Edexcel 1BS0)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Investigating small business
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2

- Building a business
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Business could lead to work in a Business-related profession such as Accountancy, Law, Marketing or the Leisure and Tourism industry. GCSE Business will support many jobs and post-16 course applications. Further qualifications in Business can open many doors and you can go on to study Business or Economics at A-Level.



Food Preparation and Nutrition

This course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and the encouragement that they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Students will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways, and develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

What will be studied?

The areas covered are food preparation skills, food, nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choice, food provenance, food preparation and cooking techniques.

Students will complete investigations into the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Their coursework will also involve preparation, cooking and presenting a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, as well as planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Course Structure and Assessment

Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA 8585)

Examination (50%)

Paper 1

- Food preparation and nutrition
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Non-exam assessment (NEA)(50%)

Task 1

- Food Investigation
- 15% of GCSE
- 10 hours

Task 2

- Food Preparation
- 35% of GCSE
- 20 hours

Progression beyond GCSE

Food preparation and nutrition is valuable in any career that involves food, food retail and the hospitality industry. In addition, it will be relevant to careers in social care. For example caring for people with special dietary requirements. Further study may include Health Studies, Catering and Hospitality or Leisure and Tourism. It would support GNVQ, BTEC and NVQ Health and Social Care at post-16.

Options Booklet

Year 10 GCSE prospectus



Media

Students will develop their understanding of the ways media shapes and forms our perception of the world, and how it simultaneously shapes society whilst also reflecting the context it was created in. They will study the way the producers of various genres of media use language to create representations that can influence an audience's viewpoints. They will also explore the power of the media through its vast institutions.

What will be studied?

Learners study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.

Areas of the framework are studied in the following way across the three components:

- Exploring the Media - understanding of the use of media language used to create meaning and representations in a range of print media texts. It also assesses pupils' knowledge of media industries and audiences for the following media forms: film, newspaper, radio, and video games
- Understanding Media Forms and Products - all areas of the media framework: media language, representation, audience and media industry in relation to television and music video
- Creating Media Products - Pupils create an individual media production in response to a choice of briefs set by the exam board, applying knowledge of media language and representation

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Media

Component 1:

Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
40% of qualification

Component 2:

Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
30% of qualification

Component 3:

Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment
30% of qualification

Progression beyond GCSE

This qualification would allow you to progress to study the AS Level in Media. Many students will then go on to university to study media or pursue a career in the media industry such as a journalist, editor, film maker or any other role within the film industry.



Performing Arts

This course allows you to study acting and/or musical theatre giving you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. Students will work individually and as part of small groups to create their own drama pieces and to interpret scripts written by a range of playwrights. They will also learn about theatrical techniques and styles.

Students will study texts in detail and will watch live theatre performances by professional actors.

What will be studied?

Topics include:

- Devising drama: responding to a stimulus (for example, a photograph, a newspaper report or a piece of music) to create a performance in a small group.
- Performing texts: a performance of two extracts from the same play, showing that you can learn lines, perform confidently and interpret the playwright's meaning.
- A study of a play in order to answer exam questions about style, technique and background.

Course Structure and Assessment

Drama(GCSE)

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (60%)

Component 1 and 2

- Devising Drama
- 30% of GCSE
- No time limit

Component 3

- Performing and presenting texts
- 30% of GCSE
- No time limit

Examination (40%)

Component 4

- Drama performance and response
- 40 % of the course
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

The course would be useful if you were considering a career in theatre performance or design, cultural industries or a job which requires you to present or speak to an audience. The course will support you studying Theatre Studies, Music, Dance and Performing Arts Post 16.



Physical Education

The initial theory aspect of the course will include an introduction to Physical Education looking at key processes, key concepts and the opportunities for participation. Students will participate in a range of individual and team sports to develop their basic skills, comprehension and tactics/awareness. To be successful, students will need to be competent at a wide range of sports. This will include entering the course with at least three sports that could be used for the practical assessment.

What will be studied?

Topic areas of study include:

- Bones and muscles
- Feedback, motivation and goal setting
- Media and sponsorship
- Participation
- Government initiatives
- Nutrition
- Injuries and hazards
- Healthy lifestyles

Course Structure and Assessment

Physical Education (OCR J587)

Examination (60%)

Component 1

- Physical factors affecting performance
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour

Component 2

- Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (40%)

Component 3

- Performance in physical education
- 40% of GCSE
- No time limit

Progression beyond GCSE

This qualification would allow you to progress to study the AS Level in Physical Education or the BTEC National Award in Sport. Many students will then go on to University to study Physical Education, Sports Science or pursue a career in the sport industry such as a PE teacher, sports coach, sports scientist, physiotherapist, sports psychology or fitness instructor.



How to use SIMS Options Online

Go to www.sims-options.co.uk and click on the Office365 logo as indicated below:

Sign in to SIMS Options



Log in using your school email address and password.

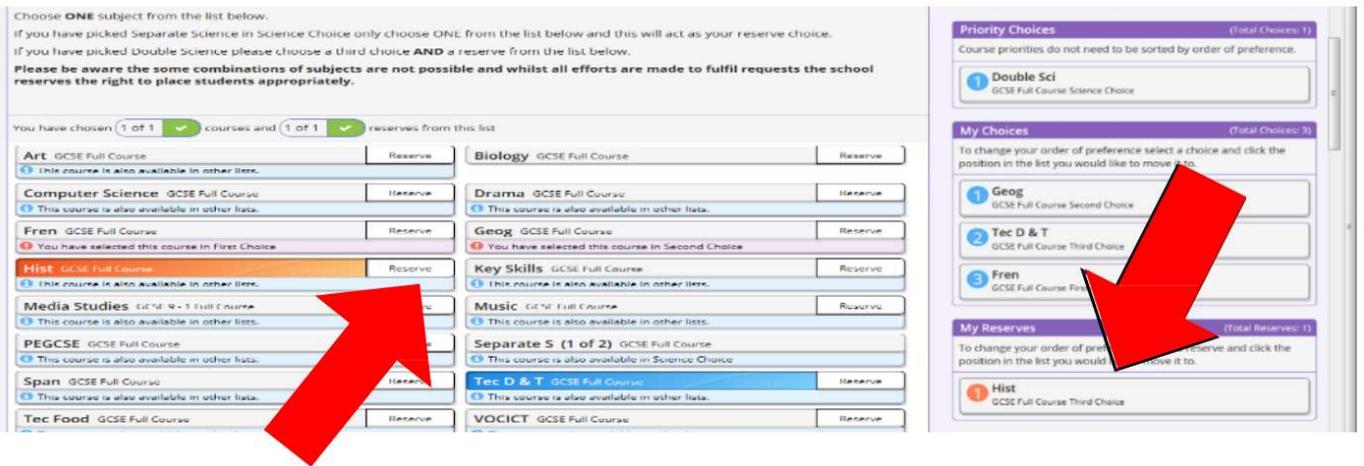
Making your Option Choices

Click on the name of the subject you wish to choose, do not click on the reserve button yet. A selected choice will be highlighted in blue and appear in the list of choices on the right hand side of the screen:

The screenshot displays the SIMS Options interface. On the left, under 'Science Choice', the 'Double Sci' option is selected and highlighted in blue. Below this, under 'First Choice', several subjects are listed, including 'Art', 'Computer Science', 'Drama', and 'Fren'. On the right side, there are three panels: 'Priority Choices' showing 'Double Sci' as the first choice, 'My Choices' which is currently empty, and 'My Reserves' which is also empty. Two large red arrows point to the 'Double Sci' selection in the Science Choice section and the 'Priority Choices' list.

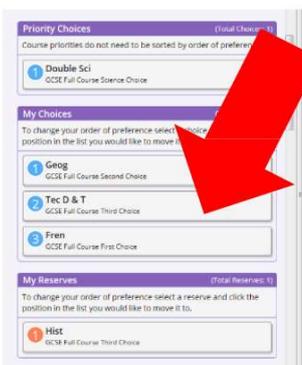
Making your Reserve Choice

Once you have made your choice, you need to select your reserve choice in the Second Choice Option. To do this, click on the "Reserve" button beside the subject you wish to pick. Reserve choices appear in orange and appear in the "My Reserves":

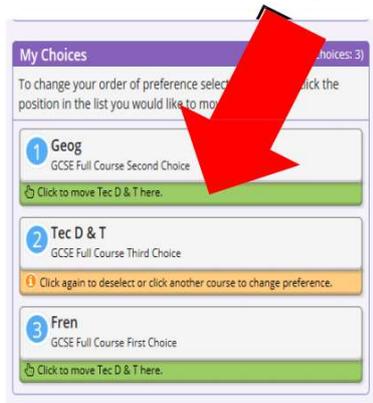


Adjusting Orders of Preference

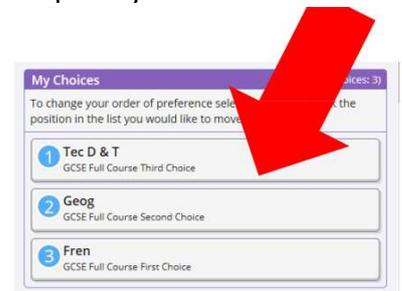
Options choices and reservations appear in the order they have been selected by default. If you wish to emphasise that one option is preferred. To alter the order, click on the option you wish to move:



1. Click on D&T



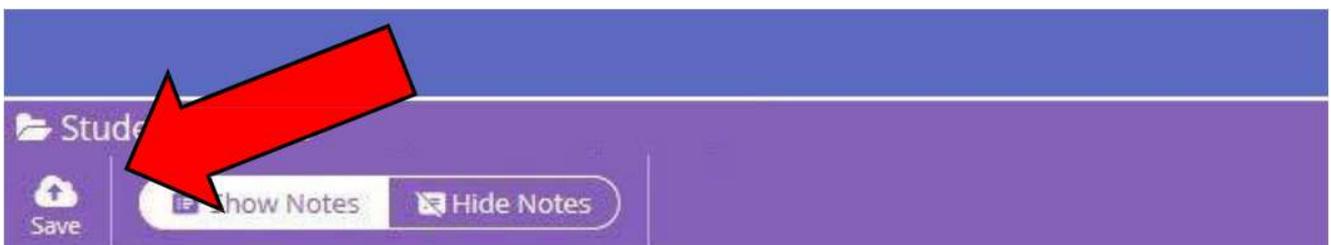
2. Click on the green box for the new position for D&T, in this case top.



3. The new order of preference will be displayed, showing D&T on top.

Saving Your Choices

It is vital you press the save button at the top of the screen otherwise the choices will be lost when you close the browser.



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