



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE  
& PREP SCHOOL

# Grammar Options Information Evening

## **The Options Process VLE Task**

Assistant Head Academic  
Timetable, Curriculum & Data

Mrs R West



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE  
& PREP SCHOOL

From the Assistant Head (Academic)  
**R WEST BEd (Hons)**

**St Edmund's College**

Old Hall Green

Ware

Hertfordshire

SG11 1DS

TEL: 01920 824226

EMAIL: [rwest@stedmundscollege.org](mailto:rwest@stedmundscollege.org)

[www.stedmundscollege.org](http://www.stedmundscollege.org)

1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **GCSE INITIAL Subject Choices for September 2023**

Further to our GCSE Options Evening, I am writing to ask you to consider the subjects that your son or daughter may wish to study next year.

I know that we are a long way from September 2023 and so I would like to assure you that your replies will not be taken as final choices at this stage. Traditionally, schools ask students to pick subjects from pre-existing option blocks but at St Edmund's we try to accommodate as many choice combinations as possible by asking first for options preferences (**not final decisions**) and then factor these preferences into the construction of the option blocks.

This letter is for information only; students have been asked to make their final selection on the College VLE. This is to be completed no later than **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Experience has shown that we are usually successful in being able to accommodate all option requests and in order to facilitate this I will need to construct the options blocks by considering preference indications from **all** students.

Using this information, we will be able to create final option blocks and present these early in the Lent term 2023.

I hope this process is clear. Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant subject leaders should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

*Rhona West*

**Rhona West**

Assistant Head (Academic)



**GCSE INITIAL Subject choices for September 2023 – VLE Task**

Please complete online by **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022**.

Please note subjects are NOT in option blocks at this stage.

CORE SUBJECTS	CORE LANGUAGE	OPTION SUBJECTS	
<b>Compulsory</b>	<b>Choose 1</b>	<b>Choose 3</b>	
<b>R.E.</b> <b>English</b> <b>Mathematics</b> <b>Science</b> <b>Physical Education</b>	French German Spanish Latin	Art Business Studies Computer Science Design Technology Drama <b>French, Spanish or German</b>	Geography History ICT Music Physical Education GCSE

Please note only ONE Language can be chosen from the OPTION SUBJECTS list above, giving two languages in total.

## INTRODUCTION

Good evening, let me start by saying that I am sorry that I cannot be with you this evening. My name is Mrs Rhona West and I am the Assistant Head Academic for Timetable, Curriculum and Data.

This means that one of my responsibilities is to compile the Option blocks and write the school timetable. Therefore, this booklet will take you through the process of completing your INITIAL option choices.

These choices will give me an idea of the combinations of subjects that will be required, and I will use these to create the OPTION BLOCKS that pupils will choose from in the LENT Term.

Currently everyone studies a full curriculum of Core and Foundation subjects.

Tonight, you will be able to discuss the content of the Option subjects with the Heads of Department of the subjects that your son or daughter might be interested in studying for their GCSEs.

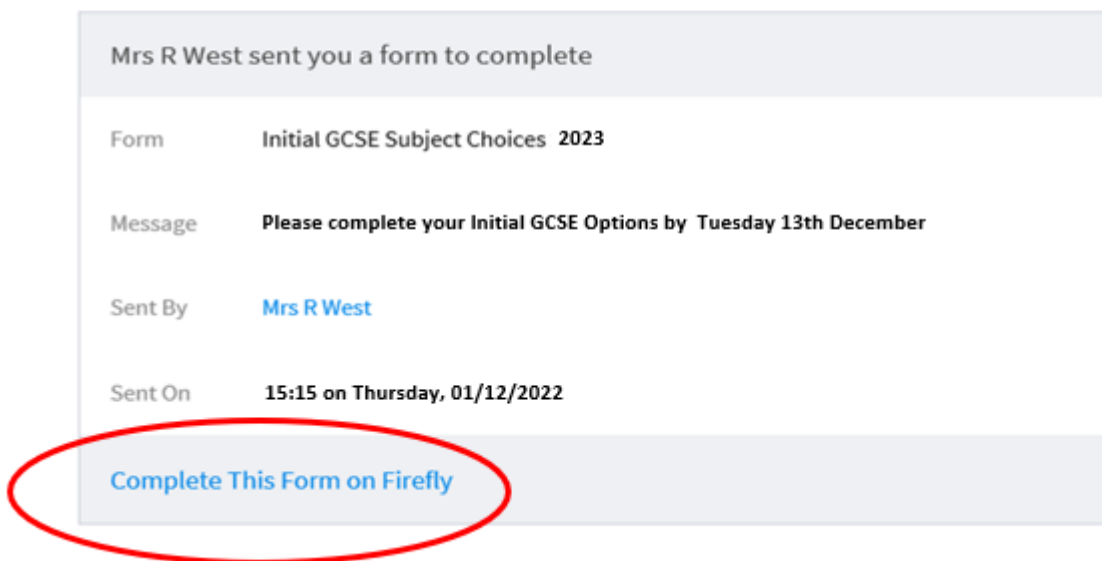
At St. Edmund's almost every student studies up to two Core Languages throughout Bounds, so the first thing that we will ask you to do is to choose-

- ONE Language from the CORE LANGUAGES
- and
- THREE subjects from the OPTION SUBJECTS-

*You will note that FRENCH, SPANISH and GERMAN are in the Option Subjects list as well as the Language list, this is so that students can choose to take two languages if they so wish and if there is sufficient uptake.*

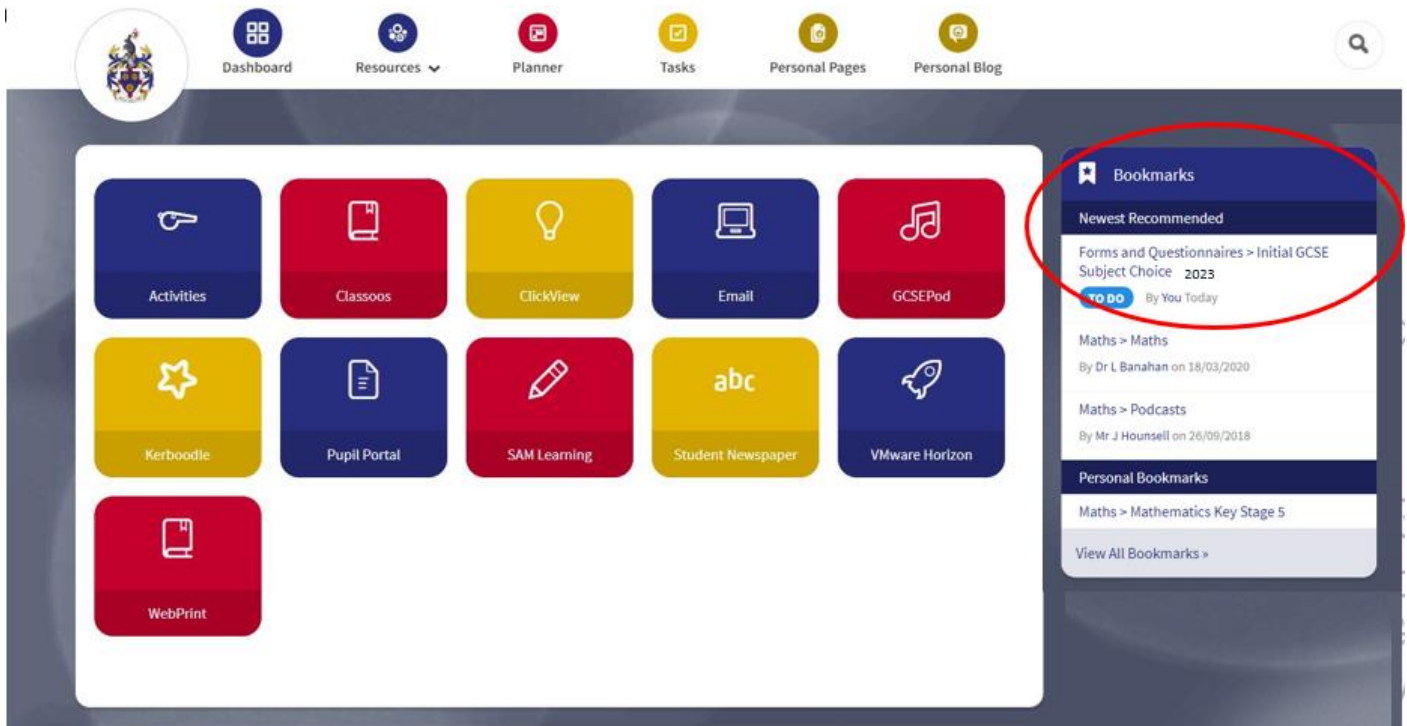
## THE VLE PROCESS

After the Options Evening, all Grammar students will receive an email from me which will look like this-



If the link at the bottom is selected, you will be taken directly to the task.

The link will also be displayed as a BOOKMARK on each students' DASHBOARD as below.



Again, if they click the link it will take them directly to the task.

At the top of this page, you will find a copy of the options letter from the front of this booklet and below that the choices that they must make.

p of this page, you will find a copy of the options letter from the fro  
and below that the choices that they must make.

Firstly they choose a Language by selecting the appropriate button.

Language Option \*

- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Latin
- ☐ Spanish

Then **IN ORDER of PREFERENCE** they will choose a subject from the drop-down list for their three options.

Please REMEMBER that subjects are NOT in option blocks at this time.

OPTION SUBJECTS		
Art and Design		
Business Studies		
Computer Studies		
Design Technology		
Drama		
Geography		
History		
Information Technology		
Music		
Physical Education GCSE		
French	Spanish	German

**!** Please note **ONLY ONE** further Language can be chosen from the subjects above if required

Subject 1 \*  
Subject 2 \*  
Subject 3 \*

☐ Send me a copy of this form

Please select...  
Please select...  
Art, Craft and Design  
Business Studies  
Computer Science  
DT  
Drama  
Geography  
History  
ICT  
Music  
Physical Education - GCSE  
French  
Spanish  
German

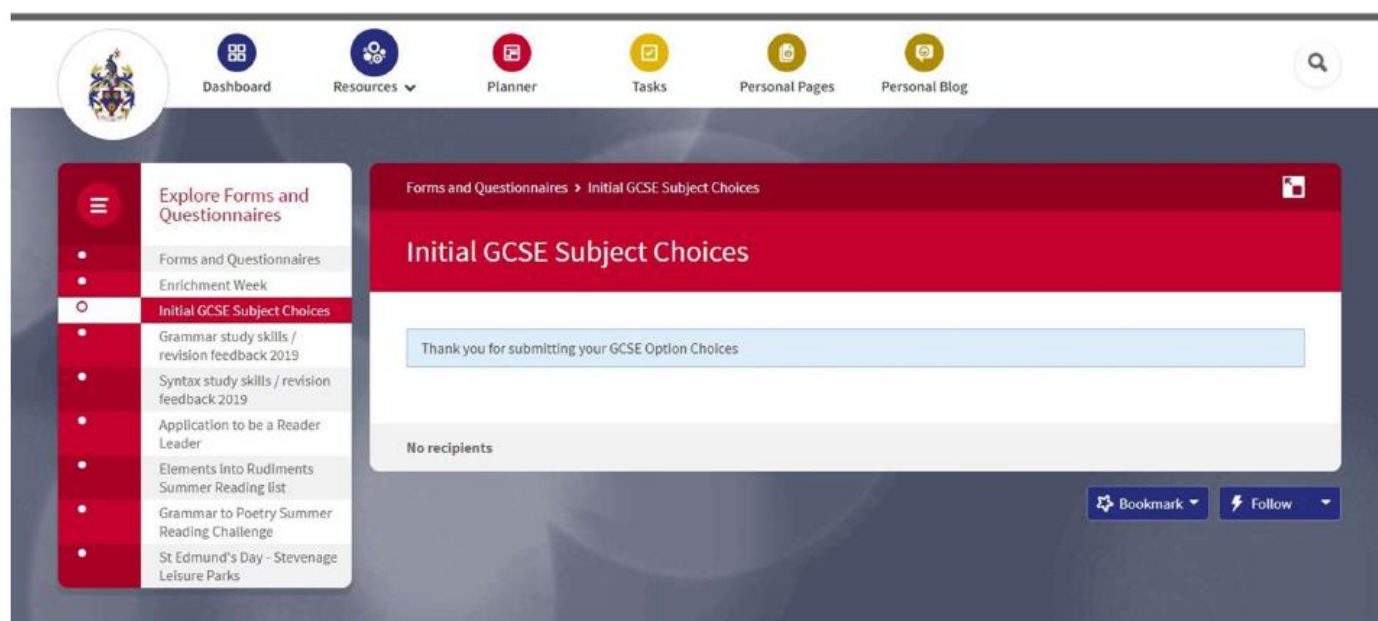
When you click on each box you will get a drop down menu where you select a subject.

**REMEMBER** you **MUST** now only select one further Language **EITHER FRENCH** or **SPANISH** or **GERMAN**.

They should now select the 'Send me a copy of this form' box and then **SUBMIT** their choices.

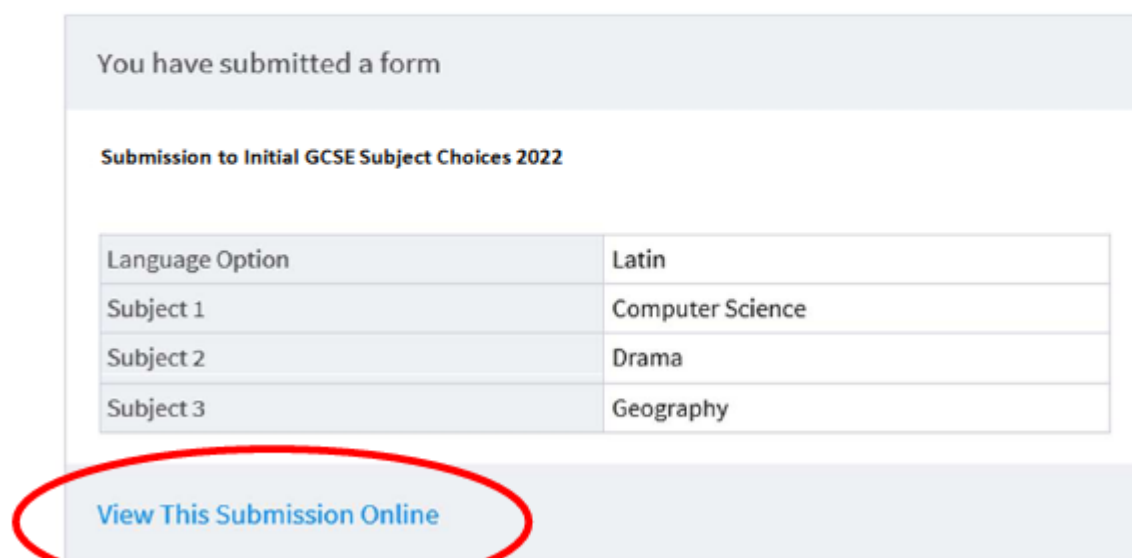


Once this has been done, you will see this screen.



As long as you have selected **'send me a copy of this form'** you will receive the email below showing you which options that you have selected. Please keep this safe.

If you are not happy then you can click on the link at the bottom and go back in and change them.



# The GCSE grading system explained

When the GCSE grading system had an overhaul in 2017, it changed grades from letters to numbers. Here's what it all means...

GCSE grades A\* to G in England have been replaced by a new grade scale numbered from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.

According to [The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation](#) (Ofqual), the new grades were brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to **better differentiate** between students of different abilities.

Ofqual says that new GCSE content will be more challenging, with fewer grade 9s expected to be awarded than A\*s.

The new GCSEs are 'linear', which means they are exam focused and that all those exams come at the end of the course. This differs from the previous 'modular' courses, which assessed using both exams and course work.

As the infographic below reveals, there is no direct read-across from the old to the new grades.

Grades 9, 8 and 7 range from A\* to A, 6, 5 and 4 range from B to C and 3, 2 and 1 range from D to G.

The government's definition of a '**good pass**' will be set at grade 5 for the reformed GCSEs. They predict that:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 1 and above as currently achieve a grade G and above

## Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	C
2	
1	
U	U

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**

5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**

4 and above = bottom of C and above

If you have any questions on this process, please contact me on [rwest@stedmundscollege.org](mailto:rwest@stedmundscollege.org)