

# Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form

A community comprehensive offering a high-quality creative education for all



Year 8 Options Evening  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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## New GCSEs

- The new GCSE courses have a different grading system. Instead of A\* to U it has been changed to Grades 9 (A\*\*), 8 (A\*), 7 (A), 6/5(B), 5/4 (B/C) down to 0 being U or fail.
- The new benchmark pass grade will be grade 5 – a ‘strong pass’ and a grade 4 will be a ‘standard pass’.
- No coursework apart from practical subjects.
- Maths & MFL (French/Spanish/Turkish) will have a tiered entry. Foundation and Higher.

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## Helping your child make the correct choices

### In school support

- Tutors
- Subject teachers, especially subjects they haven't studied
- School careers staff
- All students in Year 8 have met with the SLT to discuss their options

### What should choices be based on?

- Interests
- Possible future careers
- Not what their friends have chosen

**Your child's final choices must be appropriate and realistic for them.**

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## Progression

### Requirements for progression into sixth form and colleges to study A levels

- Minimum of five grades at 9-5 including maths and English and potentially a grade 6 in the A level subject they want to study

### Requirements for progression into higher education

- Study a minimum of 3 A levels or a BTEC level 3
- Russell Group universities will require certain subjects to be studied.



## Options Process at SNS

- English Literature, English Language, Maths and Combined Science (5 GCSEs) – These are a legal requirement.
- At SNS we have chosen to run a 3 year KS4 which allows us to offer 4 Option choices.
- Providing more options at GCSE also allows for a greater range of choices at Ks5.



## Options Process at SNS

- We offer a wide range of subjects at GCSE and students are asked to select four options
- The subjects are arranged in blocks and students must select one from each block
- We will do our utmost to fit all students into their preferred choices, but this cannot be guaranteed
- They are also asked provide three back-up choices, in rank order of preference (do not repeat any subjects that you have already chosen).



## Options Process at SNS

### Why a student may not get their first choice

- Insufficient numbers for the class to run – too few students have opted for the subject.
- Oversubscription – too many students have opted for the subject. This does not happen very often but in these cases names will be drawn from a hat.
- Late return of options form. The deadline is 4<sup>th</sup> April.



## The most important things about choices

- Choices allow progress into the appropriate courses in the Sixth Form
- Final grades are nearly always the most important part of progression into a new course Post 16.
- A balance of subjects that you enjoy and subjects you need to do



Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Triple Sciences	Triple Sciences	Triple Sciences	Triple Sciences
History	History	History	History
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
French	Computer Science	Spanish	French
Spanish	Spanish	French	Computer Science
Design & Technology: Graphics	Turkish	Photography	Art
Drama	Latin	Food and Nutrition	Drama
Art	PE & Sport	Art	Design & Technology: Resistant Materials
Music	Photography	Drama	Textiles
Photography	Citizenship	Media & Film	Citizenship
Religious Studies			Music

Put your chosen subjects in the boxes below. You must choose one subject from each option block. You **MUST** choose at least one of the subjects highlighted in green.

Due to the nature of the courses being similar, students may NOT choose these pairing of subjects:

- Graphics and Resistant Materials
- Art and Textiles

Block 1 choice	Block 2 choice	Block 3 choice	Block 4 choice

Please choose three back-up options and write them in the boxes below.

- These will be used if for any reason one of your first-choice subjects doesn't run or is oversubscribed
- You should place them in order of how much you would like to do them
- They can be from any block

1st		2nd		3rd	
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Name:		Tutor group:	
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Date	Aspect
January	Heads of Subject visit year 8 assemblies and present their subject offer at KS4.
February	Options work in tutorial time.
	Meetings with parents of students identified for the supported learning pathway.
	SLT will meet with all Y8 students to support them with their choices
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Options Evening
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Deadline for all completed option forms.
Mid-June	Letters sent home with confirmed options.