



LeicesterHigh
SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS



GCSE Options

Future Pathways

Explore the list of GCSE options to help you navigate your future educational and career pathways.



COMPULSORY CORE EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

- English Language
- English Literature
- Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Mathematics

COMPULSORY NON-EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

- PSHCE
- PE (See options for GCSE PE)
- **Your 4 Option Choices:** You have the opportunity to select four option choices from a range of subjects over the following pages, enabling you to tailor your education to your interests and career aspirations.

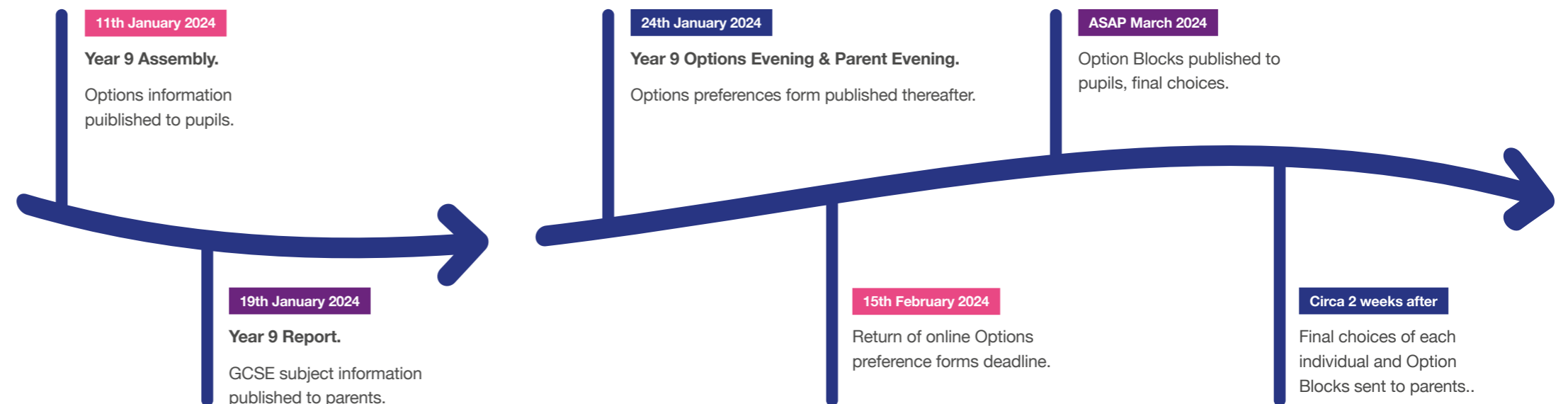
HOW DO I CHOOSE MY SUBJECTS?

- Choose subjects that are enjoyable, interesting and challenging TO YOU.
- Consider subjects in the light of YOUR individual talents and aptitudes.
- Don't choose a subject just because your best friend is studying it.
- Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher.

WHAT'S NEW?

- Form Time opportunities:

Wellbeing, Revision, Sixth Form Guidance, Careers Advice, Enrichment Opportunities, Leadership Opportunities





Art, Craft and Design

● **Course Overview:** This highly creative course gives you the confidence and skills to explore a range of themes and develop a questioning and analytical attitude. There is a strong emphasis on the teaching of drawing through the use of a wide range of materials, as well as underpinning research skills.

● **Assessment:**
Portfolio of Practical Coursework
Externally Set Assignment

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Design, Architecture, Advertising, Marketing, Publishing, Media or Education and much more

Biology

● **Course Overview:** This course is a compulsory part of your Core Subjects Science Curriculum and will deepen your understanding of the exciting nature of Biology today and in its historical context. Practical activities will underpin the theoretical aspects of the course.

● **Assessment:** 2 externally assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science + areas in Biochemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Law and Scientific Journalism and much more

Chemistry

● **Course Overview:** This course is a compulsory part of your Core Subjects Science Curriculum and offers pupils the opportunity to gain an exciting insight into the chemical processes that underpin modern life: from the manufacture of fertilizers to the design of new biodegradable plastics. Combating global warming could partly depend upon the design of new carbon-neutral materials and chemical processes. There is a strong emphasis on practical work and the learning of key laboratory skills and techniques.

● **Assessment:** 2 externally assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Pharmacy, Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Climate Change related fields and much more

Computer Science

● **Course Overview:** This course develops programming skills to solve a range of problems using high-level textual programming languages (Python) to build an understanding of how computer science is used practically in the real world and to help find solutions to current issues that impact modern society.

● **Assessment:** 2 externally assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Computer Science, Engineering, Working in Artificial Intelligence, Data Scientist, Aviation Industry, Medicine, Technology-based work and much more

Drama

● **Course Overview:** This course allows you to participate in and interpret your own and others' drama, while investigating the forms, styles, and contexts of drama. You will also learn to work collaboratively to develop ideas, express feelings, experiment with technical elements and reflect on

your own and others' performances. Communication skills, critical thinking skills, analysis, reflection and working with different genres will be developed.

● **Assessment:** Coursework

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Work in theatre or TV production, Performing Arts, Stage Technician, Life Coach, Journalism, Presenting and much more

English Language & English Literature

● **Course Overview:** English Language GCSE develops all areas of your reading, writing and communication skills. GCSE English Literature gives you the opportunity to respond to, and enjoy, many different kinds of texts, discovering the place of Literature in its social, historical and cultural context. English Language and English Literature are taught as a combined course leading to two separate GCSE qualifications.

● **Assessment:**
English Language – 2 externally assessed papers + Spoken Language Endorsement



English Literature - 2 externally assessed papers in three parts

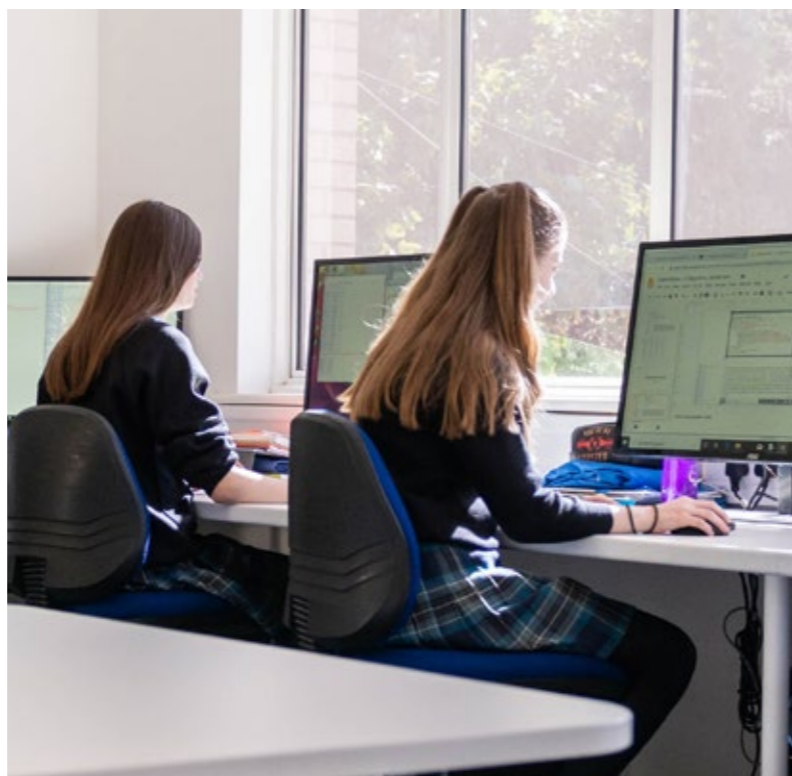
- **Links to Career Pathways:** (Screen) Writing, Broadcasting, Journalism, TV and Media and much more

Food Preparation & Nutrition

● **Course Overview:** This course will equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. You will study the impact of food and food security on society, local and global markets and the environment, alongside moral/ethical and environmental issues involved in food production.

- **Assessment:** externally assessed papers + non-examined assessment

- **Links to Career Pathways:** Work in field of Nutrition, Product Development, Food Technology, Work in Hospitality Industry and much more



French

● **Course Overview:** This course will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand the language in speech and writing. You will learn about the culture of countries where French is spoken and will be able to communicate socially and professionally in these countries. French is a very useful language for business.

- **Assessment:** 4 externally-assessed papers (1 in each skills – Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking)

- **Links to Career Pathways:** Education, Journalism, Academic Research, Science, Medicine, Law, International Relations and Politics, Engineering and much more

Geography

● **Course Overview:** This course addresses current local, national, international and global areas of development and challenges, such as environmental concerns and threats. It also allows you to develop your mapping and IT skills in a



geographical context as well as your understanding of how to collect, present and interpret data correctly, for which Fieldwork is a key element.

- **Assessment:** 3 externally-assessed papers

- **Links to Career Pathways:** Researcher and Development, Education, Journalism, Work in Government, Town Planning, Human Resources, Surveyor, Flood Manager, Conservation Officer and many more

History

● **Course Overview:** This course helps you understand where we come from and what the past means for our current lives. It explains the world we live in now, and our place in it. It allows you to argue our own place in society, and to be certain of our own rights and responsibilities. It is beneficial as a gateway to a breadth of possible careers.

- **Assessment:** 2 externally-assessed papers

- **Links to Career Pathways:** Medicine, Law, Research and Development, Civil Service, Education, Media, Journalism, Civil Service, Banking and much more

Mathematics

● **Course Overview:** This qualification is one of your Core Subjects and is required by most employers and often for entry to further or higher education. Mathematics teaches you numerical competence and analytical skills such as logical thinking, problem-solving techniques and how to work independently.

- **Assessment:** 2 externally-assessed papers

- **Links to Career Pathways:** Work in finance-based roles, banker, Engineering, Physics, Statistics, Architecture, Law, Psychology, Work in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and much more



Music

● **Course Overview:** This course fosters performing, composing and appraising through the study of Western Classical Tradition, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music. Studying the interrelation of these areas of study fosters understanding of various genres and styles.

You will need to perform at a minimum of a strong Grade 3 standard on your instrument or voice by the end of the course.

● **Assessment:** 1 externally-assessed paper + 2 performances + 2 compositions

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Work in Performing Arts and in theatre and TV production, Journalism, Sound Technology, Musical Management and much more

PE

● **Course Overview:** This course allows you to explore the functioning of the human body during physical activity, including physiological adaptations resulting from diet and training. Training principles, diverse training methods, and the optimisation of training plans for better results are covered alongside socio-cultural influences affecting participation and performance in physical activities and sports and understanding how sport impacts society.

● **Assessment:** 2 externally-assessed paper + practical assessment (3 sports) + coursework

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Work in the fields of Sports Science, Psychology, Sociology, Biology, Journalism, Education and much more

Physics

● **Course Overview:** This course is a compulsory part of your Core Subjects Science Curriculum and develops your understanding of Physics within the context of the modern technological world. You will study the underlying theories that build our understanding of how things work combined with practical work to develop investigative skills.¹

● **Assessment:** 2 externally-assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Engineering, Architecture, Medicine, Finance and much more

PSHCE

● **Course Overview:** Education in PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, and Citizenship Education) is as a necessary part of a young person's full educational entitlement. You will learn essential skills, knowledge, and self-awareness for a healthy lifestyle, to recognise and manage risks, build effective relationships, demonstrate responsibility and moral decision-making, understand your society and community, and actively engage as informed citizens.



● **Assessment:** non-assessed

● **Links to Career Pathways:** transferrable skills to any field of work²



Religious Studies

● **Course Overview:** This course covers four contemporary philosophical and ethical themes and the beliefs, teachings and practices in two religions. Questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth will develop your own attitudes towards religious issues, philosophy and ethics. You will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills.

● **Assessment:** 3 externally-assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Civil service, Youth and Social work, Advertising, Law, Business, work in the Creative Industries, the charity sector and NGOs, Journalism, Education and much more

Science

● **Course Overview:** All pupils study the sciences to GCSE level at Leicester High School, either as a double award GCSE in Science (Route A) or three individual GCSEs in the separate Sciences1 (Route B). Both routes follow a rigorous and challenging Science curriculum and result in an iGCSE qualification, suitable for entry into A-level Science courses and the workplace.

The final decision about the most suitable route is taken after discussion with the Head of Science and performance during Year 9.

Double Science (Route A)

This course will develop your understanding of all 3 separate Sciences. The content of the course is delivered to the same depth as Triple Science. However, your final award is based on a combined result across all 3 Sciences.

- **Assessment:** 3 externally-assessed papers, 1 per subject
- **Links to Career Pathways:** see Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Triple Science (Route B)

Biology

● **Course Overview:** This course will deepen your understanding of the exciting nature of Biology today and in its historical context. Practical activities will underpin the theoretical aspects of the course. It forms part of the Triple Science award.

● **Assessment:** 2 externally assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science + areas in Biochemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Law and Scientific Journalism and much more

Chemistry

● **Course Overview:** This course offers pupils the opportunity to gain an exciting insight into the chemical processes that underpin modern life. There is a strong emphasis on practical work and the learning of key laboratory skills and techniques. It forms part of the Triple Science award.

● **Assessment:** 2 externally assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Pharmacy, Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Climate Change related fields and much more

Physics

● **Course Overview:** This course develops your understanding of Physics within the context of the modern technological world. You will study the underlying theories that build our understanding of how things work combined with practical work to develop investigative skills. It forms part of the Triple Science award.

● **Assessment:** 2 externally-assessed papers

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Engineering, Architecture, Medicine, Finance and much more

Pupils indicate preferences for their chosen route upon selecting their Options.

The final decision about the most suitable route lies with the Head of Science and takes performance during Year 9 as well as contextual factors into account.

● **Links to Career Pathways:** work in all science-related fields, NHS, Engineering, Architecture, Medicine, Finance, Law and Scientific Journalism and much more



Spanish

● **Course Overview:** This course will teach you how to communicate in the language and understand the language in speech and writing. You will learn about the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and will be able to communicate socially and professionally in these countries. Spanish is a very useful language for business.

● **Assessment:** 4 externally-assessed papers (1 per skills – Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking)

● **Links to Career Pathways:** Education, Journalism, Academic Research, Science, Medicine, Law, International Relations and Politics, Engineering and much more

Future Pathways

Successful studies at GCSE will open the door to varied and exciting A-Level choices.



Medicine and Dentistry

● Chemistry* ● Biology* ● +1

Architecture

● Physics* ● Art* ● +1

Engineering

● Maths* ● Physics* ● +1

Performing Arts

● Drama/Music (any) ● +2

Creative Arts

● Art/Photography/Music (any) ● +2

Law and Business

● Business Studies/Philosophy/Sociology
● English ● History (any of the above)

Humanities

● Geography ● History ● Sociology/
Philosophy (any of the above)

Languages

● French ● Spanish
(any of the above)

Social Sciences

● Psychology ● Sociology ● +1
(any of the above)



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