

GCSE Curriculum Information and Guidance Evening

Weds 26 Sept 2018



Devonport High School for Girls

Aims of the evening

- The Key Stage 4 curriculum programme
- Brief overview of new GCSEs
- Overview of the information and guidance provided to students and parents
- Outline of the options process
- Highlight key dates
- Opportunity for questions



Why do we teach Key Stage 4 over three years?

- Increase time allocation
- A broad and balanced curriculum
- Opportunities to enrich the curriculum through engaging and challenging educational experiences
- Extended breadth and depth of study
- Increased opportunities for tailoring the curriculum
- Accommodate the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- Meeting the needs of the new GCSEs



English Baccalaureate

School performance measure (not a certificate) Grade 5 or higher in core subjects which must include:

- English Language / Literature
- Mathematics
- Science ×2
- MFL
- Geography or History



New GCSEs

- Greater content and more knowledge based
- Fully linear course with no modules – terminal examinations only
- Reduced tiering
- No controlled assessed element in English and Mathematics
- Non-examination assessments reduced to a few subjects
- Greater emphasis on SPAG
- Tougher, extended answer questions in the examinations
- New grading system



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

GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above



Key Stage 4 curriculum model

Yr 11	8	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
Yr 10	8	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
Yr 9	8	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
	Eng Lang and Eng Lit	Maths	Sci Tri	Sci Tri	Op A	Op B	Op C	Op D	Op E	Core PE	TP	SS



GCSE Option subjects on offer last year:

- Art and Design : Fine Art
- Art and Design : Textiles Design
- Business
- Chinese
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Separate sciences or combined science (trilogy)
- Spanish



Personalisation

- Targeted intervention based on rigorous use of data to support student progress
- Personalised learning checklists a tool to monitor where students are in the development of skills and knowledge
- Excellent pastoral care
- Individual support



Events and support

- Careers advice through the tutor programme
- 16 Nov: Progress Review 1
- 1 Feb: Careers morning and trial options
- 13 Feb: Year 8 Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) evening - GCSE options booklet & form distributed
- 15 Feb: Progress Review 2
- 6 Mar : Year 8 Parents' evening
- 8 March : Year 8 options deadline
- 21 June : End year reports
- On-going help and support



Mr Thomas Deputy Head Teacher

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Questions



Devonport High School for Girls

FAQ

Q) Which subjects will have a weighting for spelling, punctuation and grammar?

Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) will be separately assessed in externally assessed units in (English Language and Literature – 20% + 5% respectively), (Geography, History and Religious Studies - 5%)

Q) Are any of your subjects such as Business BTEC qualifications? All subjects followed with us are GCSE qualifications (please see our website for further details)

Q) What is tiering? This is when more than one examination paper is written for a subject. Each paper cover a different range of grades e.g. Higher tier grade 4-9 and Foundation Tier grade 1-5. Students at DHSG all sit Higher Tier Papers where there is a choice.

Q) What is the school's view on a reasonable number of GCSEs?

Currently students will study ten GCSEs this in our opinion is enough to give students a broad and balanced curriculum that opens doors to study at any University in the future whilst recognising that the new tougher GCSEs will require more curriculum time.



Q) Can you take History and Geography? Yes

Q) When taking Trilogy Combined Science do you still study three sciences? Yes

Q) What will the qualification name be for Trilogy Science and how is this subject graded? Combined Science (Trilogy) Students will receive 2 grades e.g. 9-8 or 7-7.

Q) What advice would you give to someone wishing to study a subject like medicine?

Most students that are confident they wish to study a career in the field of science take separate sciences as it usually is a strength and area of interest for that student. To study A Level sciences a student will need to get a good GCSE grade in the subject and whether it is Combined or Separate Science is not ordinarily taken into consideration.

Q) If students opt for the separate subjects how many option choices remain after taking the Ebacc subjects of Maths / Eng Lang & Lit / Geog or Hist and a Language? This will leave two other option choices

Q) Can you do subjects not offered by the school? Yes. A number of students study a subject outside of school and sit the examinations alongside their other GCSEs at DHSG.

Q) If you follow separate sciences can you drop one and only study two? No



Q) It was mentioned that students should take subjects that they enjoy and are competent at but shouldn't they be more focused on their career ideas?

Of course, it is important to take all these things into consideration when making decisions on options however, GCSE examinations are tough and there are no easy GCSE subjects therefore application and dedication is required and students need a real interest and aptitude in the subject in order to do well.

Q) Will staff be able to provide guidance and support with these choices?

Your daughter's subject teachers know their strengths and areas to develop really well and therefore will be able to provide useful information about their capacity to successfully study the subject at GCSE. The Parents' Evening and Options Evening will provide an ideal opportunity to explore this.