



OPTIONS

BOOKLET 2024



Dear Student,

This is an exciting time where you get the chance to decide on subjects to study as you move from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4.

The decisions you make now will have a profound affect on your future. It is important to read this booklet carefully and gather as much information as possible from Parents Evening and Taster Day.

You should consider your options seriously. Making the right choices now will ensure you are ready to start Year 10, ready to learn and studying subjects you enjoy. This will help you to develop both your confidence and knowledge to ensure you thrive as you move through this next stage in your education. We provide a range of subject choices and combinations that meet your needs and help you face the future with great enthusiasm and optimism.

Remember – if you are not sure – just ask! Your teachers are here to help and guide you along the way.

Mrs D Watkins
Head of School

OPTIONS PROCESS

You are now beginning the **Options Process** in which you will choose courses and subjects to take in Years 10 to 11 (Key Stage 4).

All these courses lead to a qualification. This is usually a GCSE, however, there are several other courses we offer that lead to **equally** important qualifications, such as, Technical Awards.

We constantly review our curriculum and the courses that we offer to ensure that you have the best possible opportunities to meet the exciting challenges of the 21st century.

Remember that you will get a great deal of help in making your Key Stage 4 choices. You will have the opportunity to learn more about your subject choices in taster sessions held in both lessons and during the Year 9 Taster Day. The Year 9 Parents Evening on Wednesday 6 March will also provide an opportunity for parents and students to gain information about your current academic progress.

A full subject guide is available on our website www.rvhs.co.uk/options

KEY DATES

Thursday 29 February	Deadline for Taster Day Options
Tuesday 5 March	Taster Day
Wednesday 6 March	Parents Evening



Don't forget you can talk to your teachers at any time to discuss your options, or if you have questions about how to apply.

MAKING THE **RIGHT** CHOICES

By the time you are ready to make your decision, you should have considered the following questions so you can be sure your choices work for you.

DO

- Think carefully about the next step. Research backwards from where you want to be.
- Think about your likes, dislikes and interests and which ways of learning suit you best.
- Ask for advice and information.
- Think about your 'school day' and how it will look. Aim for a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Choose for yourself (but talk to your parents/carers and teachers).
- Ask if the course / subject helps you learn in the best way for you.
- Remember that Technical Awards are equal in value to GCSE's.

DON'T

- Rush into your choices without doing some research.
- Choose subjects so you can be with your friends.
- Choose a subject just because you like or dislike the teacher (you may get a different one).
- Be afraid to ask for help.
- Reject certain courses / subjects because you do not know anything about them.
- Dismiss a subject you enjoy because it doesn't directly lead to a job you want to do. Consider transferrable skills it may develop as well, things like critical thinking or self discipline. You are likely to work harder and do better in subjects you enjoy.



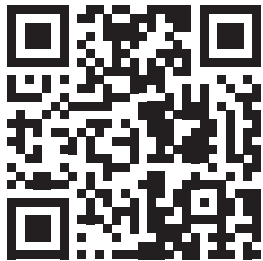
We have careers advisors at school, located next to the library. **C&K Careers** can help point you in the right direction.

TASTER DAY

5 MARCH

Many of the Options subjects may be lessons you've not tried before, have a go during a Taster Lesson on **Tuesday 5 March.**

Some subjects will run a Taster Lesson during their usual timetabled slots - you do not need to book these. Teachers will talk you through what the programme of study looks like and answer questions.



The deadline to choose your Taster Lessons is on **Thursday 29 February.**

WE'VE GONE **DIGITAL**

We have comprehensive course information for each subject on our website, **contributed to by our Course Leaders.**

Just scan the
QR code with your phone
or visit
www.rvhs.co.uk/options.



CORE SUBJECTS

There are certain subjects that **EVERYONE** has to take. The Core examination subjects are:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science

There are three other non-examination courses which all students will study:

- Physical Education
- Philosophy and Ethics
- PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) – iGEN and iDays

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

We offer a wide range of optional subjects for you to choose between, including a range of GCSEs and Technical Awards.

You choose **FOUR** Optional Subjects, one from each Options Block. Options Blocks A, B and C are taught in 5 hours per fortnight, and those in the Block D are taught in 4 hours per fortnight. You cannot select 2 subjects from the same option block.

You cannot study this combinations of subjects together:

Art: Textiles & Art, Craft & Design

STUDENTS CHOOSE **ONE SUBJECT** FROM EACH BLOCK

	BLOCK A	BLOCK B
GCSEs:	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Geography <input type="checkbox"/> History	<input type="checkbox"/> Art, Craft & Design** <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> PE/Sports*** <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Product Design
Technical Awards (vocational):	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Awards (EHCP only)*	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise & Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality & Catering <input type="checkbox"/> ICT
	BLOCK C	BLOCK D (4 HOURS A FORTNIGHT)
GCSEs:	<input type="checkbox"/> Art, Craft & Design** <input type="checkbox"/> Art: Textiles** <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science <input type="checkbox"/> Further Maths**** <input type="checkbox"/> PE/Sports*** <input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Drama <input type="checkbox"/> Film Studies <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Studies <input type="checkbox"/> Statistics <input type="checkbox"/> Triple Science****
Technical Awards (vocational):	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise & Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality & Catering	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input type="checkbox"/> Travel & Tourism

You cannot study these combinations of subjects together:

Art: Textiles & Art, Craft & Design

* To be discussed with SENDCO.

** Art: Textiles and Art, Craft & Design cannot be studied together.

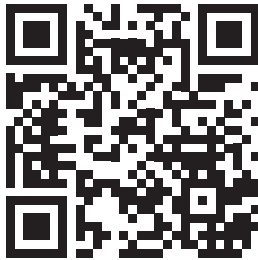
*** To be based on skills in PE.

**** Top Sets or Teacher recommendation only.

SUBMIT YOUR CHOICES ONLINE

Once you've made up your mind, there's the all important **Options Form** where you let us know your choices. The deadline to let us know is;

Friday 22 March.



You can submit your choices online via the website
just scan the QR code with your phone
or visit www.rvhs.co.uk/options.



All options subjects are run subject to demand.

On the rare occasion that numbers of students for a subject are too low to be viable to run, students will be offered another choice.

Our vocational courses are subject to change.

Some vocational subjects are currently under review by the exam boards so they may change the content or assessment.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a Canon camera. The camera is black and features a large lens with a 'Pro-Touch' label. The person's face is partially visible on the left, looking through the viewfinder. The background is blurred. A green banner is overlaid on the top right of the image.

TIME TO MAKE A DECISION

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Most of the courses you take will be GCSE courses which are assessed by written external examinations. The courses are assessed over two years. You can find details of particular subjects by reading this booklet or asking your teachers. Examinations for Technical Award subjects will be taken in Year 10 as well as Year 11.

There are two types of qualifications:

GCSE (9-1): these are the new GCSE qualifications which are graded on a numerical structure. They involve a greater proportion of externally examined assessment, with two tier entry only available in Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages (Higher: 9-4, Foundation: 5-1). They have been developed to provide a greater challenge to students in terms of application and understanding.

Technical Awards: these are vocational qualifications where students complete the majority of the course (up to 60%) in the classroom under controlled conditions. They have a different grading system, however, they are equivalent to traditional GCSE grades.

Controlled Assessment: this is internal assessment completed in the classroom. Some, or all, of the assessment will be completed in exam conditions. Students will have the opportunity, prior to the assessment, to plan and prepare for it.

Current Structure	Old Structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	GOOD PASS (DfE) 5 and above
5	B
4	AWARDING 4 and above
3	C
2	D
1	F
1	F
1	G
U	U

GRADE SYSTEM

Level	Technical Award Grade	GCSE Equivalent
2	Distinction*	8.50
2	Distinction	7.00
2	Merit	5.50
2	Pass	4.00
1	Distinction	3.00
1	Merit	2.00
1	Pass	1.25

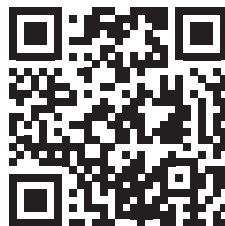
SPEAK TO THE **COURSE LEADERS**

The best place to ask questions about subjects is during the relevant **Taster Lesson** when the subject teacher will be able to discuss these with you directly.

You can also email the Subject Lead from each Department, who have contributed to the subject pages found on our website.

You can find each Head of Department on these pages, their email address is their **initial.surname@ryburn.tlt.school**

Visit our website or scan the QR code for all other contact information.



CORE SUBJECTS

English Language/Literature

Miss L Holloway

Mathematics

Mrs N Lewis

Combined / Triple Science

Mr P Marshall

iGen / iD

Mrs S Attah / Mrs L Robinson

Physical Education

Miss L Newey

Philosophy and Ethics

Mrs J Knowles



Parent's Evening is Wednesday 6 March, it is a great opportunity to talk about which Options may be more suited to your child.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Art, Craft and Design	Mrs Y Hughes
Art: Textiles	Mr O Jefferson
Computer Science	Mr L Cleary
Construction and the Built Environment	Mr O Jefferson
Dance	Mrs S Attah
Drama	Mr P Butterfield
Enterprise and Marketing	Mr W Beaumont
Film Studies	Ms B Watkins
Further Maths	Mrs N Lewis
Geography	Mrs L Saville
Health and Social	Mrs G Whiteley
History	Mrs K McIntyre
Hospitality and Catering	Mr O Jefferson
ICT	Mr L Cleary
MFL: French	Mrs N Shaw
Photography	Mrs Y Hughes
Product Design	Mr O Jefferson
Religious Studies	Mrs J Knowles
Sports/PE	Miss L Newey
Statistics	Mrs N Lewis
Travel and Tourism	Mr W Beaumont

YOU CAN GO FAR

RYBURN SIXTH offers a wide range of courses for Post 16 education. You don't need to have all of the answers right now, but this is a good time to start thinking about your future.

The career you may want when you leave education may require specific qualifications, so if you do know what you what you might want to do as a job, ask which options would be the best to give you the right start.

A LEVELS

Art	Geography
Biology	Politics (C6)
Business Studies	History
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computer Science	PE (C6)
Economics (C6)	Photography
English Language	Product Design
English Literature	Psychology
Film Studies	Religious Studies
Forensic Science	Sociology
French (C6)	Spanish
Further Mathematics (C6)	Textiles (C6)

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Applied Science	Travel & Tourism
Criminology	Business Studies
Performing Arts (Drama)	Performing Arts (Dance)
Health & Social Care	Music
ICT	Sport
Psychology	Vocational Skills Course

Our course list is subject to change due to student demand.



Talk to our Ryburn Sixth team about what GCSEs you will need to apply for a specific course.



Visit www.ryburnsixth.co.uk for more information,
or scan the QR code with your phone.



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