

Year 9 Options Booklet



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Introduction to the Options Process

The aim of this booklet and the Year 9 GCSE Options day is to help students decide the most appropriate choices for their future. It is important that our students seek advice and talk to people who can help them with these decisions.

We are committed to ensuring that our students enjoy their experience of learning in the Final Chapters and that they strive to achieve the best that they can be. Students should aim to choose courses that suit their needs, things that will interest them and help them develop life skills to prepare them for a future after Millgate School.

On the next few pages you will find:

- An outline of the curriculum structure in the Final Chapters and the subjects which all students will study
- A summary of the option subjects which students can choose from

The remainder of the booklet contains information about all of the courses available in the Final Chapters.

When students have made their decisions they will complete an options form to confirm their preference.

How have GCSEs changed?

The Government decided that GCSE qualifications needed reforming. As a result, new GCSEs were introduced in every subject from 2017 onwards. The main changes which were introduced with each of these new qualifications were:

- the end of controlled assessment/ coursework in almost all subjects with almost all assessment now being through final exams at the end of Year 11
- changes in the type and volume of course content – with more content in some subjects and more challenging content also being introduced
- the replacement of the grading system based on A*-G grades with a numerical grading system (9-1, with 9 being the highest achievable grade).

All the GCSEs which our Final Chapters students will be studying are the new ones – with the new, more challenging content and the 9-1 grade scale.

Non-examined assessment

Although your child's grade will be based entirely on their performance in the final exams in most GCSE subjects, there are still a handful of subjects in which some of their overall grade will be based on work they do during the two years. These subjects are listed below:

- Art & 3D Design
- Creative Media
- Hospitality and Catering
- PE


The work completed as part of these courses, which is not done under exam conditions, is termed 'non-examined assessment'. More details of this can be found under the subject sections which follow and by following the links to the GCSE specifications.

How are the 9-1 GCSEs graded?

As mentioned above, the introduction of the reformed GCSE qualifications also included changes in the type and volume of course content – with more content in some subjects and more challenging content also being introduced. They also involved a move from the old grade scale (based on A*-G or U) to a new, numerical scale based on 9-1 (9 is the highest grade).

How does the 9-1 grade scale compare with the old one?

The table below shows how the numerical (9-1) grade scale compares with the old one (based on A*-G):

 Department for Education

GCSE Grading	
New Grading Structure	Old Grading Structure
9	A*
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	B
Standard Pass → 4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

The Final Chapters Curriculum

Our aim is that all of our students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for their post-16 studies, the world of work and adult life. We believe that our curriculum is flexible enough to meet the individual needs of all our students in Years 10 and 11. Some subjects (the core) are compulsory but we offer the opportunity for students to make choices about subjects to study to support their core curriculum.

Subjects	Description
English	All of our students will take English Literature GCSE in Year 10 and the vast majority are also entered for a GCSE in English Language in Year 11.
Maths	All of our students take a GCSE in Mathematics. Some students will also be encouraged to take a Functional Skills Level 1 before their GCSE to secure an outcome before they leave Millgate School
Students that don't get a grade 4 or above in their maths and English GCSE have to re-sit the exam, if they want to carry on studying in a school or college after they're 16 – this is already helping make sure fewer young people leave school without basic numeracy and literacy skills.	
Science	Students will take a Science GCSE qualification in Year 11. They will build on the knowledge they developed during the Middle Chapters.
Core PE	Core PE is non-examined – students receive one lesson of PE a week to maintain their physical fitness.

Option Subjects

Art & Design	Hospitality and Catering	3D Design
BTEC Sport	BTEC Creative Media	Drama
	ASDAN	

Millgate School is always listening to its students and adapting its provision to meet their needs. If there is an overwhelming demand for a provision then we would consider how we could implement it into our curriculum structure. However, if there is a particular course that proves popular we may not have resources to ensure every child can access that option. Places on courses is dependent on the student's attitude to learning. Your child will typically make 2 choices for their option and have a back up choice to make.

What are these option courses?

Course	Description
Art & Design	<p>If you enjoy making art and want to develop your practical skills in a range of media such as drawing, painting, printmaking and textiles, Art & Design at GCSE is a great choice.</p> <p>In Year 10, you will complete a skills based project in which you will explore new drawing techniques, try printmaking processes such as etching and mono-printing and develop recording skills. All of this enables you to be more independent in your choices of subject matter and techniques as you progress through the course. You will complete one sustained coursework project, a further studies sample project and an examination project. For this, you will be given broad starting points and will develop personal work under the guidance of your teacher.</p>
Hospitality and Catering	<p>If you enjoyed Food in the Middle Chapters then you will know what to expect for this course. You will focus on the theory and practical aspect of hospitality and catering. The course will include exam based questions and practical skilled activities which are done weekly ranging from making Starters, Mains and Desserts. All dishes are influenced from around the world and you will use this to develop your coursework. You will be required to carry out independent work to complete the theory for the coursework.</p>
3D Design	<p>The study of 3D Design seeks to prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in Design and Technology using the guidance of the GCSE Art Specification. It helps students to be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on art, using skills within the workshop to create products using different materials. You will use your imagination, experimentation and combine ideas when designing products, you will develop the skills to critique and refine their own ideas while designing and making a product. You will also communicate their design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences.</p>

BTEC Sport	In this course, you are assessed on your participation and knowledge of sport and performance across three components. You will learn theory and prepare to take part in physical activity, you will also take part and improve other participants sporting performance in sport. The course develops coaching and leadership skills and is a good pathway to Sport in the future.
BTEC Creative Media	In Creative Media you will learn the theory for exploring and creating media. You will learn about how media communicates meanings, how media portrays events. You will have the opportunity to explore different types of media, from film and TV to the video game industry. The course has two products you will need to produce using the computer and journal how you researched and made the product.
Drama	Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course. It provides transferable skills that will benefit you whatever path you choose to follow. Invaluable skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, confidence, empathy, resilience and negotiation are among the many that a qualification in drama can provide. During the course, students have the opportunity to interpret and perform a scripted work and to create their own devised pieces of drama.
ASDAN	The ASDAN course (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) aims to equip you with the skills you will need as you progress to further education and employment, and develop knowledge about the ways you can live a full and healthy life. The course is based on challenges and activities rather than the usual elements of classroom learning. Over the two years you will complete a range of modules. You gain 1 or 2 credits for each module completed, with each credit representing about 10 hours of activity. Six credits are needed to achieve Bronze, 12 credits for Silver and 18 credits for Gold.