



Year 8

Subject Choices 2022

Welcome to the Year 8 Subject Choices process 2022.

You have the opportunity to personalise your curriculum in Year 9 to achieve both breadth and depth in your learning.

This booklet is to support students in making the right choices.

Year 8 Subject Choices Information

Currently in Year 8, our curriculum provides students with 1 hour in each of the following subjects: Art, Music, Drama, Computer Science and a rotation of Technology subjects (Food, Engineering, Textiles and Product Design)

Your Choices

In order to personalise their Year 9 curriculum, students will select **two** of the subjects from the following list: Art, Music, Drama, Computer Science with Big Data, Food, Engineering, Textiles and Product Design.

Students will have two hours in their chosen subjects, which will allow greater depth of knowledge and specialism. Students will then be better prepared to make an informed decision when it comes to the GCSE Option process in Year 9.

Subjects are placed into Subject Choice Columns and students will choose one subject from Subject Choice 1 and another subject from Subject Choice 2 (please note, it cannot be the same subject twice):

Subject Choice 1	Subject Choice 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art• Drama• Music• Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art• Drama• Computer Science with Big Data• Engineering• Food• Product Design• Music

The subject choices students choose now to study in Year 9 are not a prerequisite for GCSE studies.

Booklet

This booklet provides students and families with lots of information from all the subjects on offer. Please read through and discuss everything you have read, as the information will help students make the right decision. This booklet is only the beginning of the decision-making process. All Year 8 students will take part in PSHEE lessons, assemblies and taster sessions in all subjects stated above.

How to make the right choice

There are many wrong reasons for choosing a subject - because friends have chosen it is one - liking the teacher is another. The only really sensible reasons for students to choose subjects are as follows:

- Enjoyment - choose subjects they really enjoy.
- Ability - choose subjects they are good at.
- Career Relevance – students may not know exactly where they are going just yet, but even if there is only a vague idea it can be worthwhile finding out which subjects would be essential or useful.

Timeline

Date	Activity
Week beginning Monday 10 th January 2022	You will participate in a PSHEE lesson based on Subject Choices, the reasons behind it and how it will support your GCSE Option process in Year 9 You will have a Subject Choice assembly during Form time Subject Choices Booklet to be shared via Satchel One for students and MCAS for parents and carers.
Week beginning Monday 17 th January 2022	Additional information given during Form time; questions raised during PHSEE answered by Mrs Pilarek. Wednesday 19 th January 2022 between 4pm and 6pm, there will be a School Open Event, allowing parents and carers to come into school and speak to the teachers of options subjects. A supporting virtual Parents Information Presentation will provide detailed information on the Subject Choices and the process.
Week beginning Monday 24 th January 2022	Subject Choice Week - Classroom teachers will share key information regarding the topics that will be covered if you are going to opt for that subject choice. You should listen carefully as this information should support their decision.
Friday 28 th January 2022	Subject Choices form to be shared via Satchel One for students and MCAS for parents and Carers.

Deadline

Subject Choice forms should be completed and emailed to Mrs Pilarek on kpilarek@taptonschool.co.uk on or before the **deadline of Friday 4th February 2022**. If forms are submitted early, this will help us to make sure that all students have the best chance of getting their first subject choices. Please ensure the Subject Choice form has students full name and form group and parents and carers have typed their name at the bottom of the form to state that a discussion has happened at home.

Any forms submitted after the deadline will make it more difficult to match students to their Subject Choices as groups may already be full. Any forms after the deadline are to be emailed directly to Mrs Pilarek on kpilarek@taptonschool.co.uk.

Reserve Choice

On students Subject Choice form, they are asked to tick two boxes for their Subject Choice, one in each column. Students will also be asked to state a reserve choice for each Subject Choice Column. Remember, there are many reasons why students may be given your reserve choice. Students should state an additional subject they are happy to study in Year 9.

After the Choice

In rare circumstances, we may not be able to fit student's choice into the school timetable. If this is the case we'll offer students a fresh choice from the subjects remaining, but we always prefer to give students as wide a choice as possible in the first instance.

Who can help and provide advice for students and parents/carers?

- Subject Leaders
- Subject teachers
- Form tutors
- Ms Lake – Year Manager on klake@taptonschool.co.uk
- Mrs Pilarek – Assistant Headteacher – Key Stage 3 Progress Leader on kpilarek@taptonschool.co.uk

- Ms Rhodes – Headteacher
- Mr Rippin – Assistant Headteacher – Learning Support on srippin@taptonschool.co.uk

It is really important that all of us – parents and carers, students, subject teachers, Form Tutor, Year Manager - work together to make informed choices.

Following the Subject Choice forms being submitted, Mrs Williams, our Curriculum Manager, will begin the mammoth task of creating a timetable for each student. Mrs Williams, Ms Rhodes, Ms Grewal or Mrs Pilarek may need to meet and discuss choices with students and their parent/carer if it is proving to be difficult to meet all choices.

For any pastoral support please speak to Ms Lake on klake@taptonschool.co.uk or request a meeting. If students or parents and carers need further information or have any questions do not hesitate to can contact Mrs Pilarek directly on her email address kpilarek@taptonschool.co.uk

Subject Choice Information

Art

Subject Leader: Mr Fogg

Are you creative, enthusiastic and enjoy developing your own ideas? Art and Design at Year 9 could be for you and will help you develop a range of skills useful in both your future in the arts as well as being transferable to other subject areas.

By continuing Art and Design in Year 9 you will get the opportunity to develop skills working with many new materials and explore a wide range of different techniques in an independent and personalised way.

Projects will include:

- Exploring clay and ceramics
- Drawing using perspective and architectural skills
- The exploration of card construction, texture and sculpture
- Figure drawing using a range of media and styles
- Photography and the use of Photoshop, filters and experimentation in a range of styles
- Illustration using drawing tablets to render and develop work on the computer.
- Acrylic painting, still life and Vanitas

You will continue developing your contextual understanding, researching into artists, designers and makers, as well as producing work focussed around current issues and topics. The course will include the opportunity to visit the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield on a school trip, allowing you to see artwork first-hand and use your experience in your artwork. The Year 9 course will culminate with the opportunity for you to work independently to fulfil a design brief allowing you to demonstrate and further develop your favourite skills and techniques from Year 7, 8 and 9.

Drama

Subject Leader: Mrs Gerrard

The Year 9 Drama curriculum will continue to develop knowledge, practice and hone key Drama techniques, skills, terminology and practitioners that all serve as a foundation for GCSE Drama. In addition to this important subject specific study Year 9 Drama will continue to provide students with the communication skills that are vital to a career in any industry. Projects in Year 9 will include:

- Working in groups to study new theatre practitioners.
- Studying play texts from the point of view of an actor, designer and director.
- Going to the theatre to experience live theatre and to write about the experience.
- Performing from a text.
- Devising work from a stimulus.

A recent study endorsed by Kings College London reveals that “skills such as teamwork, communication and confidence are considered by young people, teachers and employees to be as important to achieving success in life as good grades”. Our Drama curriculum provides students with opportunities to build confidence, concentration, communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, memory, aesthetic appreciation and creativity. These are all skills that are important to develop and nurture in a safe and trusting environment to transfer into all areas of life. Drama engenders joy, enthusiasm and a sense of achievement in students and is a valuable subject for Year 9 students to study.

Music

Subject Leader: Mrs Page

Do you enjoy playing music or singing along to music at home? Do you spend lots of your free time listening to music, or would you like some guidance on what exciting music there is out there? Do you love the feeling of creating your own music on your instrument or by using music software? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then music is the subject for you!

In Year 9 we aim to cover the three main skills of performing, composing and listening in a fun and active way. We study a wide variety of genres, whilst giving you the freedom to find your own musical voice. We will provide you with platform and skills to take your music further, whether you already play an instrument and want more opportunities to hone your skill, whether you want to start playing an instrument/singing from scratch, or whether you want to be the next big DJ, music producer or songwriter. You will end the year with a broad overview of music from all around the world, from various points throughout history, as well as studying the music of our current generation. We will introduce you to both sequencing and traditional music software.

Music in Year 9 is loud, vibrant, creative, exciting and personalised.

Music is for everyone - no musical background required!

Food

Subject Leader: Mr Walker

The Y9 Food curriculum is designed to provide students an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills in cooking, nutrition and to support students in making informed choices.

Y9 starts the year with a taster of our 2 different food courses. Initially students will embark on a Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE style project followed by a Hospitality & Catering style project. We believe this provides students with first-hand experience of what lessons are like in each GCSE option.

Next in the curriculum sequence is 'Made in Sheffield.' This is a project which celebrates the diverse range of food businesses in our city. Pupils will learn about local food producers and catering establishments with an emphasis on how it feeds into the city's rich and diverse culture. Students will prepare food from a variety of cuisines and cultures and introduces the concept of designing dishes. This project deepens the students core knowledge of Food... Nutrition, Science, Safety, Choice and provides students with an opportunity to use increasingly complex techniques in preparation, cooking and presentation.

Towards the end of the year students will undertake a project titled 'Love Food, Hate Waste' which aims to teach students the basic principles of preventing food wastage and providing life skills regarding planning, preparing, and cooking meals within the home environment.

To close the year the students will undertake a project labelled 'Just How Unhealthy Is It?' in which students investigate the nutritional content of popular savoury dishes and sweet treats. The project aims to give students an insight into the ingredients that are used in making these dishes and to spark debate and discussion regarding healthy choices.

Product Design

Subject Leader: Mr Fulson

Product Design is an area of study that focuses on planning, designing, creating things (called "products") and marketing them, which people then use.

Think about your toaster (stay with me). Someone had to spend a great deal of time thinking about how to make it look good (marketability), how it will affect people's lives, whilst also making it work. That's what Product Design is all about - the entire product, not just the function of it.

While studying this subject in Year 9 you will:

- Be taught woodworking skills to design and make a Cantilever box.
- Gain knowledge and skills in metal work so that you can cast molten metal to make a Bag Tag.
- Learn how to use our industry standard CAD software (Autodesk Fusion 360), to design and 3D print a 'Legoman'.
- Be able to never again have to say "I can't draw" by learning sketching skills that will enable you to convey your ideas.
- Learning about iterative design to solve the problem of speaker volume and students forgetting to bring in equipment.
- Learning how to come up with new concepts for furniture design by designing and making flat pack furniture using 'friction fits'.

Careers from Product Design will include the Industrial/Product Designer, Interior and Spatial Designer, Automotive Engineer, Graphic Designer, Product Manager, Marketing and many more. Plus any jobs that would provide opportunities to use CAD/CAM (3D printers, laser cutters), i.e. prosthetic design, advertising, veterinary work, medical etc.

Engineering

Subject Leader: Mr Priest

'The art or science of making practical application of the knowledge of pure sciences, such as physics..., in the construction of computers, engines, bridges, buildings, mines, ships, telecommunications... etc.'

In Year 9 we will be learning about mechanical advantage using levers to design a drinks can crusher using three-dimensional Computer Aided Design and traditional drawing instruments. Your drinks can crusher will be made out of aluminium and steel using workshop tools and equipment including the centre lathe. Later in Year 9 you will specialise in either a more academic Maths and Physics route **OR** a more practical route depending on which you prefer.

Should students pursue Engineering as a career choice, there is an enormous range of opportunities for further and higher education, training and apprenticeships in the Sheffield area.

'Median salaries for full-time employees working in professional engineering occupations range between £30,360 - £51,279'. '203,000 people with Level 3+ engineering skills are required per year to 2024'. – Engineering UK 2019.

Textiles

Subject Leader: Mrs Pilarek

Want to know about the top designers and use them as inspiration for Fashion design? Love playing with colours, decoration, fabrics and surface enhancement techniques?

In Year 9 you will complete a range of projects which cover textile research, design and make skills.

The course focusses on developing a range of practical skills including hand embroidery, garment design, modelling and construction and Textile manipulation and Art Textile techniques.

What will you study?

- Taking inspiration from current famous designers you will learn to illustrate fashion drawings and produce paper models of garments.
- Inspired by Textile art and embellishment you will produce a textile piece to form part of a textile food installation.
- You will upcycle and recycle a garment following a high-end design brief
- Produce a print and tie dye t shirt for a music festival.
- Produce a garment of your own inspired by a fashion era.

The Textile curriculum provides students with opportunities to be creative, build confidence, concentration, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and practical skills. These are all skills that are important in the creative and design industries and open up a range of career opportunities and destinations for the future.

Computer Science with Big Data

Subject Leader: Mrs Thomas

“Hey Google, is my bus on time this morning?”

Only a few years ago, chatting to your speaker in an attempt to plan your travel arrangements might have provoked more than a few odd looks. Now though, it’s becoming a normal part of our everyday lives. Why the change...? Computer Science, Big Data and human creativity.

Computer Science is changing every aspect of our lives. It is changing the way we work in every area from medicine and fashion to engineering and economics. Computing shapes how objects are designed, how we do business, how we communicate, how we entertain ourselves and how we understand our world.

In the “Get Creative with Computing Module”: You will analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs. Developing a simple game in Python.

In the “Get Creative with Data Module” (Run in partnership with the David and Jane Richards Family Foundation): You will demonstrate how data can be collected, analysed and applied in order to overcome hurdles and enhance performance in a vast range of situations.

In the “Get Creative and Innovate Module”: You put the knowledge from both modules into practice, choosing a topic you’re passionate about and working with new technologies to solve a real-life problem in that area. Using technology, data and your very special human skills; creativity, innovation and problem solving.

This course will equip you with skills to set you apart in any future career. Developing your 21st Century Skills.