

Year 8 Options 2022-23

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MACS KS4 model – introduced in 2020

- Pupils select their KS4 option subjects in Year 8, rather than Year 9.
- Pupils choose **three** option subjects.
- Pupils study these subjects for three years (Years 9, 10 and 11), alongside the core provision of English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, Physical Education, Religious Studies, PSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate.
- The ‘extra’ year frees up time to study other useful life qualifications in Year 9 e.g. ‘Financial Capability and Careers Development’, ‘Equality & Diversity’.



Why a three year KS4?

- A number of local schools had already made the transition to this model and feedback was very positive.
- Those schools that we consulted reported that pupils' progress, motivation and engagement had improved.
- More time to deliver the GCSE syllabus content and explore the subject more fully.
- More opportunities to meet the needs of all learners (e.g. MAT, ALN).
- More time to prepare pupils more thoroughly for external examinations and controlled assessments.



Why a three year KS4?

- GCSEs are now more content-driven, leaving insufficient time to get through course content.
- Less emphasis on controlled assessment/ coursework and a greater emphasis on terminal examinations which are, in many cases, worth a higher percentage of the final grade.
- In order to compete with pupils from other schools pupils need more time to complete their GCSEs in order to maximise their average points scores.



Why a three year KS4?

- Reduced pressure from exams as pupils are better prepared.
- Greater flexibility in the curriculum to enable:
 - Year group activities such as external speakers, workshops.
 - Delivery of additional qualifications to equip pupils with skills for life e.g. Financial Capability and Careers Development, Equality & Diversity.
- Reduces apathy and disengagement amongst Year 9 pupils due to earlier choice of option subjects. Pupils choose the subjects they enjoy most or are most interested in.
- More time to raise pupils' aspirations and to prepare them for the next step in their career e.g. 6th form, college, apprenticeship or employment.
- Pupils have missed a lot of face-to-face learning due to Covid19 – this provides an opportunity to specialise in subjects where they will be awarded qualifications from now on.



KS4 model – Years 9, 10, 11

Extra 'Life' Qualification, studied in Year 9, alongside option subjects and core provision (3 GCSE Equivalents)

- Financial Capability and Careers Development (1)
- Equality and Diversity (2)

Core Subjects (6 GCSEs)

- English Language and English Literature (2)
- Maths and Numeracy (2)
- Science Double Award (2)

Welsh Baccalaureate (1 GCSE)

- Skills Challenge Certificate (1)

Other Compulsory Elements (1 GCSE)

- Full Course Welsh GCSE (1)
- Compulsory Religious Studies (non-examined)
- Compulsory PE (non-examined)
- PSE (delivered in sessions with form tutors and in PSE days)

3 Option Choices (3 GCSEs or Vocational Equivalents)

- Option A (1)
- Option B (1)
- Option C (1)

TOTAL GCSEs (or equivalents) = 14



Choosing Your Option Subjects

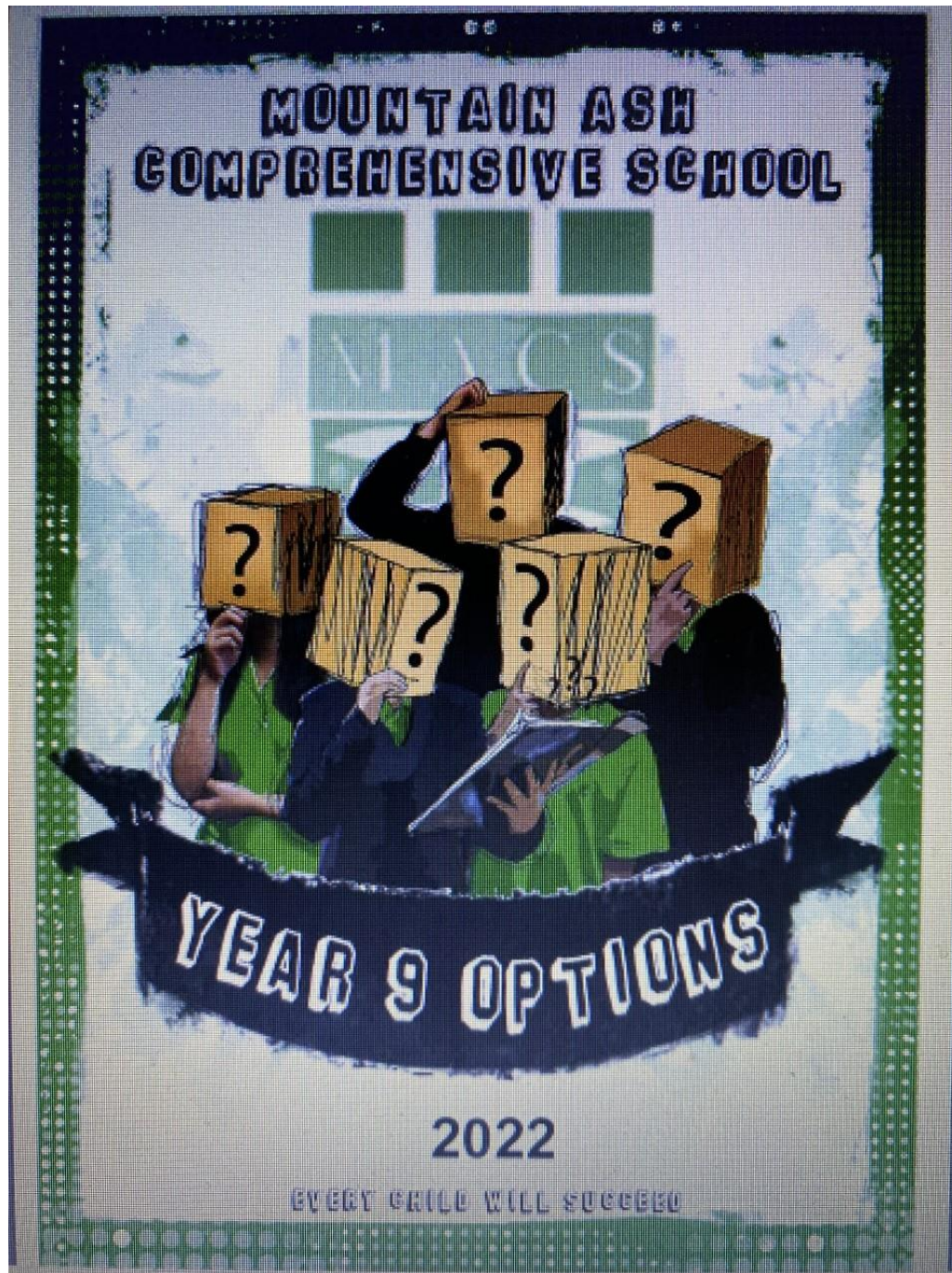
Option A

Option B

Option C

- We offer a range of GCSE and BTEC Courses.
- BTEC courses are vocational courses.
- BTECs are equivalent to GCSEs (worth A*-G grades).

The Options Booklet



Choose ONE option from each block

Option A

GCSE Art - Textiles	
GCSE Drama	
GCSE Geography	
GCSE History	
GCSE IT	
GCSE RS	
GCSE PE	

Option B

GCSE Art & Design	
Level 1/2 Child Development	
Level 2 Engineering	
GCSE French	
GCSE History	
GCSE Music	
GCSE RS	

Option C

GCSE Art & Design	
Level 1/2 Construction	
GCSE Geography	
Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering	
GCSE IT	
GCSE Triple Award Science	

Please note :- The following combinations are **NOT** allowed in any form :

- GCSE Art Textiles and GCSE Art & Design

COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/ GUARDIAN:

On-line Options Form

- Click on the link below to access the on-line options form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/1L45ck9SNn>

KS4 Curriculum - Summary

- All option subjects are delivered in 4 hours per fortnight in Year 9 and 5 hours per fortnight in Years 10 and 11.
- The three core subjects (Maths, English, Science) are compulsory.
- Other compulsory elements:
 - GCSE Full Course Welsh
 - Physical Education (non-examined)
 - Religious Studies (non-examined)
- All pupils will also study the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate.
- Year 9 pupils will study Equality and Diversity and Financial Capability in Year 9 only.

Do's and don'ts when choosing options

Do

- find out what the subjects entail.
- find out the ratio of exam to coursework.
- ask if the course is suitable for you.
- discuss your choices with your parents, family and teachers.

Do not

- choose a subject just because your friends are taking it.
- think that some subjects are only for boys or girls.
- take a subject you have not enjoyed or participated in regularly.
- think you can change courses in Year 10. Most will be full.

Timeline

- **Before 30th March 2022:**
 - Read the Year 8 options booklet carefully.
 - Speak to your teachers about the subjects you are interested in.
- **By Wednesday 30th March:**
 - Complete the on-line options form by choosing a subject from each of the 3 columns.
- **April 2022:**
 - the option forms will be analysed and discussions will take place with pupils about their choices. A further options trawl may be required at this stage.

