

YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2023



**HOLLY
LODGE**
GIRLS' COLLEGE

A Guide for
Parents

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOUR DAUGHTER PICK.....



- The right subjects for her
- Subjects she will enjoy
- Subjects she will get the best results in
- Subjects which can help her move on

....for the next 4 years!

QUESTIONS



- The answers to most questions you will have will be in the booklet or the accompanying paperwork.
- In your booklet there are also email addresses of key staff so that you contact them should you have any questions about the subjects or the options process.

TYPES OF SUBJECT



- **GCSE** – all GCSEs will be taken at the end of Year 11. No more modules!
- **BTEC** – now include up to 20% of examined modules but mainly coursework assessed by teachers throughout the course.
- **Technical Awards** – new qualifications, designed to give students a thorough understanding of the skills being studied. They will be well considered by employers and will lead to a variety of level courses in the future. These are equivalent to 1 GCSE.

NEW COURSES



- GCSEs now graded from 1 - 9 Most have little or no coursework
- More, longer exams
- More emphasis on knowledge recall than in the past
- More detailed and deeper knowledge than required in the past
- Attendance, organisation and revision are now even more important

GRADING



- Now grades 1 - 9 (no longer G - A*)
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve grade 4 and above as previously achieved C and above
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve grade 7 and above as previously achieved a grade A and above
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- Vocational Grades go from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*

ROUGH EQUIVALENCES

Old GCSE Grade	9-1 System
A*	9
A/A*	8
A	7
B	6
B/C	5
C	4
D/E	3
E/F	2
G	1

Vocational Grade	Points
Level 2 Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	5.5
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1.25

EVERYBODY WILL STUDY...



- GCSEs in English, Maths, Double Science
- Also PE and Worldviews (RE)
- French (for most)
- 2 option choices
- Gives access to sixth form and college
- There are no choices you can make now which will restrict what you can do in the future....

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE



- English Language
- Maths
- Double GCSE Science (Can include GCSE computer science as 1 grade if it is higher than science)
- A Humanities subject (History or Geography)
- A Modern Foreign Language (French)
- Students will need to achieve a Grade 5 or above in each of these in order to achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBACC)
- Students can study both History and Geography and the higher grade will count towards the EBACC

SUPPORT



- Mentoring by senior staff
- Regular Progress Checks
- Extra tuition where required
- After school support sessions
- A package of revision and intervention classes prior to exams

ENGLISH



- **2 GCSEs – English Language and Literature**
- **Both taken at the end of Year 11**
- **No retakes**
- **New GCSEs with grades 1 to 9 instead of G-A*.**
- **Grade 5 roughly equivalent to a high C.**
- **9 is the top grade**

MATHS



- New GCSEs with grades 1 to 9 instead of A*-G.
- No retakes
- Two tiers of entry
- Grade 5 roughly equivalent to a high C.
- 9 is the top grade.

SCIENCE



- All students will study GCSE Double Science
- Double Science contains elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- It is excellent preparation for A Levels in each of the Sciences and for BTEC Applied Science

FRENCH

- Nearly all students study GCSE French
- Research has shown that a French qualification is;
 - Likely to lead to higher wages
 - Helpful with performance in English and Maths
 - Well thought of by Universities, Colleges and employers
- We recognise that there are a few students who French is not suitable for. These students will be given an extra option on their form.

CHOOSE CAREFULLY



- Previous students who have found that they have not been happy with their choices, did not look in detail at the courses.
- Just because you think you know a subject does not mean you understand the course.
- There are no purely practical courses. All will involve a large element of theory and writing.
- Eg Practical subjects, such as PE, Dance, Acting, Music and Catering will involve a lot of written coursework so you will be in a classroom writing for a large part of these courses. You will also be working in groups and possibly filmed for some of the evidence of practical work.
- Make sure you understand exactly what the course entails before you sign up to it.
- If you have any questions, email the member of key staff member for that subject

HOW TO LET US KNOW YOUR CHOICE



- You will receive an options form along with the options booklet. Please complete this and return your daughter's choices by Monday 17th April
- We will not be looking at any forms until then so please take your time to consider your choices.

OPTION BLOCKS

Option Blocks 2023-2025

Option Block 1	1 or 2	Option Block 2	1 or 2
GCSE Geography		GCSE Geography	
GCSE History		GCSE History	
BTEC Health and Social Care		BTEC in Enterprise (Business Studies)	
GCSE Computer Science		BTEC Health and Social Care	
GCSE Art		BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)	
GCSE Religious Studies		Certificate in Sport Science (PE)	
BTEC Travel and Tourism		BTEC Dance	
BTEC Music		Hospitality and Catering Award	
Award in Creative iMedia		GCSE Product Design	

OPTION BLOCKS

Option Blocks 2023-2025



French Block	1 or 2	Option Block 1	1 or 2	Option Block 2	1 or 2
GCSE French		GCSE Geography		GCSE Geography	
BTEC Travel and Tourism		GCSE History		GCSE History	
GCSE Art		BTEC Health and Social Care		BTEC in Enterprise (Business Studies)	
BTEC in Enterprise (Business Studies)		GCSE Computer Science		BTEC Health and Social Care	
		GCSE Art		BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)	
		GCSE Religious Studies		Certificate in Sport Science (PE)	
		BTEC Travel and Tourism		BTEC Dance	
		BTEC Music		Hospitality and Catering Award	
		Award in Creative <u>iMedia</u>		GCSE Product Design	

OPTION BLOCKS

Option Blocks 2023-2025



French Block	1 or 2	Option Block 1	1 or 2	Option Block 2	1 or 2
GCSE French	2	GCSE Geography		GCSE Geography	1
BTEC Travel and Tourism	1	GCSE History		GCSE History	
GCSE Art		BTEC Health and Social Care		BTEC in Enterprise (Business Studies)	
BTEC in Enterprise (Business Studies)		GCSE Computer Science	2	BTEC Health and Social Care	
		GCSE Art		BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)	
		GCSE Religious Studies		Certificate in Sport Science (PE)	2
		BTEC Travel and Tourism		BTEC Dance	
		BTEC Music	1	Hospitality and Catering Award	
		Award in Creative iMedia		GCSE Product Design	

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE..



- What subjects do you like?
- What subjects are you good at?
- Picking second choices.....

POPULAR SUBJECTS



- Where too many students wish to study a subject, places will go to;
 - First choices
 - Best attenders
 - Best effort
 - Equally some subjects may not have enough students to make it viable

PROGRESSION



Grades achieved

Suitable Courses

Mainly 6-9 and Distinctions

3/4 A Levels or BTECs from a choice of 20 in the Sixth Form

Mainly 5-6 and Merits

Study Programme in Sixth Form – Mix of BTECs, A Level and work experience

Mainly 4-5 and Pass but not in English and/or Maths

Study Level 3 BTEC courses here along with resits in English and/or Maths if required. Could also consider vocational courses at college.

3 and below

Level 1 or 2 courses at college

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....



Sixth Form students at Holly Lodge make more progress in their courses than in almost every other school and college in Liverpool?

The average grades achieved by students in the Sixth Form at Holly Lodge are higher than almost every other school and college in Liverpool?

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



- Collect all forms by 17th April
- Sort into groups
- Look at students' choices and confirm that they are the correct choices for them
- See anyone with problems
- Letter home in June/July confirming choices