

How will I make my choices?

The key dates are shown below, it is important that you are in school every day to view the presentations about different courses and to listen to advice from your tutor and Head of Year.

Week beginning December 19th
Video clips, option blocks made available online
Week beginning January 3rd
One to one meetings begin with a senior staff member to discuss your choices
4th January
Assembly by Cardiff University on choosing your options
January 25th
Options Evening
February 9th
All options forms to be submitted

How to Choose

It is strongly recommended that most pupils study a balanced curriculum which includes subjects from different areas to help keep their options open after Year 11. Some pupils may have specific interests and strengths, together with a clear idea of what they would like to do after Year 11.

Making the right choice of courses at Key Stage 4 is very important because it may affect a pupil's progression after Year 11 and possibly their future career opportunities. Option choices will also determine the number, type and grade of qualifications a pupil will achieve as well as their enjoyment of Years 10 and 11. Therefore, the decision making involved in the options process deserves careful consideration of the information, advice and guidance provided by the school.

Optional subject list

The table below outlines the optional courses available at St Illtyd's.

OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C
Art	Business Studies	Art
Business Studies	Product Design (Graphics)	Product Design (Resistant Materials)
PE	Food and Nutrition	History
Geography	Spanish	ICT
Modern Textiles and Fashion	Music	Drama
History	Travel & Tourism	PE
		Geography
Duke of Edinburgh/Life Skills		Welsh Cultural Studies

Key questions to ask:

1. What am I good at and what courses will I succeed in? `

Recent scores in assessments, Teacher feedback and assessment point data will all help pupils to identify their areas of strength. If pupils are unsure about their ability to succeed in a particular course, they should ask their subject teacher.

2. What am I interested in and enjoy?

It is important to make sure pupils choose a course because they find the subject interesting rather than just because they like the teacher or the group of friends in their current Year 9 class. It is unlikely that pupils will have the same teacher or group in a particular subject next year.

3. What type of learner am I?

There are many different types of learners. Some pupils learn best through vocational experiences where they can see how their learning applies directly to the world of work. Kinaesthetic learners have a preference for learning through

some sort of physical activity, such as carrying out practical experiments in Science or making a product in DT. Auditory learners find it easiest to learn through listening and speaking, for example aural activities in Spanish, while visual learners have a preference for learning through studying pictures, images and diagrams, such as map work in Geography. All courses are designed to have a variety of activities that appeal to pupils with different learning preferences, although some courses may be particularly well suited to certain types of learner. Therefore, pupils should aim to choose a combination of subjects that contain at least one or two courses that match their learning type.

4. What qualifications do I need for my next step after Year 11 and beyond?

One of the most important outcomes of Key Stage 4 is that pupils achieve the qualifications that they need for progression to their desired next step after Year 11 and in their long term career aspirations. If pupils are clear about what career they wish to pursue they should seek advice about relevant courses. At this stage, many pupils will not know exactly what career they want to pursue so it is important to choose a broad and balanced combination of courses to keep their future options open. However, it is important that pupils think ahead as much as possible and find out what qualifications they may need for their desired post-16 education. However, at this stage, pupils should not be overly concerned if they are unsure about what they want to do after Year 11, as long as they follow the advice of choosing a balanced curriculum to help keep their post-16 options open.