



# Curriculum Choices FAQs 2025

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## Why does my child not have free choice?

As a school we are expected to ensure that we provide pupils with access to a wide range of learning, even at KS4. The reason we need to do this is to ensure that they have a really broad range of pathways available when they leave school. Pupils may change their minds about certain subjects after having studied them for GCSE and we need to be sure that they still have progression opportunities available if this happens.

## How does my child submit their choices?

Please wait for more information. This process will be sent in a letter nearer to the deadline. Your child will use a computer system to make choices and if your child has any problems with this there will be an opportunity for them to do this during form time.

## Will my child receive all of their first choices?

We always do our best to ensure as many pupils get their first choices as possible. However, we cannot guarantee this will always be possible. Classes may be very popular, or the combination of subjects may clash. Please ensure your child submits reserve choices to ensure they have alternative options.



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## **When does my child have to submit their choices?**

The deadline for submitting choices is Friday 23rd Jan 2025

## **How are subjects allocated?**

Ensuring that pupils study a broad and balanced curriculum is a priority. This includes fulfilling the criteria of one subject from the 'Exploring the World' category and two from the 'Broadening my perspectives' category. We will allocate as many first choices as possible. Where this is not possible, reserve choices will be allocated.

## **Are subjects allocated on a first-come-first-served basis?**

No. Subjects are assigned at the end of the deadline and based on the best combinations of pupils getting as many first choices as possible. If their choices clash with each other, or a class becomes full they may be allocated their reserve choice subject.

## **Why do some pupils not receive their first choices?**

We cannot always guarantee that they will get their first choice, but we promise to make every effort to do so. Some subjects are very popular and unfortunately our school only has the capacity to run the course with a certain class size. For example, there is only one Food Technology teacher at KS4 and only one specialised room that is equipped to run this course which limits the final number of pupils who can take this subject.

## **Are there waiting lists for subjects that are full?**

Yes. If you would like your child to be put on a waiting list please contact the options email and we will place them on the list. If a space becomes available we will let you know.

[options@leytonstoneschool.org](mailto:options@leytonstoneschool.org)

## **What if my child changes their mind?**

Pupils can amend choices until the deadline date (Friday 23 January 2025), even if you have already saved them. If they change their mind after this date, the pupil should please let someone in the year 9 team know as soon as possible to give them the best chance possible of swapping courses.

## **Will there be any guidance given on the subjects best suited to my child?**

Pupils have a dedicated assemblies about curriculum choices in November and December. Parents evening is also the week before pupils start making their choices, Thursday 8th January 2025

## **When will my child find out what subjects they have been given?**

Pupils will be notified of their assigned courses by the May Half Term break



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## **How does my child know whether to choose combined or triple science?**

## **What is the difference between combined and triple science?**

Triple Science is worth three GCSEs and due to the challenging demands of this course, we believe it is best suited to pupils who have a target or predicted grade 6 or above in Science.

### **Similarities:**

- Combined and triple science both cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Students will sit a total of six papers at the end of the GCSE course.

### **Differences:**

- The Combined pathway is worth two GCSE grades
- The triple pathway is worth three separate GCSE grades (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and replaces GCSE RE.
- In the combined pathway, students can only be entered for either Higher or Foundation.
- In the triple pathway, students can be entered for different tiers in each discipline. For example: A student may be entered for all higher in biology, chemistry and physics. They might be entered for higher in biology and physics but foundation in chemistry. In that sense triple science offers more flexibility.
- The combined pathway has less content to cover than triple.
- Combined exams are 1 hr 15 minutes long per paper
- Triple exams are 1 hr 45 minutes long per paper

## **Why can my child not take triple science and RE?**

In order to allow for adequate curriculum time, pupils choosing Triple Science will not take RE as a GCSE.

## **Why can my child not take two of the Design Technologies?**

Resistant materials, textiles and graphics are all the same GCSE (Design Technology) but pupils specialise in just one of the materials. They therefore can not take two of the same GCSE.

## **What requirements are there for pupils choosing P.E?**

Pupils considering PE should ensure they actively participate in sports outside of school or as part of a school team as they will need to reference these sports in their coursework.

## **What requirements are there for pupils choosing music?**

Pupils considering Music should ensure they play an instrument or are able to sing.



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## **Can my child take an extra GCSE in languages?**

If your child is fluent in a language other than those offered in the options blocks we will support them in taking an additional GCSE. They should speak to Ms Sinclair and Ms Antonova and we can arrange for this exam to be taken.

[vantonova@leytonstoneschool.org](mailto:vantonova@leytonstoneschool.org)

[esinclair@leytonstoneschool.org](mailto:esinclair@leytonstoneschool.org)

## **Why is R.E a compulsory subject?**

Students will study GCSE RE to meet statutory requirements and to also support their understanding of how philosophy, religion and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that support further studies in multiple subject areas.

## **Where can I find more information about the curriculum choices?**

Videos that detail each of the GCSE options, and a digital curriculum booklet, are available on our website so that families can learn more about each subject we offer and discuss together the potential courses they might like to study. The link to the page can be found here:

<https://www.leytonstoneschool.org/page/?title=Year+9+Curriculum+Choices&pid=153>