

Additional Frequently Asked Questions about Preferences

Please see pages 28 and 29 of the Preferences Booklet for further answers to common questions.

When can we start choosing options?

The SIMS Options form will open on Friday 9th February and will remain open until Monday 4th March.

How late can the submitted preferences be changed?

Pupils will be able to change their preferences up until **Monday 4th March**. After this date, changes can be made at the Consultation Discussions in April. If a pupil wishes to change their options after this date, they will need to speak to Mr Robinson, however from this point, it cannot be guaranteed that the change will be possible, as option blocks and classes will have been created. See page 8 of the Preferences Booklet for all key dates.

Can pupils change a subject if they are unhappy in Year 10?

Pupils can make the change within the first couple of weeks of Year 10, if they feel they have made the wrong decision. After this point, it is more difficult to change as too much content will have been taught and the pupils will have a lot to catch up on.

If a pupil is taking a language GCSE as an early entry, do they need to add it onto the SIMS form?

No. If a pupil is a native speaker and is taking the GCSE a year early, this is in addition to their GCSE preferences. Therefore, they should not choose this subject as part of this process.

Which sciences are included in the Combined Science option and does the school make the decision on which pathway will be followed in March of Year 9?

The Combined Science course includes Biology, Chemistry and Physics – worth two GCSEs. Pupils do not decide which science pathway they take – this decision is made by the Science Department by Easter of Year 10. More information on GCSE Combined or Triple Science is on page 11 of the Preferences Booklet.

When the school is deciding on oversubscribed courses, does previous attainment come into your decision making?

Prior attainment is not a factor for deciding who can take an oversubscribed course. We will look, primarily, at the ranking of the subjects to whittle down numbers where this is necessary. Pupils should therefore ensure they rank their preferences in order, including their reserve choices. If we need to make further reductions, then we will talk to the pupils and may need to include other factors.