MALVERN
COLLEGE

IGCSE/GCSE Information Booklet for pupils taking IGCSE/GCSEs in 2029

Introduction to GCSEs

Malvern College is passionate about tailoring education to ensure that all pupils thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Via a culture of challenge and coaching, we inspire a life-long love of learning. We nurture pupils to become reflective, collaborative and innovative role models, ready to explore the world with confidence. Our focus is on the individual as well as the community to maximise achievement and wellbeing.

In keeping with evolving educational research and best practice, we aim to allow for greater flexibility when making choices to secure the right pathway for each individual. Our programme enhances the Malvern Qualities, by developing free-thinkers, change-makers and great communicators.

The majority of pupils in the Remove (Year 10) will take 9 GCSEs. However, some pupils have the option of taking 8 GCSEs within the standard curriculum time. For pupils really striving for a breadth of academic excellence in 10 GCSE subjects pupils will have the option of, for example, Further Maths and a native language GCSE. A selected science set will be fast-tracked in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which will enable them to take an additional GCSE option.

The Malvern model

- Enables pupils to maximise their academic potential.
- Gives pupils a wide variety of choices in the options process.
- Allows pupils to individualise aspects of the study programme they take in the Remove and Hundred to better suit their strengths and deepen their study of areas of interest.
- Provides options for personal development.
- Allows pupils to access support within the timetable.

Our curriculum is built on the following key principles:

- Engaging pupils in their learning so they develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to successfully progress to the next stage in their education or post-school career.
- Encouraging academic curiosity
- Enabling pupils to become GCSE subject experts
- Enabling pupils to gain mastery

GCSE subject choices

Core	**Mathematics**	**Sciences**	**English** English Language OR English as a Second Language for all English Literature for most		
Optional Subjects	**Languages** German French Spanish Latin 'Gratin'	**Humanities** Geography History Religious Studies Classical Civilisation	**Creative Arts** Art Drama Music Photography	**Technology** Materials Textiles Graphic Products	**Others** Physical Education Computer Science
non-GCSE courses	**Support options:** EAL (English as an Additional Language) English Support Mathematics Support Learning Support*		**Enrichment and extension options:** PPE and Finance for Life**		

The above table simply shows subjects on offer, not the blocks pupils will need to select from.

* Additional cost element

** TLM Level 2 Qualification

What else is available to pupils?

In addition to the GCSE subjects above, we have a few support options pupils can select. These will allow them to complete their timetable in a way that best suits them.

Our tailored system enables parents and pupils in consultation with tutors and academic staff to select, a pathway based on the pupils' interests and strengths which will allow each pupil to plan the most appropriate route through the GCSE years.

Compulsory and Optional Subjects, from September 2026.

In the Remove (Year 10), pupils will study the following curriculum:

Compulsory subjects:

- English Language + English Literature, English Support **or** EAL
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Sciences (2 or 3 GCSEs)
  - **either**: Double Award Science (studying all 3 sciences each week: 2 GCSEs)
  - **or**: Three Separate Award Sciences (3 GCSEs)
- English as an Additional Language (EAL); All non-native English-speaking pupils follow an EAL course in the Remove and Hundred unless the Head of EAL has assessed them and deemed EAL to be unnecessary.

Example GCSE choices 1: 11 GCSEs:

Subject choice	Number of GCSEs	Total
Maths & Further Maths*	2	2
English Language & English Literature	2	4
Separate Science - Fast Track**	3	7
Option 1	1	8
Option 2	1	9
Option 3	1	10
Option 4	1	11

* Further Maths is taken within Maths lessons for top set mathematicians.
** Fast-tracked Science allows pupils to select an additional option.

Example GCSE choices 2: 9 GCSEs

Subject choice	Number of GCSEs	Total
Maths	1	1
English Language & English Literature	2	3
Separate Science	3	6
German	1	7
Geography	1	8
Drama	1	9

Example GCSE choices 3: Enrichment pathway: 8 GCSEs + 1 enrichment

Subject choice	Number of GCSEs	Total
Maths	1	1
English Language & English Literature	2	3
Separate Science	3	6
French	1	7
Textiles	1	8
PPE and Finance for Life*	0	8

Example GCSE choices 4: Support pathway. 8 GCSEs + 1 support

Subject choice	Number of GCSEs	Total
Maths	1	1
English Language	1	2
EAL	0	2
Double Science	2	4
Photography	1	5
Geography	1	6
Classic Civilisation	1	7
RS	1	8

Choosing Options

Pupils will initially be given free choice for their GCSEs in early 2027. This will be done after consultation with the parents, academic teachers, the Head of GCSE, their Form Tutors and Housemaster or Housemistress. Such choices are not binding; however, options will only run if there are sufficient numbers in each class and late switches may not be possible if the class at capacity.

Pupils are encouraged to talk to their subject teachers about their GCSE choices because it is important to get the full picture before making the decision. Science teachers will be able to give excellent advice when choosing between Dual and Separate Award Science.

Where English language proficiency, special educational needs, or a non-academic post-16 route justify a narrower focus, English Language only may be recommended. This choice will be made in collaboration with the pupil, parents, Head of GCSE, Head of English and the Learning Support and EAL departments where appropriate. If a pupil does not take English Literature GCSE, they must select EAL or English Support to help support their English Language and access to other courses.

Important information

The Separate Science Award is the more appropriate course for those wishing to take science in the Sixth Form at A Level or IB Higher level.

Off-timetable Modern Foreign Languages

Pupils wishing to complete an additional (I)GCSE in their native language, are able to do this as an off-timetable option in French, German and Spanish, as well as Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Polish, Turkish, and Italian.

For further details

Scan below for the full GCSE/IGCSE booklet.

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