

PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

At The King's Church of England school, all students take a set of core subjects for GCSEs. In addition, every student can choose from a range of options for study. It is important to consider both the core subjects and the option subjects in the long term to make sure that the whole package can work for choices at KS5 as well as future courses at university or employment.

The impact of making choices.

Students do need to think carefully and think ahead when choosing their options. Remember, with most subjects, if you want to study them at A level / BTEC you will need to take them at GCSE.

Very few subjects are compulsory when it comes to choosing a degree. Notable exceptions are Medicine (Chemistry and Biology are a requirement) and Engineering (Maths is required and sometimes Physics)

Certain subjects carry more weight on an application form or for an employer. These subjects are sometimes known as facilitating subjects. The Russell Group of universities has produced a document called **Informed Choices**, outlining these. **Informed Choices** emphasises the importance of 'facilitating' subjects, which are particularly effective in equipping students with the skills they need for a large number of competitive courses and in increasing a student's chances of getting on to those courses.

The facilitating subjects currently include:

Maths, Further Maths, English Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Modern Languages, History and Geography.

Please also remember that some subjects, although not included in the above list are beneficial for certain careers, e.g. Art & Design or Economics

If you would like to find out more about **Informed Choices** and facilitating subjects, please see <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx>, which is available via a link on the careers site on our website or contact either Miss Kaminskis or Mrs. Boon at the school

It is important to note that students are not expected to take all A-level choices in facilitating subjects; it is recommended that they choose at least 2 to give them the best chance of attaining places on competitive courses and at the UK's top universities.