



## Student Guide: Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Does it matter how quickly I hand my form in?

**No.** This is not a first-come, first-served race. As long as your form is submitted by the deadline of **Monday 9th March**, it will be treated the same as a form handed in on the first day. Take your time to talk to teachers and your family.

### 2. Can I pick both Art and Textiles?

**No.** This is called the **Rule of One**. Due to how these courses are structured and graded, you can only choose **one** from Art & Design or Textiles. You can, however, pair one of these with other creative subjects like Photography, Music or Drama.

### 3. How do I know if I'm being invited to the Core Plus Programme?

You will receive a letter home **before Options Evening (26th Feb)** if you are being invited to the Core Plus Programme. If you are on Core Plus:

- You will study an additional GCSE Religious Studies.
- Have the opportunity to study Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs) - you will pick **2** options instead of 3 on Step 2 of your Options Form.
- Be strongly encouraged to continue learning the Language you have studied in KS3 (French or Spanish) and choose your other options from our Academic Foundation list on Step 2 of your Options Form.



#### 4. What is the Academic Foundation?

Every student must pick at least one subject from this list: **Computer Science, French, Geography, History or Spanish**. This ensures you have a strong academic base. You can pick more than one of these if you wish, but you must have at least one.

#### 5. Why do I have to pick Reserve subjects?

We try our absolute best to give everyone their top choices. However, sometimes a subject might be oversubscribed, or two of your choices might happen at the exact same time. If that happens, we look at your reserves. **Make sure your reserves are subjects you actually want to do!**

#### 6. Can I change my mind after I submit the form?

Changing your mind after the **March 9th deadline** is very difficult because we use your choices to build the school timetable. It is much better to spend the next few weeks making sure you are 100% happy before you hit submit.

#### 7. What if I want to do a subject because my best friend is doing it?

**Don't.** You might not end up in the same class as your friend anyway. You will be studying these subjects for two years - if you don't enjoy the work, two years will feel like a very long time! Pick subjects that *you* are good at and *you* enjoy.

#### 8. How do I actually submit my choices?

A Google Form link will be sent to your school email and your parent/guardian's Arbor account on the evening of **Thursday 26th February**. You fill it out online.

#### 9. Who can I talk to if I'm stuck?

- **Your Coach:** For general advice and guidance.
- **Subject Teachers:** To find out what the lessons and exams are actually like.
- **Careers Team (Mrs. Stewart & Mr. Grant):** If you have a specific job or university in mind.

