



## A warm welcome from our Head of School, Elen Roberts

We are driven by a desire to inspire students to find their own individual talents and enable them to develop a passion for their chosen specialisms. Making option choices is an important and exciting decision. These choices are critical in shaping their academic future and career paths so they must be made with careful consideration to maximise individual achievement and to provide the widest possible range of future educational and professional opportunities.

Consequently, we provide a lot of information and expert advice to you and your child during this process, so that the optimum curriculum offer can be made for each and every student.

We recognise the importance of collaboration between parents/ carers and the school to establish the best route for each child, providing the support and encouragement needed at this pivotal stage in their secondary education.

Our school ethos is founded upon high aspirations. We have a track record of delivering excellent results and at the core of this is committed dedicated students working hard in subjects they love.

The national landscape for qualifications has changed and the standards expected of students in external examinations are now higher than ever. With this in mind, our curriculum model has been carefully designed to maximise students' achievement and make them desirable candidates for Sixth Form Centres, colleges, apprenticeships, Universities and ultimately, employers.

Alongside this set of courses our Character Education programme, SEARCH ethos, Citizenship and PSHE programmes actively promote the broader personal development of students. These values are integral to our success as a school in shaping students into adults who not only have excellent qualifications, but also the character to succeed and lead happy, healthy lives..

Elen Roberts, Head of School

## What happens next

From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January

- Parents will receive a letter detailing their child's journey and a hard copy of the option form to allow you see what subjects are available.
- The option journey booklets and Head of Subject videos, detailing each subject will be available to view and download on the Heartlands website.
- One-to-one careers interviews will commence 12th January.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January

- For the Year 8 SEARCH day students will have several GCSE taster sessions to showcase new subjects that have not been previously taught in Year 7 and 8.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

- Options evening will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The purpose of this evening will be to give you the opportunity to ask any questions to the Heads of Subject about your possible future subjects
- After the options evening, the virtual option form will be sent to your child via email. This can only be submitted once, so it is important that you take your time when completing it.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

- The virtual option form deadline is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### KEY DATES

#### W/B 10 JANUARY

Parents/students will receive Option Form. Journey booklets and subject information videos will be available to view on the HHS website.

Students will take part in the GCSE taster session and will start to be invited for a one-to-one careers interview.

#### 8 MARCH

Options Evening

#### 24 MARCH

Option Form deadline

#### 7 MAY

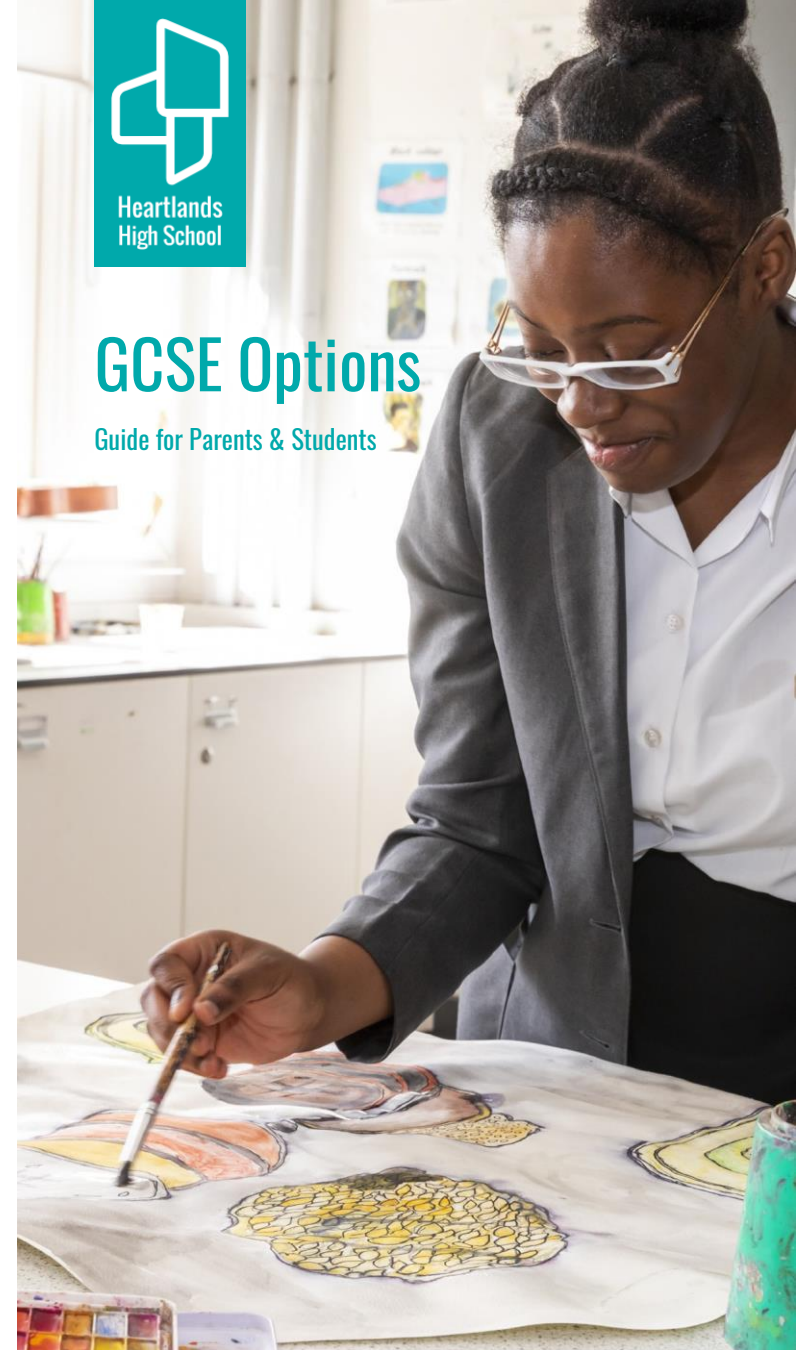
Students will receive confirmation of their choices



Heartlands  
High School

## GCSE Options

Guide for Parents & Students



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HeartlandsHighSchool

## Planning for the future

This is an exciting opportunity for you to choose courses which you enjoy and which suit your interests, skills and future career ambitions. Most students will not have decided on a career path, but many will know which subjects they prefer and are interested in pursuing.

In order to go to university or into high-quality professional training, such as an apprenticeship, it is a very important for students to achieve a good set of qualifications at GCSE level so that they can progress onto A-levels or other suitable Level 2/3 courses.

English and Maths are critical subjects for their progression and it is now a legal requirement that students resit these subjects if they do not achieve a standard pass at GCSE on their first attempt.

We expect all of our students to follow a broad academic journey, and it is important that students consider this option carefully with a view to future educational and career aspirations, as well as their own individual strengths.

Parental and school guidance in this process is invaluable in supporting them to make choices which will allow them to thrive and develop their passion for learning.

## Journeys explained

The school offers three distinct journeys: Bespoke, Heartlands and Extended.

These are recommended to students and parents, and provide the flexibility to design a curriculum package for each student which is tailored to their needs, abilities and potential. Student journeys are based on your child's prior and current attainment.

## Journey Structure

☒ Compulsory ☐ Subject that your child can choose

Subject	Extended	Heartlands	Bespoke
English Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
English Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mathematics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Science *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Geography or History	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
French or Spanish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Geography or History or French or Spanish or Computing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>1 choice</b>	<b>2 choices</b>	<b>3 choices</b>
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Functional Skills			<input type="checkbox"/>
Business Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Catering			<input type="checkbox"/>
Health & Social Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Computing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Creative Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Food Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
French	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
History (Entry Level)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Land			<input type="checkbox"/>
Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Product Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sport Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

\*The Science department will decide at Easter 2023 which students will take Triple Science. This will be based on your child's Science attainment.

## Support

Heartlands High School offers the following support to help your child make the correct option choice:

- Careers Interview with a Careers Advisor
- Taster session for all subjects that have not been taught in Year 7 & 8
- Details of each subject will be available in the options booklet on the school website.
- Options Evening (8th March) will give you the opportunity to ask subject specific questions to Heads of Department and any other questions you have concerning the options process.
- Class teachers, Heads of Department, Tutors, Heads of House and Senior Leadership are happy to answer any questions from parents or students.

## Useful contacts

**Andrew Matthews**  
**Assistant Headteacher**  
[andrew.matthews@heartlands.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:andrew.matthews@heartlands.haringey.sch.uk)

**Ms J Touse**  
**Head of Year 8**  
[joe.touse@heartlands.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:joe.touse@heartlands.haringey.sch.uk)