Swakeleys
School for Girls

An introduction to Options

Mrs Devereux
Deputy Headteacher

While you wait, please read through the table below to see the key dates for you for the Options process

Date/timing	Actions
Friday 6th November	Introductory letter home to all families
Tuesday 17th Nov Today!	Introductory assembly to Y8 in **main hall** with Mrs Devereux Full options book on website
Monday 30th November	Students can sign up for taster sessions in new option subjects
Monday 4th – Friday 15th January	**Two week focus:** taster lessons & careers lessons in KS3 options subjects, careers lesson in PSHCE, drop down taster lessons for new subjects in the canteen
Monday 11th January	'Dry run' of option choices on a Google Form. This is to help create two option blocks which fit the most common choices – these are not final choices.
Friday 22nd January	Issue option forms to all Y8 – includes subject option blocks
Wednesday 3rd February	**Deadline for handing in options forms**

Years 9 to 11

Core curriculum: Examined subjects

- **English** — 2 exams
- **English Lit** — 2 exams
- **Maths** — 3 exams
- **Trilogy Science** — Two GCSEs — 6 exams
- **RE** — 2 exams

15 exams

Core curriculum: Non-examined

- **PE**
- **PSHCE**
- **Work shadowing**

Options

- Three more GCSEs

Summary of options

- You will all have **three option choices**
- All of you must choose a **CREATIVE** or **LANGUAGE** as one of your choices
- You all then have **two more option choices** from all subjects on offer

Options: Three choices

CHOICE 1 from:

CREATIVE or LANGUAGES

French

German

Art

Dance

Drama

DT

Music

Photography

next...

CHOICES 2 & 3 from:

Art

Computer science

Dance

Drama

DT

Food

French

German

Geography

History

Music

GCSE PE

Triple science

Business

Citizenship

Media

Photography

Psychology

Sociology

BTEC Child Development

BTEC Health & Social Care

These will all be spread between three option blocks

Year 8 Options: Three option blocks

An example **ONLY**!

Option X	Option Y	Option Z
Art	Business Studies	Computer science
Business Studies	Citizenship	Design Technology
Child Care	Dance	Food Studies
Drama	Design Technology	German
French	French	History
History	German	Health & Social Care
Photography	Geography	Music
Physical Education	Media Studies	Psychology
Psychology	Psychology	Sociology
Triple science		Triple science

	Option X choice	Option Y choice	Option Z choice
Example 1	Triple science	DT (CREATIVE)	Sociology
Example 2	French (LANGUAGE)	Media	DT (CREATIVE)
Example 3	Art (CREATIVE)	Geography	Psychology
Example 4	Drama (CREATIVE)	French (LANGUAGE)	Music (CREATIVE)
Example 5	PE	Business	German (LANGUAGE)

All examples: **one Creative** or **one Language** but can select any combination from the blocks

Swakeleys School for Girls: Options Process

Options: Three GCSE choices

Core curriculum: Examined subjects

- English — 2 exams
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- Maths — 3 exams
- Trilogy Science — Two GCSEs — 6 exams
- RE — 2 exams

15 exams

Core curriculum: Non-examined

- PE
- PSHCE
- Work shadowing

CHOICE 1 from:

CREATIVE or LANGUAGES

- French
- German
- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- DT
- Music
- Photography

CHOICES 2 & 3 from:

- Art
- Computer science
- Dance
- Drama
- DT
- Food
- French
- German
- Geography
- History
- Music
- GCSE PE
- Triple science
- Business
- Citizenship
- Media
- Photography
- Psychology
- Sociology
- BTEC Child Development
- BTEC Health & Social Care

These will all be spread between three option blocks

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Swakeleys website

Year 8 Options

Students currently in Year 8 will make options choices this academic year to start GCSE courses in September 2027.

The timeline of key events in the option process this year can be seen below:

Date/timing	Actions
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PDF Options Introductory Letter Nov 2026

The introductory letter above outlines the process and also includes a diagram of our options model and a subject quick guide. Additionally you can view the assembly which also outlines the options process.

PDF Options Introductory assembly November 2026

Swakeleys website

All students will receive a hard copy of our options course guide which provides more detail on each subject. Our subject Curriculum Guides are also a good source of information for students to find out more about each course. They can be found on our website here: https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/Curriculum-Guide-Year-9/

Please find our course guide below where you can find a one page course summary to help with options choices:

