



Year 8

Options Evening
13th Feb 2013





This evening ...

- Important
- What happens next
- What does it all mean (explaining the jargon)
- How do I choose & What do I need ?
- What will I get ?
- Who can I talk to? (parents & students)



Year 8 - ahead of the game

- History of giving students choice
- More choice - sooner (1 year extra !)
- Better motivated to succeed - sooner
- Extra time / depth of understanding & higher grades
- Government changes to qualifications
- Current National Curriculum Review
- Fundamentally – the right thing for our students / best chance of success when competing on national stage



Important to get it right ...

- Key Stage 4 is almost impossible to repeat
- Most exciting & the most work !
- Luxury of early start (June)
Year 8 – extra year = more time for success @ KS4
- Swapping courses is hard work !
- Pathway for the future



Timeline ...

- Already – personalised letters issued
- Today – assembly & ‘Options**Online**’
- **Tonight** – parents information
- **Wed 27th February** (after half term) – deadline !
- **April / May** – allocation letters issued
- **June** – courses start



What does it all mean ...

Different Qualifications

GCSE / BTEC / Other Vocational Qualifications (core ICT)

Equivalency

GCSE

1 (lots of subjects to choose from)

Voc Option

Some single award / dual award **BUT ALL** count for **ONE**

Levels and Outcomes

Level 2 Qualification

GCSE (Grade A*-C)

Level 1 Qualification

GCSE (Grade D-G)

Vocational Courses are either level 1 or 2 (PASS, MERIT , DISTINCTION or FAIL)



So why is that important...

Progression beyond College

Entry to College (level 3)	need to reach level 2 threshold (5 A*-C with En Ma)
Entry to College (level 2)	means repeating some of what you could achieve at school
Entry to College (level 1)	other courses available – but sets you back a year or more
Early entry to level 3	accelerated Drama go on to AS level in yr11

Understand what you're choosing so ...

You get the most out of KS4 possible (for you)	5 A*-C Inc En & Ma (or more) e-Bacc combination ? 5 A*-C or 5 A*-G
Why English & Maths ?	College Entry / Employers / Skills for Life



Starting the journey ...

An example of routes to one of our FE providers

Choose GCSE's in subjects you enjoy and are good at / likely to do well in

3 B's & 3C's inc English A-C

For English / Maths / Science a grade B is required in the subject

For Science – Core and Additional (not BTEC)

Vocational will count (in addition to GCSE)

Start AS/A levels

Choose GCSE's and Voc courses that you enjoy and are likely to do well in

If clear aim for Voc course in Sport or Dance then secure Merit or Distinction in lev 2 voc course at Unity

4 or 5 C grades or above including English

Merits / Dist as minimum in a lev 2 voc course

Start BTEC Lev 3

Choose broad range of courses that you will enjoy and will do best at

Speak to Nathan (Y&C) about Employer links

English AND Maths at grades C or above
An Employer

Start / Complete Level 2

Start a Lev 3 Apprenticeship



Do your research ...

Different Colleges have slightly different entry requirements for

- **Level 3 AS / A Level courses**
- **Level 3 Vocational courses**
- **Level 2 courses**
- **Level 1 courses**
- **Apprenticeships**

Some of the colleges are here tonight.

All have websites and brochures.

All are at the end of a phone.

So ... What's on offer ?

GCSE	
English	Fine Art
Maths	(Art) Textiles
Science	
	Drama
Media Studies	Electronic Products
Film Studies	Engineering
Additional Science	French
Triple Science (core)	German
Resistant Materials	Spanish
Hospitality and Catering (Dual)	Geography
Business Studies	History
Computing (GCSE)	RE
PE (GCSE)	Religious Studies
English Literature (core)	Music
ICT (GCSE)	

•Large range of GCSE courses

•Continue to offer vocational courses that have been successful

•Some new courses this year

VOCATIONAL
BTEC Dance
Vocational Sport
Vocational ICT core for all
Music Tech BTEC (prov)
BTEC core Science for some

Course details are all on VLE



New from the government...

English Baccalaureate ...

- New government recognition - how many students achieve grades A*-C in five core subjects (GCSEs) - Maths, English, two Science qualifications, a Foreign Language and either History or Geography. (NB: Computer Science can be one of the two sciences)
- Not compulsory combination / Not appropriate for some students
- Government pushing this curriculum combination - want to ensure as many students as appropriate study traditional / academic curriculum

Why choose an e-Bacc curriculum ?

- If you have the academic potential to succeed
- If you enjoy those subjects anyway
- Academic progression beyond - looked on favourably (University etc)

At Unity ...

- Ensure entitlement / access to e-Bacc
- Recommend students if have the ability to succeed
- Not streaming / restricting choices



New from the government...

Vocational Courses ...

- Professor Wolf review of Vocational Qualifications
- Change to point scores and GCSE equivalence
- 1 qualification counts for 1 equivalence (regardless of size)
- Remove approval of some vocational courses
- Ensure remaining vocational courses are ...
 - Big enough
 - High quality
 - Valued by Employers
 - Contain external assessment / exam
- Change of climate for some routes of progression (get advice)

Guiding Rules for Choosing

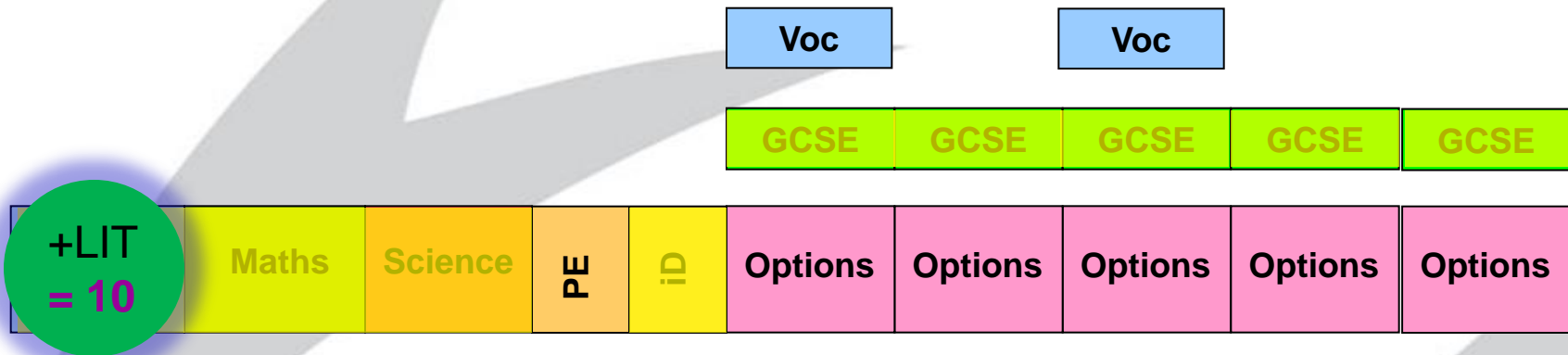
- Consider where you are heading (if you know) - apprenticeship, college, university, work
- Balance breadth / variety
 - Avoid Fine Art + Textiles
 - Avoid Materials Tech + Engineering
- Limit to 2 vocational options
- Look at 'recommendations'



What does it Look Like ...

•KS4 2013 Curriculum Model

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 9$$



Core Subjects (GCSE quals)

Other core subjects for all students
PSCE / RE / ICT

Other subjects (GCSE and Vocational) prefs 1-7

Some students also study English Literature

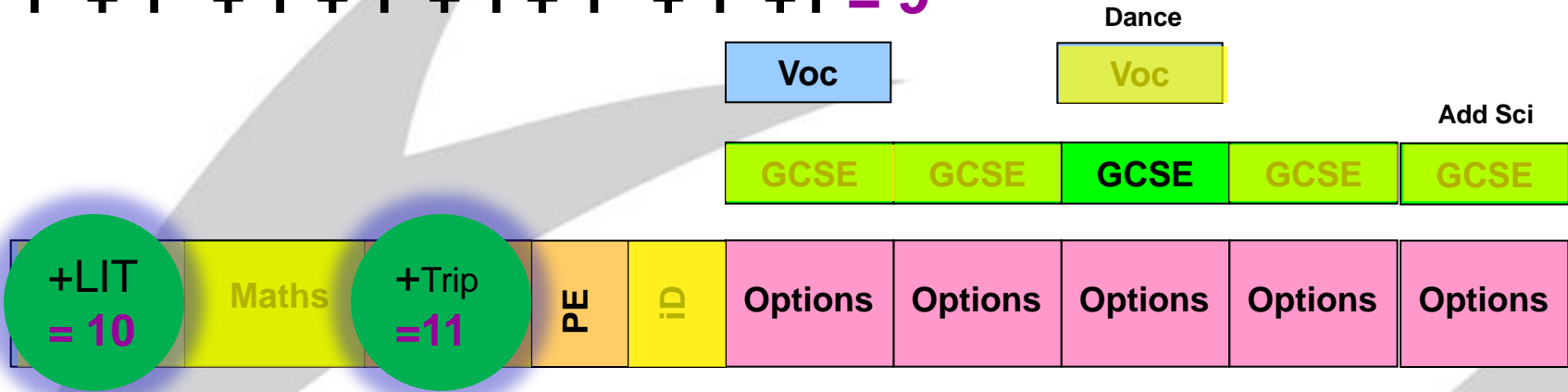
Traditional GCSE (one per option block)

Vocational courses also use one option choice

•KS4 2011 Curriculum Model

Able Scientist and Dancer

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 9$$



Core Subjects (GCSE quals)

Other core subjects for all students

Targeted support throughout KS4 to prepare you for best chance of success in Year 11

Other subjects (GCSE and Vocational) prefs 1-7

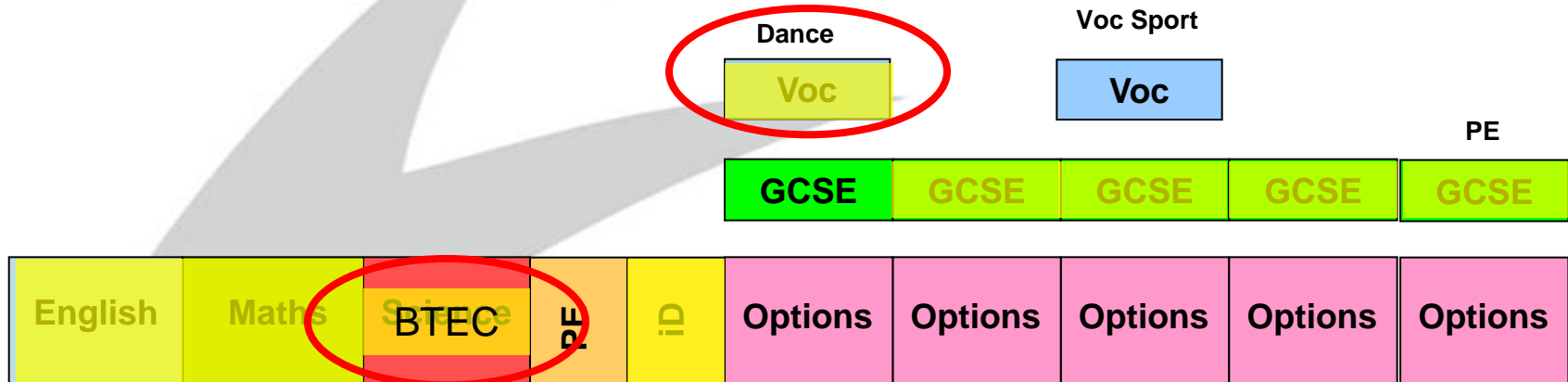
Additional GCSE English Lit in Yr11

Able Scientists complete core at end of Y10 and can extend in Y11

•KS4 2011 Curriculum Model

BTEC Science, Dance and PE

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 9$$



Core Subjects (GCSE quals)

Other core subjects for all students

Targeted support throughout KS4 to prepare you for best chance of success in Year 11

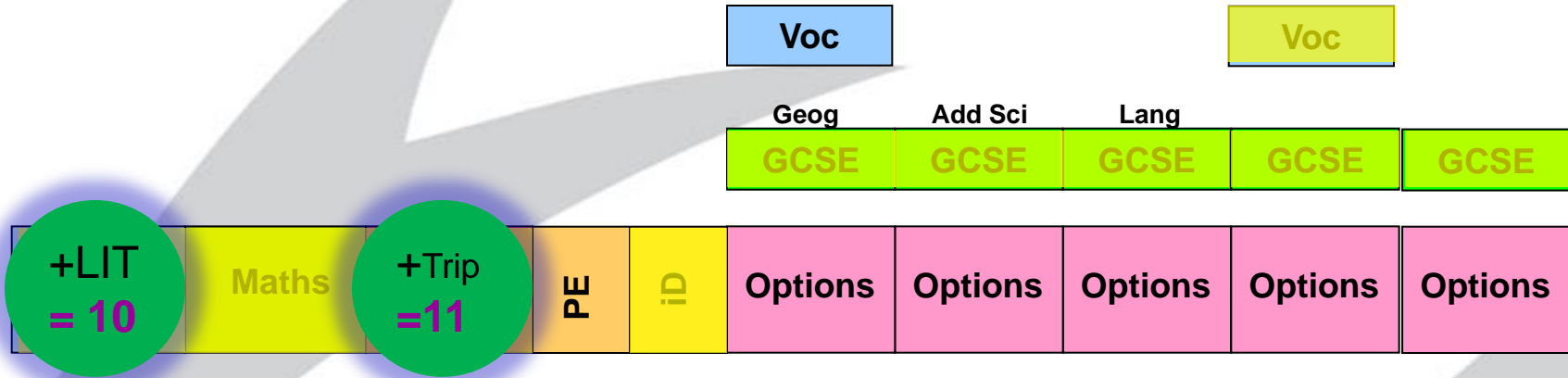
Other subjects (GCSE and Vocational) prefs 1-7

Already doing 2 vocational quals so PE as GCSE

•KS4 2011 Curriculum Model

e-Bacc student

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 9$$



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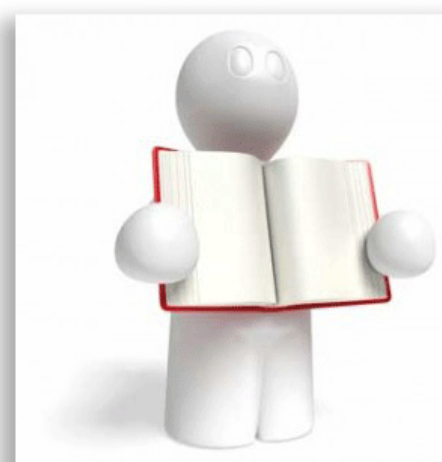


Options**ONLINE**

- 21st Century College & Government Agenda of online parental access
- All detailed information & guidance is online
- Allows us to give you more (and better) information
- Using the Virtual Learning Environment (**VLE**)
- Plenty of support available !**

UNITY COLLEGE VLE

- Subjects**
- English & Media
 - Maths
 - Science
 - ICT
 - Art
 - Creative Media Diploma
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Geography
 - History
 - Homebase
 - Music
 - PE
 - PSCE
 - Languages
 - RE
 - Study Plus
 - Technology
 - Travel & Tourism



Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Questionnaire

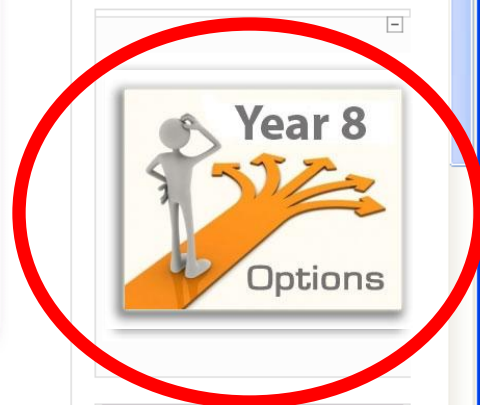
Log in first then click here to start the questionnaire

Login

Username

Password

[Lost password?](#)



[Behaviour Questionnaire](#)

- [Exam Timetable](#)
- [ILAs](#)
- [What's On](#)

Site news

Impact
by [Ruth Brice](#) - Monday, 1 February 2010, 11:43 AM

Impact make an Impact!

Approximately 150 Year 9 students enjoyed an Options presentation by the drama group 'Impact' last week.

It was completely relevant for Year 9 at this stage with options week coming up. The presentation took the form of some people who chose to work hard in school and make a success of their lives. They met up with someone who had passed no exams and taken on a manual job straight from school with no extra training. Five years later they meet up and talk about what they now do in life.

Quick Links

[Staff Email](#)





UNITY COLLEGE VLE



[Unity](#) Login to the site

English (en)

Returning to this web site?

Login here using your username and password
(Cookies must be enabled in your browser)

Username

Password

Some courses may allow guest access

Forgotten your username or password?

You are not logged in. ([Login](#))

- Options timeline
- A Parent and Student Guide to Option Preferences**
- Frequently asked questions
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- Student checklist

Topic outline



In a few months time you will be starting your GCSE courses at Unity College. This period of a student's school life is called Key Stage 4 and this includes studies in year 10 and year 11. Students will follow the National Curriculum and details of the core subjects all students must study can be found in [A Parent and Student Guide to Option Preferences](#). Students will also have some choice in the subjects that they would like to study at Key Stage 4.

Students will be able to study up to four subjects in addition to the statutory subjects. Students will also have an opportunity to no longer continue with some subjects that they currently study in year 9.

It is vital that you study a well balanced curriculum in Key Stage 4. Students will select seven subjects from the list on offer. It is hoped that students will be guaranteed to be offered four of the seven subjects.

Following discussions with key staff at Unity College I am strongly recommending that you also seriously consider choosing **French** as one of your preferences.

(French)

You are halfway through an Accelerated **GCSE Drama/Dance** course which you will complete at the end of year 10. **This will count as one of your options in year 10 and should, therefore, be selected as your FIRST choice.** Students will be able to opt for further courses in year 11 after the completion of these accelerated GCSE's at the end of year 10. These may be more advanced courses in their accelerated subjects or courses which will support their learning in other areas of the curriculum.

(Arts)

You have been recommended by the Science Department to take **Additional Science**. If you have any concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to see a member of the senior leadership team.

(Additional Science)

The decisions that you make regarding these options may affect your future career pathway and it is vital that you are fully informed about the learning pathways on offer at Unity College.

Useful websites to help you decide what to do

Which Way Now?
This is a very good website from connexions direct offering lots of help choosing Key Stage 4 Options

Steps4me
Provides all sorts of help and advice in decision making, career options and what's on offer in your area.

Fischer Family Trust data

How well could you do in your chosen subjects?



A Parent and Student Guide to Option Preferences

Every student at Unity College will study core GCSE courses in English, Maths and Science as well as courses in PE, iD and ICT. *(some students will study a BTEC core Science pathway rather than a GCSE)*

In addition to these core subjects, students are able to make choices about other subjects they will study in Years 9, 10 and 11. Not all students will study the same amount of optional subjects. The amount of courses that students follow will also depend on the combination and nature of their choices. Once all the options preferences have been processed, every student will receive a letter informing them of which courses they have been allocated to.

When making preferences for Key Stage 4 courses, students need to consider the following:

1. There are numerous courses on offer. This site gives guidance about the different subjects that we may be able to offer. **Students are to select seven subjects in order of preference from the list on offer.** Students will **NOT** be studying all seven of their preferences. Students will study a maximum of **five** of their seven preferences. At this point we cannot guarantee that these courses will run but we try to give all students as many of their preferred choices as possible.
2. There are various vocational courses on offer. These courses have the equivalence of **1 GCSE** in that subject. You can only choose to study **a maximum of TWO** vocational courses (not including core ICT). The vocational courses on offer are:

BTEC Dance
NVQ Level 2 Sport

NB: Some students will study a vocational BTEC core Science course which will count as one of their two vocational courses. All students will follow a vocational ICT core course - this does not take up one of their two vocational choices.

[YEAR 8 extra information ...](#)

[As Year 8 move in to Year 9 and begin their KS4 courses over three years, we are able to deliver GCSE PE to those who choose it within core PE time. This means that GCSE PE is able to be an extra qualification for those students without it taking up one of their other options choices. If you wish to study GCSE PE you should choose it in the normal way as one of your 7 preferences.](#)



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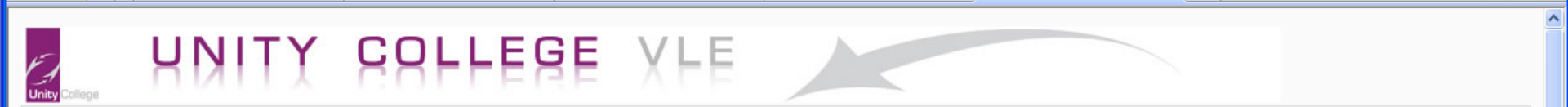
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Frequently Asked Questions about Year 9 Options.

Q. What are BTEC diplomas?

The BTEC First is a Level 2 qualification that can be delivered at KS4.

BTEC qualifications are designed to provide specialist work-related qualifications in a range of sectors. They have been developed to provide the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to prepare learners for employment and/or to provide career development opportunities for those already in work. Consequently they provide a course of study for fulltime or part-time learners in schools, colleges and training centres.

On successful completion of a BTEC First qualification, learners may progress into or within employment and/or continue their study in the vocational area.

BTEC First Diploma

The Edexcel Level 2 BTEC First Diploma is a 360 guided learning hour qualification comprising core and specialist units which cover aspects of knowledge, understanding and competency necessary for employment within the sector.

BTEC First Certificate

The Edexcel Level 2 BTEC First Certificate is a 180 guided learning hour qualification which offers a bite-sized opportunity for learners to experience a vocational qualification.

Q. Are BTEC diplomas for less academic students?

BTEC Diplomas are NOT for less academic students, they are still Level 2 courses just with a vocational element to the course.

Both the First Diploma and First Certificate have GCSE equivalence. The Diploma is worth 4 higher GCSE grades, the Certificate is worth 2 higher GCSE grades. There is no written examination, both courses are 100% coursework.

Q. Will Universities and employers accept BTEC diplomas?

Colleges will accept BTEC Diplomas and Certificates. Students wishing to progress to Level 3 qualifications such as BTEC Nationals will need a Merit overall in the Diploma.

Employers accept BTEC as they have been specially designed to cover aspects of knowledge, understanding and competency necessary for employment within the sector.

Q. What are the core subjects?



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Fischer Family Trust data





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- [GCSE Business Studies](#)
- [GCSE Catering and Hospitality \(Double Award\)](#)
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- [GCSE Drama](#)**
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- [GCSE German](#)
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- [GCSE Music](#)
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- [GCSE Resistant Materials](#)
- [GCSE Spanish](#)
- [BTEC Level 1 / Level 2](#)
- [First Award in Performing Arts \(Dance\)](#)
- [NVQ Level 2 Sport -](#)

GCSE Drama

WMP video



Studying Drama to GCSE level:

Drama GCSE involves mainly practical work with a small element of written coursework.

It is suitable for anyone who has enjoyed the subject in the lower years and wishes to continue to study Drama to exam level.

Through improvisation and the performing of plays you will explore themes, issues and ideas. You will experiment with a wide variety of Drama skills and activities and have the opportunity to see performances and explore technical skills such as lighting.

The final examination is in three parts. The first two exams are very similar to class lessons and allow you to demonstrate your skills and understanding through a series of workshop style tasks. The final examination is a performance, either devised or scripted and you will work in small groups over a number of weeks as preparation for this. You could achieve an A* - G grade if you followed this course.

Personal Qualities required to study GCSE Drama:

To study Drama you must be a confident and enthusiastic performer. You must have an open mind and be willing to learn. It is very important that you are a good listener and always willing to have a go. Attendance to lessons is an important factor too.



UNITY COLLEGE VLE

Extra Information

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KS4 Pupil Estimates - DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Unity College (8884806)

Estimate Basis: SE - Rank: 25 (Type D) - Year: 2011/2012

Lancashire

This report shows each pupil's probability of attaining individual KS4 Levels in comparison against schools at the 50th to 5th percentile. By selecting a rank of the rank (5 highest, 50 lowest) the more challenging the estimates.

Most likely grade in Biology is a B

This option to select either PA or SE estimate models and select a rank (50 to 5) to compare the progress made by pupils in schools at the 10th percentile for value added. The higher

Pupil Details			KS2							KS4 Estimates													
Name	DoB	Sex	KS	Test			TA			Est Basis	Subject Group	% chance of achieving KS4 Grade								% chance	Grades		
Student NAME		M	2	EN	MA	SC	EN	MA	SC			G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	A*-C	Pass	Est1	Est2
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	Biology	1 %	1 %	1 %	9 %	36 %	39 %	13 %	1 %	89 %	99 %	B	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	Chemistry	1 %	1 %	2 %	14 %	37 %	33 %	12 %	1 %	83 %		C	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	DTFood	1 %	3 %	7 %	21 %	35 %	20 %	11 %	1 %	67 %	98 %	C	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	DTGraph	2 %	4 %	10 %	26 %	31 %	23 %	8 %	1 %	58 %	96 %	C	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	DTResMt	1 %	3 %	9 %	23 %	34 %	20 %	8 %	1 %	64 %	98 %	C	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	French	1 %	3 %	11 %	27 %	35 %	16 %	5 %	1 %	58 %	99 %	C	B
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	Geography	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	4 %	1 %	61 %	99 %	C	B
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	History	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	12 %	1 %	84 %		C	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	Maths	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	6 %	1 %	75 %	99 %	C	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	Science	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	5 %	1 %	80 %	99 %	C	A
			2	5.4	4.9	4.6	4	4	4	SE	Spanish	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	8 %	5 %	59 %	99 %	C	A

However, 13% will get an A grade

What do the colours indicate?

- Level(s) achieved by top 25% of similar pupils (as selected in 'Highlighting' pull-down menu)
- Most likely Level (highest probability)
- Difference of more than 1 level between any two Test or TA levels

Estimate Basis

- PA Rank 50 (Type A): based on prior attainment (including marks where available, subject differences and TA), gender and month of birth
- SE Rank 50 (Type B): as Type A, but adjusted for the school's context including FSM and geodemographic factors
- SE Rank 25 (Type D): as Type B, but adjusted for the progress made by pupils in schools at the 25th percentile for VA

Estimates are rounded and min and max values are set at 1% and 99%. Because of this, totals may not add to individual figures and can exceed 100%

Based on progress made by similar pupils nationally in 2007/08

In this example, you can see the various subjects listed in the table. For each subject, the orange highlight shows the most 'likely' grade but more you can see that there is always a percentage that achieve higher than the average. You need to decide whether you are going to be happy with aiming for the average grade or whether you will aim to be part of the group who achieve higher.

You should use this information when you are thinking about which subjects to choose. However - you will also know which subjects you enjoy the most, and which will prepare you for your next steps beyond Unity. As a college, we will also use this data when it comes to setting your targets for your Key Stage 4 courses. If you have any questions about this data, you can always come and talk to Mr Brice or Miss Gerrard who will be happy to talk it through with you.

- Hassan Akhtar (hakhtar)
- Joshua Andrews (jandrews)



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- Student checklist

Topic outline



In a few months time you will be starting your GCSE courses at Unity College. This period of a student's school life is called Key Stage 4 and this includes studies in year 10 and year 11. Students will follow the National Curriculum and details of the core subjects all students must study can be found in [A Parent and Student Guide to Option Preferences](#). Students will also have some choice in the subjects that they would like to study at Key Stage 4.

Students will be able to study up to four subjects in addition to the statutory subjects. Students will also have an opportunity to no longer continue with some subjects that they currently study in year 9.

It is vital that you study a well balanced curriculum in Key Stage 4. Students will select seven subjects from the list on offer. It is hoped that students will be guaranteed to be offered four of the seven subjects.

Following discussions with key staff at Unity College I am strongly recommending that you also seriously consider choosing **French** as one of your preferences.

(French)

You are halfway through an Accelerated **GCSE Drama/Dance** course which you will complete at the end of year 10. **This will count as one of your options in year 10 and should, therefore, be selected as your FIRST choice.** Students will be able to opt for further courses in year 11 after the completion of these accelerated GCSE's at the end of year 10. These may be more advanced courses in their accelerated subjects or courses which will support their learning in other areas of the curriculum.

(Arts)

You have been recommended by the Science Department to take **Additional Science**. If you have any concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to see a member of the senior leadership team.

(Additional Science)

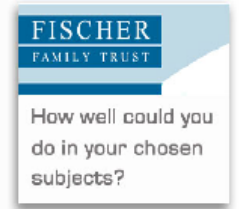
The decisions that you make regarding these options may affect your future career pathway and it is vital that you are fully informed about the learning pathways on offer at Unity College.

Useful websites to help you decide what to do

Which Way Now?
This is a very good website from connexions direct offering lots of help choosing Key Stage 4 Options

Steps4me
Provides all sorts of help and advice in decision making, career options and what's on offer in your area.

Fischer Family Trust data







So, this evening ...

- Talk to subject staff about courses on offer
- Talk to current teachers about what you are good at
- Talk to members of Senior Leadership Team
- Visit the ICT rooms upstairs for extra help with online process

DO's and DON'Ts

Do

- Play to your strengths
- Pick what you enjoy
- Think about the next step
- Get advice
- Take it seriously

Don't

- Be a 'sheep' and follow your friends
- Just pick your favourite teachers
- Overstretch yourself
- Miss the deadline



Who else can I talk to?

- PD Tutor and House Leaders
- Other students
- Connexions Service (YPS) reduced
- FE Colleges
- Lots of online resources

Most important : Conversation between student and parent. You need to be happy that you have made the right choices.