

ST HELENS COLLEGE

YEAR 8/9 OPTIONS MINI GUIDE



St Helens College

DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Choosing your options is a big decision. How do you make the right decision on what to study?

Throughout this guide, we will give some great hints & tips on how to make the right choice.

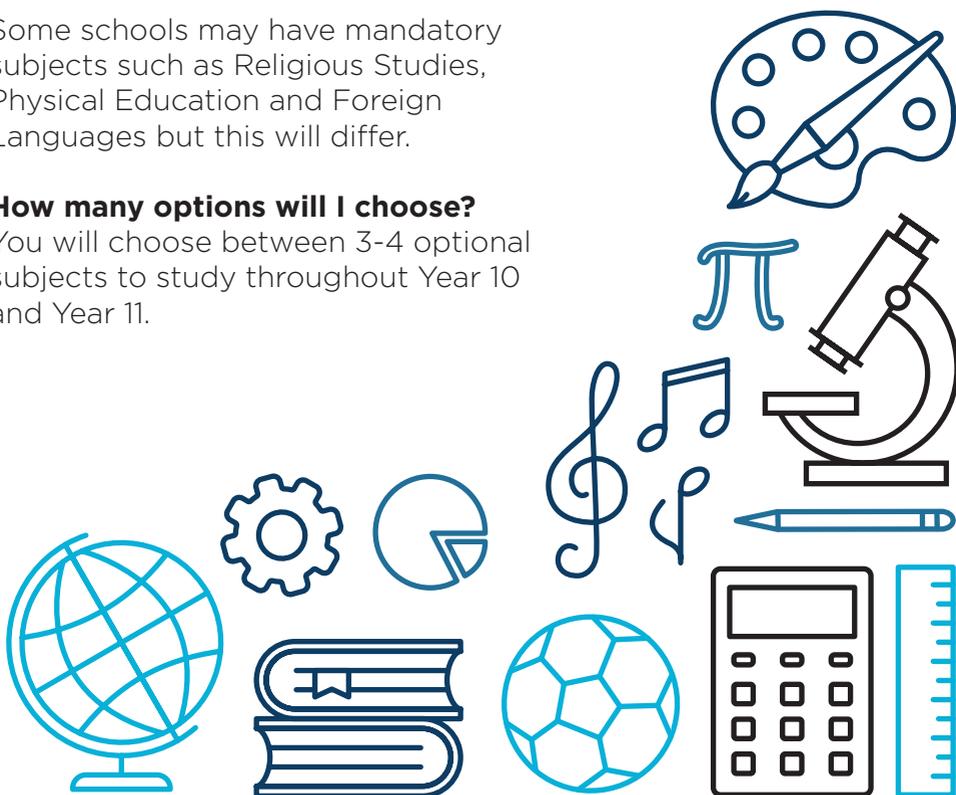
What are the mandatory subjects?

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science.

Some schools may have mandatory subjects such as Religious Studies, Physical Education and Foreign Languages but this will differ.

How many options will I choose?

You will choose between 3-4 optional subjects to study throughout Year 10 and Year 11.



How do I decide which subjects to study?

You need to choose subjects that match your interests, abilities and that help you prepare for your chosen career. The decisions you make in Year 8/9 may influence what you go on to study at Sixth Form or College.

Ask yourself:

- **What am I good at?**
- **What do I enjoy most?**
- **What career would I like in the future?**
- **How do I prefer to learn and be assessed?**
- **Have I picked this option for the right reason?**

DO

Research – Think about the career you are considering in the future and use this as a starting point. If you don't have a firm career in mind, do some research into careers that match your skills and personality. Be aware that certain careers require you to have studied specific subjects with high grades requirements e.g. Doctor or Vet.

Get advice – Speak to your Teachers, Form Tutor, Schools Careers Advisor, parents/carers, family and friends.

Pick something you will enjoy – You are going to study these subjects for the next two years, so pick something you will enjoy. For example, if you prefer to learn in a more 'doing' way, choose practical subjects to develop your existing skills.

DON'T

Decide last minute – Don't leave your choices to last minute and rush the decision. It is important to pick subjects that interests you but will also be beneficial to your future. Take your time to think about your options and consider the benefits of each.

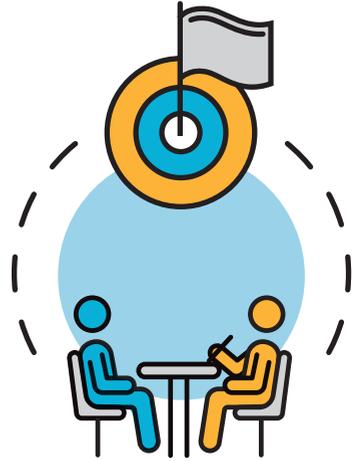
Copy your friends – Don't pick a subject just because your friends have chosen it. The idea of being in a class without your friends shouldn't put you off.



How can I decide what career I would like in the future?

Assess yourself by understanding and exploring how you like to learn, your personality, interests and strengths.

List some careers you might like and do some research. Once you have decided on some areas of interest, you can look into the career and consider the pros and cons of each.



Ask for advice – Talk to your family, friends and Teachers. Try to speak to somebody who works in the profession you are interested in.



Set goals – Think about your future and set goals of what you would like to achieve e.g. where do I see myself in 10 years?



Make your decision – After you have considered all of the above, you should be able to narrow down your career choice.



Write an action plan – Using the goals you set earlier, write a plan to keep you on track!

Career Coach is a useful tool to help you make your decisions. Career Coach is designed to help you find a good career by providing the most current local data on wages, employment, job postings and associated education and training.



You can take a careers assessment to learn about yourself and Career Coach will give you career suggestions based on your interests.

What grades will I need to study my chosen subject at college?

College's will always look at your predicted GCSE grades before giving you an offer on a place to study with them and when it comes to enrolling, entry requirements are important.

College's (and most employers) will look for candidates with 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above including maths and English. If you have studied a subject at GCSE which fits in with your chosen college course or career, this will be beneficial but not essential.

What happens if I don't achieve a grade 4 in maths and/or English?

You must achieve a minimum of grade 4 in maths and English or you will continue to study those subjects alongside your chosen subject at college. This is also the case for apprentices. You will continue to study maths and English until you achieve a grade 4 or equivalent (Functional Skills).



How/what can I study at St Helens College?

Vocational/BTECs

Apprenticeships

Where will I study?



Town Centre Campus

Art and Design
Beauty Therapy
Catering and Hospitality
Computing and IT
Creative Digital Media
Early Years, Education and Teaching
Floristry
Games, Animation and VFX
Graphic Design
Hairdressing and Media Make Up
Health, Social Care and Nursing
Horticulture
Music Production and Performance
Performing Arts
Photography
Public and Uniformed Services
Science
Sport
Travel and Tourism



STEM Centre Campus

Animal Management
Bricklaying
Carpentry and Joinery
Electrical Engineering
Electrical Installation
Mechanical Engineering
Motor Vehicle
Painting and Decorating
Plastering
Plumbing
Wall and Floor Tiling

How is college different from school?

You attend school for 30+ hours per week plus homework and study a range of subjects and qualifications.

However, you will attend college for approx. 16 hours per week (2.5 days roughly). You will have coursework to take home too. You may be expected to complete voluntary work experience (depending on your chosen course), so you will also have the opportunity to develop your employability skills. You will learn from industry experts with heaps of experience in their field.

If you decide that an apprenticeship is the route for you, you will work 4 days per week, attend college 1 day per week and will be paid for your work. Your combined study and work will amount to a minimum of 30 hours work per week. The current minimum wage for apprentices is £4.15 per hour.



Why choose St Helens College?

Student Success



We have produced thousands of successful students that have gone on to do spectacular things, from innovative creators and healthcare professionals to industry leaders and jet-setters.

Free Travel



St Helens College has a dedicated, FREE bus service on four key routes, covering Penketh, Maghull, Kirkby, Leigh, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Knowsley and South Liverpool.

Excellent Progression



We have fantastic progression routes for our students, allowing you to join us from school and potentially leave with a degree at University Centre St Helens.

Experienced Tutors



Our tutors have plenty of industry experience to provide you with the very best learning and opportunities.

Top Facilities



Our two campuses have everything you need to get the most out of your experience with us from a fine dining restaurant and mock aircraft cabin, to a construction site and outdoor animal units.

Student Experience



Life at college is so much more than just studying... you'll discover new places, share amazing experiences with your friends and develop skills and interests that you thought you never had.

Supporting You



We offer comprehensive support to all of our students to ensure that any worries you may have, big or small, we can help you to overcome them.

Supporting Growth



As the economy of Liverpool and the wider Merseyside area grows, we ensure that our students have access to employment opportunities across innovative growth sectors in the region.

Connecting Classroom to Career

At St Helens College, we pride ourselves on 'Connecting Classroom to Career' for all our students. We bridge the gap from classroom learning into industry, taking you one step closer to achieving your desired career.

We have produced thousands of successful students and Kyle, Ellen and Alex are just a few of our alumni who have gone on to do amazing things!



CATERING

Kyle

With the support from the Chef's at College, talented Chef, Kyle, now leads an exciting career at Paul Askew's exclusive fine dining restaurant, The Art School, in Liverpool. After initially securing a full-time position as a Commis Chef, Kyle has since been promoted to Chef De Partie and loves every moment spent in a fast-paced kitchen!



**HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE**

Ellen

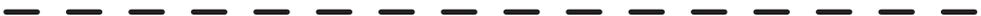
Maternity Health Care Assistant, Ellen, was recently recognised by Whiston Hospital for working extremely hard during challenging circumstances, tending to patients and ensuring their health and safety. She is now looking forward to studying Midwifery at Liverpool John Moores University.

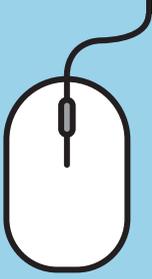


**PERFORMING
ARTS**

Alex

Alex was lucky enough to go to London and work with the prestigious Frantic Assembly on their Ignition Project. The company is one of the most respected theatre companies in the UK and they only accept 20 people per year on to the programme. Alex has now secured his place to study acting at London's Italia Conti Theatre School.





Useful links

There are many useful websites to support you with making the right decision for your future. Whether it is careers information or deciding on the right course for you, the following websites may make your decision a little easier:

National Careers Service is useful to research careers, salaries and what to study to get there.

www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

National Apprenticeship Service is a great resource if you are looking to study an apprenticeship. All apprenticeship vacancies are listed through the National Apprenticeship Service. You can register your details and view live vacancies but cannot apply or start an apprenticeship until you are 16, have completed your GCSEs and have left school.

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Career Coach can help you find your ideal career by providing information on employment, education, training and wages. It can even help you create a professional CV!

www.sthelens.ac.uk/careercoach

What can I do after College?

Once you have completed your chosen course, there are multiple routes available to you. You could go on to employment, further training, an apprenticeship or university. Your next steps will depend on your chosen career.



DID YOU KNOW – St Helens College has its own University Centre. Based at our Town Centre Campus, University Centre St Helens offers a wide range of HNCs, HNDs, Foundation and Honours Degrees. You can find more information about what University Centre St Helens has to offer here - www.sthelens.ac.uk/ucsh



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