

# WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## GCSE

## Course Selection Form: 2011

Name of Pupil \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that this form needs to be completed and returned to Dr  
Randell **via the school office no later than Friday 18th**  
**March 2011**

# GCSE

## Course Selection Form

### Introduction

You should make reference to the Course Selection Booklet as you complete this form. The Booklet contains all of the details about individual courses. You also need to speak with your teachers; this is especially important if you are considering studying a course that you have not studied previously.

---

### The Compulsory Subjects

There is nothing for you to select here, as all boys study the following compulsory subjects. The subjects marked \* are ones that are studied to GCSE level.

English Language\*, English Literature\*, Mathematics\*, PE / Games, PSHE / Citizenship, ICT, Religious Education, Physics\*, Chemistry\*, Biology\*

---

### Your Humanities Selection

All boys are required to study either Geography or History. You should indicate your selection with a tick in one of the boxes below:

Geography

History

---

### Your Languages Selection

All boys are required to study a Modern Foreign Language; either French or Spanish. You should indicate your selection with a tick in one of the boxes below:

French

Spanish

## Open Selection

All pupils are required to select TWO subjects from the open selection list below. You are also required to specify a 'reserve' subject. Our aim is to provide all pupils with their preferred choice but occasionally timetable restrictions mean that we have to make use of reserve subjects.

Select your choice of subjects from the list below. Please note that you can only choose one Design & Technology option (Resistant Materials or Graphic Products), not both.

Notice that you can opt to do an extra Humanities subject (History / Geography) and an extra Languages subject (French / Spanish) as you have already chosen one from each area as part of the compulsory selections. You should only choose to study an additional Humanities / Languages subject if you have real strengths in these areas.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art & Design                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Studies             | <input type="checkbox"/> History   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D & T (Resistant Materials)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Music     |
| OR  | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D & T (Graphic Products)*    |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology       |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Studies                |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish                      |                                    |

My reserve choice is: \_\_\_\_\_

## The English Baccalaureate

This is a Certificate that the Government is in the process of introducing. ALL boys are in the position of acquiring this, provided that you gain at least a Grade C in the following subjects areas: English Language, Mathematics, two Science subjects, a humanities subject (History or Geography) and a languages subject (French or Spanish). Past records show that most pupils gain the English Baccalaureate (typically well over 75%).

Universities and most employers will expect to see pupils gaining high grades across all of their subject and not only those that relate to the English Baccalaureate.

## **The Extension Curriculum**

You do not need to select subjects using this form. Teachers who are responsible for these courses will speak to you in lessons or assemblies about the arrangements for choosing them.

Some boys select additional courses in Years 10 and 11 but by no means all. A boy may study one of these if he has a particular aptitude and / or if there is a sustained record of high progress grades (Greens and Blues) and sustained effort (mainly 1s).

It is important to remember that these courses require a high degree of application and self motivation as you would be doing a lot of independent study in your own time.

### GCSE PE

This is taught in core PE lessons and there is an expectation of attendance at lunchtime and / or after school sessions. Boys have to excel in at least one sport as there is a practical component. A Progress Monitoring track record of high attainment in relation to target grades are essential (mainly blues / greens, with a record of mainly 1s for effort)

### GCSE RE (Short Course)

This is taught through the compulsory RE lessons and you only have the equivalent of one of these per fortnight. Only boys who demonstrate that they have the ability and aptitude to work independently will be entered for the GCSE exam. Assessment data and performance in RE examinations in Years 10 and 11 will form the basis for an exam entry decision. As this is a short course, more pupils should have the capacity to complete this course to examination level and it is a good addition to your range of subjects.

### GCSE General Studies

This course has little or no taught content. This course will be offered to boys who are considered capable of coping with the discipline of additional independent study. An important requirement is good all-round ability and a broad general knowledge.

### GCSE Astronomy

This is a specialised course. While it is open to any pupil with this specialised interest, it is important to remember that there is strong science focus and particularly in relation to Physics and Mathematics. The course is taught through lunch-time sessions and there is a need for a lot of independent study.

### AS Critical Thinking

This is a first year A level course. It is not about learning information but is more about learning to analyse arguments and evaluate evidence. It is a good preparation for study at A level and it counts towards the qualifications required for entry to University. The course is intellectually challenging and is therefore offered to the most academically able. The course is taught through half-day sessions.