



GCSE
Curriculum Fact File



Felsted



GCSE Curriculum at Felsted

The selection of GCSE options is possibly the first time pupils make decisions regarding the direction of their education. This is a challenge they should take responsibly and with extensive consultation with parents, teachers and any materials made available.

In many ways they have already embarked on their GCSE preparation. However, by the beginning of Year 10 they commit to a two year journey to complete their GCSEs.

The reformed GCSEs have now been in place for a number of years. Although many of you will feel confident with the numerical grading system, the table (*right*) provides an indication of how one might translate the old grade to the new number.

OLD GRADE NEW NUMBER

A*	9 (top half of A* = 9)
A	8
B	7
B	6
C	5
C	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

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The aim for Years 10 and 11 is to follow a curriculum based on a 'core' of English, Maths and Science and four 'options' that ensures a broadly balanced programme for all pupils, without inhibiting the specialisation required for a variety of Sixth Form courses.

Every pupil studies English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. Science will be studied by all pupils at GCSE. The standard programme will cover the Double Award content, leading to two grades in Science. Pupils have the option of expanding their focus on Science, following the Separate Sciences pathway through the options blocks, leading to a separate GCSE outcome in each of the three science disciplines. The remaining optional subjects allow the opportunity for pupils to tailor their programme to suit their abilities and intentions for further study. In certain circumstances a pupil will be advised to take three rather than four optional subjects so that additional time may be spent on supporting their core subjects through Support for Learning or English as an Additional Language lessons. In addition to their 'core' and 'option' subjects, Years 10 and 11 pupils also follow non-examined courses in Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).

Each pupil should choose four optional subjects ensuring that they meet the requirements of the two restrictions placed on the choice (*see subject options table*).



Curriculum Enhancement

Support for Learning (SfL) and **English as an Additional Language (EAL)** are also available as an optional subject for those pupils who need them. Opting for SfL means that additional time may be spent on supporting the core subjects. This option may be selected upon recommendations from the SfL department. EAL should be chosen by those pupils whose first language is other than English.

Support for Learning

The Support for Learning Department addresses the learning needs of all pupils with identified specific learning difficulties through the process of assessments and Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Learn more about SfL at Felsted:
www.felsted.org/sfl



PSHE *Personal, Social and Health Education*

The PSHE programme aims to educate students in the context of ever changing and emerging issues and the rapid development of technology.

The programme is constantly reviewed and updated according to the needs of students and media trends.

Learn more about PSHE:
www.felsted.org/gcse-pshe



English as an Additional Language

Pupils' needs are evaluated and addressed through assessments and the implementation of Individual Learning Plans. The EAL Department also provides excellent pastoral care for those pupils living away from home in a new country.

Learn more about EAL at Felsted:
www.felsted.org/eal



Careers and Higher Education

Our Professional Guidance Department provides clear, appropriate and individual advice, information, support and guidance for students to make informed choices as they progress through GCSE and into Sixth Form and beyond.

Learn more about our Professional Guidance Dept: www.felsted.org/gcse-che





Subject Options

In addition to the core subjects, four 'option' subjects must be chosen. We suggest that these include a language and humanities subject, although the best interests of the child are always prioritised. Please note that although Science (Double Award) is a core subject, those wishing to expand to the Science (Triple Award) should select this as one of their 'option' blocks.

CORE GCSEs

SUBJECTS:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science (Double Award)



FOUR OPTIONS

OPTION 1

Languages:

French

German

Spanish

Latin

OPTION 2

Humanities:

Classical Civilisation

Geography

History

Latin

TEP

OPTIONS 3 - 4

A further TWO subjects:

Art & Design

Classical Civilisation

Computer Science

Design & Technology (Resistant Materials)

Drama

French

Geography

German

History

Latin

Music

Physical Education

Science (Triple Award)

Spanish

TEP

OR

OPTIONS 3 - 4

A further ONE subject from the list above:
supplemented by SfL or EAL



Sources of Guidance

There is plenty of support available to current and prospective students and their parents as they choose their GCSE options:

- **Subject teachers and Heads of Department** are familiar with a current student's strengths and can answer questions about course content
- **Tutors** can talk through the best range and balance of options choices with current students, especially in the context of a pupil's wider interests and activities
- **The Professional Guidance team** can help assess which GCSE choices can support future aspirations
- **The Support for Learning and EAL teachers** can advise on the demands of different subjects and the likely experience for learners in different options
- **The Academic Office** can advise on combinations of subjects or where there are wider considerations

I enjoyed studying two languages at GCSE and found it extremely beneficial in other subjects.

Harvey, Year 11, Modern Foreign Languages

...teachers make every effort to squeeze as much as they can out of each passage – in an entertaining way...

Lydia, Year 10, Latin

Subject Options and Choices

Find out more!

Learn more about each subject via our interactive online subject guide.

Visit: www.felsted.org/gcse-subjects



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