

Year 8 Subject Choices 2025

You have the opportunity to personalise your curriculum in Year 9 to achieve both breadth and depth in your learning.

This booklet is to support students in making the right choices.

Valuing Everyone
Caring for Each Other
Achieving Excellence

Year 8 Subject Choices Information

Currently in Year 8, our curriculum provides students with one hour in each of the following subjects: Art, Music, Drama, Computer Science and a rotation of Technology subjects (Food, Engineering, Textiles and Product Design)

Your Choices

In order to personalise their Year 9 curriculum, students will select **two** of the subjects from the following list: Art, Music, Drama, Computer Science, Food, Engineering, Textiles and Product Design. Students will have two hours in their chosen subjects, which will allow greater depth of knowledge and specialism. Students will then be better prepared to make an informed decision when it comes to the GCSE Option process in Year 9.

Subjects are placed into Subject Choice Columns and students will choose one subject from Subject Choice 1 and another subject from Subject Choice 2. Please note, it cannot be the same subject twice nor can it be Art and Textiles as this is the same qualification at GCSE. To maintain a broad and balanced curriculum we strongly recommend that students choose one Arts subject and one Technical subject.

Subject Choice 1	Subject Choice 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art• Drama• Music• Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art• Drama• Music• Computer Science• Food• Product Design• Engineering• Textiles

Note:The subject choices students make now are not a prerequisite for GCSE studies.

Booklet

This booklet provides students and families with the necessary information from all of the subjects on offer. Please read through and discuss everything you have read, as the information will help students make the right decision. This booklet is only the beginning of the decision-making process. All Year 8 students will take part in Personal Development lessons, assemblies and taster sessions in all the subjects stated above.

How to make the right choice

There are many wrong reasons for choosing a subject; because friends have chosen it is one or liking the teacher is another. The only sensible reasons for students to choose subjects are as follows:

- Enjoyment - choose subjects they really enjoy.
- Ability - choose subjects they are good at.
- Career Relevance – students may not know exactly where they are going just yet, but even if there is only a vague idea it can be worthwhile finding out which subjects would be essential or useful.

Timeline

Date	Activity
Wednesday 8th January	Year 8 Progress Evening – an opportunity to speak to class teachers about which subjects students might want to continue to study into Y9 and beyond.
Thursday 9th January	Year 8 Subject Choices Evening for Parents and Carers
W/C – Monday 13th January	A Subject Choice assembly during Form time Subject Choices Booklet to be shared via Satchel:One for students and MCAS for parents and carers.
W/C – Monday 27th January	Subject Choice Week - Classroom teachers will share key information regarding the topics that will be covered if a student opts for that subject choice. Students should listen carefully as this information should support their decision.
Friday 31st January	Electronic Subject Choices form to be shared via MCAS for Students, Parents and Carers. Form to be completed and submitted by Friday 14th February .

Deadline

The electronic Subject Choice form should be completed on or before the deadline of **Friday 14th February 2025**. If forms are submitted early, this will help us to make sure that all students have the best chance of getting their preferred subject choices. Please ensure the Subject Choice form has the student's full name and form group and parents and carers have typed their name at the bottom of the form to state that a discussion has happened at home.

Any forms submitted after the deadline will make it more difficult to match students to their Subject Choices as groups may already be full. Any forms after the deadline are to be emailed directly to year8subjectchoices@taptonschool.co.uk.

On the Subject Choice form, students are asked to select reserve choices for each column. Remember, there are many reasons why students may be given their reserve choice. Students should state a subject they are happy to study in Year 9.

After the Choice

In rare circumstances, we may not be able to fit student's choice into the school timetable. If this is the case, we'll offer students a fresh choice from the subjects remaining, but we always prefer to give students as wide a choice as possible in the first instance.

Who can help and provide advice for students and parents/carers?

- Subject Leaders
- Subject teachers
- Form tutors
- Ms Lake – Year Leader
- Mrs Morris – Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum

It is important that all of us – parents and carers, students, subject teachers, Form Tutor, Year Leader, work together to help make informed choices.

Following the Subject Choice forms being submitted, Mrs Williams, our Curriculum Manager, will begin the mammoth task of creating a timetable for each student. Mrs Williams, Ms Grewal or Mrs Morris may need to meet and discuss choices with students and their parent/carer if it is proving to be difficult to meet all choices.

If students or parents and carers need further information or have any questions do not hesitate to email year8subjectchoices@taptonschool.co.uk.

Subject Choice Information

Art & Design

Subject Leader: Mrs K Pilarek – kpilarek@taptonschool.co.uk

Are you creative, enthusiastic and enjoy developing your own ideas? Art and Design in Year 9 could be for you and will help you to develop a range of skills useful in both your future in the arts as well as being transferable to other subject areas.

By continuing Art and Design in Year 9 you will get the opportunity to develop skills working with many new materials and explore a wide range of different techniques in an independent and personalised way.

Projects will include:

- Model making and ceramic work
- Drawing using perspective and architectural skills
- The exploration of card construction, texture, sculpture and a use of mixed medias
- Figure drawing using a range of media and styles
- Photography and the use of filters, editing and experimentation in a range of styles
- Acrylic painting, still life and Vanitas

You will continue developing your contextual understanding, researching into artists, designers and makers, as well as producing work focussed around current issues and topics. You will develop and refine work in a broad range of media and materials which you have not yet worked with, developing new skills over the duration of 7 different projects.

Drama

Subject Leader: Mrs R Gerrard – rgerrard@taptonschool.co.uk

The Year 9 Drama curriculum will continue to develop knowledge, practice and hone key Drama techniques, skills, terminology and practitioners that all serve as a foundation for GCSE Drama. In addition to this important subject specific study, Year 9 Drama will continue to provide students with the communication skills that are vital to a career in any industry. Projects in Year 9 will include:

- Working in groups to study new theatre practitioners.
- Studying play texts from the point of view of an actor, designer and director.
- Going to the theatre to experience live theatre and to write about the experience.
- Performing from a text.
- Devising work from a stimulus.

A recent study endorsed by Kings College London reveals that “soft skills such as teamwork, communication and confidence are considered by young people, teachers and employees to be as important to achieving success in life as good grades”. Our Drama curriculum provides students with opportunities to build confidence, concentration, communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, memory, aesthetic appreciation and creativity. These are all skills that are important to develop and nurture in a safe and trusting environment to transfer into all areas of life. Drama engenders joy, enthusiasm and a sense of achievement in students and is a valuable subject for Year 9 students to study.

Computer Science

Subject Leader: Mrs S Thomas sthomas@taptonschool.co.uk

“Hey Google, is my bus on time this morning?”

Only a few years ago, chatting to your speaker in an attempt to plan your travel arrangements might have provoked more than a few odd looks. Now though, it’s becoming a normal part of our everyday lives. Why the change...? Computer Science, Big Data and human creativity.

Computer Science is changing every aspect of our lives. It is changing the way we work in every area from medicine and fashion to engineering and economics. Computing shapes how objects are designed, how we do business, how we communicate, how we entertain ourselves and how we understand our world.

“We need bright and ethical people to understand our best and most powerful technologies to ensure they are used for good.”

The Y9 curriculum will equip students with the basic skills required for GCSE Computer Science. Students will experience :

- Programming and using new software
- Learn how computers and networks work
- Learn how networks allow computers to communicate locally and globally
- Discover how cyber-attacks happen and how hackers attack computers
- Solve computing maths problems
- Solve logical problems including the Bebras Competition
- Think about ethical issues
- Machine learning and AI

This course will equip you with skills to set you apart in any future career. Developing your 21st Century Skills.

Music

Subject Leader: Mrs G Threlfall (Maternity Cover) – gthrelfall@taptonschool.co.uk

Do you enjoy playing music or singing along to music at home? Do you spend lots of your free time listening to music, or would you like some guidance on what exciting music there is out there? Do you love the feeling of creating your own music on your instrument or by using music software? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then music is the subject for you!

In Year 9 we aim to cover the three main skills of performing, composing and listening in a fun and active way. We study a wide variety of genres, whilst giving you the freedom to find your own musical voice. We will provide you with platform and skills to take your music further, whether you already play an instrument and want more opportunities to hone your skill, whether you want to start playing an instrument/singing from scratch, or whether you want to be the next big DJ, music producer or songwriter. You will end the year with a broad overview of music from all around the world, from various points throughout history, as well as studying the music of our current generation. We will introduce you to both sequencing and traditional music software.

Music in Year 9 is loud, vibrant, creative, exciting and personalised.

Music is for everyone - no musical background required!

Textiles

Subject Leader: Mrs K Pilarek kpilarek@taptonschool.co.uk

Textiles in Year 9 is a creative, design and skill-based course which develops your understanding of the textile and fashion world as well as the world of textile art. You will develop practical making skills, working on the sewing machine to experiment and explore materials and construction techniques for fashion and textile art pieces. The course will allow you to research, design, experiment and construct textile pieces inspired by a range of starting points. You will develop practical skills which include hand embroidery, garment design, modelling and construction and textile manipulation and art textile techniques.

What will you study?

- Sweet treats – Textile art project based on contemporary soft sculpture, designing and making a felt sweet treat as part of an art installation.
- Architecture inspired fashion – Exploring structures used in both architecture and fashion, you will explore fashion design, illustration techniques and produce your own range of relevant textile structures informed by your designs.
- Under the microscope – A practical skills-based project exploring surface decoration including batik, felting, beading, heat manipulation and free machine embroidery to produce a petri dish piece of artwork.
- Fashion cycles – Inspired by famous fashion designers and current runway collections, you will explore fashion design techniques, modelling and development, leading to a paper modelled outcome.

The Textile curriculum provides students with opportunities to be creative, build confidence, concentration, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and practical skills. These are all skills that are important in the creative and design industries and open up a range of career opportunities and destinations for the future.

Food

Subject Leader: Mrs T Stafford tstafford@taptonschool.co.uk

The aim of the course is for students to learn how to think imaginatively and to develop their food choices.

Students will complete a variety of projects. 'Made in Sheffield' covers foods from a range of different countries. Pupils will learn about the country and how the cuisine has developed over time. They will taste and cook dishes that represent the country. This project will introduce students to the key themes of nutrition, sensory analysis and food choice.

Students will also complete a Food Preparation and Nutrition taster project and a Hospitality and Catering taster project near the time of their Year 9 GCSE Option choice decisions. This will allow individual practical choices following a given brief and giving pupils a clearer understanding of the Year 10 option choices available to them.

Students will end the year with a project titled 'Love Food, Hate Waste' which aims to teach students the basic principles of preventing food wastage and providing life skills regarding planning, preparing and cooking meals within the home environment.

Towards the end of the year the students will undertake a project labelled 'Bite Back' in which students investigate ultra processed food and healthy alternatives. To deliver this project effectively students will be involved a large number of cooking tasks.

Over the course of the year, students will deepen their food knowledge, understanding and practical skills. Students will be cooking or experiment with food every 2 weeks.

Product Design

Subject Leader: Mr J Fulson jfulson@taptonschool.co.uk

Product Design is an area of study that focuses on planning, designing, creating things (called "products") and marketing them, which people then use.

Think about your toaster (stay with me). Someone had to spend a great deal of time thinking about how to make it look good (marketability), how it will affect people's lives, whilst also making it work. That's what Product Design is all about - the entire product, not just the function of it.

While studying this subject in Year 9 you will:

- Be taught more advance woodworking skills to design and make a model Land Rover
- Gain knowledge and skills in metal work so that you can cast molten metal to make a Bag Tag.
- Learn how to use our industry standard CAD software (Autodesk Fusion 360), to design and 3D print a 'Legoman'.
- Learn architectural skills by completing our new architectural project
- Learning how to come up with new concepts for furniture design by designing and making flat pack furniture using 'friction fits'.

Careers from Product Design will include the Industrial/Product Designer, Interior and Spatial Designer, UX design, Graphic Designer, Product Manager, Marketing, Web site designer and many more.

Plus, any jobs that would provide opportunities to use CAD/CAM (3D printers, laser cutters), i.e. prosthetic design, advertising, veterinary work, medical etc.

Engineering

Subject Leader: Mr T Priest tpriest@taptonschool.co.uk

'The art or science of making practical application of the knowledge of pure sciences, such as physics..., in the construction of computers, engines, bridges, buildings, mines, ships, telecommunications... etc.'

In Year 9 we will be learning about mechanical advantage using levers to make a drinks can crusher. We will also be making extensive use of three-dimensional Computer Aided Design. Your drinks can crusher will be made out of aluminium and steel using workshop tools and equipment including the centre lathe. Later in Year 9 you will specialise in either a more academic Maths and Physics route or a more practical route depending on which you prefer. All students will make a real and CAD version of an aluminium torch, but those going on to pursue Design Engineering (the more academic/science option at KS4) will focus more on the electronics and simulating it in CAD as well as producing a 3d CAD model.

Should students pursue Engineering as a career choice, there is an enormous range of opportunities for further and higher education, training, and apprenticeships in the Sheffield area.

A recent **EngineeringUK** report found:

- The number of engineering jobs will grow in all regions between now and 2030
- 25% of all job postings in the UK are for engineering roles