

Frequently Asked Questions

'My daughter is on the green pathway but not sure of wanting to do German - can she choose not to take this?'

The choice to study French or German is available to all students and is one that we recommend to a significant number of students. This is because a good qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is seen as a distinct advantage, and allows students to secure the English Baccalaureate, or the EBacc, which is a complement of qualifications seen as enabling successful candidates to have the opportunity to enter the best universities.

Green Pathway students are those who have made at least good progress in either French/ German, and for whom we recommend continued study.

Your child has received a pathway based on our recommendations which best fits our understanding of your child. Should you wish to discuss making a change to this, you should speak with Ms Summers or email on ssummers@lodeheath.org.uk

'How does the fieldwork in geography GCSE's take place? I would like to know how many days it is for and how the fieldwork is tested?'

The fieldwork element in Geography is a compulsory part of the course and includes the opportunity to study both Physical and Human Geography. This involves a one-day fieldtrip (non- residential), via coach to a coastal venue. Pupils will undertake a variety of fieldwork collection methods with Geography staff during the day. To allow for travelling the times will be outside of the normal school day timings. It is assessed through examined questions in Paper 3 and marked by AQA examiners as a linear Summer exam.

'When would pupils be made aware if they have the Triple science awarded? If a pupil is awarded Triple Science's would that affect their other options (as triple science is 3 separate GCSE's)?'

The allocation of Triple Science is done separate to options and is based upon their science ability in school assessments to date. It has no impact upon their option choice and does not take up one of their option blocks. Pupils will be informed of this in the Summer term by Ms Thompson, Head of Science.

'In terms of higher studies - A levels or Universities - is GCSE and Cambridge Certificates considered to be of equal weightage?'

In terms of points, there is no difference in the awarding of these, one is not worth more than another, they are all grade dependent. Some college or university course may stipulate that students have studied a particular qualification so it is worth seeking guidance from our careers advisor based on the further education route and career path your child may be interested in.

'When choosing options on insight, is it important that you give alternate options also?'

Whilst everything will be done to ensure your child studies their first-choice subjects, there may be instances where this cannot be granted. If this occurs, an alternate/ reserve choice will be guaranteed and you will be informed via phone call or email – if you do not hear, no news is good news! It is vital, therefore, that choices, including alternate/ reserve choices, are made very carefully.

- Courses will only run when group sizes are viable.
- When a course is oversubscribed, we will consider future pathways, Attitude to Learning and Behaviour for Learning scores to help us decide which students will be offered a place and who will be given their alternate/ reserve choice.

'Once the options are selected on insight, are the oversubscribed options given to the once who submit their options first or it's based on ATL/ BFL of kids?'

No, there is no first come, first served approach at all. The only stipulation that may affect option choice is meeting the deadline. We cannot confirm pupils option choices after this date.

Please see above how over-subscribed subjects allocated student places are.

'When will Individual pathway guidance from subjects that offer two qualification options of GCSE and Vocational and some brief information as to which one may be more appropriate for your child e.g., iMedia or Computer Science?'

Subject teachers often inform students of this information by letter/ email or informally during one-to-one conversations in remote learning or online remote private chats via Teams. Ultimately you are welcome to contact any staff that you have questions for or wish to enquire which course would suit your child best as an option. All staff will endeavour to return phone calls within 48 hours during the working week.

'Would there be taster lessons for kids for any subject?'

For those subjects that students have not studied at GCSE, taster sessions will be organised during other lessons, form assemblies or using the online Teams student page. The practical subjects of Catering, Drama, Music, Design and Technology and Dance, have already begun to plan taster sessions within their rotation timetable, whilst Maths teachers have delivered Statistics taster sessions to pupils online.