

Year 9 Options Evening 2025

What subjects do you enjoy?

What are your interests outside of school?

What are you good at?

What might you want to do in the future?

Timeline

Thursday 16 th January	Options Evening
From next week	Guidance meetings
Early Feb	Options form sent out
Monday 24 th February	Deadline for options form
Before Easter	Options timetabling
Summer term	Confirmation of options

Options Booklet

Now available from the school website, containing:

- Frequently asked questions
- Explanations about the process
- Information about each subject



**CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGE**

**KS4 Curriculum 2025:
Choosing your Options**



Modern Foreign Languages
Spanish, French, German

What will I learn?
Languages are a life skill. Knowledge of a foreign language is not just another GCSE or A-Level grade - it is a combined degree and further education courses involving a language is students - from a session to Theatre Studies with a...

What is Modern Foreign Languages?
You will continue to study one or both of the languages you have been learning in Key Stage 3. Spanish, French and/or German. You will study a range of topics and learn to express your ideas about them orally and in writing. You will also work on reading and listening comprehension, and translation.

What homework will I get?
Students are expected to complete regular homework. This will include learning vocabulary and grammar, practice in the use of grammatical structures, reading exercises, speaking presentations, writing exercises and online learning. I have access to a bilingual dictionary and materials on the internet to assist them with their homework.

How will I be assessed?
For GCSE or A-Level you will be assessed in the four skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (including translation). Each skill is worth 25% of the GCSE. Students can take the final exams for Foundation or Higher tier depending on their performance throughout the two year course. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

What further courses of study might this lead to?
Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study. The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is students - from a session to Theatre Studies with a...

How will I be assessed?
Students will be assessed through performance and written work as below:
Component One: Written exam - 25%; practical exam - 25%.
Component Two: Practical exam - 20%.
Component Three: Written exam - 40%.

Drama

Why study Drama?
Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The subject provides both involvement and enjoyment of drama. It also provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances. Drama is a subject to take if you want a job in the entertainment industry. In front of an audience or behind the scenes. Additionally, it is also relevant and interesting to people who like to engage in cultural or social issues.

How is the course structured?
Students study three components which will provide them with a clear and coherent understanding of Drama:
1. **Devising Theatre:** Learners are required to devise a piece of original theatre in response to a stimulus, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or the characteristics of a genre of drama.
2. **Performing from a Text:** Learners are required to participate in a performance from a text. Learners will work co-operatively as part of a group to perform two extracts from a set text.
3. **Interpreting Theatre:** Learners will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed, through the study of a performance text and responding to live theatre.

What will I learn?
1. **Devising Theatre:** Students work in groups of between two and five to devise a piece of original theatre for performance, record their research, and evaluate the final outcome. Pupils choose a stimulus from a list supplied by the exam board (a question, a song or a picture) from which they devise a piece of theatre, demonstrating either the techniques of a theatre practitioner or the dramatic characteristics of a genre. Students also produce a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates their research, creation and development of ideas.
2. **Performing from a Text:** Pupils work in groups of between two and four actors and study two 10 minute extracts, within the context of the whole text, from one performance text of their own choice. The extracts studied are key extracts from the text selected. These are then performed to an external examiner.
3. **Interpreting Theatre:** Learners study 'DINA' by Dennis Kelly, approaching the text practically as an actor, designer and director. They must consider how the text is constructed and how to create meaning through genre, structure, character, form and style, language/dialogue and stage directions. They are to think as a director and actor about the relationships on stage, the impact of different stages, relationships between performer and audience, the design of lighting, sound, set, props, costume and make-up, and the actor's vocal and physical interpretation of character. In this unit pupils will also experience live theatre performances.

What does homework look like in Drama?
Homework will be both written and practical, set weekly. Written work includes researching drama practitioners, performance skills, and reading and annotating scripts. Practical work includes rehearsals devising a piece from a stimulus, learning lines from their text and rehearsing their given scenes. Students are required to keep a log of practical work undertaken for one of the components.

What contact if I have questions?
Lauren Phillips, Head of Drama and Dance

Guidance Meetings

Every pupil has the opportunity to have a guidance meeting during the school day with their form tutor or another member of staff involved in the options process. Parents join via video appointment.

These start **next week** and there will be a message going home inviting you to book via the parents evening booking system at cambournevc.parentseveningsystem.co.uk

Pupils with EHCPs will have this as part of their annual review and will not need to book a separate appointment.

What will I study at KS4?

Examined Core Subjects

English Language
English Literature
Maths
Science

Non-Examined Core Subjects

PE
PSHE
Core RE

Option Subjects

4 of your choice

After-school Subjects

1 optional
(if you want to)

You will choose 4 subjects and 2 reserves, rather than 3 and 2 reserves.

What about languages?

Unlike in previous years, it will not be compulsory to take a language.

Spanish, French, and German are all available as option subjects, as well as an accessible foundation Spanish course. Pupils may select more than one language.

If you speak another language at home it may be possible to sit an exam in this subject.

Languages are strong facilitating subjects and for many pupils will remain a key part of a broad and rigorous curriculum.

Options Subjects (Choose 4+2)

Art	Computer Science	Dance	Design and Technology
Drama	Food and Nutrition	French	Geography
German	History	Religious Studies	Music
Separate Sciences	Spanish	Ancient History	Business Studies
Child Development	Engineering	Film Studies	Geology
Information Technology	Media Studies	PE / Sport	Photography

After-school Options

Art

Film Studies

Music Tech

Statistics

Psychology

You will have to pay for these courses.

You may only choose one option.

Most pupils do not take an after-school option.

Order of preference and reserves

Every year, approximately 90% of pupils get their first 4 choices.

We do have to use reserves when we cannot match everyone's top 4.

If a course is over-subscribed, we would look at order of preference and may speak with Heads of Department to review progress and attitudinal grades.

There is no guarantee that all courses will run: if a course is under-subscribed, we will not be able to run it.

Thinking ahead

It can be helpful to look ahead and consider what you would like to do when you leave Cambourne VC.

If you know you want to study a subject further, it may be sensible to study it at GCSE. This isn't always a requirement.

If you are not sure what you want to do in the future, keep your options open and pick a range of subjects.

Some last advice

DO choose subjects that you enjoy.

DON'T choose a subject just because your friends are.

DO talk to teachers, family and friends about your options.

DON'T choose a subject just because you like your teacher.

DO ask questions and be confident in your decisions.

GROUND FLOOR

Blue Wing	Art: Art01
Pink Wing & New English Block	Maths & Statistics: P03 English, Film & Media: Library (new block)
Green Wing & New Food/Science Block	Business Studies: G01 Child Development: Green-IT DT & Engineering: DT05 Food & Nutrition: Food 01
Gym	PE & Sport: Gym
Performing Arts Block	Music: MU01 Music Tech: MU04 Drama: DRAMA 02
Orange Wing	Computer Science & IT: COMP02
Sixth Form	Photography: Photo Studio

FIRST FLOOR

Blue Wing	History & Ancient History: B11 Psychology: B13
Pink Wing	Geography & Geology: P13 & P14 Religious Studies: P18
Green Wing	Science: Sc11
Main Corridor	Dance: Dance Studio
Orange Wing	Spanish, French & German: O12

Thank you

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