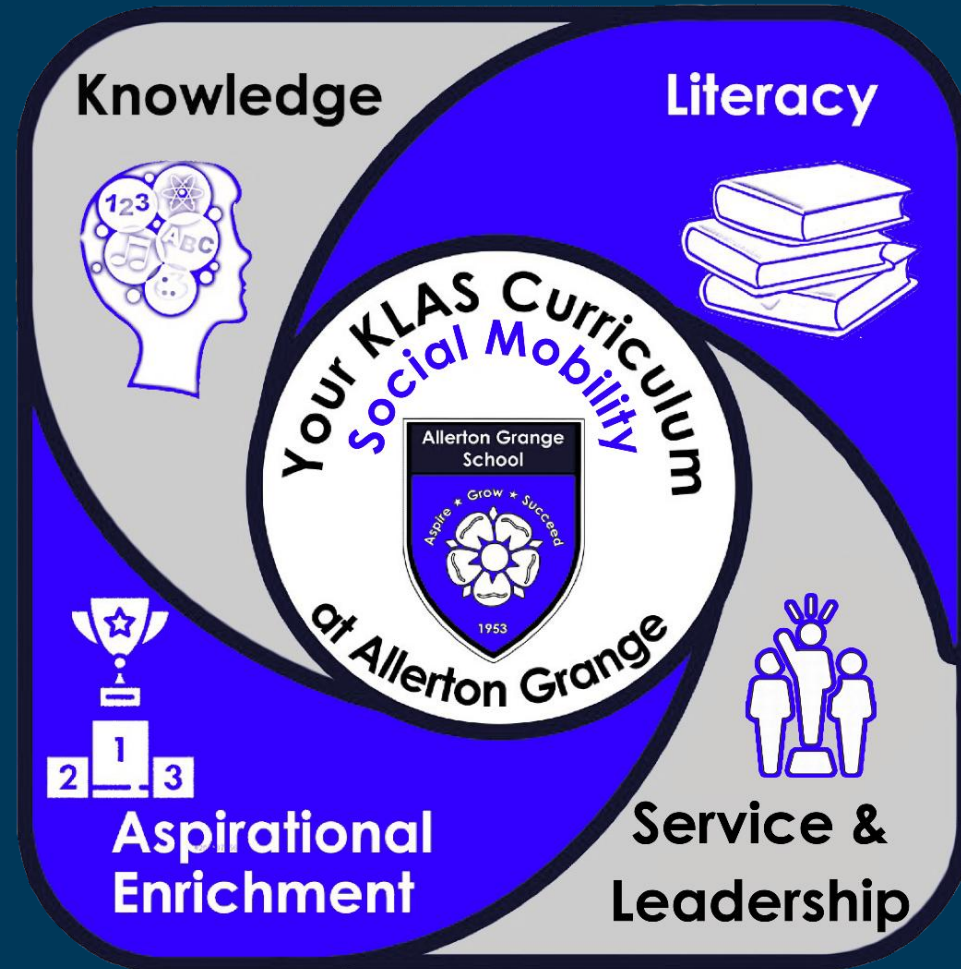


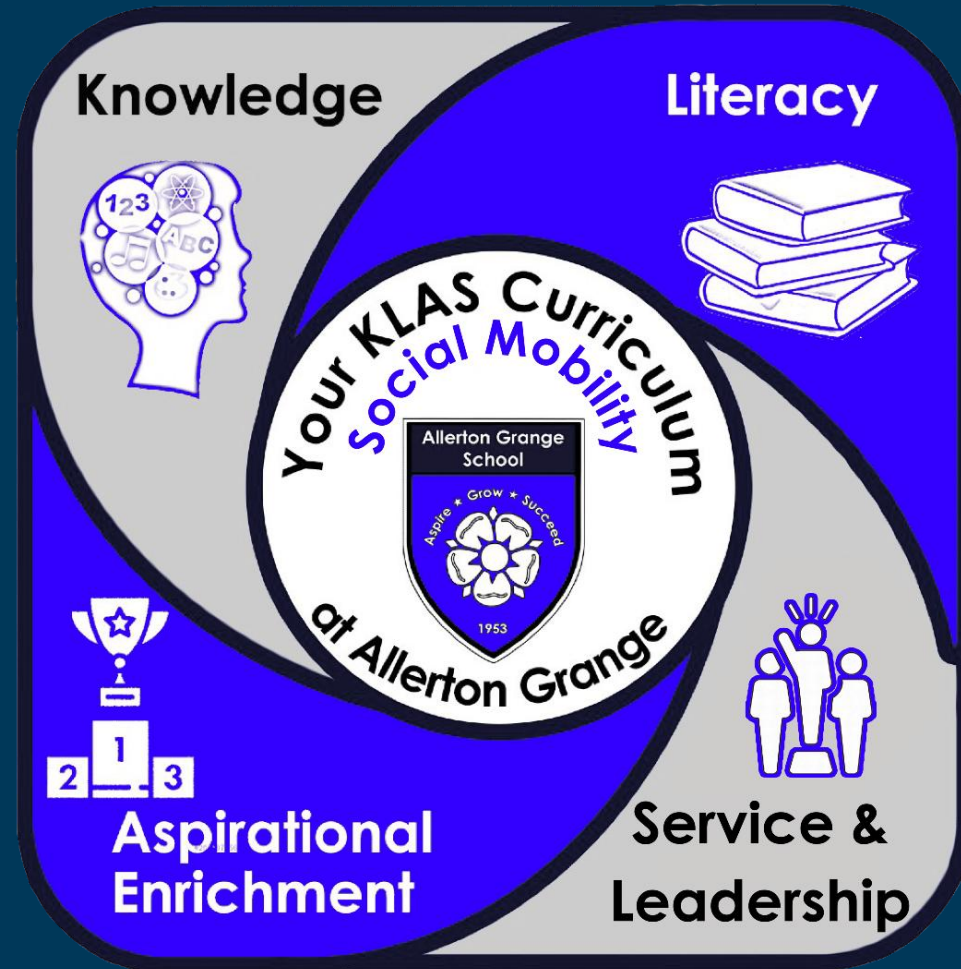
GCSE Options Process

Guidance and
Support: Choosing
GCSE options 2026-
2028



Our Curriculum Sets Us Apart

Our KLAS model ensures that we develop the whole child – academically and outside the classroom



Compulsory Subjects at GCSE

Maths

This is tiered entry, with final decision being made by the Maths team in Year 10. Top attaining students have the option to take Additional Maths GCSE (after school as enrichment).

English Language and English Literature

Students will be taught and sit two GCSEs.

Science

Combined or Triple Science options. The decision on whether your child will be entered for Combined or Triple is made by the science department, after several assessments.

Religious Studies

This is a short course GCSE (equivalent to half a GCSE) with option to take the full GCSE as an enrichment after school.

Humanities

History or Geography

Changes for this cohort

We are looking at making **Modern Foreign Languages optional**, giving students more freedom in their GCSE subject choices.

Increased Flexibility

The change allows tailoring education to personal interests and future goals beyond a fixed curriculum.

Student autonomy

Optional languages support personalised learning and encourage engagement with subjects that students are passionate about.

Understanding the English Baccalaureate

EBacc Subject Requirements

The EBacc includes English, Maths, Science, History or Geography, and a Modern Foreign Language plus one other option, forming a rigorous academic foundation.

Benefits of EBacc (Department for Education)

EBacc subjects are essential for many university degrees and are said to open up numerous academic and career opportunities.

Concerns and Limitations (Department for Education)

Recent reviews highlight concerns that EBacc may limit access to options subjects such as Computing, and the Arts, restricting subject choice.

Balanced Curriculum Approach - Allerton Grange

The school aims to provide a balanced curriculum including **both** EBacc and non-EBacc subjects to support diverse student interests.



Valuing Different Pathways

Balanced Curriculum Approach

The school values both traditional academic subjects and creative disciplines for a well-rounded education.

Personalised Subject Choices

Students choose subjects aligned with their university or career goals, supporting individual aspirations.

Arts and Creativity

Non-EBacc subjects like Drama, Music, and 3D Design are integrated and highly valued in the curriculum.

Student-Centered Approach

Encouraging exploration of passions and strengths fosters academic success and personal growth.



What can students choose?

Wide Subject Variety

Students can choose from a broad range of subjects including languages, arts, and physical education.

Academic and Creative Fields

Subjects cater to both academic interests like Classics or Computer Science, and creative talents like Drama and Music.

Practical and Physical Skills

Courses like Food Technology and Physical Education promote practical skills as well as theory.

What might inform a student's decision?

Students will have:

- Assemblies from all options subjects;
- A detailed options booklet sent electronically;
- Discussions with teachers.

Why Study a Language at GCSE?



Business leaders estimate they are losing £300,000 pa due to language barriers.

87% of UK workers said language differences caused external challenges for their company

Over half of UK professionals said they feel 'embarrassed' that international colleagues are expected to switch to English.

To be updated with scientific-technical advances, any researcher or professional needs to know other languages.

Languages and Business

Language skills reduce communication challenges and financial losses in global business environments.

Advantage in STEM

Multilingualism enables essential international collaboration and progress in science, technology, engineering, and maths fields.

Human Connection vs Translation Tools

Learning languages fosters genuine human interaction beyond what AI translation tools can provide.

Skills and Intellectual Values

Language learning enhances critical thinking, creative problem solving, cultural and emotional intelligence oracy, precision and tolerance of ambiguity.



What changes have we made to the process?

Earlier Submission Timeline

The school has moved the GCSE options submission deadline to **28th November** as this new process will require additional planning

Options Letter Distribution

Parents and students receive an options letter before the half-term break outlining subjects and selection process. This includes a comprehensive options booklet.

Curriculum Planning

Earlier preference submission allows the school to analyse interests and design an appropriate curriculum model.

Parent-Student Engagement

Parents are encouraged to discuss subject choices with children and contact staff with questions.

What changes have we made to the process?

- Students are asked to list up to **4 preferences**.
- The reason we are asking for this is to ensure that if a subject is oversubscribed, we have a range of options.
- We will use a fair selection process, which *may* be informed by student's academic profile in a particular subject, and that aligns with other choices.
- As a school, we will be required to make final decisions on options to ensure that class sizes are appropriate and that we are fully staffed in each subject.

Registering with SIMS

SIMS Options

Student/Parent interface

Receive an **email** invite during week beginning 20th October.

noreply@sims.co.uk (Check your junk folder)

Registering with SIMS

SIMS Options

Write down or copy your invitation code

Accept Invitation

Register with an External Account

Registration

You will have received a new service invite code from either SIMS or from your school administrator.

Please enter the code below and tap or click Register.

Name

J Warne

(not you?)

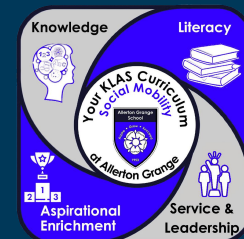
Signed in with

Microsoft

Invitation Code

MYCODE123

Register



Registering with SIMS

SIMS Options

Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.

What is the date of birth of one of your children at the school? (dd/mm/yyyy)

Verify

Once this is complete, you are free to sign in to your **SIMS-Options.co.uk** account



Using SIMS Options

Examined	Core Subjects	
	English Language	English Literature
	Mathematics	Combined Science or Separate Sciences*
KLAS Curriculum	AGS KLAS Curriculum	
	Core RE	Core PE
	PSHE / British Values / Careers / Enrichment / IT Skills	
Examined	Choose <u>One</u> From:	
	Geography	History
	Choose <u>Two</u> From:	
	History	Geography
	Art & Design (3D, Fine Art or Textiles)	Music
	Business Studies	PE GCSE
	Classical Civilisation	Spanish
	Computer Studies	Health and Social Care
	Drama	Hospitality and Catering
	French	
	German	
*Combined / Separate Science Decisions made by teachers at the end of Year 9 - all students study Separate during Year 9		

Using SIMS Options

SIMS Options

www.sims-options.co.uk

Choose **ONE** from **Geography** or **History**

Choose **TWO (and 2 reserves)** from the full suite of courses on offer

Place these in order of preference. Whilst we cannot guarantee your first choices, we shall make every effort to honour them where possible.



Options Application



SIMS Options

You may drag and drop your final choices in order of preference

Humanities

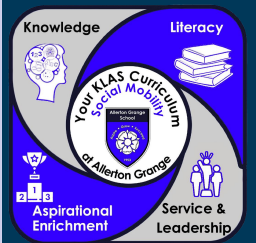
You have chosen 0 of 1 ☒ courses from this list

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <i>This course is also available in Free</i>	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <i>This course is also available in Free</i>
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Free

You have chosen 0 of 2 ☒ courses and 0 of 2 ☒ reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Business S GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Classical Civilisation GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <i>This course is also available in Humanities</i> Reserve	German GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Hospitality & Catering BTEC Certificate Level 2 Reserve
History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <i>This course is also available in Humanities</i> Reserve	Health&Soc Cambridge Nationals Award Level 1 & 2 Reserve	Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Product design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	PEGCSE GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve
Psychology General Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve





Options Process

Sign up within 2 weeks of receiving an invite

Final deadline for submissions 28th November

General enquiries: agadmin@allertongrange.com

