



**THE CASTLE ROCK
SCHOOL**

Lionheart Educational Trust

KS4 OPTIONS 2025



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CASTLE ROCK WEBSITE



HOME ABOUT US PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS **CURRENT STUDENTS** CURRENT PARENTS NEWS & EVENTS CURRICULUM CAREERS ALUMNI CONTACT US

STUDENT SUPPORT E-Safety Support & Wellbeing Ramadan	EXAMS Examinations	EXTRA CURRICULAR Beyond the Classroom Extra-Curricular Timetable Music Extra-Curricular Clubs Castle Rock Podcast Duke of Edinburgh	STUDENT LEADERSHIP Student Leadership	POST-16 Super Curriculum UCAS Information Gap Year Information Expectations Typical Sixth Form Day Careers Castle Rock Voice Parent Newsletter	OFFICE 365 Office 365
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YEAR 9 OPTIONS
Options 2025

STARTS HERE!

CASTLE ROCK SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS OPEN
Applications are now open to join us in 2025.

ADMISSIONS

PUPIL CENTRED, POSITIVE AND PROFESSIONAL



OPTIONS 2025

Welcome to the Options page for Year 9.

Year 9 students at Castle Rock are about to embark on the most important stage of their education so far. For the first time, these students will be able to make some choices about the subjects they are going to study until the end of Year 11, and just as importantly, those subjects that they will not. Students will be able to shape their curriculum and match it to their future aspirations. This process requires careful consideration by you and your child as once they have started on a course, it is very difficult to change.

Our Options evening for parents/carers and students is Thursday 16th January 2025. If you have not received the letter via Beehive, there is a link below to the ticketsource website where you will need to reserve seats for the appropriate presentation.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/lionhearttrust

There will be three sessions to suit your needs, 4pm, 4.45pm and 5.30pm. Each session will begin with a short presentation about the process followed by the opportunity to talk to the staff from each of the subject areas about the courses offered.

Our Options booklet contains all of the information you will need about our curriculum and the subjects that we offer.



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The students complete their options using our online portal. There are also step by step instructions on how to complete the online form.

If you are logging onto the options page for the first time, students must access their school email first and follow the link they have been sent. Following this, just click on the link below:

<https://www.sims-options.co.uk/>

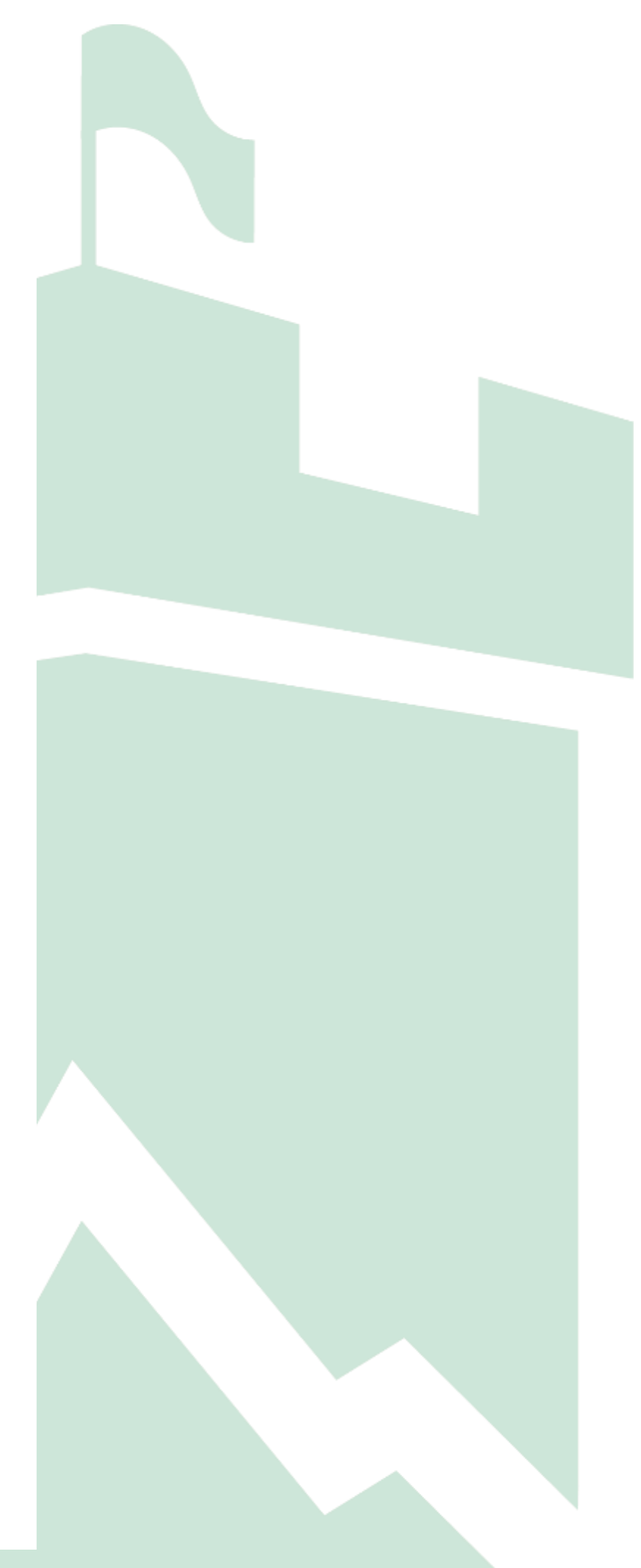
The deadline for the option form to be completed is Friday 6th February.

Until this date, the form can be changed as often as you like. At the end of Friday 6th February, the entries will be locked and the process of allocating places to students will begin.

Please note that if the deadline is not met, it is likely that your child will not be able to receive their first-choice subjects. Additionally, completing the form early does not guarantee choices as it is not first come first served. It is preferable that students take time and consider their choices before entering their subjects.

[How To Log Into Options Online For The First Time](#)

[2025 Options Booklet](#)





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OUR CURRICULUM



Core Curriculum

All students will follow the core curriculum

Accredited

English (Language and Literature)

Mathematics

Science (Combined or Separate)

5 or 6 GCSEs

Non-Accredited

Physical Education

Religious Education

Careers

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)



OUR CURRICULUM



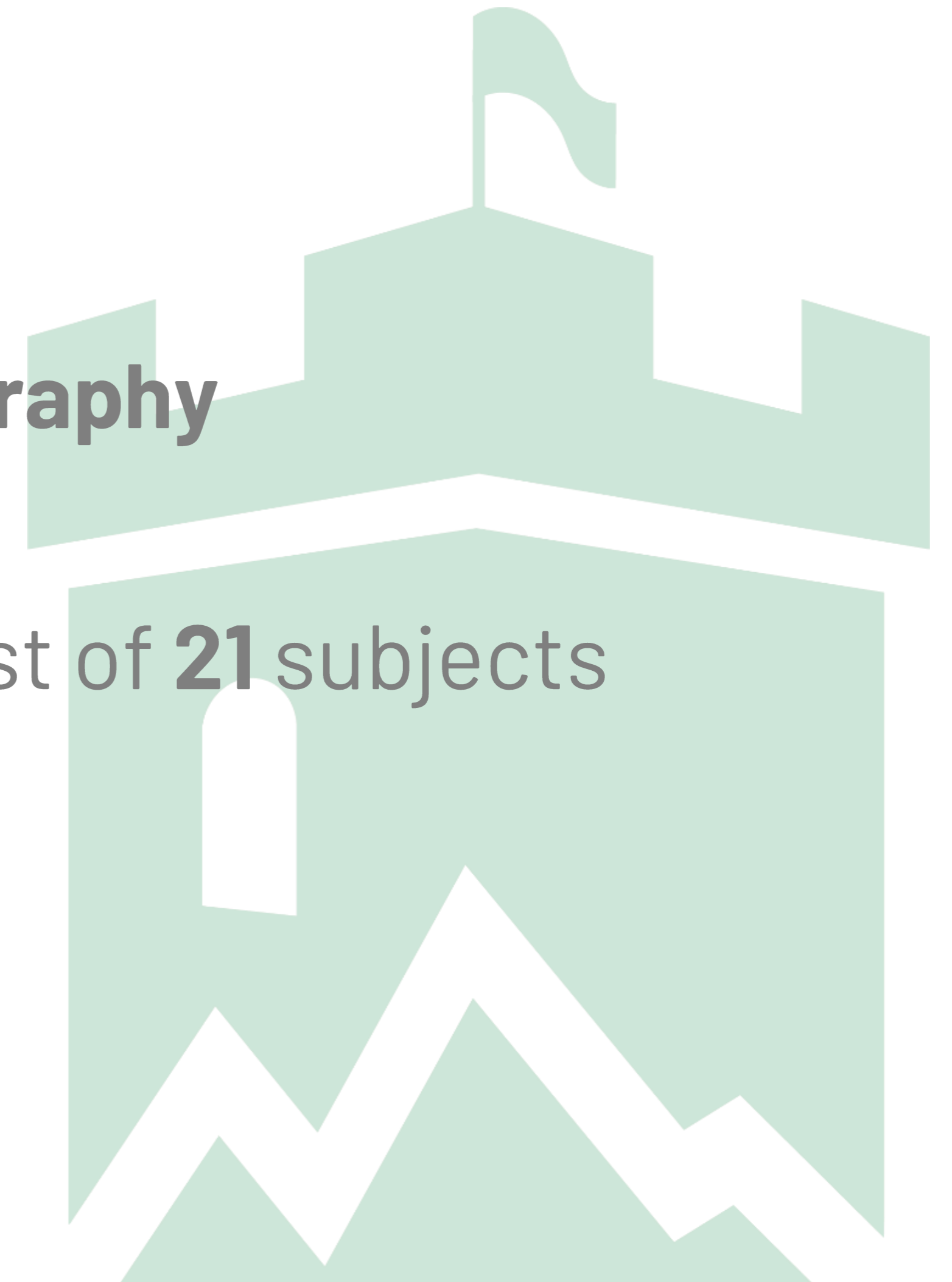
- Castle Rock is able to offer a wide range of subjects for students to choose from. There are twenty-one subjects, with three types of qualification available:
- GCSEs – Seen by many as the traditional approach to learning. Students are assessed by an exam or series of exams at the end of the course. Grades are 1 to 9.
- Cambridge Nationals (CNAT) – Increasingly popular vocational qualifications that are usually made up of a series of units alongside a terminal exam. Grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.
- BTEC Technical Awards – Similar to CNAT qualifications, BTEC Technical Awards are a new suite of qualifications that offer more practical learning opportunities. They are also assessed by a series of units alongside a terminal exam. Grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.
- All options courses are equivalent to one GCSE.



Options

All students will choose four subjects to study

- One choice must be between **History** and **Geography**
- The three other choices will be picked from a list of **21** subjects



THE SUBJECTS ARE:



BTEC Digital Information Technology

BTEC Technical Award in Music Practice

City and Guilds Level 2 Tech Award in Hair and Beauty Studies

CNAT Creative iMedia

CNAT Health and Social Care

CNAT Sports Studies

GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art)

GCSE Art and Design (Textiles)

GCSE Business

GCSE Dance

GCSE Design and Technology

GCSE Drama

GCSE French

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Media Studies

GCSE Psychology

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Sociology

GCSE Statistics

Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

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GCSE Psychology

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GCSE Sociology

GCSE Statistics

Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

OUR CURRICULUM



There are six 50-minute lessons in a school day, with five days a week totalling 30 lessons per week. The table below shows how the 30 lessons are divided across the subjects.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
English					Maths					Science						PE	RE	History or Geography			Option subject			Option subject			Object subject		
5 lessons per week Two double lessons and one single					5 lessons per week One double lesson and three singles					3 double lessons per week Combined Science -2 GCSEs Triple Science – 3 GCSEs Biology Chemistry Physics								3 lessons per week One double and one single			3 lessons per week One double and one single			3 lessons per week One double and one single			3 lessons per week One double and one single		
Two GCSEs English Language English Literature																													

OPTIONS 2025 BLOCK A



Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block D

Hairdressing & Beauty Level 1/2 Certificate

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block B

Health and Social Care

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block D

Sport and Fitness

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block C

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in other lists.

History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block B

Digital Information Tech

BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

Reserve



OPTIONS 2024 BLOCK B



Design Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve

i This course is also available in Block C

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve

i This course is also available in other lists.

Hairdressing & Beauty Level 1/2 Certificate Reserve

i This course is also available in Block A

French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve

Hospitality and Catering
Level 1/2 Certificate Reserve

i This course is also available in Block C

History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve

i This course is also available in Block A



OPTIONS 2024 BLOCK C



Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Dance GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Hospitality and Catering
Level 1/2 Certificate

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block B

Religious Education GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block D

Design Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block B

Psychology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block D

Sport and Fitness

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block A

Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

OPTIONS 2024 BLOCK D



Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block C

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in other lists.

Creative iMedia

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Music Technology

BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

Reserve

Sociology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block A

Health and Social Care

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block A

Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

Psychology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in Block C





Block A

In each block, make a Priority choice (this is the student's first choice) and a reserve choice (coloured orange once selected)

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course **Choice** Reserve

i This course is also available in Block D

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve

i This course is also available in other lists.

Hairdressing & Beauty Reserve

Level 1/2 Certificate

i This course is also available in Block B

History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve

i This course is also available in Block B

Health and Social Care Reserve Reserve

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

i This course is also available in Block D

Digital Information Tech Reserve

BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

Sport and Fitness Reserve

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

i This course is also available in Block C

OPTIONS 2025



My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Geography**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block A
- 2 French**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block B
- 3 Hospitality and Catering**
Level 1/2 Certificate Block C
- 4 Creative iMedia**
Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 Block D

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 4)

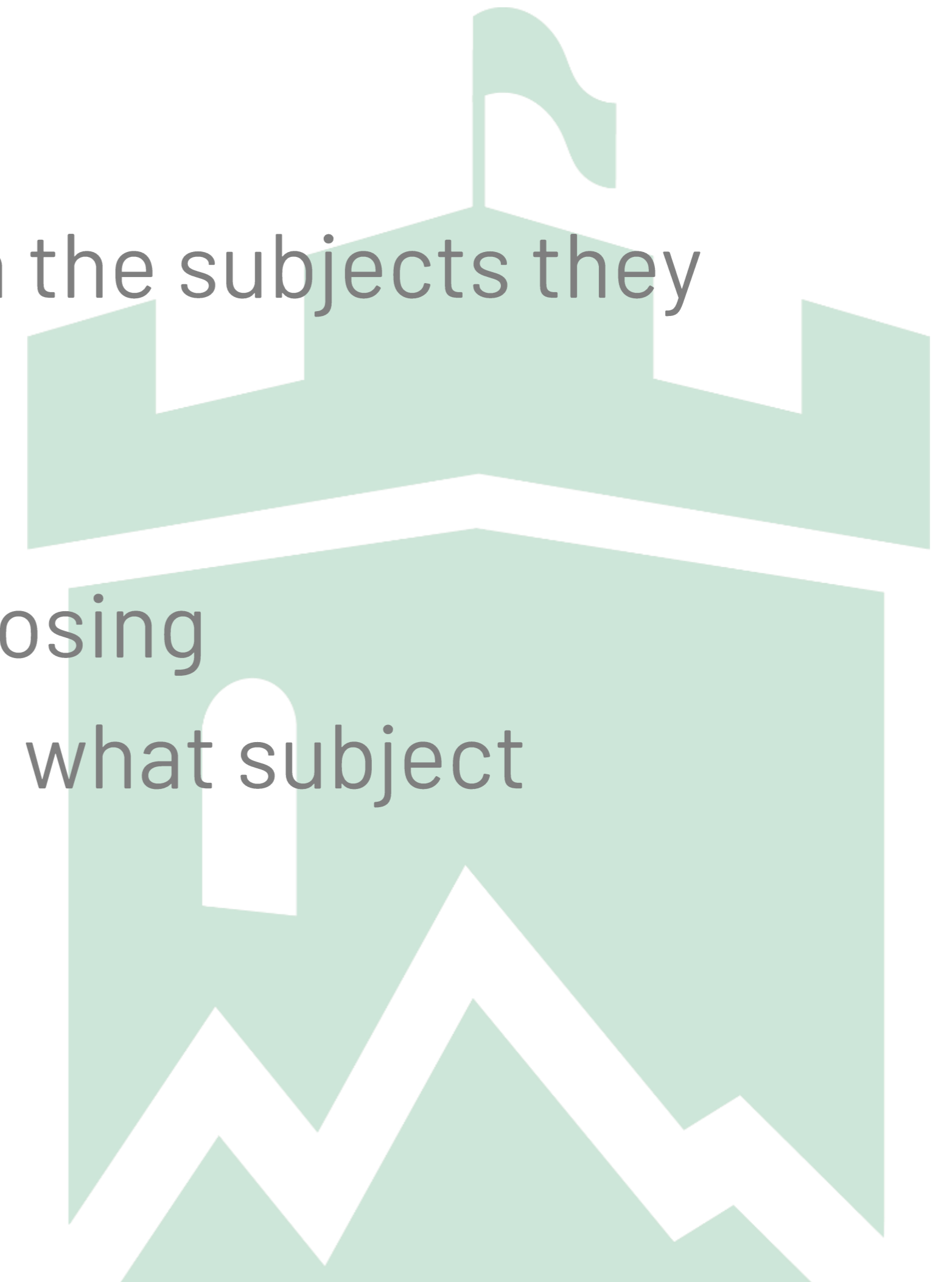
To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 History**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block A
- 2 Design Technology**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block B
- 3 Psychology**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block C
- 4 Drama**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Block D

KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER?



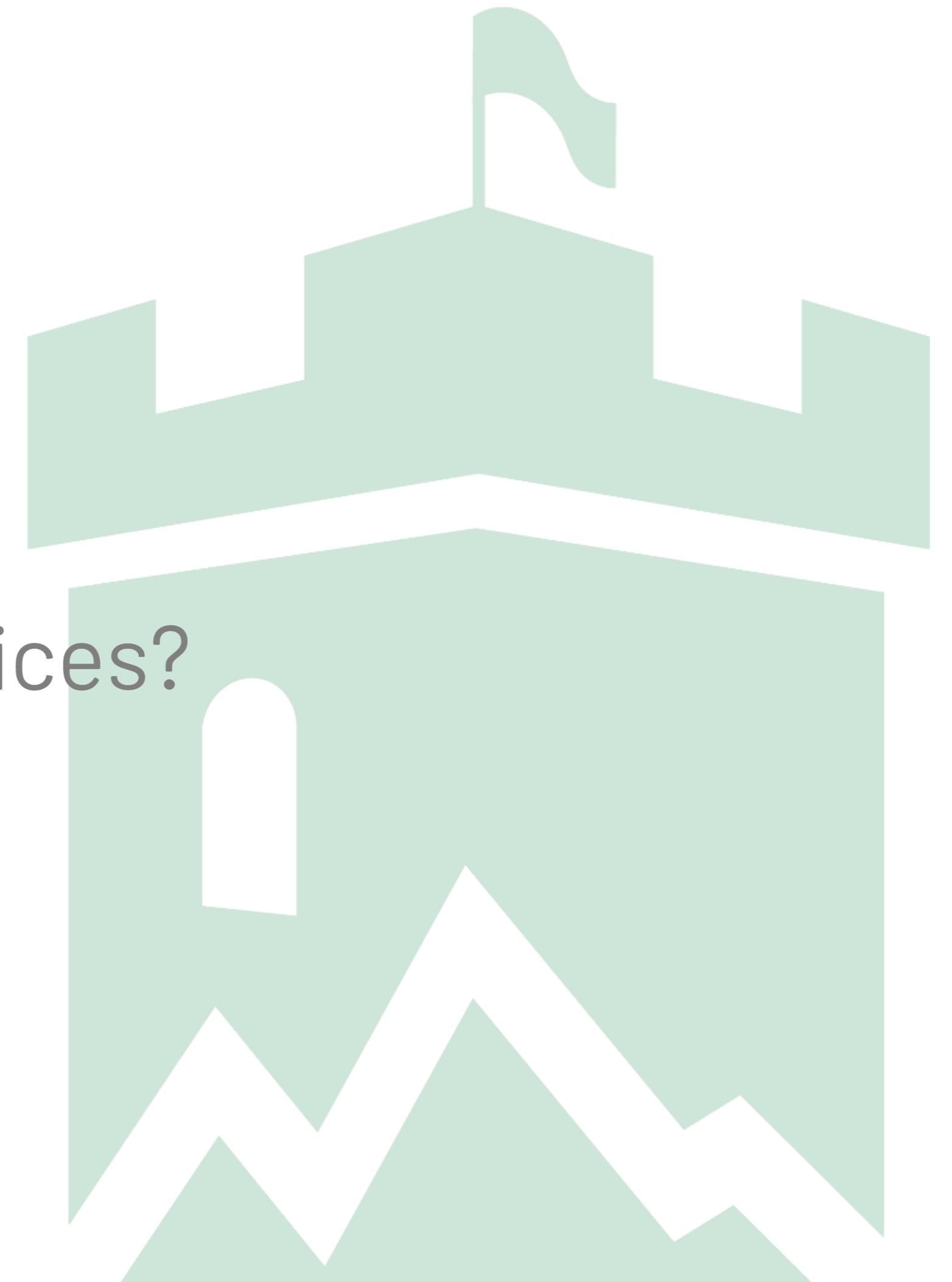
- Students tend to achieve better outcomes in the subjects they enjoy
- **Do not** think about what your friends are choosing
- **Do not** think about which teacher is teaching what subject



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- Will I get all of my first choices?
- I want to do two subjects in one box?
- There are no subjects I want to do in a box!
- I want to do a subject that is not in the list
- What happens if I am late submitting my choices?
- What happens if I change my mind?
- How are the places allocated?



KEY DATES



- Wednesday 8 January
- Thursday 16 January
- **Friday 7 February**
form
- Friday 16 May
- Friday 6 June
- Friday 13 June
- Friday 19 September

Assembly for students to launch process
Options Evening for parents and students

Deadline for completing online Options

Confirmed Option Subject Letters

Appeal Deadline

Option Appeal Letters sent out

Final day for subject changes

QUESTIONS



Email: phil.cooling@castlerock.org.uk

