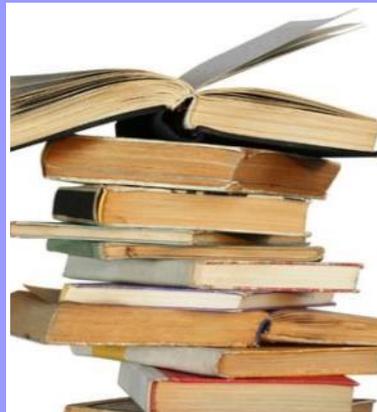


Every Child - Inspiring Learning - Every Day



Curriculum Choices
2020 — 2023

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Dear Year 8 Student

As you may know, Year 8 students chose two of their options for Year 9 onwards in February. When choosing your option courses for the next three years it is very important that you achieve the right balance. Your Form Tutor, Mr Stevens and your subject teachers will be able to help you with this. A mixture of practical and knowledge-based courses is ideal for most students. Remember that if you enjoy a subject you are more likely to achieve well.

At this stage, it is very unlikely that you are sure about the exact job or career you wish to follow. Indeed, it is quite possible that you will have a number of different jobs during your lifetime, and that some of these jobs will not even have been invented yet! It is important that you choose a broad range of subjects to ensure that you have the greatest number of career opportunities open to you.

All students are required to take GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science (Combined Science (Double Award) or Separate Sciences). All students will continue to study History, Geography and French until the end of Year 9. At the end of year 9 you will have the option to choose which two of these subjects you will study in Year 10 and 11. In addition, all students will study CORE PE and PSHE/RP (these subjects do not have an examination).

The top Universities in this Country, known as "Russell Group" Universities prefer students to have gained a strong pass (Grade 5 or above) in English (Literature or Language), Maths, Science, Humanities (Geography or History) and a Language. Achieving a pass in all of these is known as achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBACC) and we strongly recommend choosing this combination of subjects if you may wish to study at a Russell Group University in the future.

During your computing lessons you will have the opportunity to take a pre-options choice survey. Here you will choose your preferred two subjects from a list of option subjects:

Computer Science	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Creative Design (Photography)	Music	Art & Design (Graphic Communication)
Art & Design	Drama	Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science	D & T	Film Studies
GCSE PE				

We will try to structure the options choices to ensure that as many students as possible can be allocated their first choices. This is why we do the pre options survey at this time. The subjects on offer in the table may not be available for your real choices later on in February. Please be aware that we may not be able to provide a perfect match for every students but will do our best. Following our pre options survey we will begin a programme of options events in February to support your choices. Useful dates are at the bottom of this letter.

Remember that colleges and employers will be looking for flexible, dedicated and adaptable young people. They do not expect you to be a trained specialist at the age of 16, but they will invest in someone who has proved that they can work hard to achieve their best. If parents/carers have any questions about options, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My email is tcrawford@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk

Mr T Crawford

Assistant Headteacher

Options Programme:

Wednesday 26th February - Year 8 Options Evening and Option Books

Wednesday 11th March – Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 20th March - Options Form Deadline

ART & DESIGN GCSE

(students may only select one Art & Design option)

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

..enjoy practical, hands on subjects and would enjoy creating different types of artworks using a range of materials. It would suit those who have a passion for and enjoyment of drawing or painting in particular and those who think that they are likely to follow a creative career path in the future. Some students enjoy this subject because it offers something very different from the more written approach of other subjects.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

There will be lots of drawing and painting of objects as well as collage, mixed media and even photography. Students will research the work of other artists and see how they might influence their own work. Students will use their imagination and ideas to create exciting pieces of work. There will be opportunities to include textiles and stitching in your work.

ASSESSMENT

Students have the opportunity to build up their portfolio of work over the three years. This is worth 60% of the final grade. A ten hour practical exam gives students a further 40%.

LOOKING AHEAD

This course leads onto either a range of Art-related A levels or a Diploma in Art and Design. Following on, students could study for a Foundation Course in Art. It is also a useful course for any creative degree including Illustration and Fine Art.

ART & DESIGN (GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION) GCSE

(Students may only select one Art & Design option)

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

...enjoy working creatively by using a number of processes and techniques, such as: computer aided design, web design, letterforms, colour, typography, drawing, book illustration, print, photography and packaging design.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This GCSE will encourage you to consider a wide range of approaches to expressing yourself through different materials, media, and techniques. It will help you gain knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design, media. You will explore modern and traditional technologies, and their use in different societies and cultures.

"To design is to communicate clearly by whatever means you can control or master." **Paul Rand**

ASSESSMENT

There is no terminal written exam. Assessment comprises two extended projects:

Unit 1 – 60% Coursework Portfolio- (Controlled Assessment) - to be completed in Year 10 & 11.

Unit 2 – 40% Design Projects (Controlled Assessment. This is based on a number of themes set each year by the exam board, and comprised a ten hour practical task (for which you'll have preparation time) in Year 11.

LOOKING AHEAD

The course is good preparation for progression to A Level Art and Design: Graphic Communication or a suitable college/ vocational course. It could lead towards a career in media, advertising, design, architecture, games development, games technologies, and many more. New career pathways are opening up all the time in this dynamic and fast moving sector.

CREATIVE DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY) GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

...enjoy working in a practical way, developing their creativity and those who might want a very different course from those that demand a lot of writing. It would suit students who are happy to explore creativity through the medium of photography.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In addition to learning about creative photography and composition, students will learn to use related software and have the opportunity to use a mixed media approach to their work. It will lead to a Photography GCSE.

ASSESSMENT

Students have the opportunity to build up their portfolio of work over the three years. This is worth 60% of the final grade. A ten hour practical exam gives students a further 40%.

LOOKING FORWARD

Students who complete this course will be in a good position to take a creative course at college.

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

...want to challenge themselves by approaching software and technology with an appreciation and understanding of how common programs have been coded and developed. It will also provide students with a broad knowledge of hardware devices used and how they function. Students should be on track for a grade 6 or higher in Maths and English to take Computer Science.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Lessons will be a mixture of practical and theory. One unit will cover computer systems and will include various system aspects from networking to hardware and software. The other unit will cover computational thinking and programming which will include a range of programming elements.

ASSESSMENT

The GCSE will be entirely assessed by written examination.

LOOKING AHEAD

Current trends show there will be a shortage of Computing professionals in the near future and therefore Computer Science is increasingly recognised as a key subject in our world. After studying GCSE Computer Science, students may wish to pursue Computer Science or a technology related subject at A Level and/or start applying their skills in industry.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

.....enjoy thinking creatively when designing and making while applying technical and practical expertise. If students enjoy designing and making high quality products using hand, machine and computer controlled tools and equipment then this could be for them.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Design and Technology will teach students how to think like a designer as they tackle problems and develop solutions to them. The subject will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will develop a wide range of creative designing and making skills, technical knowledge and understanding. The course will teach students to work with confidence and self-direction.

ASSESSMENT

50% exam. This will test knowledge and understanding of timbers, metals, plastics, electronics, textiles, and papers and boards.

50% non-examined assessment. This is an extended designing and manufacturing project focusing on timbers, metals and plastics.

LOOKING AHEAD

This subject will support any career, or aspect of life, that requires creativity, problem solving, design, or practical skills. Students may wish to go on to study a wide variety of creative design-based or practically-focussed courses.

DRAMA GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

...actively enjoy all aspects of performance and relish the opportunity to work in small and large groups on improvisation and contemporary scripts. Regular attendance is vital due to the group work nature of the course, and a commitment to go on various theatre trips and perform in front of an audience.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Drama enables students to understand the richness and fullness of our experiences, in addition to developing students' self-confidence, empathy and the ability to communicate clearly and confidently. These skills are what universities, colleges and employers say they are looking for in the adults of the future. Drama stands alongside other key subjects such as mathematics, history and science. Indeed, the insights derived through drama go to the very heart of what it means to be human.

ASSESSMENT

Although the course is largely practical in nature, students are also required to submit written coursework which may partially include digital and audio evidence. This equates to 70% of the final grade. 30% of the GCSE are the practical exams and assessments.

LOOKING AHEAD

Good communication skills underpin all meaningful interaction from Tourism and Law to Medicine. A good grade in Drama will allow students to progress to A level or Diplomas. Advanced skills in Drama can lead to a career in theatre, communication industries, media or teaching. The creative arts industry generates over £87.4 billion to the UK economy annually providing 1.9 million jobs.

FILM STUDIES GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

...have a love of films; an interest in how the film industry has developed; and a desire to understand how films are made. You should also relish the opportunity to develop your skills of analysis as this will be a significant element of film studies.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will study a range of genres, from American blockbusters to Independent films and foreign language productions. They will learn develop an understanding of the specific terminology used in the study of film. The students will also have the opportunity to create their own original screenplay and take part in practical workshops with industry professionals.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through two written exams and a piece of written coursework. The exams will test the students' knowledge of advancements in cinema; their ability to apply specific terminology and their understanding of a number of core films that they will study during the course.

The written coursework will be where the students will develop their own, original screenplay. They will study every aspect of the film including cinematography, mise-en-scene, context, sound and editing.

LOOKING AHEAD

This GCSE can lead on to either an A level in Film Studies, or a diploma which focusses more on the practical aspects of film production. This course - with its focus on key terminology, writing and analysis - also allows students to move on to study A levels or Diplomas in media studies and English language and literature.

This course can also enhance the contextual understanding of those wanting to move into areas such as history, geography, politics and psychology.

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO....

...enjoy preparing and cooking food and are interested in learning about nutrition, food safety, the science and the function of ingredients. The course is also suitable for pupils who are interested in cooking for pleasure and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students must provide their own ingredients for practical sessions. Students will be taught to make a wide variety of dishes in a safe and hygienic manner, which will give them the skills and confidence to carry out their work independently. They will learn to understand the relationship between diet, health and nutritional properties of food. Students will experiment with ingredients to test and investigate the functional and chemical properties of food.

ASSESSMENT

A written examination (worth 50%) and controlled assessment (worth 50%). The controlled assessment will include a 3 hour practical exam. Students are expected to be knowledgeable about analysing and evaluating products, including their health implications, hygiene and safety and environmental issues. Students will be asked to demonstrate a wide range of practical skills to analyse the nutritional value of the dishes they make. Students will produce a portfolio of work demonstrating their understanding of ingredients and also demonstrating their ability to plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes. The students will complete investigations into the working properties of ingredients and evidence their findings.

LOOKING AHEAD

Studying food can lead to a career in food manufacturing, marketing and advertising, microbiology or becoming a teacher, nutritionist or demonstrator, working in the catering or hospitality industry. It is also a valuable life skill.

MUSIC GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

...play an instrument and intend to carry on receiving instrumental tuition, or are just starting to learn to play an instrument. Students might enjoy solo performances including song writing or be group performers creating music as part of a band. They can have an interest in traditional, classical music or be inspired by pop or rock music.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will compose music or songs. They will learn about a variety of genres and styles and the formal language and structure of music. They will perform pieces both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble.

ASSESSMENT

Many of the assessments are about how students perform on their chosen instrument. They will play and record a range of pieces, including ones they have composed themselves. There is a written exam paper at the end of the course which involves listening to pieces of music and answering questions about them.

LOOKING AHEAD

This GCSE can lead onto either an A level or a Diploma in Music. Diploma courses tend to focus more on contemporary styles and are not as concerned with reading music. Students can also move into areas such as music technology, recording and sound engineering.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN SPORT SCIENCE LEVEL 2

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO...

...are interested in researching and exploring how sport science can impact and improve sports performance. As the course is 100% theory assessment, it also suits students who enjoy developing a theoretical understanding of some of the factors that affect sports performance. You will need to manage a portfolio of coursework that is developed over three years.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops knowledge and understanding across four units:

Sports injuries, Fitness and Training, Sports Nutrition and Sports Technology.

Students will study a wide range of topics within each unit including fitness testing, treatment of injury, developing diet plans and analysis of technology.

ASSESSMENT

The sports injuries unit is assessed via a one hour examination and is worth 25% of the total mark. The other three units are also worth 25% each, and are assessed via coursework and tasks will vary including essays, powerpoint presentations and evaluations.

LOOKING AHEAD

The course is an excellent preparation for students wishing to continue their study of sport at College, either on a Cambridge Technical Level 3 programme, or BTEC, or A Level pathway and on to university. It will suit students wishing to pursue a career in sport science, PE teaching, or personal training.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

WOULD SUIT STUDENTS WHO....

Have a genuine enthusiasm for PE and sport from a variety of angles: performer, coach, scientist, and analyst. You should want to learn how to improve sports performance and develop an understanding of the factors that affect this. Students should be excited about the academic study of PE and ready to analyse and evaluate physical activity. In addition you should be a strong sports performer across a range of different activities – you will probably be a regular school representative and play competitive sport outside of school.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is broken into three distinct units:

1. Physical factors affecting performance – exploring anatomy and physiology and effective training.
2. Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology- exploring the influence of social factors on performance and developing an understanding of how we learn and make decisions as sports performers.
3. Practical activity and analysis- develop and improve your performance in three different activities (at least one individual and one team activity). This includes a detailed analysis of one performance from a coaching perspective.

ASSESSMENT:

Units 1 and 2 are both assessed by examination. Each unit has a one hour paper worth 30% of the total grade. Unit 3 is assessed via records of practical performance (including video) and an action plan to accompany their analysis of one performance. This unit is worth 40% of the total grade.

LOOKING AHEAD

The GCSE PE course is an excellent preparation to follow the subject to A Level, or a level 3 vocational course at college. This can then lead to university and degree level study. It has many links with science and so should be considered an academic subject. It has clear links to future careers including: PE teaching, coaching, personal training, sports professional, sports development, physiotherapy.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE - Compulsory

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English underpins everything that we do. We use English to communicate, inform, persuade and entertain. English skills will help students do well in ALL their exam subjects.

Students will study a range of written English texts. These include stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction writing. As well as modern texts, students will look at writing from the 19th and 20th centuries - for example, letters, diaries and articles.

In terms of their own writing, students will learn to express themselves clearly and precisely. They will develop their creative writing and learn to write for a range of audiences. Over time they will write with control and flair, using a wide range of carefully-chosen vocabulary.

ASSESSMENT

The GCSE is assessed entirely through written examination, so there is no coursework.

LOOKING AHEAD

A good grade in English ('Pass' is currently Grade 4: 'Good Pass' is currently Grade 5) will allow students to progress to A level or Level 3 studies at college. Students who do not achieve a good grade at school will have to take a level 1 or 2 English course at college.

Advanced skills in English can lead to a career in journalism, publishing, advertising, law, the media or education.

MATHEMATICS GCSE - Compulsory

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students work towards their GCSE maths qualification. There is a renewed emphasis on problem-solving, functionality and mathematical thinking in the mathematics GCSE. There is a much greater emphasis in examinations on the assessment of applying mathematics and using mathematics to solve problems, and some questions will be set in contexts that students should be expected to deal with in the real world. Students might be asked to answer questions on, for instance, decorating a room or designing a garden; or perhaps paying bills or sorting out rotas for shop staff.

The content of GCSE mathematics has been grouped into the topic areas of Number, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Statistics and Probability.

Some students will be given the opportunity to study for an additional GCSE in Further Mathematics.

ASSESSMENT

The GCSE will be entirely assessed by written examination, which means that no coursework will be expected from any student.

LOOKING AHEAD

A good grade in Mathematics will allow students to progress to A level or Level 3 studies at college. Students who do not achieve a good grade at school will have to take a level 1 or 2 Mathematics course at college.

Advanced skills in Mathematics can lead to a wide range of careers including engineering, finance, computer programming, statistics, research and accountancy.

SCIENCE GCSE - Compulsory

COURSE CONTENT

Combined science GCSE will enable the student to gain two GCSE qualifications in Science, the specification will cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Separate Science GCSEs will enable the student to gain an independent GCSE qualification in Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to the student being awarded three GCSE grades. The separate Science option is studied in the same curriculum time as the Science GCSE so it is recommended that only high attaining students should be considered this option. In year 9 all students will study the same curriculum so the decision as to whether to study the Separate or Combined course does not need to be made until the end of year 9.

LOOKING AHEAD

Grade 6 in Science either from Combined Science or Separate Science, will allow students to progress to A level.

A pass in Science either from Combined Science or Separate Science will allow students to progress to Level 3 studies at college.

Advanced skills in Science are needed for a surprisingly varied number of careers ranging from environmental sciences and sports science to the more obvious professions such as medicine, veterinary science and engineering.

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Involves studying the physical and human environments of the world and identifying how they are both linked. Geography teaches us about the Earth's places, peoples, environments and societies, helping us to understand the relationships between the human and physical environments. Success in the subject is reliant upon a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, an open mind and a genuine interest in the subject.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will study both Physical Geography, (covering rivers, coasts, rainforests, deserts and weather hazards) and Human Geography, (covering energy, food cities and global development) as well as Geographical research in the form of fieldwork trips. Geography encourages an awareness of people and places in your local area and of the wider world. Key skills developed in Geography are; observation, recording, presenting information, data analysis, interpretation of evidence, decision making and problem solving.

ASSESSMENT

There will be three written examinations at the end of Year 11. Physical Geography paper, Human Geography paper and 1 Geographical applications.

LOOKING AHEAD

Geography is a broad based academic subject. Employers and universities see Geography as a robust academic subject rich in highly transferable skills (literacy, numeracy and communication), knowledge and understanding.

HISTORY GCSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will learn about five topics in-depth through a range of fascinating source development studies. They will also develop their contextual knowledge and history skills. The topics allow for an interesting balance between British and International History and all have links to how the world is influenced today. Topics will include: Crime and Punishment in Britain from c.1000-present; a study of Whitechapel, c.1870-1900; Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939; Superpower relations during the Cold War, 1941-1991; and Anglo Saxon and Norman England, 1066-1088.

ASSESSMENT

Three externally assessed exams at the end of Y11.

LOOKING AHEAD

Many students who take History at GCSE decide they want to continue to study it at A-level because of its thought provoking nature as well as developing complex skills of analysis and literacy. Students are keen to develop the high levels of source analysis and literacy that they have learnt through their History GCSE. History degrees are a stepping stone to many occupations such as journalism, media, politics, law and teaching.

FRENCH GCSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will develop the necessary language skills to communicate in a variety of everyday situations when abroad. They will develop a sound grammatical knowledge of the language enabling further study. The course will cover the following themes: identity and culture, education and employment, and local, national and global areas of interest.

ASSESSMENT

There are four examinations: reading, listening, writing and speaking, each worth 25%. Students will be required to complete two translation tasks and talk in detail on an unprepared photo card, role play and general conversation. Regular testing of core vocabulary is an important element of the course, and students will need to be confident to speak in their chosen language.

LOOKING AHEAD

The ability to speak a foreign language is increasingly useful for careers in industry, technology and engineering as well as many aspects of commerce. If you wish to work as a translator, interpreter or teacher you will need to take a degree in one or more languages, but even if you stop at GCSE level, you will still have given yourself a very useful qualification. Top universities prefer applicants to have a GCSE in a language.

CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (non – examined)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PE remains a compulsory part of the curriculum for every student in Years 9,10 and 11. The lessons will cover a very wide range of activities that offer students the opportunity to develop skilled performance and engage in an active and healthy lifestyle. Example activities include: netball, rugby, futsal, Zumba, beach sports, cross-country, dodgeball, parkour, athletics and tennis. We focus on different learning themes throughout the course including developing physical and mental capacity, outwitting opponents and creative movement. In addition, PE lessons promote a spirit of competition, personal challenge and enjoyment of sport and physical activity. All students are required to take part in every lesson and should ensure that they have the correct kit.

ASSESSMENT

Core P.E. is not examined. Students wishing to take a qualification in Sport and PE should refer to the Sport Science qualification.

LOOKING AHEAD

Taking part in in regular physical activity an essential part of an active and healthy lifestyle. In addition to PE lessons, we also offer a full programme of extra-curricular activities for those students wishing to compete for the school or to further develop their skills and experience in different sports.

PSHE (PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION) AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Compulsory non – examined

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In order to understand and be part of the world around them, students will expand their knowledge of other faiths and cultures. They will also learn about the law in the UK, money management, the world of work (including how to write a formal letter, a Curriculum Vitae and a Personal Statement), how to be safe online and how to apply for college places. PSHE also includes the statutory relationships and sex education units of work. Students will learn through a mixture of in class activities and work with outside agencies. This subject also delivers subjects based on ‘British Values’. The units of work are:

The Rule of Law, Tolerance and Mutual Respect, Democracy and Individual Liberty.

ASSESSMENT

This is a non-examination subject. Students will have to meet certain deadlines when completing paperwork in preparation for work experience in Year 10 and college applications in Year 11.

LOOKING AHEAD

Students who participate fully and enthusiastically in this course will be tolerant, confident, knowledgeable and able to cope in a wide variety of situations. They will be able to express their own opinions without offending others and will show empathy towards others.

Year 9 Curriculum (lessons per fortnight – 75 minute lessons)

	English	Maths	Science	Geography	History	French	Option X	Option Y	PE	PSHE	Be Inspired
Year 9	6	6	7	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1

The majority of our students will take between nine and ten GCSE qualifications as well as continuing their PE, PSHE and Be Inspired studies. The curriculum is designed to provide flexibility so that students, if they choose to, can maintain a strong Creative, Performing and Design Technology element, matched to local culture and employment.

In Science all students follow the same curriculum path in Year 8 prior to deciding whether to opt for Combined or Separate Sciences for their GCSE during Year 9. Further Maths is available to students who show strong, emerging mathematical skills.

In Year 9 students continue to study History, Geography and French alongside two additional option choices. Initiating GCSE study from Year 9 means that our students are given the time to deepen and broaden learning and build high level skills in their chosen fields. In their chosen subjects students benefit greatly from the increased time allocated which supports their development of key foundation knowledge and skills upon which they can build in Years 10 and 11.

Option X	Option Y
Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science	Computer Science
Art & Design	Creative Design (Photography)
Music	Drama
Film Studies	Art & Design (Graphic Communication)
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Food Preparation & Nutrition
Design & Technology	Design & Technology
GCSE Physical Education	

Year 9 Option Choices

As our Year 9 students progress into Years 10 and 11 they will all follow a course of:

- Core subjects: English, Maths
- EBACC subjects: Science, French and Geography or History
- 2 Option subjects (usually continued from Year 9)
- PE, PSHE and the 'Be Inspired' programme

Students wishing to study both Geography and History will have the possible opportunity to change one of their Year 9 option choices in favour of the second humanities subject.

St Ives School

will be an active partner in a learning society
with our local family of schools and their communities,
offering opportunities for enriching and
extending learning experiences.

