



**The John of Gaunt School**

*A Community Academy*

# **Year 9 options evening**

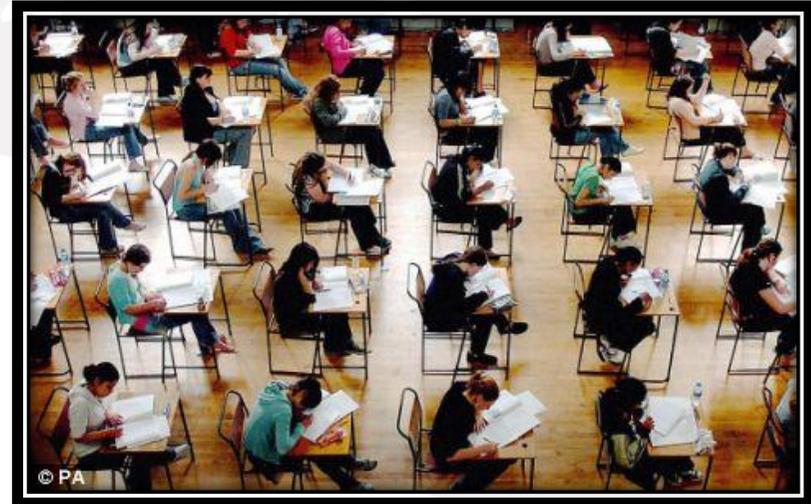
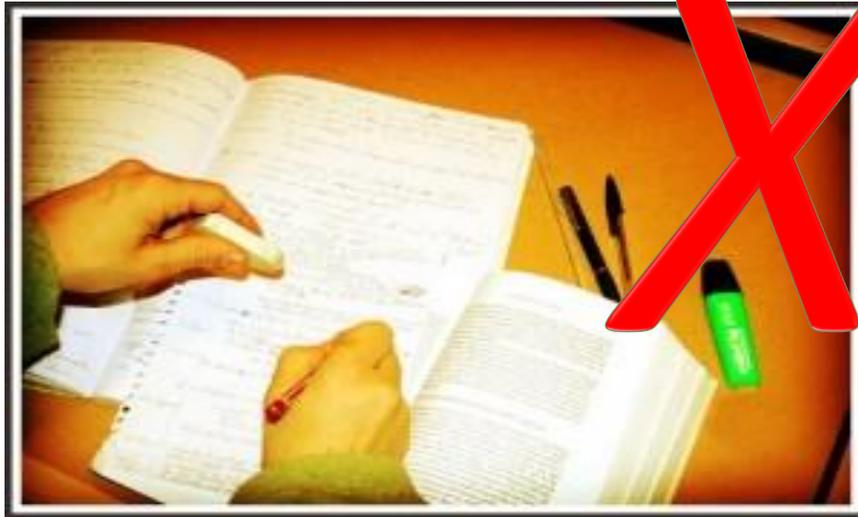
**KS4 2024-26**





# **KS4 examinations - The key points**

# Subject structures & grading



Courses	Level 2					Level 1				
Legacy (old) GCSEs	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	
New GCSEs	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Vocational courses	D2*	D2	M2	P2	D1*	D1	M1	P1	Not Yet Achieved	

# English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

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## EBacc impact:

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.

The government's ambition is to see 90% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2025.

## The EBacc is:

- English language and literature
- maths
- the sciences
- geography or history
- a language - Spanish

*“The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people’s options open for further study and future careers.”*

Department for Education

# No pathways but our expectations

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## Students aspiring to move onto sixth form and higher education

- Broad and balanced range of mainly GCSE subjects
- English Baccalaureate award: subjects that include a humanities subject and a modern foreign language

## Students who are considering a further education pathway

- Broad and balanced range of GCSE and vocational equivalent courses
- Must select a humanities subject
- Some selected students will have a reduced timetable complemented with study support to ensure they are able to progress well in all their subjects.

**Aspirational**

**Flexible**

**Supportive**

# No pathways, just choices

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- **Free choice of subjects**
- **Your child should consider their ability**
  - A steer toward a certain breadth of subjects to keep all future pathways open
  - Matching subjects to potential capability and future aspirations, including the English Baccalaureate for higher education
  - A curriculum with sufficient challenge

**Aspirational**

**Flexible**

**Supportive**

# Consultation & decisions

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**Aptitude / Affinity**  
**Attitude / Aspirations**

- Must not just be about preferences of friends & family
- Consider the national & local picture in education & employment

**Aspirational**

**Flexible**

**Supportive**

## Consultation and decisions - Selecting subjects

**Viv Candy-Cornish & Brian Francis (Careers advisers)**

**Student & parent/carer meetings**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 15:00-17:00 – on-line TEAMS meetings  
(book via email by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan)

**Student face-to-face meetings during school hours over the next fortnight**

(book via email or tutor)

[careers@jogschool.org](mailto:careers@jogschool.org)

tel. 01225 762637 ext. 274

Mrs Marshall (SENCO)

Mrs Baines (Director of Post 16)

Mrs Clark (Deputy Headteacher)

**Aspirational**

**Flexible**

**Supportive**

# Options: on-line information, advice & guidance on our website



The John of Gaunt School  
A Community Academy

[STAFF](#) [CONTACT](#) [CLASS CHART](#) [PARENT PAY](#) [REMOTE ACCESS](#) [SEARCH](#)

[HOME](#) [OUR SCHOOL](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) [STUDENTS](#) [PARENTS & CARERS](#) [CURRICULUM](#) [SIXTH FORM](#)

Teaching & Learning at JOG

Character Education

Literacy at The John of Gaunt School

Individual Learning Department / SEN

Subjects

KS4 Options

Equality & Diversity across the Curriculum



# KS4 Options

KS4 Options Booklet

Art

Art Textiles

Astronomy

Business Studies

Child Development

Citizenship

Combined & Triple Science

Computer Science

Drama

Engineering

English Language

Content	Page link	Website video link	
Welcome	<a href="#">3</a>		
Options process time line	<a href="#">4</a>	N/A	
'Need to know' information, advice & guidance	<a href="#">5&amp;6</a>	N/A	
Your careers team, welcome & contact details	<a href="#">7</a>		
SIMS options on-line guidance and support	<a href="#">31-34</a>	N/A	
Subject	Qualification	Page link	Website video link
<b>Compulsory Core subjects</b>			
English language	GCSE	<a href="#">8</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
English literature	GCSE	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Mathematics	GCSE	<a href="#">10</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Science (combined)	GCSE	<a href="#">11</a>	
<b>EBacc subjects</b> [*either geography or history must be selected, a language is required to gain the EBacc qualification]			
Computer science	GCSE	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Geography*	GCSE	<a href="#">13</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
History*	GCSE	<a href="#">14</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Spanish	GCSE	<a href="#">15</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
<b>Optional subjects</b>			
Art	GCSE	<a href="#">16</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Astronomy	GCSE	<a href="#">17</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Business Studies	GCSE	<a href="#">18</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Child Development	CAMNAT	<a href="#">19</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Citizenship	GCSE	<a href="#">20</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Drama	GCSE	<a href="#">21</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Engineering	Technical award	<a href="#">22</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Food preparation & nutrition	GCSE	<a href="#">23</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Health & Social Care	BTEC tech	<a href="#">24</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Media studies	GCSE	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Music	GCSE	<a href="#">26</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Photography	GCSE	<a href="#">27</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Religious studies	GCSE	<a href="#">28</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Sports science	CAMNAT	<a href="#">29</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; left click here</a>
Textiles	GCSE	<a href="#">30</a>	<a href="#">Hold control &amp; click left here</a>

# Geography



Content	Page link	Website video link	
Welcome	<a href="#">3</a>		
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## EBACC: SPANISH

Contributes to the EBacc qualification

### COURSE CONTENT

Theme 1:	Identity and culture
Theme 2:	Local, national, international and global areas of interest
Theme 3:	Current and future study and employment

### ASSESSMENT

<b>Paper 1: Listening</b> [25% of the overall grade]	Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier) 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier) Translating in both English and French
<b>Paper 2: Speaking</b> [25% of the overall grade]	Non-exam assessment with a member of staff 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
<b>Paper 3: Reading</b> [25% of the overall grade]	Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier) 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier) Translations including reading and answering in both English and French
<b>Paper 4: Writing</b> [25% of the overall grade]	Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier) 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier Tasks involving short and long structured passages to write

EXAMINING BOARD SPECIFICATION LINK [AQA GCSE Spanish specification](#)

WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE Mrs [Name] Director of Learning: [CBlyth@jogschool.org](mailto:CBlyth@jogschool.org)

What skills and interests do I need? If you are interested in communicating with people from other cultures and countries this is for you!

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend? A bilingual dictionary and headphones are both very useful. Trip participation is strongly recommended.

What course and career pathways are there with this qualification? Access to careers involving communication, travel, and working with people will be enhanced with a languages qualification. Universities favourably on students with a language's qualification.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16? Yes, you will need to achieve at least a grade 6 at Higher Tier at GCSE to be successful at A level.



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GCSE Spanish

8698



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**Specification at a glance**

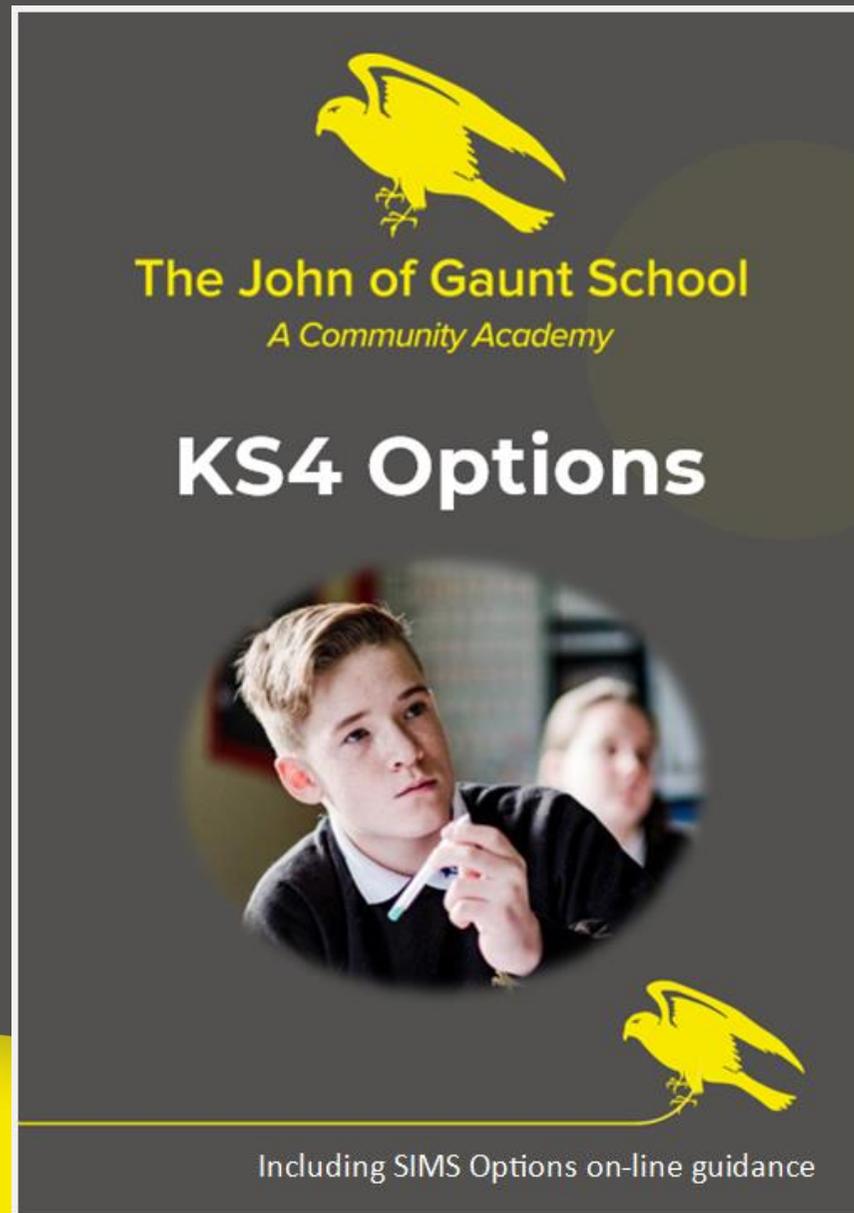
This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

[Specification at a glance](#)

[Subject content](#) >

**Subject content**

# Options booklet including SIMS Options on-line guidance presented to your child



# SIMS Options on-line

## Remote options process

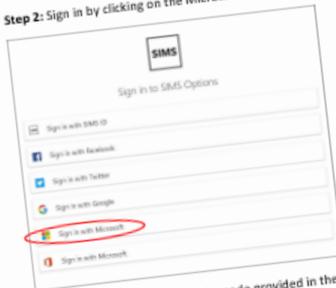
### Completing your KS4 Options on-line

Registering /Signing in – Follow these 5 steps to sign in.

**Step 1:** An email will be sent to you from [noreply@sims.co.uk](mailto:noreply@sims.co.uk). It will look similar to the one below.  
Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.



Click on **ACCEPT INVITATION**, or copy the URL provided into a web browser.  
**Step 2:** Sign in by clicking on the Microsoft icon and use your school email password.



**Step 3:** Once logged in, enter the code provided in the registration email into the invitation code field.



**Step 4:** Verify the account by answering a security question and then log into the account to gain access to the active plan.



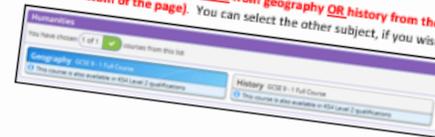
**Step 5:** It is important to read any 'notes' added as this will explain how and what options you can select.  
Students are offered a broad range of academic and vocational subjects that meet the Ebac requirements.  
Students **MUST** select one Humanity subject.  
It is strongly recommended that students select a foreign language, especially if they have aspirations of being a member of more able sets, A levels and higher education.

**KS4 Level 2 qualifications**  
You are to make one option from the humanities list.  
You are to make three options from the KS4 Level 2 qualifications list and one reserve.  
You will not be able to select geography or history twice, eg Geography in the humanities list and in the KS4 level 2 qualifications list.

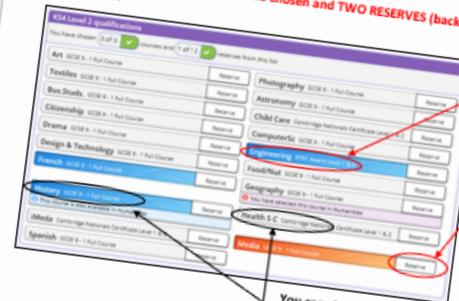
#### Choosing Your Subjects

Now that you have signed in, you can select your options.

- You may choose **ONLY ONE** from geography **OR** history from the **HUMANITY LIST** (scroll down to the bottom of the page). You can select the other subject, if you wish from the KS4 Level 2 qualifications list.



- ONLY THREE SUBJECTS** can be chosen and **TWO RESERVES** (back up) from the **KS4 LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATIONS LIST**.



**Make your PREFERRED options by:**  
• clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you would like to do. Subjects you've chosen will be displayed to the right of the screen.

**Make your 2 RESERVE options by:**  
• clicking **ON THE 'Reserve' TAB** to the right of the titled subject tab. Again, your selection will be displayed to the right of the screen.

You can change your mind and change subjects by:  
• clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you **DON'T** want to study  
• then clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you wish it to replace

Personal Details

Preferred Forename:  Preferred Surname:  Photograph: 

Gender:  Date of Birth:

Year Taught In:  Registration Group:  House:

Admission Number:  Enrolment/Admission Status:  SEN Status:

Pathway: General offer

Students are offered a broad range of academic and vocational subjects that meet the Ebacc requirements.

Students MUST select one humanity subject.

It is strongly recommended that students select a foreign language, especially if they have aspirations of continuing to study A levels at Post 16 and higher education at university.

KS4 Level 2 qualifications

You are to make one option from the humanities list.

You are to make three options from the KS4 Level 2 qualifications list and two reserve.

You will not be able to select geography or history twice, eg Geography in the humanities list and in the KS4 level 2 qualifications list.

You have chosen 3 of 3 courses and 2 of 2 reserves from this list

<b>Art</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Astronomy</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Business Studies</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Child Development</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
<b>Citizenship</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>ComputerSc</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Drama</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Engineering</b> Level 1/2 Award <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
<b>Food/Nut</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>French</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>History</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
<b>Health S C</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>iMedia</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Media</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Music</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
<b>Photography</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>R.E.</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Sport Science OCR Nation</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
<b>Textiles</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>			

Humanities

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>History</b> GCSE 9-1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
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Student Comments

Add any comments here

Parent/Carer Approval

Parent/Carer Approval

My Choices in Order of Preference

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

- iMedia**  
Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 KSA Level 2 qualifications
- Food/Nut**  
GCSE 9-1 Full Course KSA Level 2 qualifications
- History**  
GCSE 9-1 Full Course Humanities
- Engineering**  
Level 1/2 Award KSA Level 2 qualifications

My Reserves in Order of Preference

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

- Art**  
GCSE 9-1 Full Course KSA Level 2 qualifications
- Geography**  
GCSE 9-1 Full Course KSA Level 2 qualifications

# Your child can access their options page multiple times

When all selections have been made, the choices should be saved by clicking the 'save' icon to the top left and then sign out of Options Online.

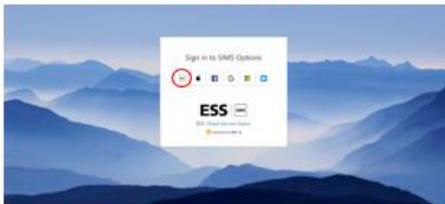


You DO NOT have to send your options they automatically transfer to us when you click save.

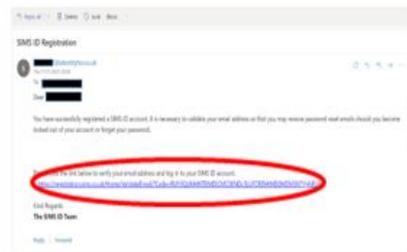
Options can be altered up until the deadline date when access will be locked.

To log back either type in the following into your URL box or search engine box:

[Sims-options.co.uk](https://sims-options.co.uk)



or use the link sent to you in the 'SIMS ID Registration' email or right click on the following link



Sign in with 'SIMS' using the student username (school email address) and password you created when you registered.

Make the alterations you wish to make

REMEMBER TO SAVE after you have made any alterations!



**LAST PAGE OF THE CRIB SHEET!**

*To log back either type in the following into your URL box or search engine box:*

**Sims-options.co.uk**

Sign in with 'SIMS' using the student username (school email address) and password you created when you registered.

# Timelines and deadlines

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- Students can contact their subject teacher, Mrs Clark or tutor for guidance
- Complete SIMS Options on-line including **4 main choices & 2 reserves**
- Invites for SIMS on-line will be sent **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** – deadline to submit the options [No 1<sup>st</sup> come – 1<sup>st</sup> served policy up until this date]
- Consultation with each student over the next 2 terms
- Term 5-6 final decision

Extra support:

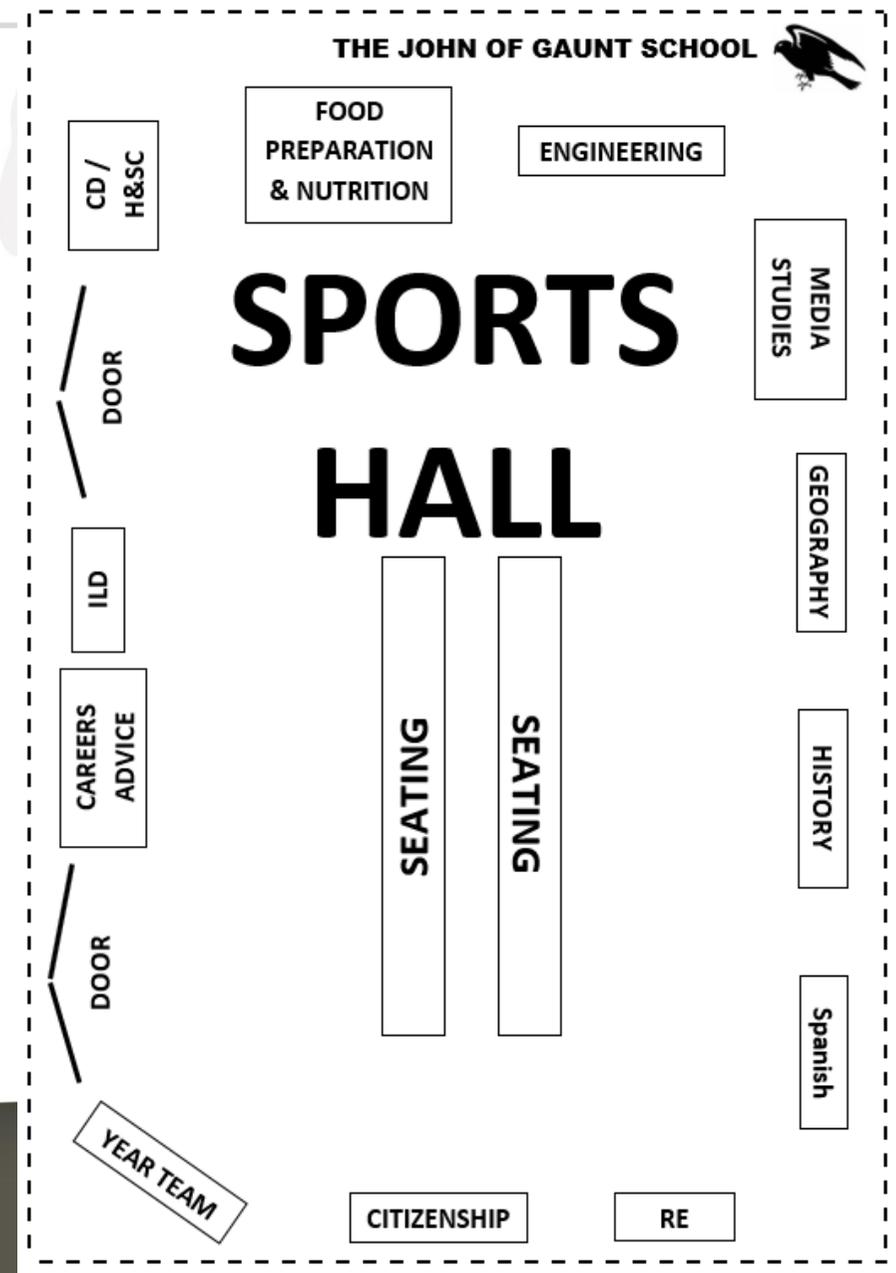
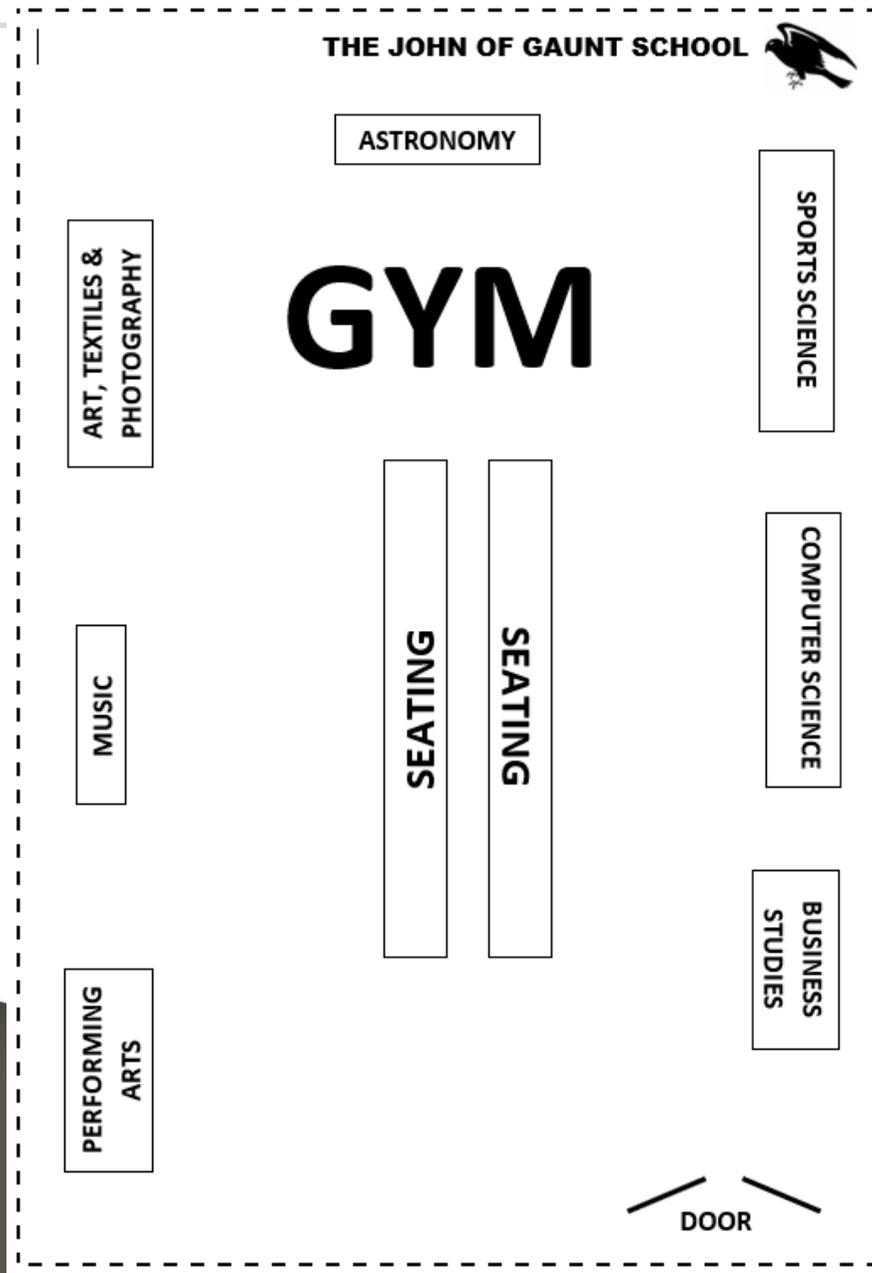
Student drop-ins on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Jan in D26  
with Mrs Jefferies

**Aspirational**

**Flexible**

**Supportive**

# Time to consult the teachers



Ten years from now,  
make sure you can say that  
you chose your life, you  
didn't settle for it.

