



HARROGATE
LADIES' COLLEGE

LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM



INFORMATION BOOKLET

Since 1893



DISCOVER LOWER SCHOOL AT HARROGATE LADIES' COLLEGE

Our aim is for all of our pupils to love their learning, so they discover their own passions, which will lead them onto their next phase of school and beyond. Learning new subjects, developing new skills and making new friends are all component parts of what makes Lower School at College such an exciting, educational phase. Our expert subject teachers, small class sizes and outstanding pastoral care all help our pupils to flourish.

Being an all-girls' school has many advantages. Our pupils have the freedom and confidence to be themselves, and our environment encourages openness, empathy and the building of friendships between age-groups. We also see our pupils choosing a broad range of subjects which do not conform to stereotypes. Still today, according to statistics from the Girls' Schools Association, significantly more girls go on to choose to study maths and sciences at A level in girls' schools than in co-ed settings.

During their first two years at Harrogate Ladies' College, in Upper 3 and Lower 4, pupils study a broad range of subjects, consequently accessing a wide range of learning opportunities. As well as familiar subjects such as Mathematics, English and Science, they study new subjects such as Food and Nutrition, Textiles and Classical Civilisation. In Games, pupils play a wide range of sports including lacrosse, netball and athletics. As pupils progress through Lower School, they discover more about their own talents and interests. In the third year of Lower School, Upper 4, pupils have a choice of some option subjects, which enables them to follow a more personalised timetable, while maintaining a wide range of options for their GCSEs.

Through our innovative Flourish pastoral programme, we prioritise our pupils' wellbeing. Flourish is interwoven with our academic offer, enabling pupils to thrive in all aspects of school life. They feel fully supported and develop strategies to help them manage the demands and challenges of life within and beyond school.

We encourage all pupils to become intellectually curious and develop their own thinking beyond the classroom. Whether it be learning coding, sign language or joining a book group, there is a school club to suit all interests. Integral to this is developing the knowledge and skills, so that our pupils can not only work in the jobs of tomorrow, but also create the jobs of the future. Pupils are encouraged to take part in our 'Be Inspired' careers programme, which includes industry specialists visiting to share their knowledge and experiences. Alongside this, WISE@HLC highlights our own focus on encouraging 'Women in Science and Engineering', and allows pupils to tailor their own research and development into the STEM subject areas that interest them.

All staff at College are fully committed to ensuring that your child has the best possible learning experience.

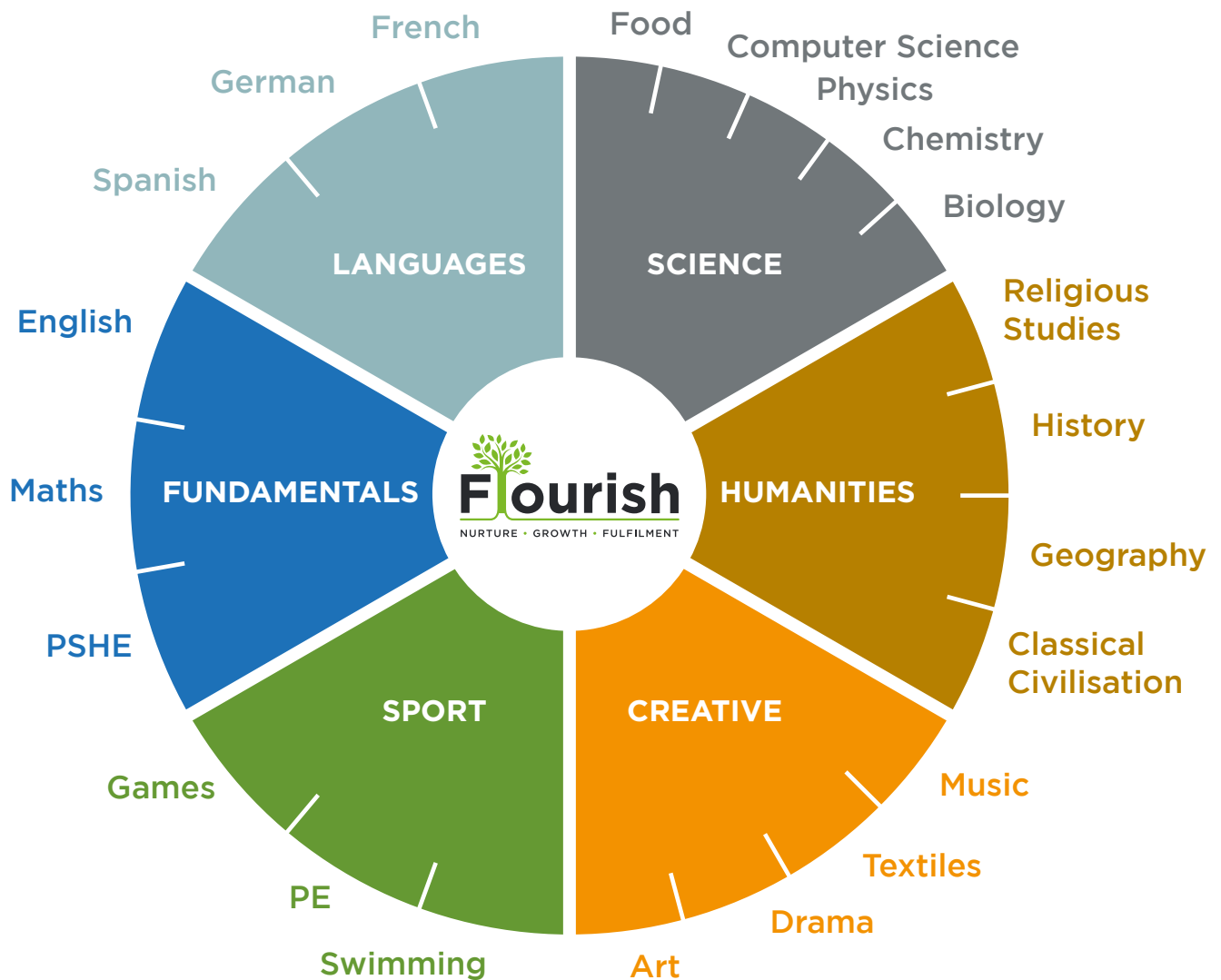
We look forward to sharing in your child's journey of discovery through Lower School, as they learn more about their subjects and as they discover their passions and learn more about themselves. We aim to help them become the best version of themselves, so that they can proudly say "I Am Me."

Jo Griffin
Head of Lower School



UPPER 3 AND LOWER 4 CURRICULUM

During Upper 3 and Lower 4, pupils study a broad range of subjects designed to inspire, excite and challenge them.



Programme of Study

During Upper 3 and Lower 4, pupils study Textiles and Food & Nutrition for half of the year each. All of the other subjects are studied throughout the whole year.

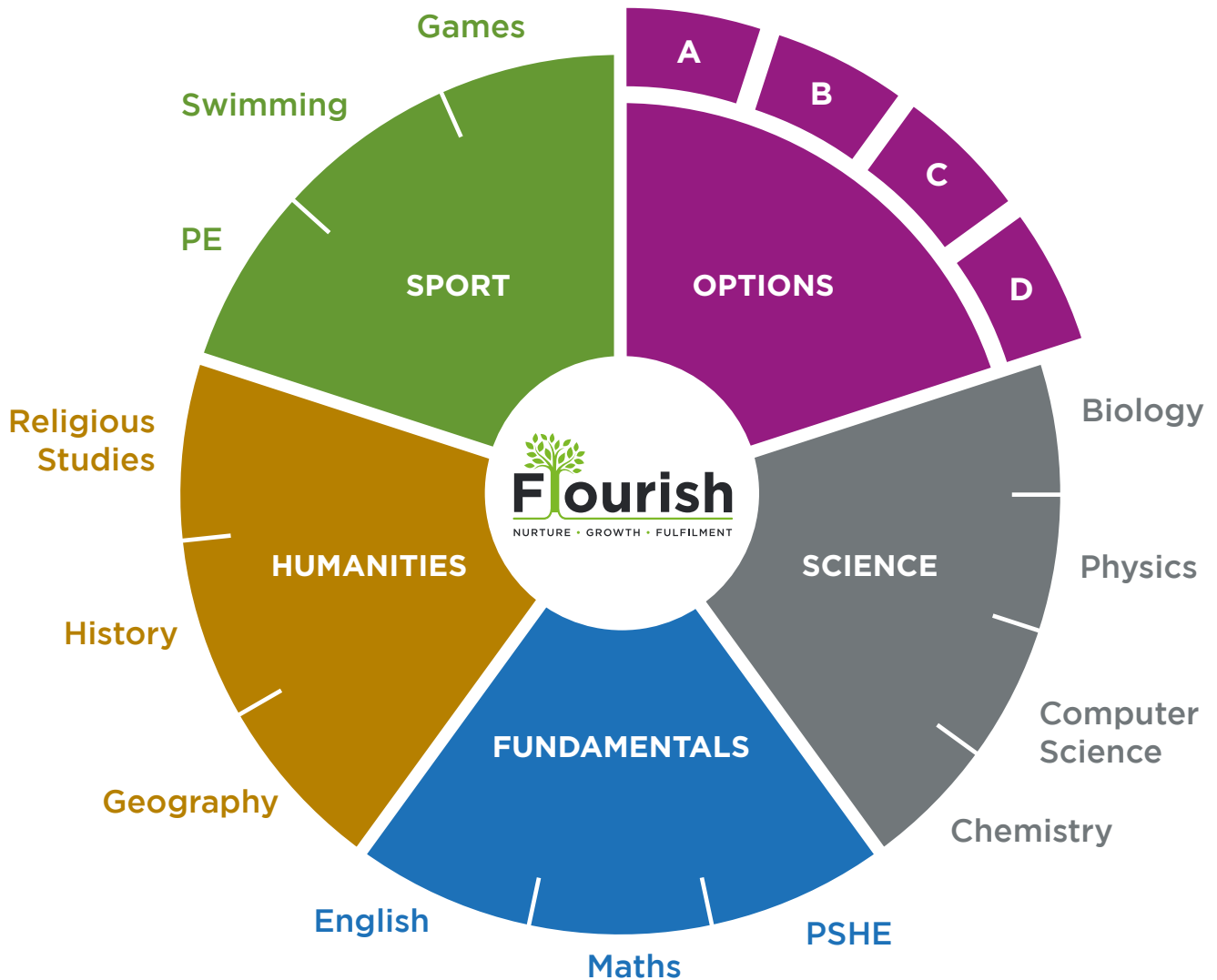
Language Choices in Upper 3 and Lower 4

Pupils are invited to choose which modern foreign languages they would like to study during Upper 3 and Lower 4. They can select two languages from French, German and Spanish.



UPPER 4 CURRICULUM

Upper 4 pupils study a more streamlined core programme so that they can begin to tailor their learning according to their skills and interests.



“I ENJOYED ‘ANNIE’ REHEARSALS BECAUSE IT WAS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY WITH MANY DIFFERENT ROLES, AND SINGING AND DANCING AT THE SAME TIME.”

U4 pupil

UPPER 4 OPTION CHOICES

In addition to the core curriculum, pupils can choose four option subjects from the table below. Pupils will be asked to make their choices in the Summer Term of Lower 4. The option blocks have been created to ensure pupils retain a healthy balance of subjects, whilst also offering the opportunity to choose their favourite subjects (and drop some of those they like less!). They are required to select one subject from each option block including at least one modern foreign language.

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
French Spanish Art English as an Additional Language*	Spanish German Food & Nutrition English as an Additional Language*	Drama Latin Textiles	Music Joint Art & Textiles Food & Nutrition

* Pupils studying English as an Additional Language should choose it under either option A or B.

Help Making Subject Choices

- > Subject teachers are available to discuss the courses within their areas
- > All pupils in Lower 4 will have a one-to-one meeting with a member of the senior leadership to discuss their options and ask any questions

PUPILS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UPPER 4 SUBJECT CHOICES

Who can I speak to about subject choices?

The teachers in school all want to help you to make the best decision for you. In particular, you can talk to:

- > Your form teacher
- > Your subject teachers
- > Mrs Griffin, Head of Lower School
- > Miss Scully, Head of Careers
- > Your parents

Do I have a free choice of any of the option subjects for Upper 4?

Yes! The only exception to this is modern foreign languages. You must pick a language (or languages) you have studied in Upper 3 and Lower 4. You also cannot choose the same subject twice.

Will I get my first choices?

Hopefully yes, but it is occasionally not possible to give everyone their first choice. This might be because:

- > The group is too large
- > The group is too small for us to be able to offer it as a class

What other opportunities are available for me at Harrogate Ladies' College?

There are a great many opportunities beyond the classroom at College. Through clubs, instrument lessons, sports and leadership opportunities, you will be able to enrich your experience at school and develop interests beyond the classroom.

Can I change my mind later?

Whilst we encourage you to make wise and decisive choices by the options deadline, we understand that some people do have a change of heart. In general, the greatest flexibility is at the outset, as the timetable can then be adapted based upon the choices for that year group. Option changes may be possible later but cannot be guaranteed.

What happens if a subject is not taken for Upper 4? Can it still be taken as a GCSE?

Most subjects can be chosen for GCSE courses, without having been selected as an option in Upper 4. If this situation applies, pupils may be required to complete catch up work in the summer preceding the start of Lower 5.

The only exception to this is modern foreign languages. Pupils who may want to study a GCSE in languages are encouraged to pick languages as part of their Upper 4 options. This is because pupils will not be able to learn the vocabulary and grammar required to meet the demands of GCSE if they have not studied the language before.

I AM ME.



Harrogate Ladies' College

Clarence Drive
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
United Kingdom
HG1 2QG

T: +44 (0) 1423 504543
E: enquire@hlc.org.uk
www.hlc.org.uk

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