

Year 11 to 6th Form m/d/v guidance

If a student wants to go into a career in m/d/v here is some quick information on course choices for 6th form.

To have the best chance of getting a place students need to keep as many doors open as possible, it's a numbers game. Too often they start to narrow their choices too early.

- There are Universities that will accept applications from students who only take **either** Biology **or** Chemistry. But these are fewer – not ideal.
- If the student only wants to take one of these subjects it asks the question “is this career really for you?” as there is a significant overlap throughout the course and career.
- The best route is to take Biology **and** Chemistry plus a third subject.

The third subject is an open bracket but they will still need to get an A/A* in it, so need to consider a few things carefully when making their choice:

- Do they enjoy it?
- If only taking Biology **or** Chemistry, it must be a Science (Physics, Psychology or Maths are the most common).
- PE falls in and out of favour, not only as an A level for general applications but whether it is accepted as a Science by Universities looking for m/d/v.
- Pick a subject they are good at, if there is a particular one they enjoy and they are strong in it – that's the option for them (so long as they are taking Biology **and** Chemistry).

EPQ or core maths?

- EPQ is the preferred option over core maths (there is enough maths in the Science A levels).
- EPQ will be completed before they enter Year 13, freeing more time for application preparation and gaining the A* grades needed.
- High EPQ results still gain them a reduced offer at some Universities.
- Chance to explore a topic related to career interest to talk about in applications/interviews.

Taking a fourth A level

- Don't bother
- Might seem impressive but the focus needs to be on A* grades for 3 subjects
- For those with four subjects they will just ask for A*A*A*A – increasing the challenge.