

Welcome

Year 9 Options Evening



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Educational Excellence for All



Mrs Hyde: Deputy Headteacher

Mr Amstutz: Head of Year 9

Miss Jenner: Assistant Headteacher



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Guidance provided

- All students receive careers and options guidance during Personal Development delivered by their Form Tutors on Friday mornings
- All students have been provided with guidance from their current teachers during KS3 lessons
- Students have had Year 9 parent consultation evening in January 2025 to discuss academic progress in all subject areas



Guidance provided

- The Options Evening provides clarity around the process, timeline and deadline for applications
- The Options Evening provides subject market stalls to provide information about each Option Subject and a booklet is provided



What will students study?

All students will study a core curriculum this includes:

- Maths
- English Language
- English Literature
- Personal development & Religious studies
- Physical Education

All students will study Science:

- Triple Science **or** Combined Science (double)
Physics, Biology & Chemistry



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Qualifications

There are two types of qualifications:

GCSE	Vocational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="233 532 504 571">. Academic<li data-bbox="233 609 741 647">. End of course exams<li data-bbox="233 685 842 723">. Minimal or no coursework	<p data-bbox="1000 532 1634 636">Assessed during the two year process</p> <p data-bbox="1000 707 1302 745">More practical</p> <p data-bbox="1000 827 1663 931">Some coursework or controlled assessment (NEA)</p>



Reasons to choose an option

Reasons to choose it	Reasons not to chose it
<p>Because you enjoy it</p> <p>Because you are performing well and getting good progress scores</p> <p>Because it links with future study or career path</p>	<p>Your friends are picking it</p> <p>You like the teacher (this may change)</p> <p>You think it's easy (nothing is!)</p>



Science

All students study Science

- Triple Science: you study three separate subjects (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and are awarded three GCSE grades
- Double Science: you study Physics, Chemistry and Biology combined and are awarded two GCSE grades



Pathways

- Students have been placed on the most suitable pathway to ensure a broad and rich curriculum offer and one which leads them to future studies
- Letter sent on Monday 20th January to families outlined the pathway allocated and provided some guidance about what they are able to choose during the options process



Options choices

History

Fine Art

Sociology

Media Studies

Spanish

PE

Enterprise

Business Studies

Geography

Textiles

Music

Design Technology

Food Technology

Philosophy & Ethics

Dance

Computer Science

Health & Social Care

Drama

Business



Are there restrictions?

Students are not able to take both Fine Art and Textiles GCSE as these subjects are both under the same Art specification

Students are not able to take both Business GCSE and Vocational Enterprise as the content is very similar

Some students will notice that on their pathway letter the option for Enterprise is not available. They can opt for GCSE business.



How are options assigned?

Students are required to read the pathway letters carefully which were sent home on Monday 20th January. these provide the options available to them.

There are minor differences between the pathways. Where students are not studying Triple Science they must choose at least one option from the academic pathway subjects.

These are: Computer Science, History, Geography & Spanish.



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Blocking & Reserves

- Students are given a free choice for their options (following pathway options)
- Students will need to choose 3 options and 2 reserves
- Blocking is completed after students have applied and is completed via a computer programme for a best fit model
- Clashes will be communicated to students and parents, and reserves used if required



What if?

- Where a subject is very popular we will try to block and run more than one class over different blocks
- Where a class has low numbers it will not be able to run and reserve choices can be used
- Some practical subjects like Technology have capped class sizes of approximately 20 for Health & Safety reasons



Requirements

Music - students should have an interest/ability in music. It would be preferential to play an instrument (voice included) but willingness to learn is more important than previous instrument grading

Computer Science - students should have a good English and Maths ability

Media Studies - students should have good English ability

GCSE PE - students will need 3 practical sports

Dance - students should have some Dance experience and/or participate in Dance classes etc



What if?

- What happens if i want to change my mind?
- Students can change their options during the process even after submitted the forms. They will need to make an appointment with Mrs Hyde
- Students are not allowed to change their options in year 10 after the third week of term (end of September)



Next Steps

Speak to staff and parents to make sure you choose the right options for you and your future studies/employment

Complete the google form on the school website. This can be found under 'Year 9 Options'. Make sure you chose the correct pathway form.

Deadline: Wednesday 26th February



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