



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: SVE/SXG

11 January 2024

## Year 9 Subject Choices

Dear Parent/Guardian

Students in Year 9 will soon start the process of choosing their Key Stage 4 Options. Students will need to think carefully about their subject choices, making use of the information provided on the school website and through our PSHE programme. They should also talk with their subject teachers, look at their data point grades and access the careers advice available before making any final decisions. In Key Stage 4, students will take the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science (2 GCSEs), Religious Studies, PSHE and Core PE. In addition, they will choose three additional options from the attached option blocks.

The 'Students' section of the school website contains information on the KS4 options process and each KS4 subject. The KS4 Options page has a message to Parents from Mr Knowler, Headteacher, and a PowerPoint presentation 'Information for Parents', which outlines general information about the reformed GCSEs and the options process. Please look through all the information relating to the Options and KS4 subject pages with your child.

Students will have an Options Morning on **Tuesday 30 January 2024** where they will attend information sessions about the option subjects and will have an opportunity to ask questions about the courses. It is important that students and parents have time to look at the options information, discuss option choices and meet with subject teachers at the Year 9 Parents' Evening, which will be on **Tuesday 6 February 2024**. Therefore, **Monday 4 March 2024** is the earliest date we will accept option forms.

We ask that you complete the form by choosing one subject from each block and then listing your subjects in order of preference, including a reserve. A physical copy of the options form with a parental signature should be returned to Mrs Ginty at the school reception between **Monday 4 March 2024** and **Monday 11 March 2024**. Allocations to subjects will only be made after 11 March and students who do not meet this deadline may miss their preferred subject choice.

With the creation of any option block system, there will always be some combinations of subjects that are not possible. Once all the forms are returned, we will look at whether there is sufficient demand for combinations that currently do not fit into the blocks. At this point, we will look to see if movements within the blocks are possible or if we are able to introduce additional classes. Occasionally, some subjects may be slightly oversubscribed, but it is not possible to create another class. In this case, a small number of students may be allocated to their reserve choice rather than their third choice. We will do the best we can to try and ensure we satisfy as many students as possible, but we cannot guarantee that we can make any subject combination work.



Please note the following information, which may or may not apply to your child's option choices:

- Students may not take a combination of DT: Electronics, DT: Product Design and DT: Fashion Textiles as these are variations of the same GCSE course.
- Students who wish to study Triple Science need to achieve a 'Gold' level in Science by the end of Year 9. Students not taking Triple Science will still study two GCSEs in Science. Students do not need to take Triple Science to progress to A Level Science.
- Students who wish to study GCSE Spanish must have attended the Year 9 Spanish classes or need to achieve a 'Gold' level in French by the end of Year 9.
- The only IT course available at A Level is Computing and GCSE Computer Science is a requirement for that course. Students may take GCSE Computer Science and IT: Creative iMedia.
- There are subjects that may be studied at A level that have not been studied at GCSE. For information on the entry requirements for the Sixth Form subjects, please see the Sixth Form section of the school website.
- The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not an actual qualification for students but is a combination of subjects that the Government has an ambition for students to study at Key Stage 4: English Language and Literature, Mathematics, the Sciences, Geography or History and a language. It is not compulsory for students to take this subject combination, but the option blocks will enable any student wishing to study all elements of the EBacc to do so.
- The parents of students who we believe would benefit from Study Support as an alternative to one option will be contacted by the school. This letter will outline the best way to complete the form.

We strongly encourage students to give the proper consideration to their option choices, basing their decision on their interests, strengths and future plans. Following the submission of the options forms, work immediately begins finalising the number of teaching groups and the final structure of the 2024-25 timetable. We cannot guarantee that we can accommodate any requests for changes of option once students have had their choices confirmed as it is likely that many of the teaching groups will be full.

Miss Ewing, Head of Year 9, and I will oversee the options process. The information on the website, the Options Morning and the Y9 Parents' Evening should answer any questions that you have. If you require any further information after the Parents' Evening, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

**Mr S Ellis**  
**Assistant Headteacher**