

YEAR 9 OPTIONS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is the timetable constructed?

We are really proud of the fact we build the timetable around our students and their choices. Students pick from a long list of subjects but the vast majority follow an EBACC combination that includes a Humanities subject (Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language (which was picked in Year 8).

Do I need to choose subjects that I may want to study in Sixth Form?

Not necessarily, although you should choose subjects for which you have a genuine interest. We strongly suggest you look at the [sixth form entry requirements](#) for subjects you wish to take in sixth form to check whether specific GCSEs are required.

If I realise I have made a mistake with my choice of subject, can I change my mind?

Yes, if it is before the deadline in March or possibly even in April. After this time it may be possible to swap or you may be asked to join a waiting list if the class is full. Once the timetable is built it is difficult to change choices, and we start building the timetable immediately after the Option Form deadline.

Can I be in the same group as my friends?

We cannot guarantee this and it is very unlikely to happen as we offer so many subjects and have many groups.

English is not my first language – do I have to study a Modern Foreign Language?

Not necessarily, but you would need to speak to Mr Parsons about this.

Do I have to study a Humanities subject?

The vast majority of students study either Geography or History, but not all. Some students do both. Please speak to Mrs Stevenson if you have a good reason for not doing either of these subjects – this would be something like a recognised Special Educational Need.

Do you guarantee that all courses will run?

We cannot guarantee that all courses will run, as this is dependent on numbers wishing to study each course and staffing, so we ask you to choose a reserve subject.

How do I know which level of course to study?

Most courses are at GCSE level, but please speak with Mrs Shapcott (about Food Nutrition and Hospitality) or Mrs Clothier (about Health & Social Care and Child Development) who will be able to guide you.

Can I choose which teachers I would prefer?

No, this is not possible.

Do I have to play an instrument to choose Music?

No, you can use singing as your instrument.

Can I sit the GCSE PE exam if I am only taking Core PE?

No, you must choose the GCSE course if you wish to take the exam.

I am not in Science Groups 1-3 but can I choose Triple Science?

This may be possible, but you will be asked to sit an assessment to ensure the course is appropriate for you. Please contact your Science teacher or discuss this at Parents' Evening.

When will I know if I can study the subjects I have chosen?

The majority of students will be able to study the subjects they choose – we build the timetable around you. Occasionally it will not be possible to timetable all combinations, or there may be issues with class numbers. If there is any difficulty with your chosen subjects we will contact you. If you have not heard anything from us by the end of May you can assume that you will study the subjects you have chosen.