**Year 9 Options**

**School Event for Parents**

**Evening of 26th March**

At the end of year 9 students will make preferences for subjects they are considering studying through to the summer assessments of year 11. Some subjects are compulsory whilst others are not.

To make sure that students are fully informed of what subjects are available we will be hosting an evening for parents on Wednesday 26th March at 4pm.

Further details regarding the process for assigning preferences will be e-mailed individually closer to the time.

The year 10 curriculum for 2025-2026 is broken down into core compulsory subjects and the extended curriculum subjects. English, maths and science are examined elements of the core curriculum. Completing the core offer is PE, which is a compulsory non-examined part of the national curriculum.

**The Core Curriculum at Year 10:**

**PE (2 lessons per fortnight)**

**Science (10 lessons per fortnight)**

**Maths (8 lessons per fortnight)**

**English (10 lessons per fortnight)**

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**The Extended Curriculum in year 10**

To complete the curriculum, students will study 4 further subjects, each represented by a block below.

Block A Block B Block C Block D

**Preferences from the Open List**

**(5 lessons per fortnight)**

**Ethics & Philosophy or preferences from the Open List**

**(5 lessons per fortnight)**

**Preference of French, Geography or History**

**(5 lessons per fortnight)**

**Separate Sciences or preferences from the Open List**

**(5 lessons per fortnight)**

Block A will ask students to make a choice between either History, Geography or French. Students indicate a preference between the three subjects, and this preference will be used to assign their first subject.

Three more subjects are then available. . .

**Block B - Separate Sciences**

In Block B, some students will be pre-selected to take Separate Sciences. Students selected for this pathway will have shown significant progress in Science during year 9 and will have been chosen by their teachers due to their potential of achieving three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

All students take the core allocation of science lessons and will achieve two GCSEs in combined Science. In separate sciences, students receive an extra 5 lessons per fortnight to provide the opportunity to achieve 3 GCSEs. If your child has been chosen to follow this pathway it will be confirmed on the options form and will be assigned as their Block B subject.

If a student has not been assigned to separate sciences then they will be assigned a subject to Block B from their Open List preferences.

**Block C - Ethics & Philosophy**

In Block C, some students will be pre-selected to take Ethics and Philosophy. This decision will have been taken as they have shown an aptitude for Ethics and Philosophy throughout key stage 3. If your child has been chosen to follow this pathway it will be confirmed on the options form and will be assigned as their Block C.

If a student has not been assigned to Ethics and Philosophy then they will be assigned a subject to Block C from their Open List preferences.

**Block D and the Open List**

All students will be able to make preferences on which subject they wish to follow in Block D. These preferences are made from the Open List.

The Open List contains 15 subjects. These subjects will be used to fill Block B, C and D if they have not already been filled with a pre-selected subject (Separate Science or Ethics & Philosophy).

Students will select 5 preferred subjects from the Open List. On the options form, the 5 subjects will need to be ranked in order of preference (1 = being of highest preference).

Once all students have returned their options forms, students will be assigned subjects to the remaining option blocks based on their preferences.

Some subjects are more popular than others and this can mean that more students choose a particular subject than there are places. We cannot guarantee that students will study their top 3 preferences. Whilst that might create some disappointment, it is not likely to affect a student’s ability to study a course at sixth form. Sixth forms and colleges’ entry requirements can vary but many will stipulate criteria based on performance in Maths, English and **any** 5 other subjects.

**Open Option subjects**

**French**

**Computer Science**

**Business**

**Music**

**Dance**

**Drama**

**PE GCSE\***

**Sports Studies\***

**Art**

**Photography**

**Design**

**Food Technology**

**Psychology**

**Geography**

**Ethics & Philosophy**

**Students will pick a preference of 5 subjects from the attached list. They will then be assigned 3 subjects.**

*\* Students should only select one from PE GCSE or Sports Studies. Mr Wing will meet with students selecting either course to discuss which course would be best suited to the needs of the student.*