



11th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 Options 2022.

I am writing to you regarding the information and instructions for Year 9 Options 2022.

We have reached the point where your son/daughter will make important decisions about GCSE option choices. We firmly believe that giving students choice in deciding their options will prove motivating and will ultimately help them to be successful. Our option structure is broad and relevant, offering exciting routes to further study at post-16, higher education and into employment.

We aim to offer students the opportunity to take 9 subjects in Key Stage 4: 6 compulsory subjects and 3 options.

The subjects on offer are:

Compulsory Subjects	English Language English Literature Mathematics Combined Science (2 GCSEs) Core PE (non-examined) Core RE (non-examined)
Compulsory Humanities	Geography or History
Option subjects – 3 choices	Art Business Studies GCSE or Business and Retail – Btec Computer Science Dance OR Acting French Geography History Music Photography Physical Education Religious Education Separate Science (entry examination) Sociology or Citizenship Spanish

1. Booklets containing full course details are linked here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zydQwtL0pluSGM_jXaI0YlwTfbgVpeKD9pPsLS-JA9c/edit?usp=sharing
2. Videos with course information from the Heads of Departments can be found on the website

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3. The Online Options Form can be found here. Students should use their Orchard Park email account to log in.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJaK8EiH6uXCUXjFVEuUpPAYrLgZJI1Y8nQ5ikM3zreM_vjw/viewform

I am sure that you will give your son/daughter support, advice and guidance at this important stage in their education, and we will do all we can to support you as families in making the right decisions. The school reserves the right to exercise its professional judgement when coming to a final decision as to which subjects are to be studied and at what level. As ever, courses will only run if demand is sufficient to justify their running.

Here is a timeline for the options process:

Friday 11 th February 2022	The OPTIONS' BOOKLET, the OPTION FORM, VIDEOS from Heads of Departments and GUIDANCE documentation will be shared with you at this time. Over the half term break, please read this information carefully and discuss appropriate choices with your son/daughter.
Week beginning 21 st February 2022	Special assemblies will take place this week where students can ask specific questions regarding their subject choices.
Week beginning 28 th February 2022:	Parents should email to request a 1:1 meeting with me to discuss any issues or concerns they may have regarding general option choices. gsmyrk@orchardparkhigh.net
Thursday 3 rd March 2022. 5-6pm	Parents Options Fayre – more details to follow.
Friday 25 th March 2022	Deadline for submission of the options form – please complete this online using the link above
Post Easter:	A letter will be sent home detailing each student's allocation to courses

I trust that this process will provide you and your son/daughter with all the necessary information and support. If you do have any questions now or during the process, please do contact me or Mr Latouche – we are happy to help.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs G Smyrk
Associate Headteacher