

Year 9 Options



ORMISTON
DENES ACADEMY

Year 9 Options



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For the first time, you get to choose some of the subjects you study at school.

Options are the subjects you will take for your exams in year 11.

You will be given an Options booklet that explains how many subjects you can take, and the combination they can be taken in.

You will have some core subjects, and some optional subjects you can choose from.



GCSE's

General Certificate of Secondary Education - these are subjects studied for two years with an exam at the end of year 11.

They are graded 1-9

Grade 4 is a pass, **Grade 5** is a good pass ,equivalent to a C

Grade 6 equivalent to a B

Grade 7 equivalent to an A

Grade 8 equivalent to an A *

Grade 9 only about 5% of students are awarded a 9, a high A*

BTEC's

Some of your option subjects may be BTEC's. These are specialist work related qualifications in subjects like travel and tourism and sports studies.

They combine practical learning with subject and theory content. They are made up of a number of units and you complete assignments and tests to link theory work with practical exercises. There will be coursework as well as exams. They tend to suit students who like a high practical content in the subject.

Your grades can be a Pass, Merit or Distinction



Why it pays to do well in your exams?

They are essential for getting a job or apprenticeship

They are required to get onto Level 2 and 3 courses at college, or to study A Levels

If you don't achieve a pass in English and Maths, **these will have to be retaken post 16**

You will need these exams to apply for University

These exams will put you ahead of anyone else applying for a job with less qualifications

Exams can give you a better idea of what you are good at, and narrow down your career options

What are your option subjects

Spanish	French	German
History	Geography	Sports Studies
Hospitality & Catering	Creative iMedia	Health & Social Care
Music	Dance	Drama
Art & Design	Photography	Graphics
Religious Studies		Travel & Tourism



How to Choose?

- Find out more about the subjects that are new to you. For example, Graphic Design and Health & Social Care.
- If you have any ideas about your future career, think about how your choice will give you useful skills towards this goal. For example, an additional language might be helpful.
- Talk to your parents and older siblings who have chosen option subjects. For example, someone who has studied a subject can tell you a lot about it.
- Reflect on your likes and dislikes, interests and hobbies, this could give you a clue about what you would enjoy studying.

Good reasons for choosing a subject

- Think about your stronger subjects
- You think you will enjoy the subject
- It is good to broaden your choices and develop your skills
- It fits your career ideas and plans
- It goes well with your other choices
- It helps to give you plenty of choice post 16
- You think you might want to continue studying it post 16
- Your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you to learn
- Think about what additional skills it may give you

Bad reasons for choosing an option

- Your friends have chosen it
- You think it will be easy
- Someone else thinks it is a good idea
- You like the teacher you have now
- Or even you don't like the subject teacher you have now!
- You did not have time to research your options properly
- You haven't considered all options

Do you already know what career you want in the future?

If so, then it pays to work backwards!

- For example: I want to study Dentistry.
- For this I know I need to go to University and the entry requirements are 3 A-Levels and a minimum of 6 GCSE's grades 9-4, including the sciences

These courses are also competitive, so I need to get the best grades possible at GCSE's and A-Levels

What if you don't know what to do after you leave education?

Don't worry, a lot of students don't! So, just keep your options open:

- Choose a broad range of subjects to give yourself plenty of options
- Choose subjects you are interested in
- Read the options book carefully to avoid making mistakes
- Speak to school staff, especially the careers team
- Use Careers Websites to help support your choices

You will be given further information about various career websites in your form time and PSHE lessons

It might seem like a big decision but...

You can't *really* get it wrong. The core subjects, maths English and science are compulsory- to ensure that you get a broad education that keeps your future options open.

The worst mistake you can make (*and it's a big one!*) is to pick a subject you don't enjoy, as you will have to continue studying it for two years (one *really* good reason to think this through carefully!)

**You don't want this to be you!
Think carefully about making those decisions!**



Other Support

This assembly is just the start of your options process. Students will also receive:

- An options booklet and parent letter
- An opportunity to talk about your options with specialist staff at our year 9 parents/options evening
- PSHE lessons involving student ambassadors and staff from the UEA
- Form time information and activities
- Lunchtime drop-in's from local Further Education providers. These will be detailed on daily messages
- Subject taster sessions
- Careers options meetings with a member of school staff
- Information and activities placed on your Student Launchpad
- Support, if required, from Mrs Gibbons, our careers guidance professional, or a members of the options team
- Do your own research, using the websites shown on the google classroom and options booklet



Year 9 Parents/Options Evening

Thursday 1st February 2024, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm

You will receive your options booklet on this evening, so ensure you come along to collect your booklet.

This is a great opportunity to also speak to subject teachers about all of the options subjects that you might be interested in.

There will be a display for each subject, detailing the benefits of studying each subject, what **skills you will enhance**, what post 16 pathways and careers this could lead to.

It will also be a great opportunity to be able to ask the questions that you would like answered.

The importance of skills



Essential skills unlock learning in the classroom, boosting academic outcomes, perseverance and self-belief.

They halve the likelihood of being out of work and increases earnings across a lifetime. They even boost wellbeing and life satisfaction.

Employers will look for these skills, as well as academic achievement. Having, and being able to demonstrate, employability skills will help you stand out from other candidates applying for the same position.

Summary

- Read through the options booklet.
- Make sure you complete your options passport.
- Do your own research- into the subjects- but also into any of your own career ideas, interests and skills.
- Make use of the career website information in the options booklet
- Talk through your ideas with teachers, parents and friends in year 10 & 11 who have already had to make their choices.
- Think about subjects you are good at, and those you enjoy.
- Consider your future career, if you know what that is.
- Feel confident as you make your decision.
- Complete the options form and return before the deadline.

We will try to give students their preferred choices wherever possible

We will make sure that each student has a broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum

Any applications received after the deadline will not necessarily have their preferred choices