

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

You will select preferences for the three option blocks.



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

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.

2025 Option blocks

All Options (6 hours per fortnight)			
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Students must choose at least one subject from the Ebacc subjects across one of the Option blocks. If students wish to take the full Ebacc, they must choose a language as well either HIS/GEO/CS.	Geography	Geography	Geography
	History	History	History
	French	Spanish	German
			Computer Science (Limited spaces)
	Art**	Graphics**	Photography**
	Sports Studies	Sports Studies	Art**
	Health & Social Care	Religious Education	Health & Social Care
	Hospitality & Catering	Hospitality & Catering	Travel & Tourism
	Performing Arts : Dance *	Performing Arts: Music*	

***Can my child take both Music and Dance?**

Unfortunately, they are separate pathways of the same Performing Arts BTEC award—they **cannot** be selected together.

**** Can my child take Graphics and Photography and/or Art?**

Again, the subjects are separate pathways of the same GCSE Art & Design course—they **cannot** be selected together.

***** Can my child take BTEC if they don't play a musical instrument?**

To be successful on the course, students need to play a musical instrument with proficiency as performance is a main component of the assessment. All options preferences will be checked by the Head of Music.



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

Subject	MythBusters
Science	Will have to take 6 x 70min exams at the end of year 11. Must take all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
English	English will give you two separate GCSEs . In English Literature and English Language , you are tested on your analysis skills, based on extracts you have never seen before. You also have a speaking exam , in which you have to write a speech and perform it to your teacher.
Maths	There are 3 x 90 minute exams at the end of year 11 for both Foundation and Higher tier. Paper 1 is always a non calculator paper. Paper 2 and 3 are both calculator papers.
MFL	<p>There are four separate exams - reading, writing, speaking and listening.</p> <p>The speaking exam is compulsory and will be recorded (voice only!) and sent off to the exam board for marking. The speaking exam is carried out with your class teacher and is 1 to 1 (you never have to speak in front of the whole class for an exam). Most of your homework will focus on preparing you for the speaking exam as we know it can feel a bit scary.</p> <p>The most you will ever have to write is 150 words in your language.</p> <p>You can ONLY pick the language you are currently studying.</p>
History	Three written exams essay based.
Geography	3x exams each with multiple 9 mark essay style questions in.

Subject	MythBusters
Sports studies	Not just doing practical sport every lesson. The course is 30% practical and 70% theory including a 75 mins exam. You will be expected to complete two practical performance, plan, carry out a 6 week training plan and lead a 30-45 mins sport session (you will need to stand in front a group and teach).
Hospitality and catering	Made up of 2 units which will be taught over the 2 years. Unit 1 covers the theory behind how to work/ run a hospitality and catering business and there will a written exam at the end of year 11. This will make up 40% of the final grade. Unit 2 is 60% of the final grade and is made up of a practical exam and coursework. The coursework must be completed by Easter in year 11.
Computer Science	1 x 2 hr Practical (on screen) exam . 1 x 90 minute Theory Exam.
Health and social care	Cover a wide range of topics under health and social care, not just Child Development. 5 assessment tasks are carried out in Year 10 towards the final grade. 5 assessment tasks are carried out at the start of year 11. Written exam taken in summer of year 11.

Subject	MythBusters
Music	Music is not practical every lesson. Approximately 40% of the lessons are listening or written. Will need to be able to play a musical instrument.
Dance	Students will have to perform at the Dance Showcase. There will be written lessons/coursework to complete over the 2 years.
Travel and tourism	Year 10 counts towards final grade- 5 essays in Year 10 coursework, 5 essays in Year 11 coursework, and a 2 hour exam in Year 11. If you resit coursework that is another 5 essays.
Art and Design	You will need to study photos of yourself and others. Will need to be able to explain your art work
Graphics	You will need to study photos of yourself and others. Will need to be able to explain your art work
Photography	You will need to study photos of yourself and others. Will need to be able to explain your art work
RE	The exam is not just personal opinion. marks are given for evaluation not opinions. There are 2 - 1.5hr exams

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
- 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
- Information from your subject teachers
- 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

Year 9 Parents / Options Evening

Thursday 6th February 2025, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm

You will receive your options booklet on this evening, so ensure you come along to collect your booklet. If there are limited spaces in a subject, we will look at:

1. AtL in that subject.
2. Did you attend Parent and Options' Evening (unless there were medical issues known – please ask parents to contact the Year team)
3. Have you completed all elements of the Options Passport.

This is a great opportunity to also speak to subject teachers about all 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.

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