



## Options 2012: Making Choices for Year 9

We seek to provide flexible opportunities which will help all our students enjoy and achieve. These choices will not limit GCSE options. If you do not do a subject in Year 9, it will still be possible to choose it in Year 10. The only exceptions to this are foreign languages which do need to be studied in Year 9 in order to continue them into Year 10.

Year 9 may seem quite a long way away but, actually, we need you to think ahead to when you are 19! Most students will be full-time at the Academy throughout Years 9 to 11, though some will attend college or another school part-time from the start of Year 10. You are expected to stay in some form of education or training even after Year 11, and should be thinking of your progression route from age 14 to 19 and beyond. Many of you should be thinking about going to university so we need to ensure your choices now do not limit your opportunities in the future. For example, some of you may need a GCSE in history or geography and another in a foreign language to help secure a particular university offer.

Different people will have their own ideas about what subjects are important – you, your parents, your teachers, university admissions tutors, employers and the Government. We will be very careful to make sure you keep your options open – even if that means insisting you study something that you might not freely choose.

### How much choice is there?

All students in Y9 will continue to study English, Maths, Science, PE, ICT, RS and PSHE. You then make FOUR guided choices from:

**History                      Geography                      French                      Spanish                      Learning Support                      Art**  
**Product Design    Textiles                      Food                      Dance                      Drama                      Music**

At the end of Year 9 you might continue with most of the four subjects you chose or you might move on to new courses such as GCSE Media Studies or off-site courses such as Engineering. Choose carefully, work hard and join in. Make the most of this important opportunity.

<b>Timetable of Events</b>	
<b>Options Introduction for Parents and Students</b> Thursday 26 January, 7.00-8.00pm	Find out about the Options process.
Talk with Parents and Staff <b>Options Assembly</b> Wednesday 1 February	Discuss your strengths and weaknesses with your parents, teachers and tutors.
<b>Options Fayre</b> Monday 6 February, 4.30-6.00pm Sports Hall (Subject stalls, teachers & flyers)	Find out about option subjects. Course flyers are published on the website ('Letters Home') if you cannot come along to collect them and talk to the teachers.
<b>One-One Discussion</b> 8- 10 February	One-one short discussion to hear your ideas but also to be clear if there are subjects that you really must do to keep your options open, such as history or geography and a foreign language.
<b>Data Reports</b> Tuesday 21 February	Check out your grades – those on track for Level 5+ should be considering university and taking history or geography and a foreign language.
<b>Parents' Evening</b> Tuesday 28 February, 5.00-7.30pm	Finalise your options and reserve in discussion with your parents, teachers and tutors.
<b>Hand In Options Form</b> Thursday 1 March	Complete the Options Form and hand in.

**Which subjects do you like doing?**

You will probably try harder at the subjects you like and will enjoy them more.

**Which subjects are you best at?**

You stand a better chance of getting good results in these.

**Which subjects are recommended?**

Sometimes teachers recommend that you take a particular subject. Find out what your teachers think.

**Which subjects do you need?**

If you have some idea of the career you wish to follow, you will probably need certain subjects as qualifications. You might need particular GCSE grades to get on to college courses and study at a higher level. Check out the details with the Personal Advisers who work from an office in the Hill Road building (see below).

**Careers Guidance and Higher Education**

Careers Guidance can be obtained from Mel Ponterosso and Jane Chew, Personal Advisers from Babcock, who are available to talk to both students and parents/carers. Students may visit Advisers in the Careers Interview Room (next to the Chapel). The days when Personal Advisers are on site are published on their office door.

**Useful Career Guides**

<http://www.careersetc.co.uk> – careers website

[www.myfuturewestsussex.com](http://www.myfuturewestsussex.com) – Access to a database for careers information

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – Information on universities (including entry requirements).

**What if you have no career in mind?**

You are young and have time to decide. Choose a broad, balanced range of subjects from below. Check out your grades – those on track for Level 5+ should be considering university and taking at least one of history or geography and at least one foreign language. Choose four and one reserve. Enjoy and achieve!

**What should you do now?**

Show this to your parents and start talking about options and finding out. You and your parents are welcome to contact your Chapter Manager for help and advice at any point.