



Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Year 9 - KS4 GCSE & BTec Curriculum Options

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the stage in Year 9 where students at Princes Risborough School begin to make choices about the subjects they would like to study in KS4 (Years 10 & 11). From September, your child will only be studying the compulsory subjects and those selected from a group of options. For most students, this will be the first time that they have had some choice over what they study, so it is very important that they read the options booklet carefully and then talk it over, both at home and with people at school. Our advice to students is to 'play to your strengths' to build a broad and balanced curriculum.

The core subjects are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Triple Science, Citizenship & Core PE. Students will select a further **three** options and one reserve from the following subjects:

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science*
- Dance
- Design & Technology: Product Design
- Design & Technology: Textiles
- Digital Information Technology (IT)
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography*
- Graphic Communication
- History*
- MFL: French*
- MFL: Spanish*
- Music
- Sports Science

We strongly recommend that students select at least one of the humanities subjects(*) to create a broad and balanced curriculum. Details about each subject, advice on how to choose your subjects & details about the options process can be found in the [KS4 Options Booklet](#).

To support your child throughout this process we will be working with them during tutor time sessions as well as through one on one information, advice and guidance sessions.

14th December 2021	AP1 report published
10th-14th January 2022	Y9 Winter Exams
2nd February	KS4 Options Process Launch & Parent Information Presentation
7th February	Individual Careers Information Advice & Guidance (IAG) meetings begin. Subject discussions during lessons.
10th February	Y9 Progress Evening
18th February	Y9 Winter Exam Data published
1st March	National Careers Week - Tutor time activities
11th March	Deadline for Online Options Form via SIMS Options
September 2022	KS4 courses commence

The process will begin with our launch presentation which will be shown to all Year 9 students during tutor time this week. A recording of this Year 9 Options Presentation is available below and we strongly encourage parents to view this and discuss the process with their children.

[Year 9 Options Presentation Information Video](#)

Following this, we would encourage you to discuss your child's progress with their teachers during the upcoming Year 9 Progress Evening. Should you have any questions about individual subjects, or if you are not able to meet specific teachers at this event, the contact details for the relevant Heads of Department & Faculty Leaders can be found at the end of each subject page.

In two weeks, a link will be sent to students via their school email account. This will give access to 'SIMS Options', our online portal where the options can be selected. Students should complete this step with their parents. Further guidance on how to do this will be issued alongside a video guide to support you through this process. We will make every effort to accommodate options requests, however, please note that in some cases it may be necessary to allocate students to their reserve choice.

We understand that this is an exciting and potentially daunting time, but with the support of our KS4 Pathways we are confident that your child will be prepared to make positive choices enabling success in the next stage of their education.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Forshaw'.

Mr Forshaw
Deputy Headteacher