



2nd February 2023

Year 9 - KS4 GCSE & BTec Curriculum Options

Dear Parents/Carers & Year 9 Students,

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' and aim 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
- Science
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography*
- Graphic Communication
- History*
- MFL: French*
- MFL: Spanish*
- Music
- Sports

We strongly recommend that students select at least one of the humanities subjects(*) to create a broad and balanced curriculum, however this may not be the best choice for all students. 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.

KS4 Options Timeline

13th December 2022	AP1 data published
6th January 2023	Academic Review Day
9th - 13th January 2023	Y9 Winter Exams
W/C 30th January 2023	KS4 Options Process Launch Presentation Parent Information Presentation released
6th February 2023	KS4 Curriculum discussions during subject lessons
10th February 2023	Y9 Winter Exam Data published
6th March 2023	National Careers Week - Tutor time activities
9th March 2023	Deadline for the Online Options Form
September 2023	KS4 courses commence



The following presentation marks the launch of this process. It will be shown to all Y9 students during tutor time this week. **We strongly encourage parents to view this presentation to understand the process and learn how best to support their children.**

[Year 9 Options Presentation Information Video](#)

Should you have any questions about individual subjects, the contact details for the relevant Heads of Department & Faculty Leaders can be found at the end of each subject page in the [KS4 Options Booklet](#). Once students have selected their options you will be able to discuss how best to support your child in each requested subject during the upcoming Year 9 Progress Evening.

In two weeks, a link will be sent to students via their school email account. This will give access to an options website hosted by 'Edval'. 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 faithfully,

Mrs Gardner
Head of Year 9

Mr Forshaw
Deputy Headteacher

