

Welcome to Year 9 Options Information Evening

The rules of the evening!

1. Please stay muted throughout – there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end in the chat feature;
2. Please do not record the presentation – I will email a copy after we have finished;
3. If you have any personal questions please email me directly – e.kkama@smithswood.fmat.co.uk

What am I going to cover?

1. What I mean when I talk about options;
2. Why 'options' are so important;
3. What the process is for choosing options;
4. How 'options' should be chosen.

What are 'Options'?

The term **Options** refers to Year 9 students choosing their subjects / qualifications to study in year 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4).


The subjects will be studied for 2 years and once a course starts, they cannot be changed.

It is possibly the most important decision a young person will ever have to make.

Why are they so important?

- They will lead to formal qualifications;
- They will shape the route a person takes through life because:
 - They are the only route to post 16 courses after Smith's Wood;
 - They are used to decide which **level** course a student will study after Smith's Wood;
 - They are the only way students will be able to access A-Levels, higher level BTECs, higher and advanced apprenticeships and ultimately, University.

What do I mean by level?

<p>Level 2 courses These are the courses we study in year 10 and 11 (Year 10 and 11)</p>		<p>Level 3 courses These are the courses we would like our students to study when they leave us in year 11. (Year 12 and 13)</p>
<p>GCSEs</p>		<p>A Levels</p>
<p>Vocational Qualifications (L2)</p>		<p>Vocational Qualifications (L3)</p>
		<p>Advanced apprenticeship</p>
<p>THESE ARE THE COURSES WE ARE DISCUSSING TODAY</p>		<p>THESE ARE THE COURSES TYPICALLY STUDIED IN 6TH FORM OR COLLEGE.</p>

What are GCSEs?

- They are qualifications in a wide range of subjects;
- They are structured differently depending on the subject;
- They are assessed differently depending on the subject:
 - 100% exam;
 - Exam & coursework;
 - Exam & practicals.
- The exam is usually taken at the end of year 11;
- They are level 2 qualifications.

What are Vocational Qualifications?

- BTEC, OCR/Cambridge Nationals, RSL
- These are specialist work-related qualifications.
- They are divided into units, which cover specific areas of knowledge, skills, and understanding;
- They are assessed by both exams, coursework and/or practical assessments;
- They are level 2 qualifications and are equivalent to GCSEs

The subjects!

2 types of subject:

1. Compulsory subject

- Students have to legally take these subjects.

2. Option subject

- A subject chosen by a student.

Compulsory subjects

Every student will study:

1. Mathematics;
2. English Literature;
3. English Language;
4. Science
 - Combined science (2 GCSEs) or
 - Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs).
5. PSHE / RE
6. Core PE

The vast majority of students will also study

- History or Geography.

Option subjects

Students will be able to choose from:

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE RE
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Design Technology*
- BTEC Music
- BTEC Engineering*
- BTEC Tech Award in Sport
- BTEC First award in Creative Media Production
- BTEC Tech award in Health and Social Care
- OCR Cambridge National in IT
- OCR Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing (Business)
- RSL Drama

* New courses in September 2022

Guidance from us

We will place students in a pathway based on their **academic ability**.

This pathway influences the type of choices a student can make. For example:

Pathway 1

**(Typically students in
9s1/9w1)**

Maths

English Literature

English Language

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

History or Geography

Spanish

**1 additional vocational or
GCSE choice**

PSHE / RE

PE

Pathway 2

(The majority of students)

Maths

English Literature

English Language

Double Science

History or Geography

2 additional vocational or

GCSE choices

PSHE / RE

PE

Pathway 3

**(A very small number of
students)**

Maths

English Literature

English Language

Double Science

**3 additional vocational
choices**

PSHE / RE

PE

Choosing a subject.

When choosing a subject, you should consider:

1. The content of the subject – does it interest you?
2. The requirements of the subject – what skills are required?
 1. You will do an exam in each subject;
 2. You will have to write in each subject.
3. What are your aims for post 16? Please don't think that a GCSE or a BTEC is going to get you a job – it is about the range of subjects and the grades achieved;
4. Do not consider the teacher;
5. Do not consider what your friends are doing.
6. USE THE OPTIONS PROSPECTUS / GUIDE.

We cannot guarantee you will get your 1st choice, you will therefore be asked to choose more than 1 subject per choice and indicate your preference.

The Smith's Wood guide to options



YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROSPECTUS

GCSE Spanish

Course Highlights

"If you talk to a man in a **language** he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own **language**, that goes to his heart." – Nelson Mandela.

Languages are an invaluable skill to have. Having a language gives you a head start on other potential employees as by speaking another language you are vital to any company who does international business (and there are a lot of them!). Plus, a language is also a pre-requisite for lots of university courses so it's something to consider if you are thinking about going to university in the future. Languages are the key to the new, exciting multi-national world in which we live.

Course content

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture. (Me, my family and friends / Technology in everyday life / Free-time activities / Customs and festivals)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest. (Home, town, neighborhood and region / Social issues / Global issues / Travel and tourism).

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment. (My studies / Life at school / Education post-16 / Jobs, career choices and ambitions).

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

How is it assessed?

Listening (25% of GCSE): Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. Questions in English and in Spanish.

Speaking (25% of GCSE): Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. Role-play, photo card and general conversation.

Reading (25% of GCSE): Understanding and responding to different types of written language. Questions in English, in Spanish and translation from Spanish into English.

Writing (25% of GCSE): Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. Written exam + translation from English into Spanish.

The process and timeline

Thursday 27th January an introduction to Options;

Wednesday 2nd February – Year 9 Parents Evening

- Online via School Cloud. Please email Mrs Downing if you have any issues with this on k.downing@smithswood.fmat.co.uk
- Options booklet published (on-line via website and links sent via MyEd);

Monday 7th February Options system goes live (on-line via SIMS options).

Monday 4th March– Deadline for the online completion of Options choices.

Thursday 1st April – Confirmation of options choices

Extra support

We will:

- Provide on-line assemblies to help guide you with your choices;
- Give you access to our Careers Advisor to help you choose wisely;
- Provide support through mentor time sessions;
- Provide 1:1 meetings to help you with your choices;
- Provide technical support for the on-line process.

Other information:

Help with GCSE options from the BBC

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p>

More help from the internet:

<https://www.studential.com/GCSEs/choosing-your-GCSE-subject-options>

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/choosing-gcse-options-19-questions-ask/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/gcse/choosing-your-gcse>

Key contact

Mr Collins (Excellence Leader – Y9)

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Please email us with any questions at any time.