

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you as we approach one of the most exciting and important milestones in your child's educational journey at Wye from Year 7 to Year 13. In September, your child will be starting their GCSE courses and will be moving from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. All students at Wye School have the opportunity to engage with a broad and balanced curriculum which is underpinned by the National Curriculum and as part of this they will have some choices in the subjects that they would like to explore in further detail.

At Wye we firmly believe that quality is by far the most important consideration. Eight excellent GCSEs can get you anywhere – from the best apprenticeships to top universities. For this reason, students at Wye study 2 GCSEs. All students will study some compulsory subjects alongside three other subjects that they will be able to select. The following subjects are compulsory:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE (This is not a GCSE)
- PSHE (This is not a GCSE)

Students will be able to select three options from the following list: History, Geography, French, Spanish, Art, Drama, Hospitality and Catering, Music, Sports Science, RS, Business Studies and computing. One of their three options must be either History or Geography.

Options evening

To assist with this, we are pleased to invite you to our **GCSE Options Evening on Wednesday, 23rd April from 17:15-18:45** This event will provide valuable insights into the options available, the selection process, and the various subjects your child can choose from. There will be two

elements to the evening. You will have the opportunity to walk around classrooms to speak directly with subject teachers and learn more about what each course entails. There will also be a talk offered to parents. The first talk will begin at 17:15 and a repeat of the same talk will begin at 18:00. We would strongly recommend you attend one of these two talks. For parents unable to make the event, we will also send out further information on the day which explains the process as well as a form to complete for your child.

Options assembly

Earlier today, your child attended an assembly introducing the options process. We emphasized the importance of making well-informed decisions by researching the options available to them post-16. This will help them choose subjects that align with their interests and future aspirations. We also spoke about how to make decisions about GCSE options. Things to consider included: Considering your child's interests, Considering future career ideas and researching what is needed for these, Consider subjects or courses that your child wants to study Post-16, Keeping the subject choices broad to keep future options open. Students were encouraged not to consider subjects just because their friends have chosen it or they particularly like a specific teacher they have now.

Useful resources and guidance

Additionally, we strongly recommend visiting the following link: [Year 9 Options 2025](#) to a blog by our independent careers advisor CXK. This guide offers valuable information on the different factors to consider when choosing GCSE subjects, including career planning, decision-making strategies and ways to support your child's mental health in this process. It is a helpful resource for both students and parents to explore the various pathways available and make informed choices.

I have included a list of the key dates that will be useful to take note of for this process but we will also be regularly communicating at each stage so that you are kept well-informed.

Key dates for the Year 9 options process 2024-2025

Wednesday 12th March – Year 9 initial options assembly for students

Monday 17th March – Year 9 options assembly led by an external careers advisor (CXK)

Wednesday 23rd April – Year 9 Options evening – 17:15-18:45

Wednesday 23rd April – 2025-2026 Options booklet uploaded to the school website and initial preferences selection open. You will receive the first form to complete on this day.

Monday 28th April – Year 9 Parents Evening (Virtual) to speak about your child's current progress and next steps with individual teachers. Booking information will follow before the Easter holiday.

Wednesday 30th April – Deadline of first submission of initial subject preferences (form 1)

Monday 12th May – Final submission date of GCSE options (form 2)

Our school website will also contain this information and these dates.

We look forward to seeing you at the Options evening in after the Easter holiday where we will be able to discuss the options process in further detail.

Kind Regards



Rachael Burden

Assistant Principal

t: 01233 811110

e: office@wyeschool.org.uk

w: <https://www.wyeschool.org.uk/>