

Year 9 Options

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. Nine excellent GCSEs can get you anywhere – from the best apprenticeships to top universities. For this reason, students at Wye study 9 GCSEs, or 10 if they take all 3 Sciences. All students will study some compulsory subjects alongside four 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)

The decisions that you and your child make regarding these options may affect their future career pathways and therefore we have a full programme that is put in place to ensure that both you and your child have as much information as possible to make a fully informed decision during the process.

Options Assemblies

Year 9 will receive two dedicated options assemblies this half term which will contain an overview of the process and a short overview of each optional subject. One assembly will be led by Chris Targett our external careers advisor (CXK) and one will be led by our senior leadership team. These assemblies will ensure students have a better understanding of what each qualification entails

Options Information booklet

The updated options booklet will be uploaded to the options section of the school website and will contain key information about the process, including;

- Key dates and deadlines
- The different pathways
- Further subject specific content and information
- How to submit your options choices
- Advice on researching future careers
- FAQ

Options evening

We will hold an options evening in school from 5.30-7pm which will contain three elements.

1. A staffed marketplace of subjects to allow students and parents to visit and find out what is involved in each subject. This marketplace will be open throughout the entire event.
2. A 20-minute talk at 5.45pm, repeated at 6.15pm in the Assembly Hall (Margaret Williams building)
3. Our independent careers advisor (from CXK) is available all evening to discuss any individual questions and provide guidance and advice.

Pathways

Students will be placed in a pathway which is most suitable for them as individuals. These pathways will be shared with you before the Y9 options evening.

	Core Subjects	Compulsory subjects	Choices
Pathway 1 (Ebacc model + Triple Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics English Literature English Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Language History and/or Geography Triple Science 	1 'additional' choice.
Pathway 2 (Ebacc model)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Language History and/or Geography Combined Science 	2 'additional' choices.
Pathway 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and/or Geography Combined Science 	3 'additional' choices which can include a language.
Pathway 4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and/or Geography Combined Science Intervention 	2 'additional' choices.

Key Dates

Wednesday 6th March – Y9 options assembly for students – Wye School led.

Tuesday 12th March – Y9 options assembly led by an external careers advisor (CXK)

Monday 18th March – Pathways communicated via email to parents/carers by this date.

Thursday 21st March – Y9 Options Evening 5.30-6.45pm (In person in the Margaret Williams Building).

Thursday 21st March – Options booklet uploaded to the website and preference selections open.

Wednesday 17th April – First submission of subject preferences

Tuesday 7th May - Y9 Parents Evening (Virtual)

Monday 13th May - Final submission of GCSE option preferences.

There will be a lot of opportunities in the process to ask questions and we will answer as many of these as possible at the end of the presentations on the night. However, if there are any subsequent questions or you would like to ask a question more privately, please feel free to email me directly on rachael.burden@wyeschool.org.uk and I will do my best to help.

In the meantime if you would like some independent advice on the options process from our independent careers advisor (CXK) then please see the following link:

<https://www.cxk.org/blog/year-9-options-2024/>

I look forward to seeing you all at the options evening on 21st March.

Kind Regards

Rachael Burden