

# Year 9 Subject Preferences

Picking the pathway that's right for your child

# Introduction

- Time to make an important decision.
- Chance to choose 40% of their timetable for the next 2 years.
- They need to make sure that they have all the information before making an informed choice.
- They have been encouraged to discuss their options with you and their teachers to make sure they start on the right path.



# Compulsory curriculum



- The compulsory curriculum equates to 30 hours out of 50 over a two-week timetable.
- It is a requirement that all pupils study the following subjects:
- English – 2 GCSE's (language & literature)
- Maths – 1 GCSE
- Science – 2 or 3 GCSE's (science department will decide which)
  
- It is also a requirement to follow a program of .....
- Physical Education
- Wellbeing

# Overall aim

- We want all students to be able to follow an ambitious curriculum that is both broad and balanced through a combination of academic, creative and practical subjects, that best meets their learning needs.
- Therefore, each student has been allocated a pathway based upon the subjects they have completed across Key Stage 3.

# Pathways



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The vast majority of students (90%) will follow a pathway that will lead to the completion of the Ebacc.

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This requires students to study at least one humanity subject (Geography or History) and one language (French or German) alongside English, Maths and Science.

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The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.' It provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.

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They then get to choose two further subjects, which we recommend come from the Preference subjects, to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, although they can choose an additional EBacc subject.

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The other 10% of students will follow a slightly different pathway where Wider Key Skills becomes a compulsory replacement for the humanity and/or language.

# Example pathways

## Student 1

### Core

English Literature

English language

Maths

Science (Triple/Combined)

### Pathway 1

- Geography or History
- French or German

### Plus 2 others

- Art
- Business

9 or 10 GCSE's

## Student 2

### Core

English Literature

English language

Maths

Science (Triple/Combined)

### Pathway 2

- Geography or History
- Wider Key Skills

### Plus 2 others

- Construction
- Music

8 or 9 GCSE's

## Students 3

### Core

English Literature

English language

Maths

Science (Combined)

### Pathway 3

- Wider Key Skills

### Plus 2 others

- Catering
- Hair & Beauty

7 GCSE's

# Types of Qualification

## GCSE's

### Key Features

- Majority of grade awarded is based upon performance in final exams at end of Year 11.
- Practical subjects (Art, PE, Technology) have practical component which is worth up to 40 percent
- Grades are 9 (highest) - 1 (lowest)

## Vocational (BTEC, WJEC, VTCT)

### Key Features

- Majority of the grade is based upon independent coursework
- Coursework is marked internally by your teachers.
- One external exam to be completed during the course.
- Exam can be repeated.
- Grades are Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass

# Subject Preference List

French	Art & Design	Design Technology	Business Studies	Construction
German	Photography	Computer Science	Physical Education	Health & Social Care
Geography	Music	Media Studies	Philosophy, Religion & Ethics	Hair & Beauty
History	Drama		Wider Key Skills	Hospitality & Catering



# Subject Preference Booklet



Information about each subject can be found in the options booklet that has been posted on the school website . Simply hover of the curriculum heading on the main page and select Year9 options from the drop-down menu.



Year 9 Subject Preferences 2022

Picking the pathway that's right for you

ASPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

# Important considerations

What subjects do students enjoy studying the most in Year 9?

What subjects are students performing best in?

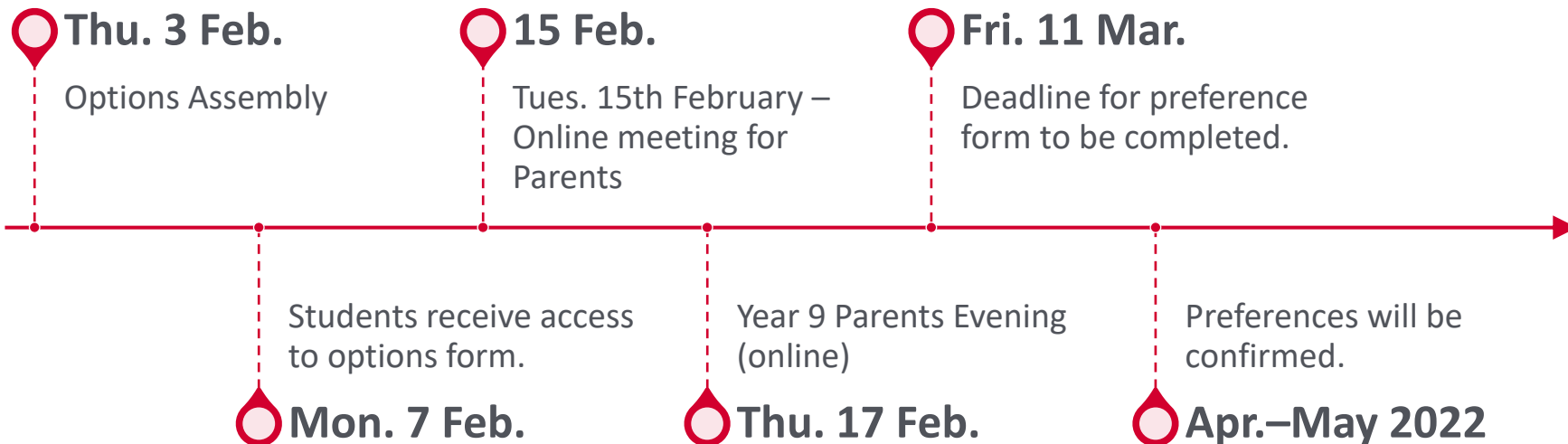
What subjects might students need for future career / educational path?

How do students learn best?


Are students phased by exams?

Are students disciplined enough to meet regular deadlines for coursework?

# Timeline

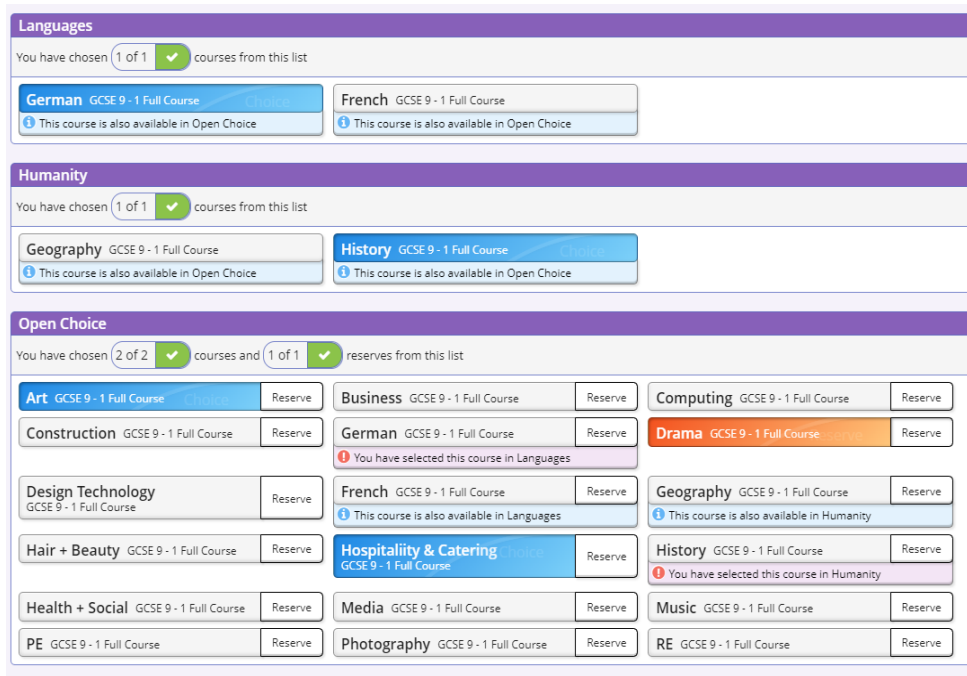


# Logging in

- Students should now be able log into the system from anywhere.
- Go to [www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)
- Click the  Microsoft logo
- Enter their school username 19-----@prospect.reading.sch.uk
- Enter their school password
  
- If they are having any issues with accessing their form, then need to come and see me so I can support them through the process.

# The form

- Click the four subjects they wish to study from the different sections of the form – the subjects will turn blue
- Click reserve next to one subject that you would also be interested in studying – the subject will turn orange.
- Click save
- Up to the deadline, they can sign back in and change their mind as many times as they wish
- There is no rush to be first so they must take their time to make the right choices.



The screenshot displays a course selection interface with three main sections: Languages, Humanity, and Open Choice.

- Languages:** Shows 1 of 1 courses chosen. Two options are visible: German (selected, blue) and French (available in Open Choice, grey).
- Humanity:** Shows 1 of 1 courses chosen. Two options are visible: Geography (available in Open Choice, grey) and History (selected, blue).
- Open Choice:** Shows 2 of 2 courses and 1 of 1 reserves chosen. A grid of 18 options is shown, each with a 'Reserve' button. The 'Drama' option is highlighted in orange, indicating it has been reserved. Other options include Art, Business, Computing, Construction, German, French, Geography, History, Hospitality & Catering, Health + Social, Media, Music, PE, Photography, and RE. Some options have information icons and text indicating they are also available in other sections (e.g., 'This course is also available in Languages').



## Support

- If students have any general questions, they can come and speak to me.
- Form tutors have access to the system and so they will be checking and confirming students' choices.
- Read the options booklet and speak to subject teachers.

# Subject contacts

Qualification	School contact
French, German	zmumford@prospect.reading.sch.uk
Geography	aseal@prospect.reading.sch.uk
History	jdixon@prospect.reading.sch.uk
Art, Art Photography	spittman@prospect.reading.sch.uk
PE	adorliac@prospect.reading.sch.uk
Business, Computing	masam@prospect.reading.sch.uk
Media Studies	adieu@prospect.reading.sch.uk

<b>Qualification</b>	<b>School contact</b>
Music	<a href="mailto:alight@prospect.reading.sch.uk">alight@prospect.reading.sch.uk</a>
Drama	<a href="mailto:eakrivopoulou@prospect.reading.sch.uk">eakrivopoulou@prospect.reading.sch.uk</a>
Faith, Philosophy & Ethics	<a href="mailto:lmccabe@prospect.reading.sch.uk">lmccabe@prospect.reading.sch.uk</a>
Health & Social Care	<a href="mailto:mscott@prospect.reading.sch.uk">mscott@prospect.reading.sch.uk</a>
Wider Key Skills	<a href="mailto:cmatten@prospect.reading.sch.uk">cmatten@prospect.reading.sch.uk</a>
Design Technology, Hospitality & Catering	<a href="mailto:jprior@prospect.reading.sch.uk">jprior@prospect.reading.sch.uk</a>
Construction, Hair & Beauty	<a href="mailto:hridgus@prospect.reading.sch.uk">hridgus@prospect.reading.sch.uk</a>



# Questions



- If you have any general questions, please use the chat function and we will do our best to respond to them now.
- If you have questions specific to a student, please email myself or Mr Lyddon directly and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.
- [gedwards@prospect.reading.sch.uk](mailto:gedwards@prospect.reading.sch.uk)
- [ilyddon@prospect.reading.sch.uk](mailto:ilyddon@prospect.reading.sch.uk)