



Ref: AAs/SFr

March 2nd 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer and students,

I am delighted to share with you information about the Year 9 GCSE Options. Choosing the most appropriate and relevant courses which will lead to successful outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 for your son/daughter is clearly a critical stage in their school career and we hope that you find this information, the Options Evening and the process supportive. If at any stage you need further assistance please contact myself, Mrs Ayres, on a.ayres@campion.northants.sch.uk.

The Year 9 Options timeline

Spring half term	PSHE lessons focus on making choices and the options process
2nd March	Year 9 Options Assembly
11th March	Year 9 Options Evening
20th March	Deadline for students to indicate their preferences
w/b 23rd March	Preferences scrutinised and guidance interviews arranged with students
w/b 30th March	Guidance interviews take place; students review preferences
Tuesday 21st April	Final deadline for confirmation of preferences by students
Monday 11th May	Confirmation given by school to students and parents of assigned options

The Year 9 Options Evening – Wednesday 11th March

This evening comprises of two main activities; a **presentation** in the Hall which will run at 5.30 pm and repeated at 6.30 pm, and **subject stalls** which will be open between 5.30 and 7.30 pm. Parents are invited to join whichever of the presentations is more suitable for their timings and when not in the presentation, are invited to visit subject areas in order to discuss with subject staff, the courses in more detail. Key staff will be on hand to discuss individual students and their needs where required, including Mrs Still, Head of Year, Mr Mills, Progress Learning Lead, Mrs Pryor, SENDCo and Mrs Moseley, School Careers Advisor.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Core Subjects

All students will follow the core curriculum. The core curriculum comprises of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science and Religious Studies. Further details about these courses will be shared at Options Evening.

Option Subjects

All students will follow **one subject** from each of the four option blocks.

Students have **already chosen** their subjects from Option A in Year 8 and have begun their studies on these courses in Year 9. For the majority of students, no further choice is needed for Option A courses. It has been decided that students will have the best chance of success in their Option A courses **by sitting their GCSE examination at the end of Year 11**, not at the end of Year 10 as was previously stated.

Religious Studies GCSE will now be a **core subject for all students at KS4** and hence the Religious Studies option has been removed from Option A and affected students are being guided to appropriate alternative courses. Sports Science students in Option A will be guided to an appropriate pathway of either Sport Science or GCSE PE.





Option Blocks

Option A – already assigned	Option B	Option C	Option D
Computer Science Art & Design Business Studies Engineering Health & Social Care Sociology Sports Science GCSE PE	Geography History Spanish Business Studies Design Technology Drama Food & Nutrition Film Studies	French Geography German History Art & Design Music	Geography History Separate Science Art & Design Food & Nutrition Health & Social Care GCSE PE

Broad and balanced

Students need to keep a broad and balanced choice of subjects at KS4, which will support a wide range of options in post-16 pathways. In order to ensure that breadth is maintained, all students (unless exceptional circumstance apply) **must select one bold** course from across all the blocks. Due to pressures of non-examined assessment (coursework) and the need to keep a balance across options, students are **not permitted** to select Design Technology with any of Engineering, Food & Nutrition or Art & Design.

English Baccalaureate

Students intending to follow a pathway which will lead to entry to a top-rated university should **select either Geography or History and one modern foreign language subject**. This will entitle them to meet the criteria of the over-arching English Baccalaureate (EBacc) which is regarded as a requirement for entry to the best universities.

Next steps

At the forthcoming Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 11th March, there will be opportunity to gain further information about the details given above. I look forward to seeing you at this important evening, which will be a key opportunity for you and your son/daughter to find out more information and to discuss further with key staff, the options available and the ones best suited to your child.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Ayres
Assistant Headteacher (Year 9 SLT-link)

