



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.

20 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2024

As we enter the second half of the Spring Term our attention turns to supporting the Year 9 students with the next exciting phase of their education – choosing their GCSE subjects. This is the process by which Year 9 students select the subjects that they would like to study throughout Years 10 and 11.

There are a number of core subjects that students will study and these include Maths, English Literature and Language, Combined Science (unless selecting Triple Science) and either History, Ancient History or Geography. In addition to this we strongly encourage students to select either Spanish or French as we know that a language GCSE provides a cultural and linguistic gateway into our global community. Furthermore, a Language at GCSE is highly regarded by employers and universities alike.

Students will continue to have lessons in PE, Core Religious Studies and PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) as part of their broader curriculum entitlement. It is important to ensure the breadth as well as the depth of a student's curriculum. Studying these subjects means that the students continue to experience lessons to support their social, spiritual and physical wellbeing, whilst meeting DfE and National Curriculum expectations.

Students will have four option choices. Depending on their choices, they may end Year 11 with a differing number of qualifications. Below is a table illustrating some potential option combinations and the resulting number of qualifications.

Number of qualifications	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Example 1 (Triple Science and a language)	English Lit.	English Lang.	Maths	Triple Science (Biology)	Triple Science (Chemistry)	Triple Science (Physics)	History, Ancient History or Geography	French or Spanish	Option	Option
Example 2 (Most students will follow this path)	English Lit.	English Lang.	Maths	Science	Science	History, Ancient History or Geography	French or Spanish	Option	Option	
Example 3 (Some students may not choose to study a language)	English Lit.	English Lang.	Maths	Science	Science	History, Ancient or Geography	Option	Option	Option	

Cont/d ...

Option subjects available*

- Ancient History
- Business Studies
- Catering and Hospitality
- Childcare
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Fine Art
- French
- Motor Vehicle Studies
- Music
- PE (GCSE)
- PE (Cambridge Nationals Applied)
- Photography
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Psychology
- Triple Science

*Qualifications are subject to withdrawal if insufficient students choose the course.

What happens now?

This morning, Tuesday 20 February, students have had an Options Launch Assembly outlining the importance of the decision-making process that they are about to undertake, as well as an idea of the subjects on offer. Tonight, as previously shared with you in a letter before half term, we look forward to welcoming you to the Options Information Evening 5pm – 5:45pm to share information about the process, the timeline and how best to support your child. You are not expected to have read the options booklet or done anything else in preparation for this evening, we just hope you can join us. You will be provided with a paper copy of the options booklet however a link to the online version is [South Dartmoor Community College - Curriculum](#) should you prefer it. Then on Thursday 22 February, you are invited to the online Options and Progress evening. This is a dual-purpose evening, where you will learn about the progress your child is making in English, Maths, Science, Language, History and Geography, whilst also having the opportunity to speak to staff running option subjects. These are sometimes 'new' subjects that the students may not have studied before, so these conversations will be really useful. All this information was sent to you by Mr Cox earlier this week but in case you missed it, [here](#) is the link to the booking form.

Over the next few weeks there are series of events designed to further support the students before completing their options form. A link to the form to submit final option choice is included [here](#) and it will also be shared via Teams with the students. The deadline for Option choices submission is Friday 22 March at 2pm. Thereafter, we will place students in options we think the best fit, or where there is space.

Tuesday 20 February	Options information evening 5pm – 5:45pm Parents and students welcome.
Thursday 22 February	Year 9 Progress Evening and Options information evening. Book here.
Week of 4,11 & 18 March	In lesson opportunities to experience options subjects. Tutors and careers specialist staff available to provide support, advice and guidance around making subject choices.
Friday 22 March	Applications close 2.00 pm

Throughout the process, students will be provided with support, help and guidance about the importance of the choices that they are making. This ensures that their option choices support their future dreams and aspirations, that the choices are theirs and not influenced by factors such as friendship groups, and that the combination of subjects is challenging but achievable for all.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first instance, who will be able either to answer your question or direct it to the most appropriate person.

Kind regards



Emma Gallagher
Deputy Head teacher

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