

# Choices and Options 2024, Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

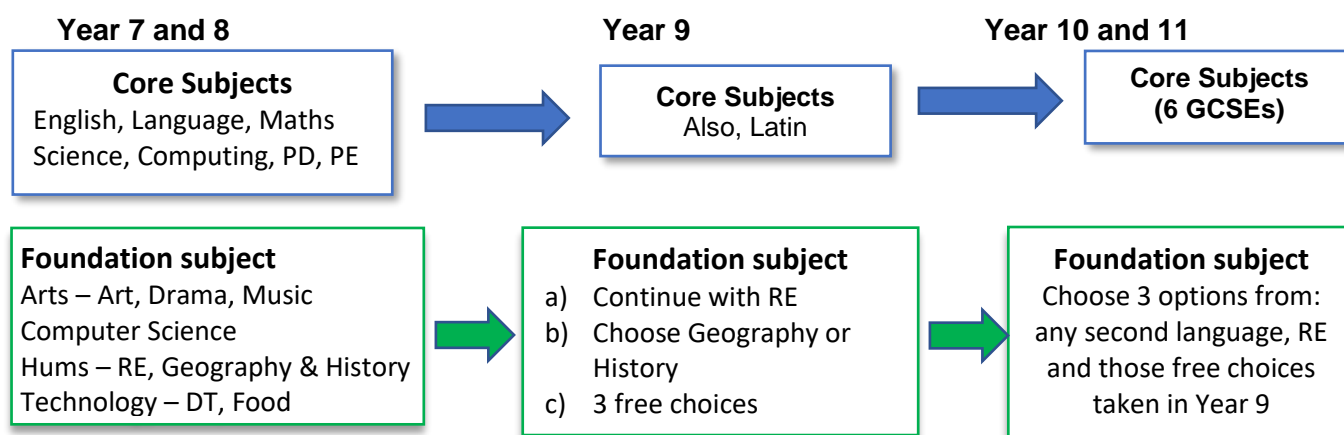
I hope you find this document useful. Choosing options is an exciting process, though a little daunting. This booklet provides an overview to our curriculum for the remaining three years of your child's time with us.

Firstly, you should be aware that pupils do not have a completely free choice! Throughout Years 9 to 11, the core subjects of English, Maths and Science will focus on the GCSE syllabi and a choice of either Double or Triple Sciences. Nearly all pupils will take GCSE English Language and Literature in our school as part of their core provision; German is offered as a language from year 9. Pupils must take part in core Computing and PE and the majority of pupils will continue to study a language. Beyond these compulsory aspects, pupils then have a choice of subjects they would like to study. It is important that pupils make informed decisions and so our option process gives plenty of opportunities for you to meet with colleagues and reflect on the options available.

The Year 9 curriculum is characterised by broader opportunities for pupils to experience new subjects such as Photography, Media Studies, and Religious Education as discrete option subjects. Meanwhile, all pupils will continue their learning in Humanities to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is experienced. The School takes a varied approach to the organisation of teaching groups to ensure that the challenges of learning in different disciplines are effectively met.

By the end of Year 9, pupils will have a second opportunity to focus their learning as they choose their subjects for examination entry. In addition to the core provision, they will choose three options to take to GCSE. We would hope all pupils continue with a Humanity because alongside a range of other subject disciplines, qualifications in these disciplines are a sound foundation for post-16 learning. Where pupils have particular interests in music or sport for example, the School provides ample opportunities for them to pursue their interests even if not taken as an examination subject. Additionally, pupils may wish to continue with their Latin or second language course. We actively promote these opportunities and are keen to celebrate the achievements of our pupils in their participation of these additional learning opportunities.

Our overriding aim is to ensure that as many pupils as possible are able to study their chosen subjects. However, this is not always possible to achieve due to the availability of colleagues and the need to ensure the viability of group sizes.



# The choices

These are the foundation courses we offer:

**Fine Art** is a vibrant and dynamic subject that offers pupils the freedom to learn in ways that inspire and bring out the best in their skills and knowledge.

**Computer Science** has real relevance in our modern world. The course will give an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and what goes on “behind the scenes”.

**Design and Technology** covers core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, techniques and equipment.

**Food Preparation and Nutrition** provides an opportunity for pupils to prepare a wide variety of different dishes. We will investigate the functions of different ingredients as well as understand the foods that contribute to a healthy diet.

**Drama** provides pupils with the opportunity to develop creative and performing skills, analysis, evaluation, knowledge and understanding. Drama has three components: understanding drama; devising drama and texts in practice (performing extracts). Pupils specialise as actors. Drama develops transferable skills in communication, creativity and problem-solving and develops the confidence pupils need for the future.

**Geography** gives pupils the opportunity to learn about both natural and social sciences. We will consider how geography impacts everyday life, the key opportunities and challenges facing the world.

**History** will help pupils understand past events and people. We believe that as a society there is importance of not just learning history but learning from history.

**Latin** (within the English curriculum) provides a foundation in linguistic and cultural competence, enabling pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of the Roman world through reading and responding to its language and literature. Latin can be taken either as a second language or as the main language – replacing French or Spanish

**Modern Languages (French, German and Spanish)** will help pupils develop their ability to write and speak in the language and to understand the language when it is written or spoken. Pupils may take a second language as one of their three options.

**Media** - each time we watch television, read a newspaper or access the internet, we are exposed to the power of the Media. This dynamic and exciting subject provides pupils with an excellent tool to navigate and analyse the world we live in.

**Music** is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. Our course offers pupils the chance to study a wide range of musical genres, with more opportunities for practical learning.

**Photography** will enable pupils to consider how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed and interpreted in images. Pupils will develop a knowledge and understanding of photography and cameras.

**Physical Education** is a combination of practical and theory work that builds pupils understanding of anatomy and physiology and the social aspects of sport. Pupils will need to be competent in three different sports.

**Religious Education** course involves the learning about two major world religions, Christianity and Islam and looks at their beliefs and practices, their customs and traditions, their festivals and holy days. We also learn different ethical perspectives. Meanings are conveyed in images, artefacts and products in their chosen area(s) of learning.

**Sculpture** - pupils will gain knowledge and understanding of how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed in images, artefacts and products in their chosen area(s) of learning.

# The options timeline

<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	The online form will be open for you to populate your choices. You can make changes until the programme closes
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Year 8 Options Fair and Year 9 Meet the Tutor Evening 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm</b> Year 8 parents may speak with subject leaders and colleges and Year 9 pupils who are still unsure can look again at the options with their Tutor
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Year 9 Parents' Evening</b> We recommend you prioritise booking the preferred Foundation teachers for this evening rather than English, Language, Maths and Science which pupils have to take.
<b>Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Year 9 options deadline - Closing 3pm</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 8 Parent Evening</b> We recommend you prioritise booking foundation subjects to support making appropriate choices for next year.
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 8 Choice deadline - Closing 3pm</b>

## Option Fair rooming

<b>Room</b>	<b>Subjects</b>
Maths 9	Maths, Computing
Maths 10	Drama, Music, PE,
Language 14	English, Media, Latin, and Languages
Technology 2	Design Technology, Science
Technology 3	Art, Photography, Sculpture
Technology 4	Geography, History, RE
Technology 5	Food and Nutrition

## Year 9 Tutor rooming

<b>Tutor Group</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Air 1</b> (Ms Lavery-Baraile) and <b>Air 2</b> (Ms Sherwood)	Maths 5
<b>Earth 1</b> (Ms Sawyer) and <b>Earth 2</b> (Mr Sambrook)	Maths 6
<b>Fire 1</b> (Mrs Riddell) and <b>Fire 2</b> (Mr McPhee)	Maths 7
<b>Water 1</b> (Mr Bratchell) and <b>Water 2</b> (Mr Packer)	Maths 8

## Further information about the courses

The detail of our curriculum can be found on our website. This can be found at:

<https://www.westgate.hants.sch.uk/secondary-phase-curriculum>

# MAP

