

Year 9 Choice Survey December 2020

Dear <<Forename>> and Parents/Carers

You are reaching a really exciting and important part of your education at Corsham School. After Christmas, you will be doing your “Options”, and choosing which subjects to study for GCSE in Years 10 and 11 leading to the examinations in 2023. This letter will start the ball rolling and get you thinking about what you might choose. In your Y9 classes, as we head towards Christmas, you will be having “Taster sessions” in optional GCSE/equivalent subjects to give you a feel for what the Y10 courses will be like.

Information about each optional subject can be found on the following page on the school website, “Option Subject Information 2021-2023” at the link below:
<https://www.corsham.wilts.sch.uk/page/?title=Options+Information&pid=113>

Before we do your “Options”, I am asking you to take part in the survey below to prepare for the process which starts in January. I need to know which subjects and above all, combinations of subjects will be popular. This information will help in designing “choice blocks” that suit the needs of most Y9 pupils.

First, what does the Y10 and 11 curriculum look like?

60% of your curriculum is compulsory and all students will be doing those subjects. The final 4 subjects or 40% of your curriculum is made up of your Option choices. So, it is important to get these choices right.

There are rules attached to this choice outlined in the pathways section below. Here is the full curriculum you will be following in Year 10 showing these 4 option choices.

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Re/Pshe	PE	Option 1	2	3	4
Hours/2 weeks	8	7	10	1	4	5	5	5	5
How many GCSEs	Lit and Lang 2	1	Combined Sciences 2	0	0	1	1	1	1

Pathways

All Year 9 students will be placed into one of 3 pathways. These pathways will guide you into choices that will challenge you, engage you and build on your past learning to ensure you are following a curriculum that will give you success, suit your needs and will not create potential barriers for your future.

The Dfe is recommending that at least 75% of students follow an “ebacc” curriculum, (GCSEs in English Language and Literature, Maths, at least double Science, a Foreign Language and one of either History or Geography). All students can take these subjects regardless of pathway.

Pathway Title	Profile of student	Choices
Pathway 3	May have a history of high academic scores from tests going back to primary school, achieves well with academic challenges, may have very high (6+) GCSE target grades, may be aspiring to go to a top university, will probably be thinking about facilitating (academic) A levels post 16	Have to choose one foreign language in one block, then one of either History or Geography in another then 2 further free choices but should consider triple sciences
Example		Spanish, Geography, Art, Drama
Pathway 2	Aiming for 5 and above in English, Maths, Sciences and in a range of other GCSEs. May have high target grades (5+). Will probably be thinking about A levels and or Level 3 Tech qualifications/Apprenticeships post 16	Must do at least one of either History, Geography, Computing, Foreign Languages, 3 further free choices
Example		Photography, DS, Business, History
Pathway 1	May do best when more practical and “hands-on” subjects are mixed with academic. May be more successful in project work and unit tests rather than everything based on a final exam at the end of 2 years, may be considering Level 3 Tech qualifications, Apprenticeships or vocational courses post 16	Should seriously consider one of History, Geography, Computing, Foreign Languages alongside GCSE equivalents such as Btec DiT, Graphics, Business and Sport Science but 4 free choices
Example		Graphics, Geography, French, Sport Science

Please note that some combinations are not permitted as the content of the courses is too similar and counts as the same qualification. You are only allowed to choose one of Art, Textiles and Graphics and one of either GCSE Computer Science or BTEC DiT.

For you, <<Forename>>, we are recommending <<Result: Options Pathway - R>>

Choice survey form – (The real options will be in January)

Name <<Forename>> <<Surname>>

Tutor <<reg>>

To help in planning for your options after Christmas, would you kindly complete the form attached and return it to your Tutor no later than December 11th.

Remember, at this stage, this is just a survey. Real options come later in January.

You are on <<Result:Options Pathway - R>>

	Must choose	Should consider choosing
Pathway 3	History or Geography and one Modern Foreign Language (MFL)	Triple Science
Pathway 2	At least one of History/Geography/MFL/Computing	
Pathway 1		At least one of History/Geography/MFL/Computing

In light of this, please tick your 4 choices in the box below.

Survey Sheet

The Optional GCSE subjects.

ART (FINE ART)*		BTEC DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**	
ART TEXTILES*		GCSE COMPUTING**	
BUSINESS STUDIES		MEDIA STUDIES	
DANCE		MUSIC	
DRAMA		PE GCSE/CAM NAT SPORTS SCIENCE	
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY		PHOTOGRAPHY	
FOOD & NUTRITION		FRENCH	
GRAPHIC DESIGN*		GERMAN	
HISTORY		SPANISH	
GEOGRAPHY		RELIGIOUS STUDIES	
SOCIOLOGY		TRIPLE SCIENCES	

*only one of these 3 are permitted

**only one of these 2 are permitted

Parental signature _____