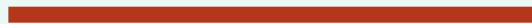




# Year 8 Curriculum Choices 2022-2023

**Mr Greenish**

Assistant Principal (Curriculum and Progress)



**ACHIEVEMENT ● CARE ● EXCELLENCE**



# Welcome



## Year 9 at GWA

- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Ambitious and aspirational curriculum
- Diverse and coherent curriculum choices
- Confident, independent, life-long learners

**A special feature of the Great Western Academy curriculum is that we offer a selection of option subjects which students study in Year 9.**

**Why?**



**This gives students the opportunity to try subjects which they might want to opt for at GCSE and to spend more time doing subjects that they enjoy and find interesting.**

It also gives them experience of making good choices so that they are better placed to make well informed decisions when they choose their GCSE subjects next year.

# Y9 Curriculum at GWA

In Year 9 the curriculum is still made up from the same core subjects

**Options (x5)**

**Students choose to continue with 5 of the following KS3 subjects:**

- **Art**
- **Computing**
- **Dance**
- **Drama**
- **Additional MFL (French AND Spanish)**
- **MUSIC**
- **Business Studies (Introduction)**
- **PE Theory**

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Mathematics

English

Science\*

History

Geography

P&R

PE

DT

MFL

PSHE

Combined  
Science

- Covers all of the program of study in biology, chemistry and physics
- Less content and shorter exams
- Accepted by all post-16 providers to access A-level science courses (Grade 6-6 minimum requirement)

Separate  
Sciences

- Provides greater depth and greater challenge
- More content and longer exams
- The corresponding subject at grade 6 required as a **minimum** for A-level courses

- If you are in X1/X2/Y1/Y2, you will start the separate Science GCSE course.
- If you are in X3 or Y3, you will start on the combined Science course.

In both cases, this is so you can access the learning at an appropriate pace and level of challenge, helping you to achieve the best GCSE outcomes possible.

# French and Spanish

## Questions

## Responses

3. Please choose your preferred option for languages in Year 9 \*

- French only
- Spanish only
- Both French and Spanish
- Intervention session – please only click if you currently attend an intervention session in place of your languages lessons



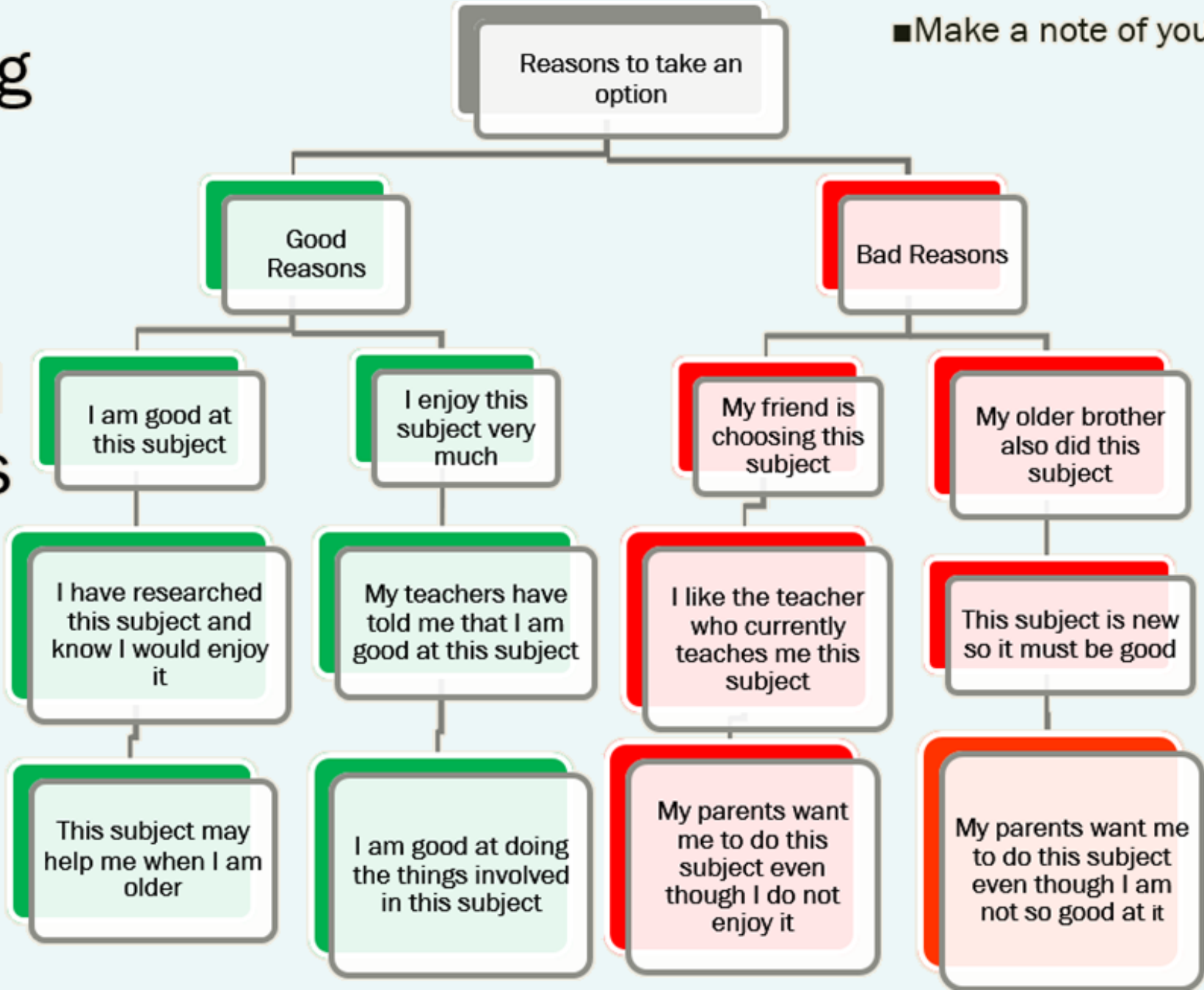
**GUARANTEE**

We will do everything we can to enable students to study their first-choice options.

However, no school can guarantee they will be able to timetable all combinations.

■ Make a note of your choices

# Choosing your options: Good and Bad Reasons







## Next steps...?



- Talk decisions through with your child, but encourage them to make the decision themselves
- Encourage your child to think carefully about what subjects they want to continue with
- Encourage your child to talk to their teachers about what they will study in Year 9 in their subject and how it might help them in the future
- Be ready to make choices over the half-term break
- Encourage your child not to just do what their friends are doing!
- Ignore the need to make a decision – otherwise the decision will be made for each student
- Do it alone – talk to people around you and have a think about what the consequences of each decision (good and bad) might be
- Forget... we are here to help you!

# How Do I Make My Choices?

Students will be sent a link to a Microsoft Form.

Please think carefully before making option choices:

- have they spoken to their teachers about their choices?
- are they making the choice for the right reasons?
- have they thought about GCSE options – what will these GCSEs enable them to do when they are 16?

Use the form to indicate your choices, including your reserve choice

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Form titled "Year 9 Curriculum Choices (Combined Science) Feb 2022". The form includes the following text:

You will start the GCSE Combined Science pathway in Year 9 and this will continue through Years 10 and 11 resulting in you gaining two GCSEs in Combined Science, with grades 1-9 available.

Please make your choices below, following the instructions carefully.

Your choices should be submitted by 3pm on Wednesday 31st March 2021.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to your teachers and/or your tutor.

Hi, Rupert. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

\* Required

1. Full name \*

Enter your answer

2. Tutor Group \*

Select your answer

3. Please choose your preferred option for languages in Year 9 \*

French only

Spanish only

Both French and Spanish

Intervention session – please only click if you currently attend an intervention session in place of your languages lessons

# Who Can I Ask For Help?



Reassurance – **we are here to support you...**

- Mr Greenish: about any part of the options process
- Your teachers: subject information – use the subject evening to help find out more and watch the subject videos
- Your tutors: they can give an overview of your strengths
- Mr Smith: Assistant Principal (Head of Sixth Form) – if you are already thinking forward to GCSEs then ask about what A Levels these could lead to
- Mrs Winsbury – Assistant Principal (Inclusion and Wellbeing): ask her about any SEN related questions

# What Happens Next?

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – Y9 Curriculum Choices Assembly for Y8 students

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February** – Y9 Curriculum Choices Evening for Y8 parents & students

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Y8 Subject Evening

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March** – Deadline for completing curriculum choices forms

**Term 4 onwards** – Follow up advice and guidance interviews for some students



**Thank you**



**ACHIEVEMENT ● CARE ● EXCELLENCE**

