

## Year 9 Options Evening Frequently Asked Questions



Please see below questions raised during the Year 9 Options Evening held on 12 January 2022.

The presentation shared by Mr Davis and Mr Greenish is available at <https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/y9options>

1. My son missed the presentation at school Monday, is there another session for them at all?  
**Hopefully tonight should help, if not then his best bet is to talk with Mr Greenish or with his tutor, they'll be happy to help**
2. Can you do Creative I Media and Computer Science?  
**Although you can, yes, we would have a conversation about this with the student(s) concerned as the subjects have overlaps and may lead to a less broad curriculum overall**
3. On the options form, it states only 3 choices on the lower part, can we pick more than three?  
**You need to select one from Geography, History, Spanish and French first and then three further subjects. It needs to be a total of 4, so one from the top and 3 others. If a student needs help narrowing things down we are happy to advise**
4. When will students be advised whether they will study combined or separate science?  
**In year 10 students will be placed onto either the combined science route or the separate route so this will be made clear at the end of year 9 when students receive their timetables for next year. Nationally about 16%-18% of students take separate sciences - we obviously look to do better than that and will start with a much larger percentage of our students on the course. This then allows many more students the opportunity, even if some eventually end up taking combined science at the end of year 11.**
5. Can we see the range of A level subjects that GWA offer?  
**The current subjects offered in Sixth Form is available at <https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form-apply> , however this may broaden further in the next few years as the Sixth Form grows**
6. Hi. Are students able to select both French and Spanish even if they have only been doing one up to this point?  
**This would be tricky but not necessarily impossible, especially if it was decided now and the students did some extra work in the subject over the coming months to keep up to speed. Best to talk with your current languages teacher.**

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7. Would you be able to do business studies for A levels if you didn't take it as GCSE?  
**Short answer is yes as GCSE Business is not a pre-requisite for A-level Business. Longer answer would be that to take it at GCSE would definitely help if you're considering doing it at A-level!**
8. What happens if my child doesn't have enough subjects they want to study?  
**Please refer back to the presentation and the reasons for choosing the course. All students do need to choose 4 options to study to ensure they have a full timetable and a full complement of GCSEs. Students should talk to their tutor or subject teacher if they are having difficulties making decisions.**
9. What are the advantages of studying subjects which lead to the English Baccalaureate?  
**It reflects taking a broad range of subjects, but other than that nothing specific! To do a language and a humanity alongside the core is just a 'good thing' for students with a wide range of interests and ability.**
10. My child is reluctant to take either geography or history and is instead looking at music and art - will this keep her options open in the future and still provide the academic grounding for a profession?  
**There is no compulsion on anyone to study geography or history, as long as they understand they won't then be able to do them at A level. It also may restrict similar other subjects such as politics. However, studying music and art keeps the doors open for future study of these subjects.**
11. My child has an EHCP what support is there for them  
**All students will be given the support that is needed for them. There is no restriction about which courses they can choose. Students with EHCPs will be supported by Ms Winsbury and her team throughout the whole process.**