



Year 9 Curriculum Choices 2023-2024

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?

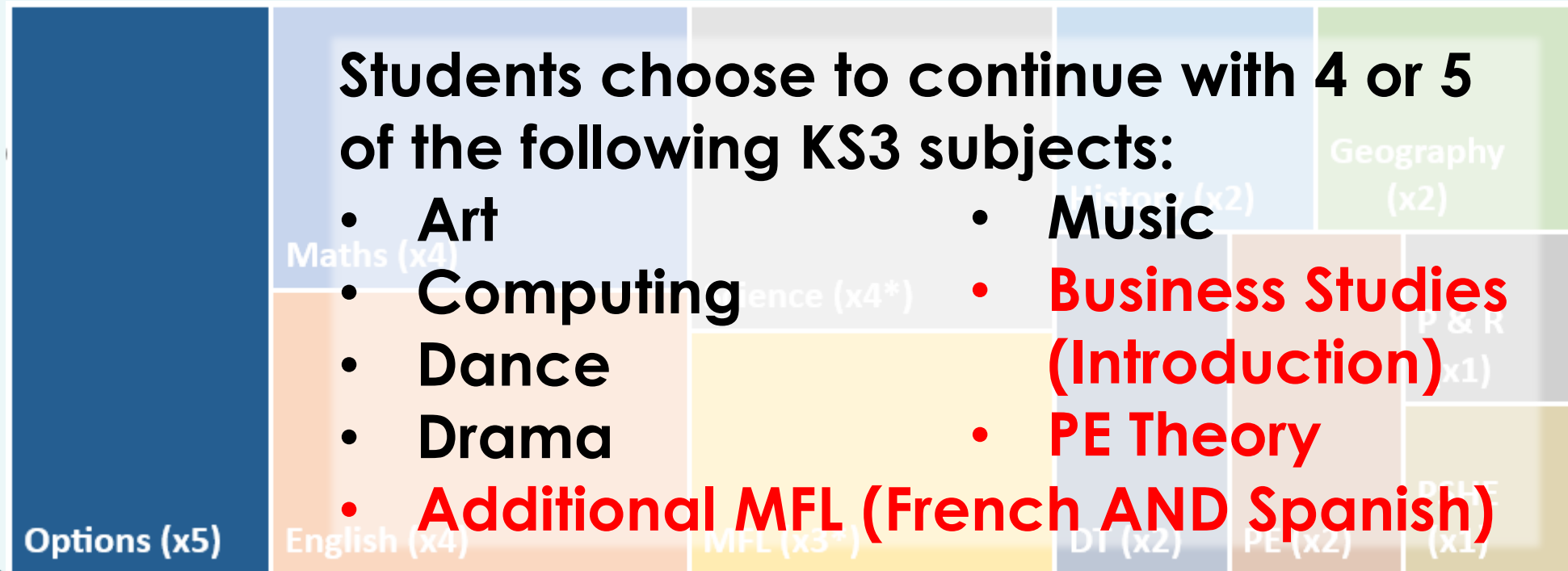


This gives students the opportunity to try subjects which they might want to opt for at GCSE and to spend more time doing subjects that they enjoy and find interesting.

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 alongside 5 optional subjects.



COMPULSORY

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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

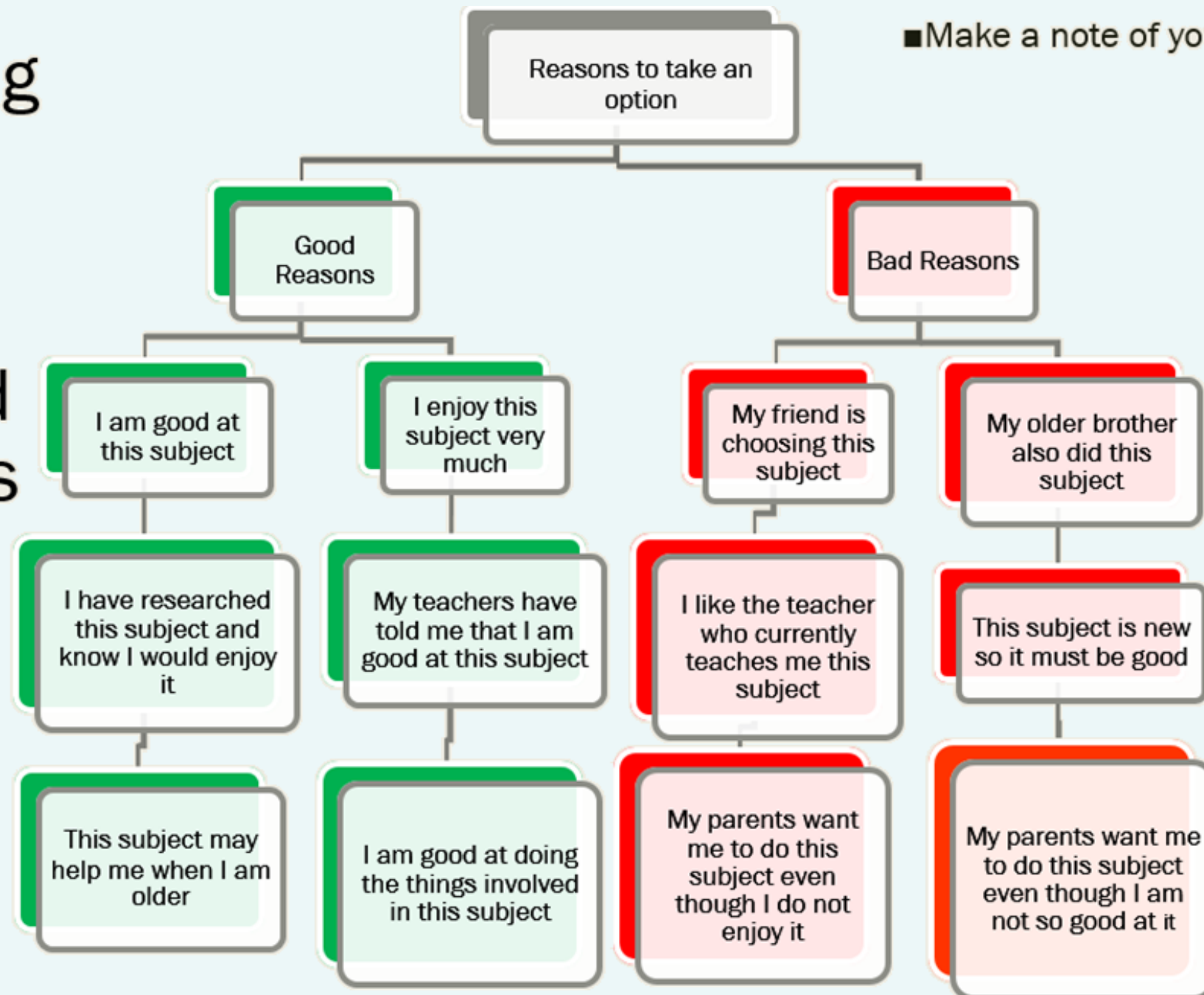


We will do everything we can to enable students to study their first-choice options.

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

Choosing your options: Good and Bad Reasons

■ Make a note of your choices





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 is set against a teal background with white text. It includes the following content:

- Title:** Year 9 Curriculum Choices (Combined Science) Feb 2022
- Introductory 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."
- Privacy Notice:** "Hi, Rupert. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address."
- Required Field:** A red asterisk indicates a required field.
- Question 1:** "1. Full name *". Below it is a text input field with the placeholder "Enter your answer".
- Question 2:** "2. Tutor Group *". Below it is a dropdown menu with the placeholder "Select your answer".
- Question 3:** "3. Please choose your preferred option for languages in Year 9 *". Below it are four radio button options: "French only", "Spanish only", "Both French and Spanish", and "Intervention session – please only click if you currently attend an intervention session in place of your languages lessons".

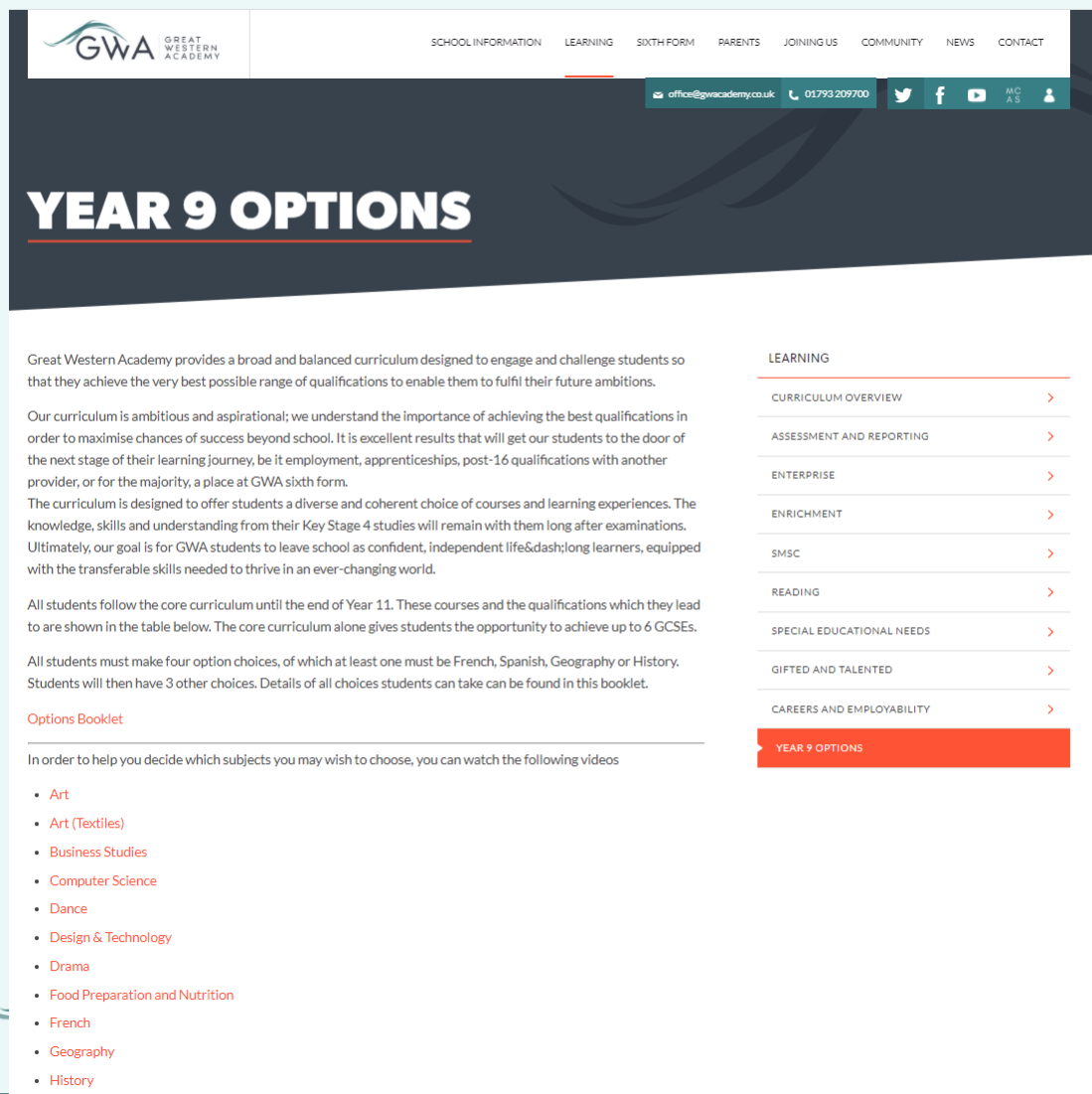
Who Can I Ask For Help?



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

Where Can I Go For Help?



GWA GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY

SCHOOL INFORMATION LEARNING SIXTH FORM PARENTS JOINING US COMMUNITY NEWS CONTACT

office@gwacademy.co.uk 01793 209700

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Great Western Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum designed to engage and challenge students so that they achieve the very best possible range of qualifications to enable them to fulfil their future ambitions.

Our curriculum is ambitious and aspirational; we understand the importance of achieving the best qualifications in order to maximise chances of success beyond school. It is excellent results that will get our students to the door of the next stage of their learning journey, be it employment, apprenticeships, post-16 qualifications with another provider, or for the majority, a place at GWA sixth form.

The curriculum is designed to offer students a diverse and coherent choice of courses and learning experiences. The knowledge, skills and understanding from their Key Stage 4 studies will remain with them long after examinations. Ultimately, our goal is for GWA students to leave school as confident, independent life-long learners, equipped with the transferable skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

All students follow the core curriculum until the end of Year 11. These courses and the qualifications which they lead to are shown in the table below. The core curriculum alone gives students the opportunity to achieve up to 6 GCSEs.

All students must make four option choices, of which at least one must be French, Spanish, Geography or History. Students will then have 3 other choices. Details of all choices students can take can be found in this booklet.

Options Booklet

In order to help you decide which subjects you may wish to choose, you can watch the following videos

- Art
- Art (Textiles)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History

LEARNING

- CURRICULUM OVERVIEW
- ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
- ENTERPRISE
- ENRICHMENT
- SMSC
- READING
- SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
- GIFTED AND TALENTED
- CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

- School website:
<https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/learning/year-9-options>
- [Career Pilot](#) Picking your options - This page gives you a range of information on how to pick your GCSE subject options.
- [Career Pilot](#) Using LMI - This page shows you Labour Market Information (LMI) for a range of areas. Use it to see which industries are growing, where employment rates are higher and see how many apprenticeship opportunities are available in that area.

What Happens Next?

Wednesday 1st March – Year 9 Curriculum Choices Evening for Y8 parents & students



Tuesday 7th March – Year 8 Subject Evening

Thursday 30th March – Deadline for completing curriculum choices forms

Term 6 – 2022-2023 student timetables published



Thank you



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