



Wednesday 7th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 9 GCSE Options Process

This morning, we launched the Options Process with Year 9 students during an Information Assembly. Students received an overview of the process, the range of subjects to select from and the support available to all students.

From today the Options Booklet and subject information videos are available via our school website at www.gshs.org.uk/year-9-options.

All students study the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science. They will also attend lessons in Physical Education, Religious Education, Careers Education and Personal & Social Education. In addition, students will select five subjects, ranking them in order of preference, they wish to study in Year 10 and Year 11. Students will be allocated four of the five subjects they select within their rank order.

In their ranked options, students must select **at least one subject** from Geography, History, French and Spanish.

The GCSE option subjects are listed below:

Geography	Fine Art	Hospitality & Catering
History	Photography	Health & Social Care
French	Textiles	Drama
Spanish	Sport	Music
Computer Science	Media	Business Studies
	ICT	Religious Studies

Students are encouraged to study a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people. Choosing both a humanity subject (Geography | History) and language subject (French | Spanish) at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, this combination is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

On Thursday 29th January we will host the Year 9 Options Evening in School, 5:00 - 7:00pm, for all parents/carers and students. This is a very important evening which will include a Headteacher Presentation, Department Visits and a bookable 1:1 Appointment with an Options Advisor. The appointment will focus on a student's interests, current level of effort in their subjects, long-term ideas about careers and the way they like to learn. Following the conclusion of the 1:1 appointment

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Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher:

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher:

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)



George Stephenson High School

the Option Form can be submitted either in person on the night or electronically. The deadline for selection and submission is Friday 13th February. Further information about booking an appointment at the Options Evening will follow.

Please take time to process the range of information and guidance available, we do welcome conversations with parents/carers during the process and will do our best to answer queries quickly. At each stage in the process, you will be kept informed. Do not hesitate to contact Mr Patrick, Year 9 Guidance Manager, or Miss Tatters, Year 9 Progress Leader, with any queries.

We look forward to seeing you at the Options Evening on Thursday 29th January.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D. Lee
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