

# Year 9 GCSE Options Information

## Evening: Thursday 12th February



***Presentation 1 at 6pm:***  
***9K1, 9K2, 9K3, 9H1, 9H2***

***Presentation 2 at 7pm:***  
***9H3, 9E1, 9E2, 9E3***



# Y9 GCSE Options Information Evening

*Presentation 1 at 6pm: 9K1, 9K2, 9K3, 9H1, 9H2*

*Presentation 2 at 7pm: 9H3, 9E1, 9E2, 9E3*

This is a presentation for both students and parents to help guide them through the process of choosing their GCSE options

GCSE  
OPTIONS  
2026-28

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
2026

# The Next Steps

- At Great Marlow School, we aim to develop ***'compassionate, successful and resilient contributors that will create a better society'.***
- The GCSE Options process is an important one and is the first time in your child's educational career that they have the agency to decide on what they want to do.
- The decisions they make now will contribute to how well they succeed in their education and in their life beyond school.

# Electronic Options Booklet



- This will guide you through the options process
- It contains information about the option subjects and the core subjects students will study at GCSE including course content and assessment information
- You can locate the booklet on the school website and download /print to go at home ([Link](#))



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# How not to choose...

You should not choose a subject because:

- You've heard it's easy
- Somebody else wants you to do it
- You like the teacher
- Your friend says they're doing it

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# How to choose...

- 1. Enjoyment:** Choose subjects you think you will enjoy. This means researching content closely and asking teachers and others who know you well for advice.
- 2. Aptitude:** Choose subjects you think you will be good at - you will be more likely to enjoy them as well!
- 3. Prospects:** Think seriously about future ambitions. If you already have a career in mind, check entry requirements for specific courses at university or internships and work back from there.
- 4. Balance:** If you have no idea what you want to do in the future make sure that your options provide a broad and balanced programme.
- 5. Independence:** Don't choose based on what friends are doing or based on favourite teachers. Make your own decisions!



# The English Baccalaureate

- This is a school's GCSE performance indicator which measures the percentage of students that achieve 5+ grades 5-9 in a specific group of subjects
- In the first option choice students will choose one of the following: **French, Spanish, History, Geography or Computer Science**
- Students have free choice with their remaining 3 options – which may include subjects above

# Optional Curriculum- 40%



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1. Pupils choose a total of **4** option subjects
2. Pupils choose one option from the 4 top choices and three choices from the bottom box
3. You will also select 2 reserve choices in case your original choices cannot be accommodated into the timetable

One option from here

Spanish	French
Geography	History
Computer Science	

Art & Design	Hospitality and Catering
Business	French
Citizenship & Politics	Geography
Child Development	History
Computer Science	Media Studies
D&T – Graphic Products	Music
D&T – Textiles Technology	Physical Education
D&T - Resistant Materials	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
Drama	Spanish
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Statistics

Three options from here

# Core Curriculum- 60%

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Science Trilogy (Double Award) GCSE or Separate Sciences
- Core PE (not examined)
- Core RSHE (not examined)



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# Design & Technology

Students can choose **one** Design and Technology subject:

- **Resistant Materials**
- **Graphics**
- **Textiles**

All Design & Technology subjects involve lots of practical work!

Students should consider their skill level when selecting an option.

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# Food Related Options

We also offer either:

- **Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE**  
(more academic)
- **Hospitality and Catering Level 1&2** (one course covers level 1 and level 2-  
more vocational)

*If students are considering a Food Technology course OR a combination of D&T and Food Technology, then we recommend a discussion with Mr N Taylor prior to selection.*

[ntaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:ntaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk)

# MFL

Students have studied either French OR Spanish since Year 7.

If a student chooses to study a MFL at KS4, this should be the language they have studied since Year 7.

*Please speak to Miss T King to discuss exceptional circumstances linked to MFL, prior to selection [tking@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:tking@gms.bucks.sch.uk)*

# TOP TIPS FOR Choosing the right GCSEs

1. **Read** the Options Booklet carefully.
2. **Parents/Carers** - Any subject specific questions please contact the relevant teachers or HoDs.
3. **Do not** make decisions based on friendship groups!
4. **Students** – Communication is key! Speak to your subject teachers/form tutors and family.
5. **Consider** recent progress report data.
6. **Ask yourself** - What do you enjoy? Choose subjects that are engaging and enjoyable!
7. **Careers** - Are there certain careers that need specific qualifications from certain subjects?



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**Think carefully!**

- **Options choices affect the next 2 years and beyond**
- **DO NOT RUSH THE PROCESS!**



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**THURSDAY 12th FEB:** GCSE Options Evening in school. Parents/carers can also access the options booklet to support with discussions at home.

**TUESDAY 17th MARCH:** Year 9 Parent/Carer evening. A chance for parents and students to talk to the subject teachers.

**FRIDAY 13TH FEB:**  
Options form opens (sent to student email)

**WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH:** Final deadline for Options submission

# Thank You

- Thank you for taking the time to attend Options Evening to support your child through the options process.
- For subject specific questions, please contact subject teachers or the Head of Department.
- For questions regarding the process, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.
- Resources can be accessed via the School Website (Options area)



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**Miss A Miles**

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