



13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## Year 9 Options – making choices for the future

To help Year 9 students with their decision making, we are planning to run a session at the end of January where they will:

- Try out one of the subjects they haven't been able to do yet
- Get help and guidance on making choices for the future

For the first part, we are hoping to run an extended subject session where they will spend two lessons experiencing one of the option subjects. This may be one they did not get to experience as part of the Year 9 creative options, or a new subject such as business. Perhaps they are deciding between two subjects or are interested in a subject but feel that they do not know enough about it.

To help us plan for this, we need Year 9 students to **complete the online survey linked below by 8:30am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**. They will need to be logged on the school system to access it. The link has been sent to their school email address, so the easiest way to do this is to click on the link in that email.

<https://forms.office.com/r/h4TnnDCcYn>

At the end of this letter, I have added some of the frequent questions and answers we have been asked during the options process this year and in previous years. The Teams Live Q&A can still be viewed from the school webpage, along with the prospectus and subject videos:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/year-9-options-virtual-event/>

Yours faithfully

Miss M Ward

**Assistant Headteacher**

Email: [ward@qegs.email](mailto:ward@qegs.email)

**Why is RS compulsory?**

GCSE RE is part of our core offer for a number of reasons. We are a school of Christian religious character. The RE programme of study provides understanding and tolerance of other cultures and religions, supporting the teaching of British Values and SMSC. It provides further pathways into Sixth Form and builds on the skills used and developed in Ebacc subjects. It is a full GCSE but is delivered in half of the time of other subjects. We have a great standard of success and student feedback is overwhelmingly positive.

**What happens if the subjects you want to do are in the same block?**

Unfortunately, if subjects are in the same block, you won't be able to choose both as they are timetabled at the same time. We wish that we could make 100% of combinations possible each year, but unfortunately it isn't possible, and we have to put together blocks that meet the needs of as many students as possible.

*The blocks are available on the Year 9 options page <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/year-9-options-virtual-event/>*

**Do you have to take GCSE Business, to then go on and take it at A Level?**

No, there is no requirement to currently study business at GCSE before picking it up at A Level.

**How many hours of science are allocated for combined and triple science?**

All students study science for 10 hours as part of our core curriculum. If students choose triple science as one of their options, they will then have a further 6 hours, so 16 hours in total.

All students study all three sciences.

**Do I need to choose triple science to study A level sciences?**

No, you can access A level sciences from combined science (trilogy) so long as you meet the entry requirements for those courses.

**How much sport do students do if they don't pick one of the PE options? Will they still be able to play for school teams?**

One hour per week, then an additional hour if they select it for their enrichment. Yes, they can still play for school and be involved in the co-curricular sport.

**Can I choose art and art textiles?**

No, there is too much crossover between these subjects, so it is not possible to opt for both.

**Would you recommend pupils do not take both Engineering and Design and Technology? And if not, why not?**

These subjects have many crossovers/similarities and so we would not recommend choosing both.