



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Year 9 Options Process

This week, Year 9 students begin the process of considering and preparing to select the GCSE courses that they will study from the beginning of Year 10. There are several key opportunities for students to receive the information they need and ask any questions they may have, as detailed below.

It is important that students in Year 9 begin to ready themselves for the challenges of GCSE study and think carefully about how they wish tailor and specialise their curriculum through their GCSE options choices.

Please note the following key dates when more information will be published, events held, and deadlines set:

Thursday 15th January

Year 9 Options Assembly in the Main Hall at 8.45am

Yesterday, students were presented with the GCSE Options process so that they understand the timeline for key events, considerations that should be made and information about GCSE courses. Following this assembly, students can now discuss the process with their tutors in PSHE time, as well as with subject teachers. Both can provide support, advice and guidance and respond to any questions that they have.

Students were also presented with more detailed information about the two option subjects which are new to them as they do not study them at KS3 – Media Studies and Business Studies.

Thursday 29th January and Thursday 5th February 4.00-6.30pm

Year 9 Parents' Evenings

Parents and students should use these evenings to ask subject teachers about the GCSE options they are interested in. This is also an opportunity to identify strengths and suitability for different courses.

Monday 9th February

Year 9 Options Evening at Robert Smyth Academy from 6.00 – 7.30pm

On this evening students and parents will talk to subject leaders and find out all the information they need to make informed choices. We anticipate all students and parents will want to attend this important evening as it is the first-time students can make choices about their curriculum and shape their learning experience. Information on all the courses available as GCSE options can be found in the Year 10 Options booklet on our website: [here](#)

Friday 27th February:

Year 9 Options Deadline

All students must complete the **Year 9 Options MS Form** by this date **including reserve choices**. Please note that whilst we aspire to give students as many of their first preferences as possible, it is not possible to guarantee this and students may need to use a reserve choice in order to make their combination of subject choices viable. The MS Form will be sent out on the day of Options Evening, Monday 9th February.

I hope that this is useful, and I trust that you will have a positive weekend ahead.

On a sadder note, we would like to extend our condolences to the friends and family of Connor Calleja, a former student in the Sixth Form at RSA – his loss is a tragedy for all and he and his loved ones are very much in our thoughts this week.

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Kirk
College Leader