



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Year 9 Options Process

As Year 9 students prepare to select their GCSE courses at the beginning of Year 10, there will be a series of important communications that will be published for students and parents in the coming weeks as well as important events. This is an important time as we prepare students for the challenges of GCSE study and provide them with the opportunity to tailor and specialise their curriculum package.

The Year 9 Options process will be led by Ms. Kirk (College Leader). Please note the following key dates when more information will be published, events held, and deadlines set:

Tuesday 30th January

Year 9 Options Assembly in the Main Hall at 8.45am

Students will be 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 will have an initial opportunity to discuss the process with their Form Tutors in PSHE lesson time during the coming fortnight and their teachers will provide support, advice and guidance and respond to any questions that they have.

Year 9 Options Information emailed to parents

Parents will receive key information following the Year 9 Options Assembly and they will be able to use this to discuss with students at home ahead of Year 9 Options Evening.

Monday 12th 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. A link will be sent out to Year 9 parents next week.

Friday 1st March:

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 it is possible that students may need to use a reserve choice in order to make their combination of subject choices viable.

I hope that this is useful, and I trust that you will have a positive weekend ahead and that students benefit from the additional time on Monday as this is a Trust Inset Day, and the school is closed to all students. We will reopen on Tuesday morning, at the usual time to welcome students back after their long weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal



Robert Smyth Academy

Key Dates: Spring Term

- **Monday 29th January:** Trust Inset Day (school closed to students)
- **Thursday 1st February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Saturday 3rd February:** Primary School STEM Conference
- **Wednesday 7th February:** Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening (appointment only)
- **Thursday 8th February:** Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 12th February:** Year 9 Options Evening (6 – 7.30pm)

- **Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February:** FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

- **Monday 26th February:** Year 11 Trial Exam Week
- **Tuesday 27th February:** PSHE Dropdown (P1)
- **Tuesday 12th March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Monday 18th March:** Year 7-9 in-class assessments begin (4-week window)
- **Thursday 21st March:** Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)

- **Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April:** EASTER HOLIDAY

Parents' Evening Dates (Summer Term)

- **Thursday 23rd May:** Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)
- **Thursday 6th June:** Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening (4.00 – 6.30pm)

Teacher Training Days (Summer Term)

- **Monday 29th January**
- **Friday 28th June**

Term Dates (2024/25), as previously communicated, can be found [here](#).