



27th March 2023

Dear Parent/carer,

Year 8 into Year 9 and beyond

Now is the time in Year 8 when we start the process of students choosing their personalised options for Year 9. Here are some important points to which we would like to draw your attention.

Planning for GCSEs:

In the second term of Year 9 students will start to make their option choices for GCSE.

A key expectation of recent Government reforms is that all pupils should take GCSEs in what are known as facilitating subjects. This is referred to as the English Baccalaureate and includes maths, English, two sciences, a humanity and a language. The idea is that by taking a broad core of subjects, no student, from any background, should have doors closed to future progression e.g. going to university or securing a higher level apprenticeship.

Students studying the full English Baccalaureate will eventually become the norm and therefore it is important to ensure that the current Year 9 students are equally well-qualified as those who will follow in the next few years. Our recommendation, therefore, is that most of our Year 9 students will take the English Baccalaureate, as have the majority of our students ever since its first introduction.

The Year 9 Timetable:

Our design of next year's Year 9 timetable takes all this into account. For the most part, the Year 9 timetable will be the same as that in Year 8 with students continuing to further their knowledge, skills and understanding in maths, English, science, history, geography, PE, RE and a language (French or German, to be chosen by students).

Students will also take three 'personalised options' selected from: art, dance, DT, drama, Food, ICT/computing, music or to continue studying two languages. The students will have two lessons a week of each option for the duration of year 9, giving them more time to deepen their knowledge of their chosen subjects.

Students will be guided through this process carefully and introduced to the content of these courses by their teachers in order to help choose the subjects that are right for them. The details of the courses are included here after this letter. We have also set up a website that contains information about each personalised option choice, including videos explaining a little more about each course. This website is available now through this [link](#), it has also been sent to all students via email.

The students will need to complete their choices online by Friday 21st April. They should have registered to use the online options site in form time, once they have done this the students will need to go to www.sims-options.co.uk to choose their three preferred subjects, plus one reserve and to choose their preferred language to continue into year 9. Students choosing to do both languages as one their personalised options should still choose which language is preferred in that section. To choose a subject simply click on it, you can change the order of your choices by dragging them up and down on the right hand side of the screen. To choose a reserve subject click on the reserve button on the subject. There is a video showing how to do this on the options website too.





**Stokesley School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be

Headteacher: Mrs H L Millett

If you have any difficulties registering for or using the options website please email admin@stokesleyschool.org. For any other queries please contact myself via v.wright@stokesleyschool.org

Yours faithfully,

Miss V Wright
Lead Practitioner

AMBITIOUS. RESPECTFUL. READY.

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