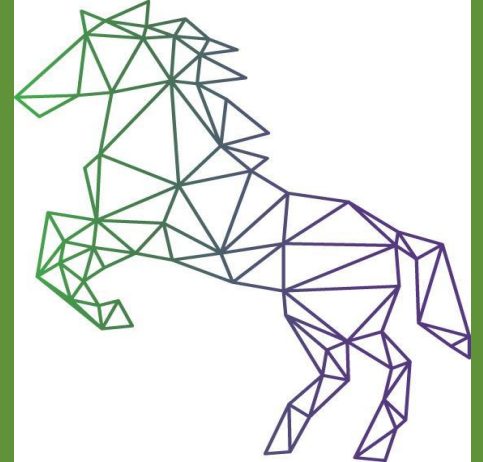


# Welcome to our Year 8 into 9 Options Evening

Thursday 5 February 2026  
6.45 - 8.00pm

Mrs Z Comiskey (Deputy Headteacher)  
Mrs C Marsh (Assistant Headteacher)



# Plan for the Evening

Horsforth School		
Year 8 into 9 & Year 9 into 10 Options Evening		
Thursday 5 February 2026 5.00 - 8.00pm		
	Current Year 8	Current Year 9
	All Depth + humanities subjects	GCSE / BTEC option subjects
Year 9 Parent/carers and students arrive at 5.00pm		
5.00 – 5.45pm	Do not attend	Talk 1 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls
5.45 – 6.30pm		Talk 2 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls
Year 9 Parent/carers and students leave at 6.30pm		
Year 8 Parent/carers and students arrive at 6.45pm		
6.45 – 7.15pm	Talk 1 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls	Do not attend
7.15 – 7.45pm	Talk 2 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls	
Year 8 Parent/carers and students leave		

Please note an email will be sent to all parent/carers tomorrow including this presentation and a copy of the options support booklet all students have also received



# Why do students pick options for Year 9?

- To enable students to have some say in the curriculum they are taught.
- To ensure that our students select the subjects which will allow them to achieve and progress to the next phase of their education successfully.
- To allow students to continue to study a wide range of subjects, whilst choosing some to focus on in **greater depth**.



# What will Students study in Year 9?

All Year 9 students will continue to study the  
**Core Curriculum Offer:**

- English (8 hours)
- Mathematics (8)
- Science (9)
- A language (5) – allocated at the start of Y7 – this cannot be changed in Year 8

- RS (2)
- PSHCE (1)
- PE (3)
- Core computing (1)

(hours per fortnight studied)

## Science in Year 9

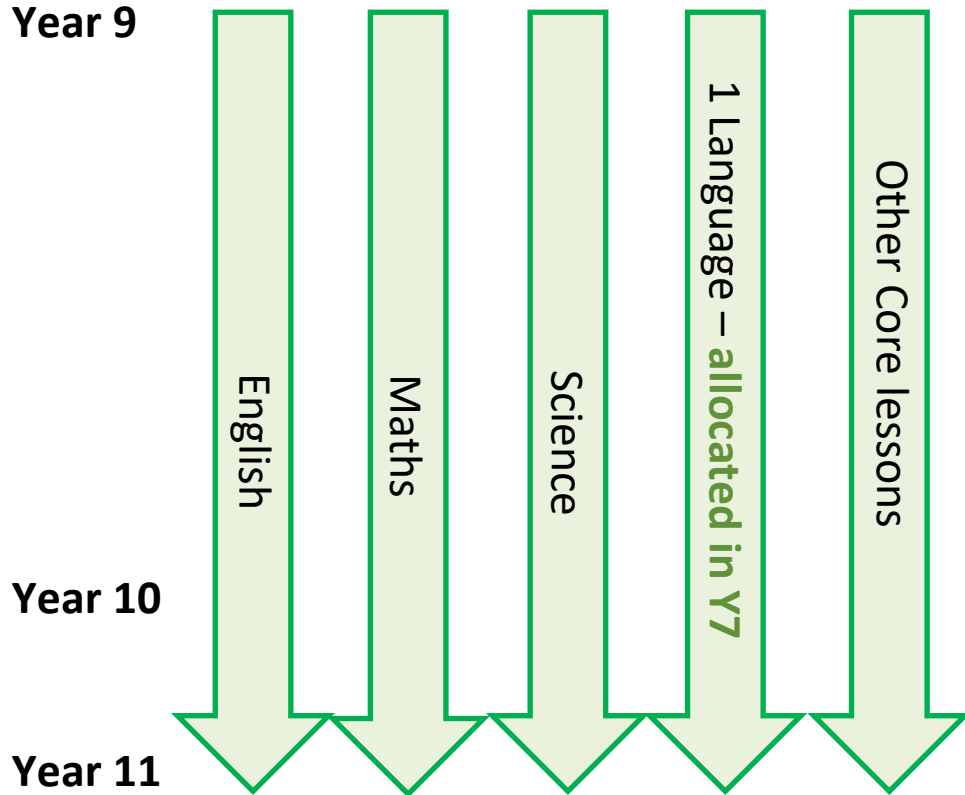
- All students study the same science content in Year 9
- This is taught as separate biology, chemistry and physics lessons
- Students can opt to study separate sciences in Year 10 and 11 (as one of their 2 option choices)

Students then have a number of choices to make...

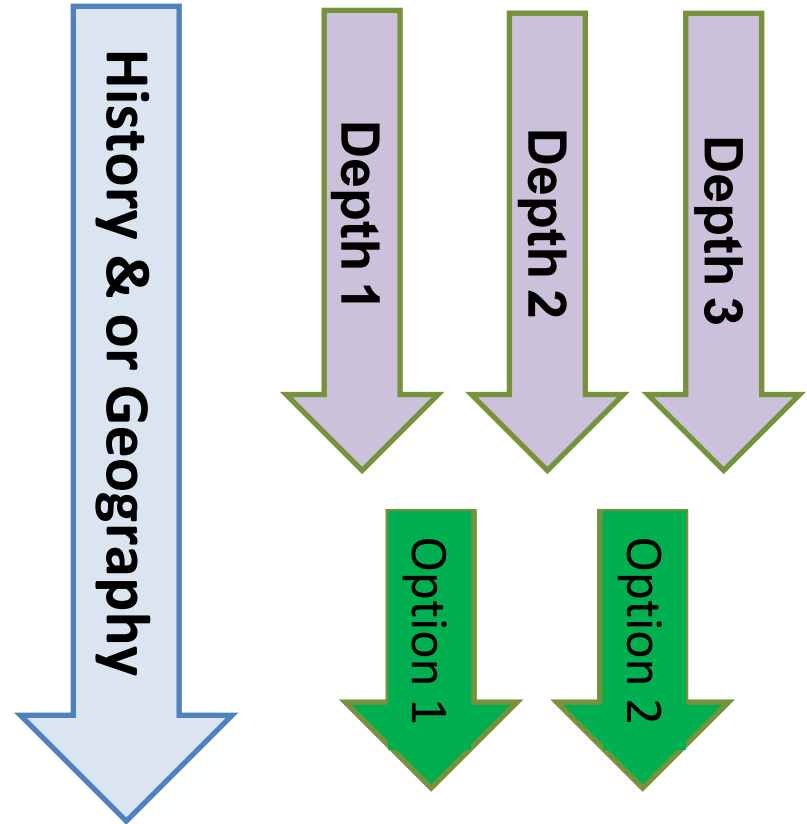


# What will Students study in Year 9?

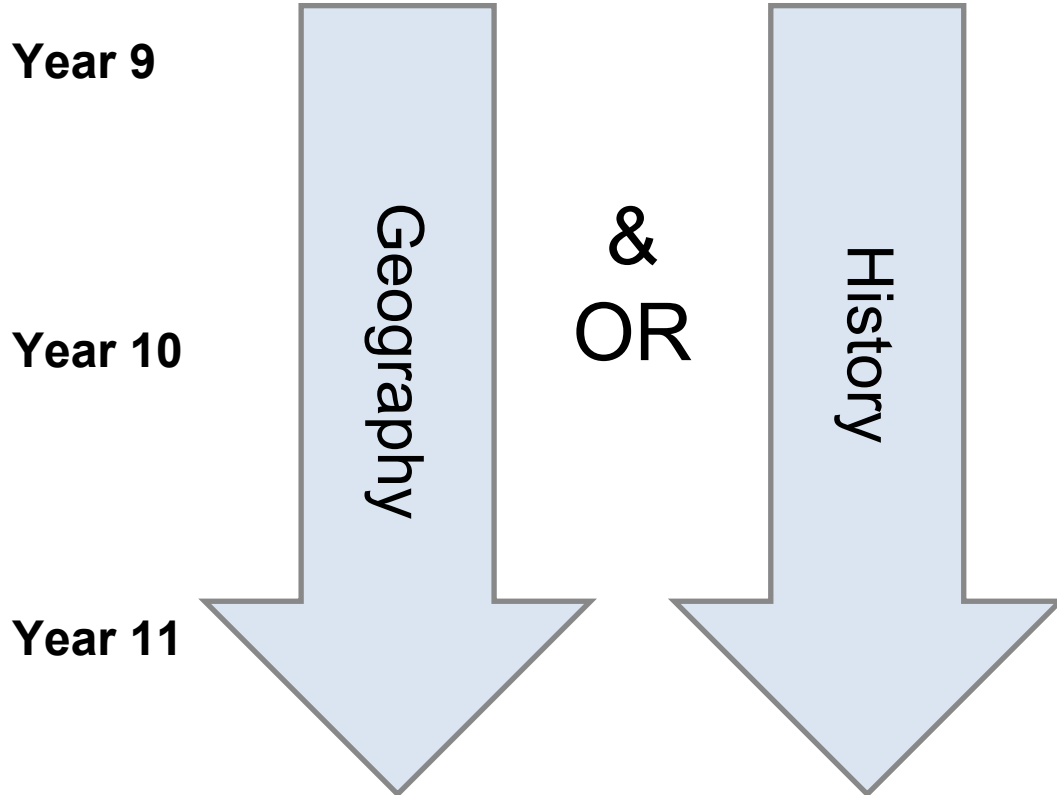
## All students study:-



## Students choose to study:-



# Choice 1 – The Humanities Option



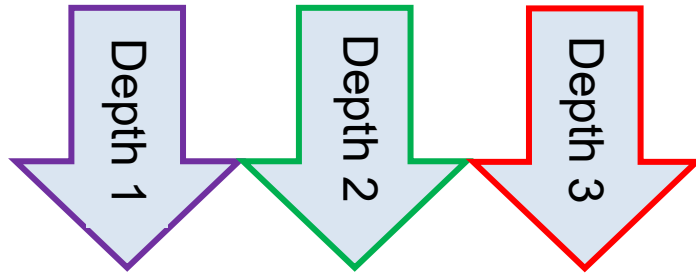
- Pick either History or Geography to study in more depth in Y9, for 3 hours per fortnight.
- **All students will continue to study the other subject for one hour per fortnight in Y9 only – they will then drop this when they start their GCSEs in Y10.**
- If they are considering **both** subjects for GCSE (**Dual option**), they must pick Geography as their humanities option and then History as a **depth option**

# Examples: Humanities option

Humanities option				Depth option 1		
1	2	3	1	1	2	3
History			Geog	Want to take <b>History only at GCSE?</b> Choose this as their Humanities option and pick 3 other Depth options		
Geography			History	Want to take <b>Geography only at GCSE?</b> Choose this as their Humanities option and pick 3 other Depth options		
Geography			History	Want to take <b>both Hist &amp; Geog at GCSE?</b> Choose this as their Humanities option and pick <b>2 other Depth options</b>		

# Choice 2 – Depth subjects

Students select **3\*** Depth subjects to study next year.  
This will help inform students' final GCSE options chosen whilst in Year 9.



## Depth subjects

Art  
Business  
Computer Science  
Design and Technology  
Drama  
Engineering

## Depth subjects

Food Preparation and Nutrition  
Health and social care  
IT  
Media  
Music

## Double Humanities

If they want to continue both Humanities at GCSE they **MUST** choose History as a depth option leaving them only 2 other options

## Mandarin Chinese

Students who take Chinese will only take 2 depth options – Chinese will fill the third option slot



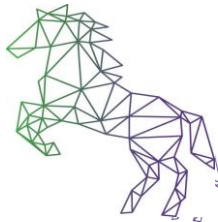
# Examples: Depth options

Humanities / Language	Depth 1	Depth 2	Depth 3	R
History French	Food	Media	Drama	DT
<b>Dual Hums</b> Spanish	Business	<b>History</b>	Engineering	Art
History <b>Chinese</b>	Music	Computing	<b>Chinese</b>	Art
<b>Dual Hums</b> <b>Chinese</b>	Technology	<b>History</b>	<b>Chinese</b>	Art

# Supporting them choosing options

## Talk to them – ask them...

- What they currently study and are doing well in
- If they are interested in trying a completely new subject
- Which subjects they currently find enjoyable and interesting
- What their future plans are and if certain subjects will help them get where they want to go...



# Making their Option Choices:

1. Check their school email on **Friday 6 February** (tomorrow) for a Welcome email from Applicaa with instructions and log in details (they have already been sent the Options booklet from school)
2. Make their subject choices on-line using Applicaa – when making option choices, they will be asked to **rank their subject choices in order of preference**
3. Check they have met the criteria listed on Applicaa and then submit their choices – at this point parents will receive an email stating the options your child has chosen
4. Make changes to their option choices up until the deadline – **Monday 2 March at 3pm**

applicaa

This year we are using a new on-line Options system in school called **Applicaa Options+**



# Key Dates and Deadlines

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Monday 26 – Friday 30 January 2026</b>	<b>Year 8 - 9 options assemblies for students Options booklet emailed home</b>
<b>Thursday 5 February 2026 (6.45 – 8.00pm)</b>	<b>Year 8-9 Options' Support evening</b>
<b>Friday 6 February 2026</b>	<b>Welcome email from Applicaa to all Y8 students with log in details</b>
<b>Thursday 12 February 2026</b>	<b>Year 8 Parents' evening (on-line)</b>
<b>Monday 2 March 2026</b>	<b>Option choices deadline</b>

# Finalising Option Choices:

- **Option choices are NOT on a first come, first served basis.**
- Once all students have input their choices we will construct the 3 depth option blocks
- **MOST students will hopefully receive their first 3 choices but we cannot guarantee this unfortunately**
- Some students may need their reserve choice allocating – if this is the case, students will be spoken to individually
- All students will receive an email prior to the **Easter holiday** with their final subject allocations
- **If a subject is no longer running we will contact them**



# Support after this evening

- If you have a question regarding option choices, please e-mail **[info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org)** marked **FAO Mrs Comiskey**
- If you can't log on to the options system, please e-mail **[datateam@horsforthschool.org](mailto:datateam@horsforthschool.org)** for technical support.
- All emails will be sent to the students' school email address – they must use this and their school account to access information about options and to make their choices on-line



# Support this evening

- **Mrs Comiskey** (Deputy Headteacher) and other **members of the Leadership Team** (including **Mrs Marsh** – Year 8 Link) will be available in the hall all evening to answer general questions
- **Subject leaders** will be at Subject Stalls to answer questions and give general course information (Please note that they are not available to give individual student progress feedback tonight) – **they will be available until 8.00pm**
- **Miss O'Dowd** (Year Co-Ordinator – Year 8), **Mr Maxwell** (Extended Leadership team – Attendance), **Mrs O'Donnell** (Careers advisor) and **Mrs Warne** (SENDCO) are available in the main reception to give general careers and options advice



# Support this evening – Subject Stalls

## Horsforth School Year 8 into 9 Options Evening

Thursday 5 February 2026 6.45-8.00pm

Talks in the Main Hall at 6.45pm and repeated at 7.15pm

Depth Subject	Curriculum Leader	Room
Art	Mr Questa	Paint
Business	Mr Green	Business Hub
Computer Studies	Mr Hood	ELC
Drama	Mrs Kendal	Drama Studio 1
Engineering	Mr Dillon	Engineering
Food & Nutrition	Mrs Mayo	FT1
Geography	Mr Heaton	G1
Health & Social Care	Ms Broughton	JB5
History	Mr Miles	H2
Information Technology	Mr Emmet	ELC
Media	Mrs Watkins	JB4
Music	Mr Denson	Mu1
Technology	Mrs Mayo	DT1

