

Year 8 into 9: Option Choices 2023-2024

Dear Students:

*This booklet gives you information about the subject choices that you will make this year for some of the courses that you will start in September (Year 9). It is important that the subjects you choose to do are the right ones for you — the ones you will be happy and successful doing. This booklet gives details about these subjects and advice about how to make the right choices. My advice to you is very simple; focus on the areas that you have already been told you are doing well in. Don't make choices just because you want to be with your friends – think about your future plans. An Options online link and guidance will be emailed to you the week commencing 30th January for you to complete your choices form and this must be completed **on or before Friday 24th February 2023**.*

Dear Parents/Carers:

The options process is an exceptionally important phase in our students' school life. Students have an opportunity to influence their own destiny and choose subjects that will shape the remainder of their educational lives. We recognise that making these decisions, whilst thinking about further education and future career choices, can be difficult. However, students and their parents/carers should rest assured, knowing that we are keen to provide lots of further guidance and advice during the coming weeks. Please read through this booklet and talk to the relevant Course Leaders and subject teachers, or email info@horsforthschool.org FAO Mrs Wright if you have questions about any aspect of the process.

Mrs Wright (Assistant Headteacher)

The Core Curriculum Offer:

All of our students will continue to study the following Core subjects in Year 9:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Modern Foreign Language**
- **Religious Studies**
- **Core PE**
- **Core Computer Science**
- **PSHCE**

Selecting options:

In addition to the Core Curriculum we ask Year 8 students to choose which subjects they would like to continue to study in Year 9 as follows:

Humanities option:

All students must select a humanities subject to study in Years 9-11. This should be either Geography or History. Some students may choose to do both humanities subjects – if they wish to do this they must choose Geography as their humanities option and History as one of their 3 depth option choices (see details below). Please see pages 3-6 of this booklet for information about the Humanities options.

Depth subjects:

We ask all Year 8 students to select 3 Depth subjects that they would like to study in Year 9. This allows students to study some subjects in greater depth before they pick their final two GCSE options to study in Year 10 and 11. Year 8 students need to select **3 Depth Subjects plus one reserve choice**. Information about each of the Depth subjects on offer can be found on pages 7-16 of this booklet.

All students are required to make **1 Humanities choice** and **3 Depth subject choices + 1 reserve**.

All choices will be made through **SIMs option online** at www.sims-options.co.uk, via each students' **school Google e-mail account**. The deadline for final selections is **Friday 24th February**.

Disclaimer – please note:

- Courses will only run if there is sufficient student demand and the course is economically viable
- The number of classes and students in classes may have to be limited for practical or economic reasons meaning that some courses may have limited places
- Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee you will be allocated all of your choices
- The final decision must, of course, rest with the school
- Opting for a course does not necessarily guarantee entry for a particular examination at the end of that course – this will depend upon student progress over two years
- An oversubscribed subject will be allocated to the students with positive attitudes to learning first.

Important Dates in the Options Process:

Date	Event	Key information
Week beginning: Mon 30th January	Year 8 options assemblies for students	Students will be briefed about their option choices and curriculum for Year 9 over 4 days of assemblies. Students will also be given a paper copy of the Options Support booklet to take home and keep.
Monday 30th January (6.00 – 7.30pm: Main Hall)	Year 8-9 Options' Support evening	A main presentation in the school hall at 6pm followed by subject stalls for students and parent/carers to ask questions and gather information to support them in the options process.
Tuesday 31st January	Year 8 into 9 options e-mail to students and parents	The Options information booklet and Options Online guide will be e-mailed to all parents/carers and students.
Thursday 26th January	Year 8 Full report will be sent home	A chance to gather information about current progress and attitude to learning before students make their final option choices.
Friday 24th February	Option choices deadline	The deadline for all option choices to be made via Options Online.

Support with the Options process:

- If you have a question regarding option choices, please e-mail info@horsforthschool.org marked FAO Mrs Wright
- If you can't log on to options online, please e-mail parentlogons@horsforthschool.org for technical support.

Humanities Subject Options:

All students must select a humanities subject to study in Years 9-11.

This should be either Geography or History.

Some students may choose to do both humanities subjects – if they wish to do this they must choose Geography as their humanities option and History as one of their 3 depth option choices. This will then leave them only 2 further depth choices to make.

Options Subject: Geography
Curriculum Leader: Mrs J Collis

Why Geography?

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future”
Michael Palin

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on and it is relevant. The current GCSE course is a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards – to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is very practical, with opportunities to learn skills such as map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom, is a really important part of geography. You will get the chance to undertake fieldwork by doing a river study in the Yorkshire Dales and an urban based study in York. It is a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class, see things differently and of course have fun.

The course has strong links to A Level geography and is a subject that gives you skills that are transferable across many subjects offered at university level. Students that take geography to graduate level are among the most employable because they possess the skills that many employers look for. In part, this is because the subject is a combination of so many elements.

What will we study?

Geography offers students the opportunity to study a wide range of topics. The course will be split into two sections: physical geography and human geography. Both disciplines have a 1 hour 30 minutes examination, at the end of Year 11 worth **35% each**. These exam papers include multiple-choice questions, short questions, calculations and 9 mark extended writing questions.

The **remaining 30%** will be gained through a 1 hour 15 minutes examination: Geographical applications. To prepare for this paper we will be taking students on two, one day field trips to take part in a river study and an urban study.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

External exam - 1 hour 30 min (35% of the total marks)

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

In this section students will study the following natural hazards; volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms. This will include how and where they happen, the effects they have and how they are managed. It will also include climate change and issues associated with global warming.

Section B: The living world

For section B, students will cover topics such as ecosystems in the UK and tropical

rainforests. They will consider how they are under threat and how they are managed. It also explores the variety of ways that humans interact with these environments and how important they are to us. It also will include considering ecosystems in a cold environment and how these areas are used and managed by people.

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

This section will introduce students to the variety of landscapes that exist in the UK. It will focus on the processes and landforms connected with rivers and coasts. Hard and soft engineering for flooding and erosion will be evaluated along with other methods of management.

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

External exam - 1 hour 30 min (35% of the total marks)

Section A: Urban Issues and Challenges

In this section students will look at the different rates of growth in urban areas around the world and consider the different reasons for the growth. They will study one urban area in a Less Industrialised Country (LIC) and a city in the UK and look at how growth and change has brought opportunities and challenges. The concept of a sustainable city will also be explored.

Section B: The Changing Economic World

For section B, students will cover some of the causes and consequences of uneven global development. It will focus in depth on the challenges that face developing countries through use of case study examples. It will also look at major changes in the UK economy and the impacts these have had on things like employment.

Section C: The Challenge of Resource Management

This section looks at the opportunities and challenges presented by the changing demand and supply of food, energy and water within the UK. It focuses on global energy resources and their supply and demand and how shortages could lead to conflict. It then looks at how renewables and more sustainable use of energy could help combat these problems.

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

External exam - 1 hour 15 min (30% of the total marks)

Section A: Issues Evaluation

Twelve weeks before the exam, students will be issued with a booklet of information on a particular topic that will have been covered by them in the course. They will be able to work through the information so that they understand and are familiar with it. The first section of the exam paper will be composed of questions based on the information.

Section B: Fieldwork

Students will have taken part in two field trips and will have analysed data and techniques used. Questions will be based on the use of fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context to test knowledge. There will also be questions based on students' individual enquiry work.

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Options Subject: History
Curriculum Leader: Mr R Miles

Why History?

“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future”
Theodore Roosevelt

A basic part of human nature is to tell and hear stories and in history we tell the story of the past to help students to acquire a better understanding of the present. History can help students to learn how to think about important problems and give them ‘a learning for life.’

History also provides a great range of skills that are transferable to many situations – the ability to argue, analyse and present information in a coherent form. These are particularly valuable skills for employers today, making a history qualification especially prized. History is a great qualification for many careers and academic pathways. It is invaluable for students wishing to become involved in law, journalism, business and study at university.

What will I study?

A period study: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Students study a short time period in great detail. This topic looks at the development of international rivalry between the USA and USSR, all within the context of nuclear weapons and the genuine threat of truly destructive war.

Wider World Depth Study: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad.

This topic allows us to look at America post WW2 with a focus on the campaign for equal rights for Africa-Americans. Internationally, the topic also covers America’s involvement and defeat in the Vietnam war.

Thematic Study: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Students will be able to study the development of medical knowledge from the middle-ages to the present day and look at the ideas of change and continuity. By studying medicine we are actually able to look at the history of lots of different time-periods; from the medieval period to the present day.

British Depth Study: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88

This topic offers the chance to study one of the most significant moments in British history – the Norman Conquest. The topic allows students to consider important turning points like the Battle of Hastings, but also has significance for those of us living in the North through horrific actions like the Harrying of the North.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 exams at the end of Year 11

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Depth Subject Options:

We ask all Year 8 students to select 3 Depth subjects that they would like to study in Year 9.

This allows students to study some subjects in greater depth before they pick their final two GCSE options to study in Year 10 and 11. This options process takes place in Year 9.

If a student does not enjoy one or more of their Depth options in Year 9, they DO NOT have to opt to take this in Years 10 and 11 and may drop the subject at the end of Year 9 in favour of a different subject during the Year 9 into 10 options process.

Year 8 students need to select **3 Depth Subjects plus one reserve choice.**

Information about each of the Depth subjects on offer can be found on the following pages of this booklet.

Depth Subject: Art
Leads to: GCSE Art, GCSE Photography
Subject Leader: Mr D Questa

Why Art?

This course offers the opportunity to learn about visual communication and artistic expression in Art and Photography. Students will develop the skills to creatively express their ideas and observations through drawing, painting, photography, ICT and 3D.

The year 9 taster course lays the foundation for the study of Art and/or Photography at GCSE Level and prepares for courses and careers in the creative field, such as fine art, illustration, fashion, photography, graphic design and animation. Students are not required to buy their own cameras, but access to one at home is encouraged.

What will I do?

Students will learn to:

- develop imaginative and creative ideas based on both visual and written investigations into the world of art from various times and cultures
- experiment with and refine their skills and techniques in both traditional and new media
- record ideas and observations through drawing, painting and photography
- present and evaluate their own personal responses taking inspiration from the work of other artists.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

The course is assessed by an examination of a portfolio of coursework (60%) and a 10 hour set task (40%) in response to themes set by the examination board.

Students will be expected to develop work in a sketchbook each week for homework. The provision of basic art materials at home is helpful.

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth Subject: Business
Leads to: L2 BTEC Business and Enterprise, GCSE Business
Curriculum Leader: Mr J Green
Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/mXQZxRZqdfk>

Why Business and Enterprise?

Business Enterprise is a course for people who want to make things happen!
This course enables you to develop your technical skills, such as:

- Market research skills,
- Business planning,
- Promotional and financial skills
- Problem solving and Entrepreneurial skills

It's about learning to spot a great business opportunity and what makes some businesses succeed while others fail. It's about understanding where the money comes from in a business, and where it goes. It's an ideal course for people who think that they might like to start their own business one day. You'll learn the knowledge and develop the skills that you'll need to be a great entrepreneur.

Is it the right subject for me?

This course is suitable for people who have a creative and entrepreneurial mind-set. You may be interested in business, enterprise, and financial studies, or may be looking to study Business Subjects at KS4 and A-Level. The introductory course leads perfectly into the BTEC (Tech Award) Business and Enterprise specification where we will build upon these three topics in further detail.

Topic 1 Exploring Business (Term 1): You will investigate the local business environment in the Horsforth Area, assessing what makes small and medium sized businesses succeed. We will prepare research and create a project on a local business including location, products and services, entrepreneurs and ownership, distribution, market research, promotion and branding, We will then assess the internal and external environment that contribute towards business success.

Topic 2 - Business Finance (Term 2): Here you will look at business finance and accounting. We will look at sources of business finance, financial forecasting tools like break even analysis and cash flow forecasting, We will use profitability calculations, liquidity ratios, income statements and balance sheets to assess and compare business performance. This is where you really learn how to manage your money and recommend strategies for financial success

Topic 3 – Business Planning (Term 3) – As part of this final topic, you will research and plan for your own small enterprise idea. Here you will create a small business plan providing aims and objectives, product design and services, marketing and branding plans, human and physical resource selection, and financial forecasting. You will then deliver a pitch to demonstrate all your research, enterprise, and hard work.

Depth Subject: Computer Science
Leads to: GCSE Computer Science
Subject Leader: Mr J Hood

Why Computing?

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. While students will no doubt already have some knowledge of computers and related areas, the course will give them an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on “behind the scenes”. As part of this, they will investigate computer programming. Relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, the course is designed to boost computing skills essential for 21st century. If students would like further guidance on the different course contents, please see Mr Hood, Leader of Learning for Computing.

What will I do if I continue to GCSE?

There are two different areas of focus within the course, an outline is detailed below:

- Component 01: Computer Systems
- Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

Aims and Learning Outcomes

The GCSE specification in computing will enable students to:

- Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies, an understanding of how they work and their application in a range of contexts
- Acquire and apply knowledge, thinking and technical skills and an understanding of algorithms in computer programs
- Become independent and discerning Computer Scientists, able to make informed decisions and be aware of technological implications
- Design and write computer programs to solve problems.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

There is one controlled assessment which is set by the examination board. The students will prepare for assessments, the tasks will then be timed and this section counts towards 20% of their overall mark. There are two written examinations which are worth 40% each.

Grades available: GCSE results are awarded on the scale of 9 – 1

Awarding Body: OCR

Depth Subject: Design and Technology
Leads to: GCSE Design and Technology
Curriculum Leader: Mrs S Mayo

Why Design and Technology?

Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and will apply technical and practical expertise.

Students will study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment.

Within this course emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills and students are encouraged to be creative and innovative when working with a wide variety of materials including wood, plastic, metal, textiles, card and paper.

The course may be a stepping stone to a career in design, construction or engineering, but even if not, it will provide students with practical skills, knowledge and understanding in design and manufacture.

What will I do?

You will learn about:

- New and emerging technologies
- Properties of materials – wood, plastic, metal, textiles, card and paper.
- Mechanical devices / Forces and stresses
- Specialist equipment and processes
- Designing and work of designers

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

One examination paper (50%) testing the knowledge of the above areas. The bulk of the paper specialises in the material of your choice. Section A will require core knowledge of all materials.

Coursework: (50%)

Substantial design and make task based on chosen material area:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing and evaluating
- Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior
- Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence

Grades available: 9-1

Depth Subject: Drama
Leads towards: GCSE Drama
Curriculum Leader: Mrs J Bevan

Why Drama?

For those students with an enthusiasm and interest in drama, the taster offers the opportunity to explore devised and scripted drama in more detail as well as the opportunity to extend their written analytical skills. Drama is a great subject to help build your confidence and develops relevant, transferable skills for most future jobs and careers

What will I do?

Drama is fun but hard work! You will get the chance to explore and expand your creative skills and have more independence in terms of ideas and topics. However, **a willingness to perform, working with a variety of different groups and learning lines** are all basic requirements of continuing drama in Year 9. The students get the chance to study and perform plays as well as devising from themes that are relevant to themselves and the world around them.

There is a written element and students will be expected to review their own work and the work of others. There is also a monologue module and students will be writing and performing their own individual monologues to the group.

There are regular theatre trips as well as visiting theatre companies and actors who come in to school to work with our students. It is a great stepping stone to GCSE but also a great subject if you want a practical subject to offer variety in your timetable, or to compliment other subjects such as English Literature.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

Year 10:	Paper 1: Devising Students will create their own devised performance	40%
Year 11:	Paper 2: Script practical Students will take part in a scripted performance	20%
Year 11:	Paper 3 Written exam on a live theatre performance	40%

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth Subject: Engineering
Leads to: Cambridge National Level 2 Engineering
Subject Leader: Mr G Dillon
Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/ZBUuq3NiyR4>

Why study Engineering?

Engineering is an exciting taster subject which has been designed and developed to build your skills and knowledge of the engineering world, ensuring you are prepared for your future as an engineer. By immersing yourself in the excitement and potential of working in the real world of engineering, it will blend together the best of academic and applied learning.

As well as classroom-based learning, there will be some opportunities to visit local and national engineering companies. These visits are essential to be able to learn and discover the real engineering world through applied learning.

The Engineering taster encapsulates a broad spectrum of Engineering Sectors. The year 9 taster has been developed to equip students with the baseline knowledge and skills needed for year 10 and 11. From theoretical knowledge of materials science and manufacturing processes, CAD software and computer aided manufacture, to workshop machining skills.

- > Explore a range of different materials; testing them in such a way to learn their properties and characteristics
- > Disassemble a range of products to discover how they work
- > Learn to Design, draw and sketch like an engineer would
- > Potential visits to various companies to see what Engineering looks like in the real world.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in variety of ways over the course of the taster year. Internally assessed projects will be completed through small reports and practical activities. You will be assessed each lesson through questioning and discussion and also quick fire quizzes to check what you have been taught.

Where can the qualification take me?

After you have finished this taster year, the obvious progression would be to study Cambridge National Level 2 Engineering as a KS4 option. In KS4 the components you will be taught build upon the taster year and would put you in an ideal position for either a place in sixth form studying Level 3 BTEC Engineering or an apprenticeship with a local or national engineering firm.

Grades available if continued in Years 10 and 11: The grades awarded are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* at Level 1 or Level 2.

Depth Subject:	Food Preparation and Nutrition
Leads to:	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Curriculum Leader:	Mrs S Mayo
Video presentation:	https://youtu.be/OiFmQvACBU8

Why Food Preparation and Nutrition?

The Food Preparation and Nutrition course will provide students with the opportunity to learn important concepts relating to food, from the current principles of healthy eating to food hygiene. Students will also consider environmental and sustainability, cultural, moral and economic issues. As a practical subject the course requires students to master a wide range of food preparation skills.

Within this course emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills and students are encouraged to be creative and innovative when working with food.

The course may be a stepping stone to a career related to food, but even if not, it will provide students with the practical skills, knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions relating to food choices which are important life skills. There are also many career opportunities relating to this subject.

What will I do?

In addition to practical skills students will study five areas:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

AQA GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Coursework: (50%)

- Task 1: Food Investigation. Written report (1,500-2,000 words)
Understanding the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of food.
- Task 2: Food Preparation assessment.
- Electronic portfolio + 3 hour Practical Exam
- Planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition to a chosen task.

Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from all 5 sections.

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth Subject: Media Studies
Leads to: GCSE Media Studies
Curriculum Leader: Mr A Lee

Why Media Studies?

Media Studies is a dynamic, exciting and fun subject, which allows you to study and produce products that you engage with every day. These include TV shows, films, social media, games, music videos, adverts and more. You will build on your skills in analysis, literacy and creativity, as we study up-to-date media texts. You will also make your own products, using software that is used by media professionals. You will also have the opportunity to discover the careers that are available in the media, film and creative industries.

What will I do in Year 9?

- Magazine production
- Camerawork in film and TV
- Short film production (including competition entry)
- Website design

How will I be assessed if I continue to BTEC in Year 10?

You will be assessed with two exams with a range of short and extended questions based on the study of a selection of close study media products. Each exam is one and half hours in duration and makes up a total of 70% of your final grade. The non-exam assessment is made up of a practical brief that is released by the exam board. You will select which type of product that you wish to create. This could be a TV show, a film, a print advert, a music video, a social media page, a game or any other type of media.

Grades available if continued in Years 10 and 11: 1-9

Where the course can lead:

With a GCSE in Media Studies you can continue on to further level 2 and 3 vocational and academic study, including our very own Media Studies A Level course, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Depth Subject: Music
Leads to: GCSE Music
Curriculum Leader: Ms P Cairns

Why Music?

This course offers students with varying musical backgrounds the opportunity to study, perform and compose music from many contrasting genres. Both experienced musicians and complete beginners can access this course, with free instrumental lessons offered throughout Year 10 and 11.

What will I do if I continue to GCSE?

Three contrasting sections:

- a) Performing Music: playing an instrument and/or singing both individually and as part of a group
- b) Composing Music: composing two compositions of any genre, using state-of-the-art software
- c) Understanding Music: improving general music theory and listening skills while also studying set study works; three songs by The Beatles and a Haydn Symphony.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

- a) Internal assessment of two recorded performances (External Moderation). One as a solo (April Year 11), one as a member of a group (October Year 11)
- b) Internal assessment of two compositions (End of Year 10 to April Year 11 - External Moderation)
- c) 1 ½ hour exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music (End of Year 11-Externally assessed).

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA