

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Towards the end of year 9 you are going to have to choose your IGCSE subjects. Up until now your lessons have been decided for you. Year 9 is when you can choose some of the subjects you want to study over the next 2 years.

The decisions you make in Year 9 are important because they control the next 2 years of your school life and can effect what you do after your GCSEs. In Year 9 you will have to decide which subjects you want to focus on in the next 2 years (Years 10 and 11). Some subjects are compulsory but others are for you to decide – your **options**.

Some of you may already have thought about your options for year 10 and 11, but many of you may not. It is important to make the right choice. If you have an idea of what you want to do in the future, like what you are going to study at university, there may be some subjects you have to take to get you there.

If you can't decide, it may be a good idea to keep your options open by choosing a broad range of subjects. Don't take a subject just because your friends have.

Also think about yourself and what you like. You may enjoy doing some things more than others, writing assignments, taking part in school plays or doing science experiments. Do you spend your spare time playing sports, going out with friends, making things or playing computer games?

This will help you to understand what type of person you are. You may find that you are more sociable - get on well with others - than practical - enjoy using your hands to make things. Understanding what type of person you are will help you to decide what subjects to choose.

Not everyone learns in the same way - how do you like to learn? Some people are good at studying for exams and do well. Others prefer to do coursework.

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WHO CAN HELP

Talk to your parents, careers, family and your friends to get ideas. Ask your subject teachers to help you. They can give you ideas about what subjects you will be good at and help find out what subjects are suitable for you.

There are many websites that help Year 9 students to choose options.

Visit:

www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow.

And

<http://www.teentoday.co.uk>

(click on Year 9 Options)

REMEMBER!

There are so many courses and so many places to study that choosing can be difficult. Always make a checklist:

- is the subject right for you
- what career would you have after you finish university
- do you want a very big university or a small one
- is it in a city or outside a city with its own campus
- do you want to be near relatives and/or friends
- can you afford the fees
- is the degree recognized in your country

Give yourself plenty of time to search. It takes a lot of time so you should begin at least a year or even two years before.

The internet is your best friend for searching! It is not for chatting only! Make full use of the search engine to find out as much information as possible. Start as early as possible.

**DO NOT LEAVE THE SEARCH AND APPLICATION PROCESS TO THE LAST
MOMENT.**