

Year 9 Choices Process

At West Park School, across both key stages, we have an established and traditional curriculum that is broad, balanced and deep and provides our pupils with a strong base from which to move into the next phase of their education and/or employment. Our curriculum is a broad mix of the academic, the vocational, the practical, and the creative, and is designed to help all pupils be engaged, productive and successful. At GCSE/BTEC, this breadth is continued, but pupil specialisms begin.

During the Spring Term, all pupils in Year 9 are able to choose some of the subjects they will study in Years 10 and 11. This online booklet provides information on each subject and reading it carefully should help you to make the choices that will suit you best. All pupils will study courses in the following subjects:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| English | ICT |
| Mathematics | Personal Development/Careers |
| Science | Physical Education[#] |
| Geography or History | Religious Studies |

In addition, if you have been selected to take French, you will automatically be studying a group of subjects that, together, make up the 'English Baccalaureate' (English, Mathematics, Science, French and either Geography or History). This is not a qualification in itself; it simply recognises a pupil's achievements across a range of selected, rigorous academic subjects. Although the EBacc will no longer be reported in school league tables, it is still part of the DfE-defined curriculum. From 2019, all GCSE subjects are graded 9 – 1. Grade 9 is equivalent to a top A* and Grade 5 is equivalent to a strong GCSE Grade C.

If you have not been selected to take French, you are still free to choose it from the full range of subjects offered. This would mean that you too are also taking the 'Baccalaureate'.

All pupils take core non-examination Physical Education. Pupils will also undertake Careers Education and benefit from input on personal development. Pupils not selected to take French will study P.E. at examination level. They will be chosen by their teacher to take either GCSE or BTEC P.E.

Science

There are two Science courses:

*If you have been selected to take GCSE Combined Science (5 periods) you can make **two choices** from the General Choice section.*

*If you have been selected to take GCSE Combined Science (10 periods) you can make **one choice** from the General Choice section.*

General Choice

The number of courses chosen here will depend on the Science course you have been selected to take.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Art and Design | Geography |
| Creative Digital Media Production | History |
| Design and Technology | Music |
| Drama | Physical Education |
| Food Preparation and Nutrition | Science (10 periods) |
| French | |

Deadlines for the return of options forms will be published on the school's website and relayed to Year 9 pupils in school.

