

5th February 2026

Year 9 Options Process

Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer,

Plans are well advanced with regards to the process by which students decide which subjects they will be continuing to study when they move into Year 10 in September 2026.

I have already shared with you some key dates for events that make up the options process. What follows will give you further information about the curriculum that students will have access to in September and also the activities that will give students and parents' information to make the right curriculum choices for them.

Year 10 Curriculum for September 2026

- All students will study the compulsory core curriculum of Maths, English and Science.
- Students will all complete programmes of study in the compulsory subjects of Values and Reasoning, PE and PSHCE (Personal, social, health, citizenship, and economic education)
- For the compulsory science part of the curriculum students will be guided to study either Combined or Separate Science GCSEs.
- Students then have a range of options to choose to fill **three** time slots on their timetable.
- To ensure that students are not being disadvantaged by not opting for a broad range of subjects including a facilitating subject. **At least one** of these three choices must be one of: **Computer Science, French, Geography, German, History, Ancient History or Spanish.**
- The remaining two options can be selected from a wide range of subjects and types of qualification, including both GCSE and Vocational qualifications.

Oriel strongly believes that education is not a 'one size fits all' system. We believe that all students need a broad and balanced curriculum to give them a mix of academic, creative, practical, and social skills to fit them for life in the fast-moving world of the 21st century.

Our aim is such that each student will be able to follow a timetable which is both broad and balanced both in terms of the range of subjects they study but also with regard to the learning style involved.

During the process of allocation of options choices please understand that while we will do our utmost to enable your son/daughter to follow their preferred personalised learning plan it may not, in a small number of cases, be possible e.g. if a course is vastly oversubscribed or only a very small number of students choose a course.

Between now and the 27th March 2026 there will be a programme of support and guidance for Year 9 to help them make their options choices.

- I would like to thank you in advance for your support in ensuring our Year 9 students make informed curriculum choices.

Yours sincerely
R. Ever

Telephone: 01293 880350 | Mobile: 01293 880351
Student Absence Telephone: 01293 880363 (24 hours)
Email: office@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk | Website: www.oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk

