

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.

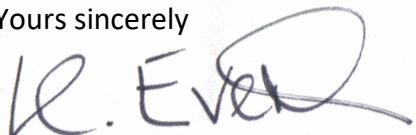
During the process of allocation of options choices please understand that while we will do our utmost to enable your son/daughter to follow their preferred personalised learning plan it may not, in a small number of cases, be possible e.g. if a course is vastly oversubscribed or only a very small number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

- Week beginning 2nd March, an **Oriel Y10 Curriculum Guide** will be given to all Year 9 students in a special assembly launching the options process and will be given instructions regarding how to submit options choices online.
- In the week beginning 2nd March a document containing links to videos and presentations giving information about all our Year 10 subjects will be made available for students and their families to watch. There will also be links to each subject's course specification and examples of resources to give you a flavour of what studying each subject might be like.
- Throughout March, if students and parents/carers have any questions about options subjects these can be emailed to individual subject teachers or to the email address options@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk – we will aim to answer any queries you might have that will help you to make the best subject choices for our students.
- During lessons Year 9 teachers will also explain how the subjects they are currently studying form the foundation of courses in Year 10 and will give time for students to ask questions and see examples of students work.
- A face-to-face **Options Evening** for Year 9 will then be held on **Thursday 5th March** from 6-8pm. This is an extremely important event in the school's calendar for Year 9. This is an informal evening, there is no main presentation and students and parents can arrive at any time during the session. At the Options evening a range of information is available to help explain the nature of all the courses on offer for our students. Subject and course areas will have 'stalls' laid out with a wide variety of information and guidance to collect and take home. Teaching Staff from each subject area will be there to describe the options on offer, to discuss students' suitability for courses and to be able to answer questions.
This is always a very well attended, busy and exciting evening and we look forward to welcoming as many parents and students as possible.
- On **Thursday 19th March** we will then have our **Year 9 Parents Evening**. Parents will be able to book online appointments with subject teachers to find out how students are progressing in their Year 9 subjects but will also be able to ask questions about the Year 10 subjects on offer. Subject Leaders for subjects not currently studied in Year 9 (e.g. Business, Film Studies, Health and Social Care and Sociology) will also be available for appointments should parents/carers have any queries not yet answered. Appointments will also be available to book with a Careers Advisor.
- Following all of these activities, students will then be asked to submit their choices using an online system (more details to follow). All options choices need to be submitted online by the **Options Deadline of Friday 27th March 2026**

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

Yours sincerely



Helen Everitt

Deputy Headteacher