



Year 9 Options Information

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between
persons. He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good; I shall do His work.

St John Henry Newman



Purpose

The purpose of this booklet is to introduce the Year 9 options process at BGN, give the key dates for parents and students and answer some Frequently Asked Questions.

It will enable students and parents to begin discussions about options.

Contents

- The Key Stage 4 Curriculum at BGN
- FAQs
- The options timeline / key dates
- Websites to help with choices



The Key Stage 4 Curriculum at BGN

At the heart of the options process are our STUDENTS. We aim to ensure that students opt for the most appropriate courses that will lead to their success.

We need to be mindful of the RESOURCES available for the delivery of each subject. Ensuring high quality delivery means that we may only be able to offer limited places for certain courses.

We endeavour to ensure that students get their first-choice options, however, occasionally, there may be the need to withdraw a course, if the numbers of students opting for it does not make a viable group and there is little DEMAND.

Finally, the GOVERNMENT or DIOCESE will require school to deliver certain core subjects, which students have to take.

An example of the subjects at Key Stage 4. **please note, the actual curriculum and option blocks for September 2023 will be given to students in January 2023.

CORE SUBJECTS

Religious Education
English Language
English Literature
Maths
Science
Core PE

Students will take all core

GCSE Options

Art / Photography
Business Studies
Computer Science
Drama
Design and Technology - Product Design
Design and Technology - Textiles
French
Geography
History
Music
Physical Education
Polish
Spanish
Statistics

Students will choose 3 options subjects

BTEC Courses / Vocational Courses

I Media
Childcare
Construction



Frequently Asked Questions

How many options do I choose?

Each student will choose 3 option subjects.

When do I make my final option choices?

Please see the timeline. Students will initially give an idea of what they would like to study at Key Stage 4. This is done in December of Year 9. From that, 3 option blocks will be created, from which students will choose 1 subject from each block.

How do I make my final option choices?

This will be done using a Survey Monkey link and will be available after Options Evening on Thursday 26th January 2023.

How do I choose between Triple Science and Combined Science?

Students do not need to make any choices when it comes to Science. The department will use data collected on student performance throughout Year 9, to decide which students study Combined Science (worth x2 GCSEs) and which students study Triple Science (worth x3 GCSEs). Students will be informed of this in June of Year 9.

How do I find out about option subjects?

There will be lots of opportunities for students to speak to staff about their option choices. These include Springboard Day (10th January 2023), Options Evening, within their normal lessons, Year 9 assemblies. All option choices have a narrated PowerPoint on the VLE. This can be found in BGN Areas, Year 9 Options.

Where else can I get information?

At the end of this booklet are some web sites that students might find useful. Often, if students have an idea of their career path, they can use these websites to work out potential subjects to choose.

What if I don't get my first choice?

We will ask all students to make 3 first choices and 3 second choices. We endeavour to ensure that all students get their first choice but would look at their second, when this isn't possible.

What happens if a subject is oversubscribed?

Some subjects have limits placed on them because of e.g. health and safety, resources, or staffing. We will take into account when the options form has been submitted, where there are limits on class sizes. Numbers will be on a first submitted basis.

Do all options run?

We always endeavour to offer a full range of options. Very occasionally we may have to withdraw a subject if the demand is very low. Students would be informed of this as soon as possible, so they can make an alternative choice.



The Options Timeline and Key Dates

Date	Activity	What's Involved?
December 2022	All Year 9 students answer a poll as to what subjects they might want to choose.	This is NOT their final option choices. It gives us an idea about what they are currently thinking.
10th January 2023	Springboard Day	Each Year 9 student has an individual meeting with a member of SLT to discuss their potential choices, get advice, ask questions. The December poll acts as a discussion point.
26th January 2023	Options Evening	All option subjects are represented in the Main Hall. Parents and students can drop in and speak to staff about their subjects.
9th February 2023	Year 9 Parents Evening and Careers Convention	A chance for parents and students to talk to subject teachers about academic progress. This may inform option choices. AT the same time, there will be a Careers Convention, where representatives from a variety of sectors can talk to parents and students.
3rd March 2023	Final Deadline for options form completion	A link will be given to Survey Monkey. Students select their 3 first choices and 3 second choices.
March – June	Timetable is constructed	Further discussions where necessary.
June 2023	Final confirmation of choices for September 2023.	Students receive a confirmation letter.



Useful Websites and Resources

www.UCAS.com - helpful if students are looking at university course and entry requirements. It's a long way off but they might find it useful.

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk – helpful if students are thinking about potential employment areas.

www.careerpilot.org.uk – careers advice

www.careersbox.co.uk – careers advice

ECLIPS Direct link – BGN use this service. It enables students to search for career paths by sector, job, favourite school subject or take a quiz, if they are unsure

<https://www.adviza.org.uk/careers-guidance-for-you>

BGN VLE – BGN areas, Year 9 Options. Each subject area has a narrated PPT that will explain more about the course.

Subject Teachers – students can speak to their current teachers about their subject areas.