

YEAR

9

MINI OPTIONS

A simple guide to
creating your personal
curriculum in Year 9



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

WISDOM

HOPE

COMMUNITY

DIGNITY

EQUALITY

Which options
shall I take?



Personalising Your Curriculum in Year 9

Dear student,

In previous years, we have allowed some flexibility with the subjects studied in Year 9. I am delighted that we are able to offer this again next year to you.

You will still have compulsory subjects but you will also be able to have some choice in the subjects you study by giving you "mini" options. This allows you to create a much more personalised curriculum and adds to your enjoyment of learning.

The optional choices you pick do not have to be chosen in Year 10 if you don't want to. Similarly, if you don't choose an option now, you will still be able to study it in year 10.

These are the **compulsory** subjects that you will all study next year.

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Geography and History
- Either one or two languages
- RE
- PSHE (Personal Social Health Education)
- PE (You will also work towards your Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award)

Personal subject choices:

You must choose at least one language:

- If a student is in set 1, 2 or 3 for languages, they must choose one language from French, German or Spanish. They can choose two languages if they wish to.
- If a student is in set 4 for languages they must choose one language which we would advise to be French as this is what they have previously studied. If they wish to study German instead of French, you will need to select French and then please contact Mr Bellmon.

You must choose one Arts subject from the following:

- Art
- Music
- Drama

You must choose one Technology subject from the following:

- Design Technology

Which options shall I take?

- Food Technology
- IT

Depending on the number of languages you choose to study, you will then choose optional subjects. If you are studying one language you can choose any three subjects from the list below. If you are studying two languages you can choose one subject from the list below:

- Ancient History
- Art
- Business Studies
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Technology
- Geology
- IT
- Music
- Social Sciences
- Sports Science

Remember not to choose any subjects you have already chosen from the arts and technology lists.

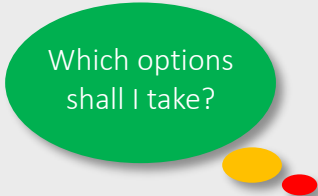
You will also need to choose one reserve subject. Please make sure your reserve is different to any other subjects you have chosen.

The **'choices form'** guides you through the process of choosing these subjects and the choices available to you. You will need to know what set you are in for languages and also how many languages you wish to study. Talk about this with your parents and speak to your teachers if you need advice – we are happy to help.

At this stage we advise you to choose a subject you really enjoy or one you would like to try before GCSE.

Please select your choices by completing the electronic form. The link for this will be sent via Synergy and on Show My Homework after the parent's information evening.

If you have any questions about the process or subject choices – please contact Mr Bellmon.



Which options shall I take?

Ancient History

This course will enable you to study some of the most exciting parts of Roman and Greek history, focusing on the key individuals and events that have helped shape the ancient world.

We will look at the myths and legends surrounding the city of Troy, how the Persian Empire (in the Middle East) grew from a small kingdom to become the world's first superpower, the gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece, the early beginnings of Rome from Romulus and Remus to life under the emperors (including gladiators). You will also have the chance to look at defining characters from the ancient world such as Alexander the Great and Cleopatra.

You will also be given the opportunity to independently research an area of Ancient History that you are interested in e.g. Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt or Ancient China.

Ancient History equips you with skills, such as the ability to think critically about people and events by using the evidence available. We will visit each site using Google Earth and make use of the local museums and their collection of artefacts.

So, if you are interested in - What the Romans used for mouthwash? Who invented toothpaste? Who invented the mummification process (not the Egyptians) then this is the course for you.

Art and Design

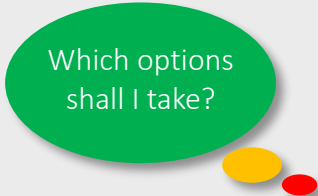
The Art and Design course is an exciting opportunity for you to experience a broad range of media and techniques. You will explore a range of processes including painting, ink work, digital photography, drawing, collage, print making, installation art and sculpture.

Throughout the course you will be exploring the inspiring work of other artists, craftspeople and designers which will help you to make exciting projects based on your own interesting ideas.

Art lessons promote original thinking and collaboration - independent learning, making, problem-solving and more. These are qualities desired in all students across all subject areas.

There are many careers options, some of the most popular are: Architecture, Animation, Photography, Interior design, Engineering, Web Design, Art, Graphic Design, Game Design, Film and Set Design, animation, Special Effects, Art Therapy, Textile design, Creative computing, Make-up design and creation, Special effects design, Film set design, Fashion Design and Illustration.

Which options shall I take?



Business Studies

How did Gina Rinehart, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Jeff Benzo, Sara Blakely and Richard Branson become entrepreneurs? From beauty salons to multinational corporations – businesses are on every corner of the street.

This year is your opportunity to begin to develop your knowledge of how to start up and run your own business, make profit and keep that profit.

You will learn about the risks and rewards in business, business planning and what you need to know to start up and ruin your own company successfully. You will also develop a greater understanding of the aims and objectives of businesses; understand financial capability and how to become a risk taker. If you want to learn how to become an entrepreneur and a risk taker with the potential to start you on the road to your first million then this taster course is for you.

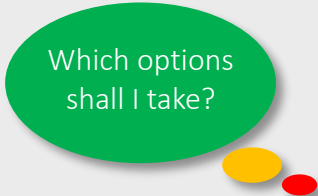
Design & Technology

A year where you get to apply the design process in the workshop to use a range of tools, workshop machines and design skills. A chance to build strong foundations for a range of exciting careers in engineering, design and more!

Design & Technology provides foundations for routes into many careers; engineering, product design, textile design, CAD modelling, marketing, material science, graphic design, digital marketing... the possibilities are limitless.

This taster year will show you how to be an inclusive designer, how to develop design ideas and how to communicate your design thinking on and off the page. A significant part of this year will be spent developing practical skills.

Skills in Design & Technology are transferable to the wider world. Whether helping out doing jobs around the house or looking to build a rewarding career that can allow you to see the world, D&T can open lots of doors to exciting career paths!



Which options shall I take?

Drama

Do you enjoy learning that is active, exciting and challenging? Do you like to be creative, express your ideas and work with others? Perhaps you would like to improve your communication skills or build your confidence.

If you have answered yes to any of the above then Drama is the course for you.

During the Drama taster year, you will experience Drama in a new way. You will discover new practitioners and try out different styles of theatre such as Verbatim, a form of documentary theatre, based on the spoken words of real people. You will study texts in practice, exploring all aspects of play production from acting and directing to lighting and sound. You will also devise your own pieces of drama based on stimuli and learn how to become a Drama critic after watching live theatre.

Drama will help you to understand and prepare for the world around you by developing a variety of life skills in a fun and creative way.

Food & Nutrition

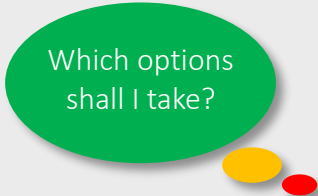
Does working with food sound exciting to you? Food & Nutrition offers a pathway in to a range of careers. From food product development to nutritionist, sports science, catering management, menu development and fine dining, there are rewarding careers that can take you across the world.

This taster year will give you advanced practical skills, such as pastry making, bread making, pasta making as well as refined presentation techniques to take your work to restaurant standard. Students will explore a more creative approach to their cooking, exploring flavour combinations, other cultures and cuisines to be able to modify dishes to their own preference.

Students will also develop their knowledge of nutrition, how to keep themselves healthy as well as how to feed themselves affordably with a range of predominantly savoury dishes. The theory element will look at how to manage a healthy diet including knowledge of deficiency & excess, sensory analysis and understanding the complexity of food labels to know what you are eating.

Recipes include Mac & Cheese, Fruit Pie with shortcrust pastry from scratch, risotto, food from your favourite takeaway (home-made 'fakeaway' healthy options!) and free choice practical. You can learn to make what you love to eat and learn to love food you never knew you did!

Which options shall I take?



Geology

Geology is the study of the Earth as a physical system, the materials from which it is made, the structure of those materials and the processes acting upon them. A very important part of Geology is the study of how Earth's materials, structures, processes and organisms have changed over time.

In this taster year we will be looking at: Rock types and Mineral identification; The Rock Cycle; Weathering and Erosion; Historical Geology including Fossil identification. There will also be an opportunity to complete some Field Geology on a local field visit. Students will develop skills in enquiry, analysis, and synthesis. A strong background and interest in Science and Geography is advised in order to get the most out of this course.

The course will be taught by Mr Norton, who has a first degree in Environmental Geology, and we are supported with our resources by the Earth Sciences department of the University of Liverpool.

German

Did you know that Germany has the biggest economy in Europe? In this year we will be looking at: Greetings, describing ourselves and others and saying what we do in our free time. We will learn about German-speaking countries and their festivals and customs, as well as the key phonics and grammar. We hope that students will develop confidence in their abilities in Languages, alongside an interest and enthusiasm for other cultures.

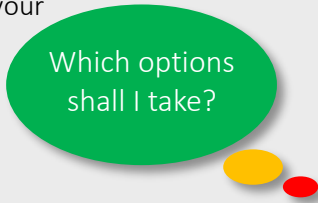
We are supported in learning German, by the PASCH status of St Hilda's. PASCH means that we are supported by the German government as a centre of excellence in the UK. This offers a range of exciting opportunities.

IT

Imagine a world at your fingertips with endless amounts of communication available to you. This taster year will take you on a journey, into an era of computational thinking, programming, app development and creative design. You will be developing your skills in the creative use of IT to produce media products such as websites, graphics and interactive displays. This subject choice will equip you with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop transferable skills.

During the year, you will create your own games, write your own programs and develop your skills, where you will be able to shine with your analytical and creative mind. This choice will help you to fine tune your problem solving and creative skills, whilst helping you to build on your year 8 knowledge, taking you on an exciting adventure into the future.

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Music

In this year we will explore a wide variety of music, including a History of Rock and Pop, Minimalism, Music for Video Game, all through performing, composing and listening! There will be many opportunities to work with your friends in groups to create and perform music. It will be an interesting, fun and feel-good lesson, every lesson!

Through studying music, you will not only develop your performance, composing and listening skills but you will become a more independent learner, you'll learn how to collaborate and work effectively with others to meet goals and develop your communication skills.

Be part of a close-knit group of likeminded musicians!

Social Sciences

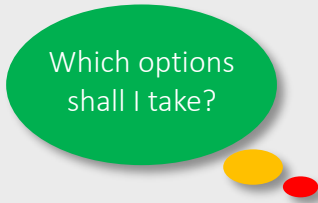
Social Science is the fascinating field of science that looks at understanding and explaining how we as people act - on a small scale as individuals and our inter-relationships or on a larger scale looking at institutions and societies. Psychology lessons will provide you an understanding of the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Sociology lessons will provide rich discussions and understanding about theories and areas such as family and education. Criminology involves elements of both areas, with a focus on the study of crime, its causes, impact and solutions. This course will provide an excellent foundation to studying social science further at GCSE.

In this year we will be looking at: carrying out your own research; sleep and rhythms; social influence; the sociology of the family; the sociology of education; theories of criminality; crime scene to the courtroom. Students will develop skills in discussion, debate, independent and collaborative research as well as improve their self-awareness and an understanding of others behaviour. A strong background and interest in Science is advised in order to get the most out of this course.

Sports Science

The world of sport is much bigger than just participation as a performer. There are many aspects to sports performance that makes our elite athletes the best they can be. The processes and stages they go through to be elite is the theory that you will discover and learn about on this taster course. From how the body adapts to its training to become better to how athletes can train the mind to improve focus and performance. You will also look at wider socio-cultural areas that impact performance such as the media, technology and performance enhancing drugs.

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