

# Year 9 Subject Choices

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Information Evening for Parents

Wednesday 12th March, 2025

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# This year's timetable (Y8)

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# Year 8 Curriculum

- History & Geography each have 3 hours across two weeks
- Two languages subjects each have 3 hours across two weeks
- Art and Music each have one hour a week
- Dance and Drama have one hour a week for half the year
- Food, Textiles and Product Design have one term each for a double period.

## Choices for Next Year (Y9)

- A chance to spend more time studying subjects which students really enjoy.
- A chance to prepare really well for subjects students might study at GCSE

# Why Change?

- to give students some responsibility for their learning
- To promote positive engagement with subjects they have chosen
- To provide increased teaching and learning time in subjects they select
- Ultimately – to raise achievement

# What this is not about

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Starting GCSEs in Y9.

Asking students to make choices about their GCSEs in Y8.

Closing doors to students in terms of what they want to study and enjoy in the future.

Asking students to make decisions based on future career ambitions.

# Year 9 Curriculum



# Step One

## Design and Technology Subject

Choose one subject

FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION

THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN (3D Design)

TEXTILE DESIGN

COMPUTER SCIENCE

# Step Two

## Languages Subject

Choose one subject

FRENCH

GERMAN

SPANISH

(one from two languages currently studied)

# Step 3

## Humanities Subject

Choose one subject

(circle your chosen subject)

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

# Step 4

## Expressive Arts Subject

Choose one subject

DANCE

DRAMA

FINE ART

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

MUSIC

# Step 5

## Fifth Subject

Choose a fifth subject from either step 2, 3 or 4 that you have not already chosen.

French, German, Spanish, Geography,  
History, Dance, Drama, Fine Art, Graphic  
Communication, Music.



# Combinations & 'Twilights'

In Y9 students can potentially choose up to 2 or 3 of the following courses. It is important, however, that students are aware that they will only be able to choose one of these subjects for GCSE in Y10/11:

- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Textile Design
- 3D Design

It is currently not possible to choose Computing alongside a DT subject (in other words, it is only possible to select one subject from Step One of the subject choices).

'Twilights'

# Additional Subjects

# Astronomy, Computing, Latin

In addition to the core choices identified above, we do offer some additional courses. There is no requirement to select one of these subjects but we would encourage students to consider whether they have capacity and time to study the following:

- Astronomy

Students will be prepared for a GCSE in this subject which they will complete in Y10. There is a cost attached to this course.

- Computer Science

This covers the same content as the Computer Science in the main option block.

- Latin

If students continue with this beyond the end of Y9, they will be able to complete a GCSE in this subject in Y11. There is a cost attached to this course.



# Astronomy, Computing, Latin,

The Latin lessons are scheduled at Activity Time or after school.

The Astronomy and Computer Science lessons are scheduled after school.

We will only be able to confirm that these courses will run when:

- we have confirmation of a significant level of interest from students
- we can confirm the availability of suitably qualified staff when we complete timetables later in this academic year

If we can confirm that these courses run, we will then also identify the days on which they can take place.

In the meantime, **we would ask that students use the notes section of the application form to confirm their interest in taking one (or possibly more than one) of these courses.** This will not be treated as a firm commitment and we will send out forms to confirm details when we are in a position to confirm that the courses will run. Until we can confirm the scheduling, we will not be able to confirm whether it is possible to complete more than one.

# Year 9 Curriculum Next Year

- English - 4 lessons a week
- Mathematics - 4 lessons a week
- Science - 3 lessons a week
- PE - 2 lessons a week
- RS - 1 lesson a week

# Year 9 Curriculum Next Year

- History, Geography, Computer Science, Fine Art, Food, Music, Dance, Drama, 3D Design will have two hours a week for the whole year.
- MFL will be three hours a week.
- *double the amount of Computer Science*
- *three times the amount of Food/Product Design/Textiles*

# Choose Wisely!

- Carefully read the information about each of the subjects online and/or via the booklets
- Think about which of these subjects students most enjoy learning and studying
- Think about where students are making most progress
- Read student reports
- Listen to the advice and guidance of subject teachers and your tutor

# Don't....

....choose subjects based on whether students like the teachers who are teaching them this year.

....copy friends' choices.

....choose subjects that students think will be 'easier'.

# Key Dates

<b>Tuesday 4th March</b>	<b>Y8 Assembly about Options</b>
<b>Wednesday 12th March, 18.30</b>	<b>Parents' Information Evening (online)</b>
<b>Thursday 13th March</b>	<b>Information/Presentation released to parents</b>
<b>Thursday 20 March, 4.30-7.00pm</b>	<b>Y8 Parents' Evening (online)</b>
<b>Friday 21st March</b>	<b>Online Options System opens</b>
<b>Thursday 27th March</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of choices</b>

# Deadline

- Please complete the on-line choices by March 27th
- No advantage in completing it early!
- Confirmation of choices will be sent out next term

# What if I change my mind?

- Please tell us straight away – parental letter/e-mail
  - [arobbins@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:arobbins@stbarts.co.uk)
  - [llezaic@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:llezaic@stbarts.co.uk)