

# Course Selection for Key Stage 4

## 2024-26

Mr Chisholm



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# Aim of the Process



For all students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum that is exciting and challenging and will help them to be successful and prepared for their next phase of education or employment.

**Article 3 (best interests of the child)**

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)**

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

**Article 28 (right to education)**

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**Article 29 (goals of education)**

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

# Key Stage 4 Course Selection



Our curriculum in Years 10 and 11 has been developed to make sure students have the best possible chance of success, no matter what their strengths.

They will continue to follow a core of key subjects and we will support with the selection of a range of additional courses. Our aim is that they build on achievements so far and progress through Years 10 to 11 successfully in order to move on with confidence towards the Sixth Form, and beyond.

We expect our students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. This means that all students will study either Geography or History GCSE. Students can study both. Students will also choose from a range of academic, technical and vocational subjects.

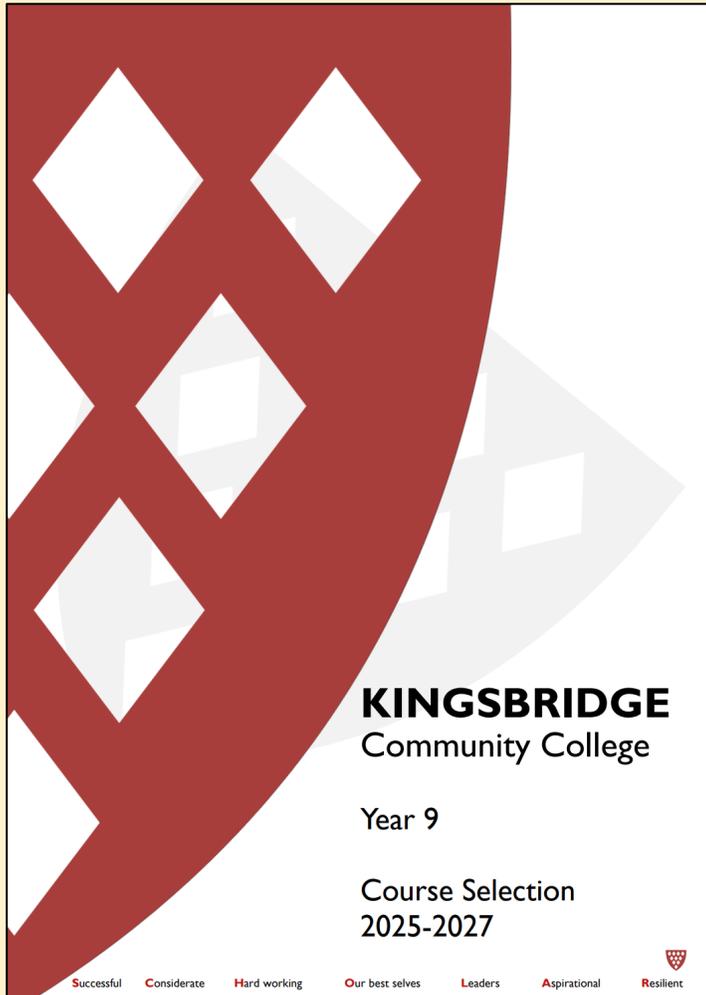
It is important that they select courses in which they will experience success - lots of advice and support is available in order to help with this.

# Information about GCSE Courses



- Emphasis on success in English, Maths and Science.
- Numerical scale for GCSE grades: Grade 9 (top) to Grade 1.
- A Grade 5 is considered a strong pass and a Grade 6 is often the benchmark to achieve in order to go and study Level 3 courses in the Sixth Form.
- A Grade 4 is a pass.
- All students in Education/Training will need to continue GCSE English and Maths until they get at least a Grade 4 pass.

# Key Stage 4 Course Selection



- Year 9 Course Selection Booklet has been given out in registration today.
- Electronic copy is available on the college website, under the 'Parents Tab'.
- Short videos for each subject that students are able to choose for Key Stage 4 are also available on the college website:  
<https://www.kingsbridgecollege.org.uk/>

# Year 9 Course Selection- College Website



The screenshot shows the Kingsbridge Community College website. At the top, there are quick links, an email icon, the college logo, and an admissions phone number. A navigation bar contains several tabs, with 'Parents' highlighted in a yellow box. A dropdown menu is open from the 'Parents' tab, listing various links. The 'Year 9 Course Selection' link is highlighted in a yellow box. The background of the website features a photograph of students in a science lab and the text 'An outstanding learning environment where individuals thrive'. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'EDUCATION SOUTH WEST A family of schools' and an 'Explore' button with a mouse cursor icon.

**Step 1: Click on the *Parents* tab.**

**Step 2: Select *Year 9 Course Selection* from the menu.**

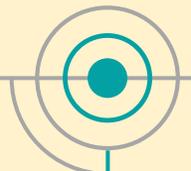
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# Year 9 Course Selection Timeline



Course Selection Fair,  
Careers lesson and Course  
Selection for Key Stage 4  
Presentation

8<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>  
January



Course Information  
Assemblies



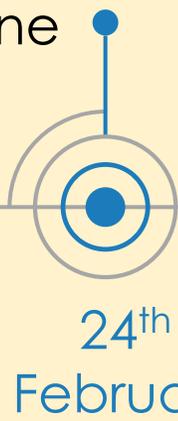
23<sup>rd</sup>  
January

13<sup>th</sup> Feb



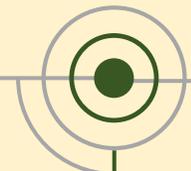
Year 9 Parents'  
Evening

Deadline for  
submitting your  
course  
selection form,  
online



24<sup>th</sup>  
February

24<sup>th</sup> Feb-14<sup>th</sup>  
March



Individual Course  
Selection Interviews  
for all Year 9 Students

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# Year 9 Parents' Evening

- Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.
- Parents' Evening appointments will be available from 16:00-19:00pm.
- **Booking opens on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 09:00.**
- Closing on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 15:20.



KINGSBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Balkwill Road, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1PL  
Tel: 01548852641  
Principal: Tina Graham  
CEO: Matthew Shanks  
[www.kingsbridgcollege.org.uk](http://www.kingsbridgcollege.org.uk)

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Invitation to the Year 9 Parents' Evening

We would like to invite you to the online Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

You will have the opportunity to book 1:1 appointments with your child's teachers via the Parents' Evening booking system; I hope that you and your child will be able to attend online appointments together.

In addition to the subject teacher appointments, Ms Blumer, SENDCo, will also be available if you would like to discuss any SEND related matters. Please be aware that the block-booking system will automatically allocate a SEND appointment. To avoid this, please de-select Ms Blumer if you do not need this appointment to free up spaces for other students.

Parents' Evening appointments will be available from 16:00-19:00 and will need to be booked in advance. Booking opens on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 09:00, closing on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 15:20. Please visit <https://kingsbridgcollege.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointments.

Given the virtual nature of the evening appointments are restricted to 5 minutes. Your child's teachers will provide you with information regarding your child's attitude to learning, achievement in lessons and home learning. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and if some questions require more time, we can arrange a follow up phone call to discuss matters further.

Appointments will end after 5 minutes automatically. This is the way in which the online programme is set up to ensure efficiency. We can assure you this is not the staff ending the appointment. We have no control over this so you can appreciate a prompt start is crucial to maximise your time with the teacher.

During the evening, I.T. Support will be available should any families experience difficulty in accessing their appointment. It would be advised for you to have the school number to hand (01548 852641), dialling extension 9 in order to access this support. If you have problems booking appointments please contact Inclusion Lead, Mrs Marijke Harselman, who is coordinating parents' evening appointments at: [Parentsevening@kingsbridgcollege.org.uk](mailto:Parentsevening@kingsbridgcollege.org.uk) or on 01548 852641. Ext 2570.

Finally, following my letter on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> January please can I remind you that we have the Course Selection Fair for students, parents and carers on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January between 4-6pm. The event will comprise of a selection of stalls in the gym where Subject Leaders will give details of the courses that we teach at Key Stage 4 that students can choose to study. During the event, at 4.30pm and 5.30pm, I will also deliver a presentation in the Main Hall outlining details of the course selection process. If you are intending on attending the event, please indicate by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/XZh6zQYG5y> and completing the form.

We look forward to seeing you online on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom Chisholm  
Assistant Principal

Successful Considerate Hard-working Our best selves Leaders Aspirational Resilient

EDUCATION Working together so children can lead great lives



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# Year 10 Student Experiences



*"The college was really helpful when it came to choosing my options. The assemblies were helpful in outlining the courses which let you see what you'd study and the meeting with teachers really helped finalise my choices."*

*"The options are very wide ranging and you choose to study what you enjoy."*

*"It makes you feel in control over your own life choices. I got to choose the subjects that I want to pursue and enjoy."*

*"At first I felt really nervous. We had loads of assemblies and they gave support which made everything a lot easier. In the end with all the support it felt a lot smoother and I felt less nervous."*

*"In Year 9 it really helped to go in to the course selection fair and actually talk to teachers about different GCSE courses."*

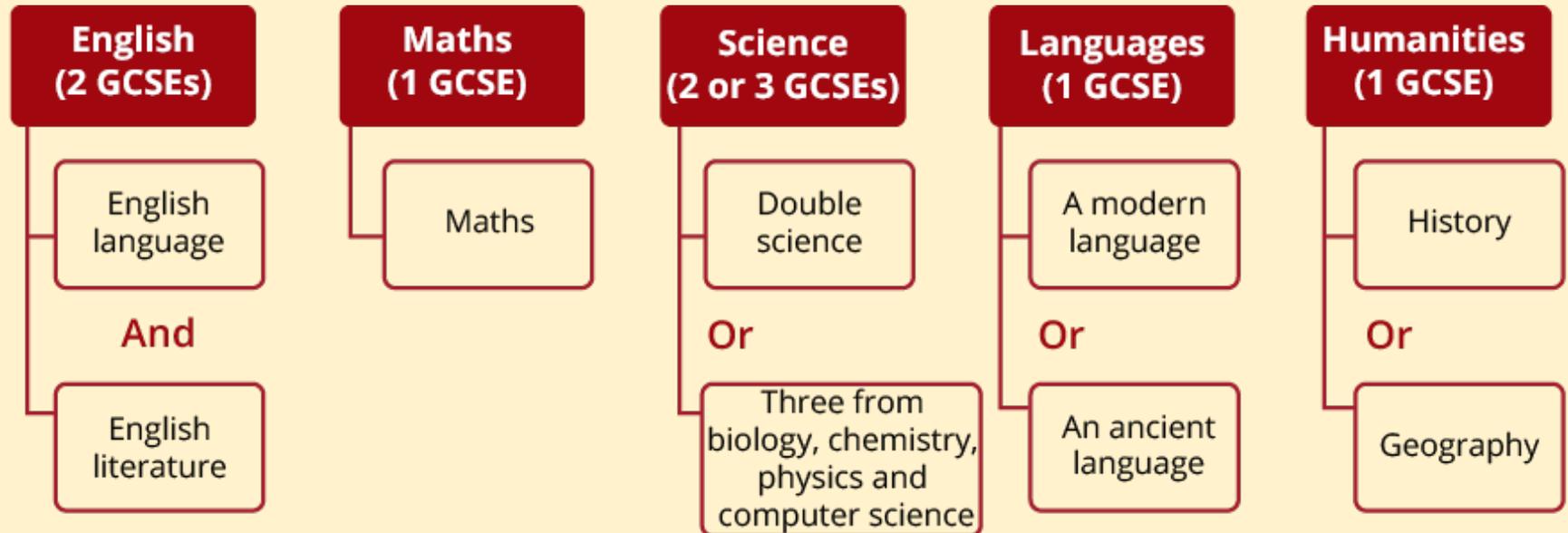
*"The course selection fair was helpful. It showed you all the information of the subjects you would want to pick and the content of each course."*

# What is the English Baccalaureate?



The English Baccalaureate was introduced to ensure schools provide a broad and balanced curriculum to students at KS4 which includes subjects that will best prepare them for next steps.

This measure recognises where pupils have achieved a Grade 5 or above in:



# The Core Curriculum at KCC



## All students study the **core curriculum**:

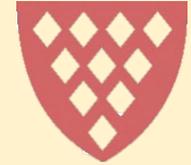
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science (Separate Sciences or Combined Science)
- Core Religious Education (RE)
- Core Physical Education (PE)
- Core Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Careers and Work Related Learning



## What are the options students can choose?

- Students will choose an additional **4 subjects** to study alongside the Core curriculum.
- The typical path for the 4 choices will be as follows:
  - ✓ **1 Humanities option** (History or Geography)
  - ✓ **3 additional options** from the other subjects on offer.

# Key Stage 4 Course Selection



Three choices from this list will also help maintain a breadth in curriculum

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Computer Science
- Cambridge National Creative iMedia
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Food & Nutrition
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Music
- GCSE PE Studies
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Spanish
- Cambridge National Sports Studies

**All qualifications are at GCSE level including Cambridge Nationals.**

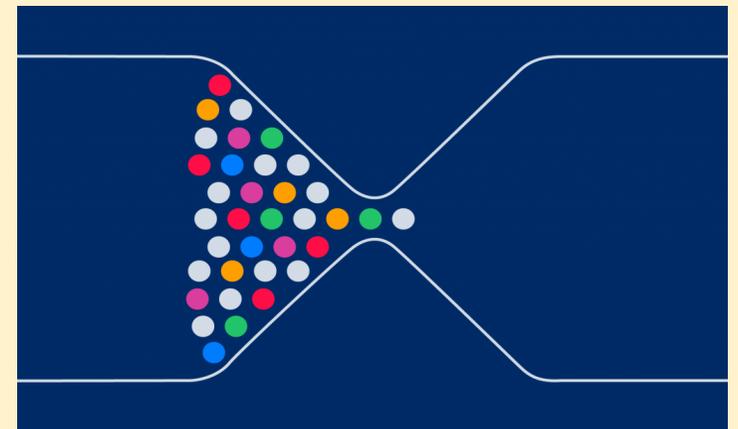
# Key Stage 4 Course Selection



Courses with more internally assessed components NEA:

- GCSE Art
- OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Design and Technology
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE PE Studies
- OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies

**All of these courses include some exam assessment.**



# Broad and Balanced Curriculum



A broad and balanced curriculum contains a humanity (Geography or History) and a range of other academic, creative and vocational subjects. All students must study either Geography or History. You can also study both History and Geography.

<b>Narrow Curriculum</b>
<b>1. Geography</b>
<b>2. Art</b>
<b>3. Photography</b>
<b>4. Drama</b>

The amount of Non-examined assessment (NEA) would be very challenging in our experience.

<b>Broad &amp; Balanced Curriculum</b>
<b>1. Geography/ History</b>
<b>2. French/ Spanish</b>
<b>3. Computer Science</b>
<b>4. Drama</b>

# Additional Curriculum Information



## **GCSE PE, Cambridge National Sports Studies or GCSE Dance**

Students **can only** choose **one** of these courses. If you are interested, you will select “sport” on your course selection form and use the comment box to indicate your preference. Your PE teachers will ultimately decide which course is most likely to lead to success.

## **GCSE Music**

It is a requirement that students are receiving lessons on their first study instrument / voice to help support them with the performance unit.

## **GCSE Photography**

You will need your own digital camera to complete photoshoots set for Home Learning - this is an integral part of the course. Advice about cameras will be provided. If you require any financial support with this please do not hesitate to let us know on your course selection form. Please do not let this be a barrier to studying the GCSE Photography course.

# Courses that have limited numbers



- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Photography

Therefore, your ATL grade in lessons is absolutely crucial: we will recruit students onto courses whose attitude to learning demonstrates that they are motivated to study this subject.

# Why do you need to select reserve options?



We try very hard to accommodate all students' choices within the framework of what is taught in the curriculum.

However, there are times when it is not possible to do this, for example:

- when too few students choose the subject for the course to run
- when too many students choose the subject for the number of teachers we have to staff groups

Therefore, you must choose 3 reserve subjects that you would be happy to study if your first choice courses are not possible to timetable.

When selecting a reserve, you **must** be prepared to study a reserve option.

# Making the Right Choice



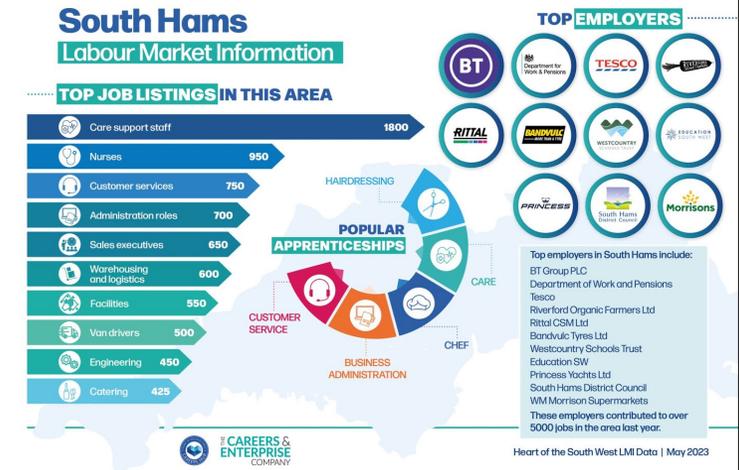
Students have already received a Careers, Pathways and Future Opportunities assembly at the beginning of the spring term.

## Careers, Pathways & Future Opportunities

What do I need to know about that for?

Knowing certain info makes decision making easier. It answers questions such as:

- Will I need to go to university?
- How much will I earn?
- What would I do each day?
- Where are most jobs in X,Y or Z located?
- Which are the best Apprenticeships?
- Which sectors are growing or shrinking in the UK?



## Careers, Pathways & Future Opportunities



### Typical skills for future roles...

Language skills to work globally.

Building a network of partners and skills.

Self-directed Learning.

Being able to work in a team and lead.

NEW WAY

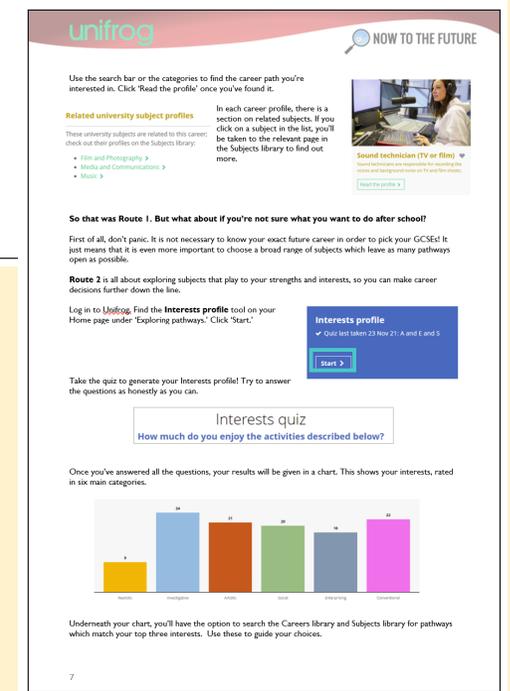
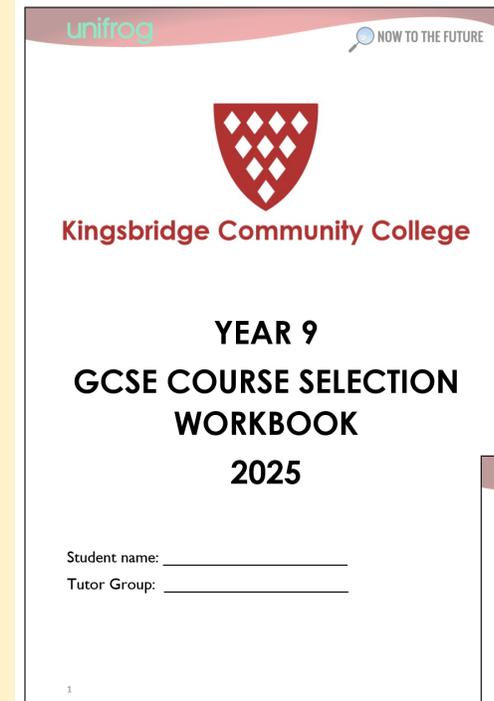
Coding and the ability to understand and apply technology.

Being able to predict and adapt to changes in working in all areas.

# Making the Right Choice

To support students to feel confident in choosing their GCSE options, students have been provided with unbiased information to make informed decisions through a Tutorial session this afternoon.

Students have used the Unifrog platform and completed a range of activities in their course selection workbook.



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# Making the Right Choice



We have specialist Careers Advisor Liz Ponsford supporting students in college.

We can arrange for bespoke support and guidance for your child regarding future pathways.

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# Making the Right Choice



If you are planning to stay on to do A Levels or go to University, English Baccalaureate courses will be important qualifications for you.

And also:

- Think about where you have experienced **success**.
- Think about the subjects you **enjoy**.
- Think about your **future** - what will you be doing in 2...4....10 years.....
- You need to choose a **broad range** of subjects.



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# Making the Right Choice



- **Don't** choose something because you have heard it is easy.
- **Don't** choose something because your friends are choosing it.
- **Don't** choose something because you like (or don't like) the teacher.
- **Don't** choose something just because it is new.
- **Remember** ASK QUESTIONS, FIND OUT...make the right choice.

Our aim is for **ZERO CHANGES** in Year 10

# Final Advice for Students



- ✓ Think carefully.
- ✓ Talk to people who know - listen to them, but remember it's your decision.
- ✓ If there are any problems, let your Tutor, Mr Renwick, Mrs Herselman or Mr Chisholm know.

# Final Advice for Parents and Carers



- Discuss your child's choices with them. Use the videos on the website and course selection booklet to help guide your discussion.
- Please contact your child's Tutor, Subject Teacher or the Team Leader (information in the Course Selection booklet) if you have any questions about courses – he/she will be able to advise or pass your query on, especially if you are unable to get a parents' evening appointment.

We try very hard to meet the selection choices of all students – but it is not always possible.

We will let you know as soon as we can if there are issues with particular combinations of subjects.

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# What should students do now?



- Watch all of the Year 9 Course Selection videos on the college website from the course leaders for each of the courses you are interested in with your parent/carer.
- Listen well and record your responses in the information sessions with Team Leaders that are planned in your registrations across the next two weeks.
- Discuss different options, including those that you haven't thought about before.
- Attend parents' evening and find out how you are doing in all of your subjects.
- Think about how you would like to be assessed – do you do well in coursework, or exams?
- Online course selection forms will be emailed to parents and carers on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**.
- Complete your online course selection form by **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**.