

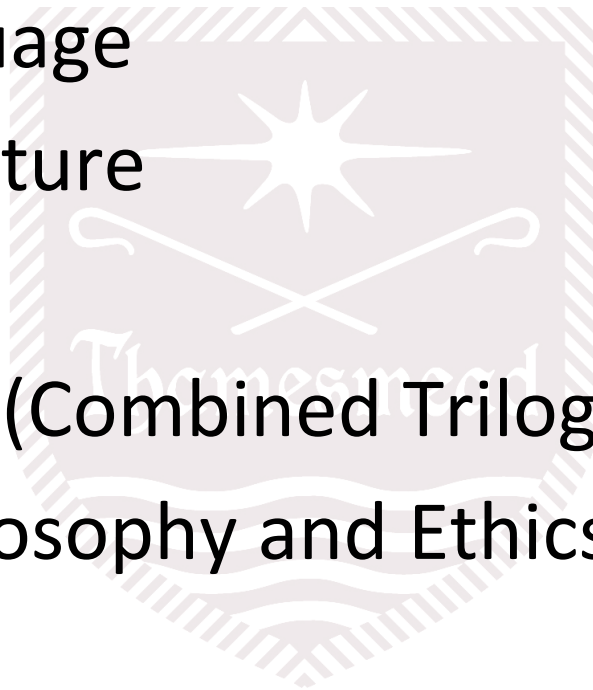
# *Thamesmead School*



## Year 9 Options Process

# *Which subjects will students continue to study?*

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Core Science (Combined Trilogy)
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
- Core PE



# *Option choices*

- Students will be able to choose **3** option subjects **in order of preference** plus **one reserve** which they must be happy to study
- Students must choose at least **one** subject from Computer Science, French, Geography, History, Spanish or Triple Science
- If a student chooses a language it must be the one he/she is studying in Year 9
- If a student is skilled in another language they may be able to take a GCSE in that language

# *Option choices*

- Other option subjects students can choose from are Art, Business and Enterprise, Design Technology, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Music, GCSE PE, BTEC First Award in Sport
- If a student was given a place in Year 7 based on their Drama or Music ability that subject must be one of their choices

# *Vocational courses*

- Business and Enterprise
- BTEC First Award in Sport
- GCSE equivalent courses
- Bigger practical element
- Project based
- Have an external exam

# *English Baccalaureate*

- To qualify for the English Baccalaureate students need to have gained a GCSE in English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History
- If a student has aspirations to go to University, then it would be advisable but not essential to consider options that qualify for the English Baccalaureate to ensure academic breadth
- Students do not however receive an EBacc certificate

# *Further information*

- A small number of subjects have entry requirements
- Certain subjects may have limits on the numbers that can study them
- Should too few students opt for a subject then it will not be able to be run
- Students should choose subjects that they enjoy or feel they are good at
- They should think about their career plans when selecting their options
- It is very difficult for students to change options once they have started the courses in September

# *Support with making choices*

- Your child has been given an Options booklet today and a copy is available on the school website – please ensure that you and your child read it carefully
- All Year 9 students are going to have a 10 minute meeting with a senior teacher to discuss their option choices



# *Completing the options form*

- This can be done electronically from **Monday 4th March**
- Guidance on how to complete the form will be emailed to students by Mrs Garraway and it will also be available on the school website
- Prior to submitting their options form students will need to activate their SIMS online account. They will receive an email with the link and instructions on how to do this on **Wednesday 21st February** and must do so by **Friday 1st March**
- If your child has difficulty activating the account please call or email Mrs Garraway
- **Deadline for the form to be completed – Wednesday 13th March**

# *Twilight options*

- For students who want to give further breadth to their studies in Year 10 and 11 they can study a 4<sup>th</sup> subject as a twilight option
- They must commit to 2 hours of teaching after school each week for the 2 years plus a considerable amount of independent study time
- They must be able to cope with the demands of doing an extra option including the additional GCSE exams

# *Twilight options*

- Subjects on offer – Additional Maths (which doesn't begin till Year 11), French and Spanish
- These additional courses are dealt with differently to the main options and are **not part of the options form**
- Please email Mrs Eley by **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** if your child is interested in studying one of these subjects
- Please note that if we have insufficient numbers in any subject the course will not run

# *Options events*

- Tuesday 30th January – Options assembly taken by Mrs Eley
- Thursday 1st February – Options Fair from 4.30-6.00pm
- Thursday 8th February – Year 9 Progress Review afternoon

