



WYMONDHAM COLLEGE

A World Class State Boarding and Day School

Principal: Emma Arrand BA (Hons), FCCT, QTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

An audio recording of this letter can be found here: <https://youtu.be/ULrBaW1AOyI>

Year 8 Options Process – Key Information and Timeline

Your child is approaching an important stage in their education: we are beginning the Year 8 Options process, which will result in them being allocated their GCSE subjects for study from Year 9. This is an exciting time, and we want to ensure that both students and families are well-informed to support them making the best possible choices.

As a College, we recognise the importance of our students experiencing a curriculum which is broad and balanced, and which, by design and quality, supports them to develop a love of learning which lasts a lifetime.

To achieve this, there are some requirements in place which your child's chosen curriculum at GCSE must meet. This letter will guide you through the process in addition to sharing our subject recommendations, informed by your child's current academic performance.

Subject Choice Requirements:

Required Choices	Subjects Available										Further Information
Choice 1: Humanities	History				Geography						Students may choose to continue their study in <i>both</i> History and Geography.
Choice 2: Languages or Creative	French	Spanish	Design & Technology	Food & Nutrition	Fine Art	Photography	Textiles	Music	Drama		Students <i>must</i> choose 1 of the subjects listed for Choice 2.
Free Choices	Subjects Available										Further Information
Choices 3, 4 and 5	All subjects listed in the rows above plus: Business, Computing, Creative iMedia, GCSE PE, Sociology.										Students will make 3 choices here and be allocated a place in 2 of them.
	Students who excel in Maths in Year 8 will be given the opportunity to undertake Further Maths as an Options subject. If Further Maths is included in your child's subject recommendations below, this is their invitation to undertake this subject at GCSE as one of their options.										

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Things your child should consider when making their subject choices:

- Their interest and enjoyment of a subject;
- Their ability in that subject, or subjects which provide foundation knowledge relevant to the course;
- Their current aspirations and goals in terms of career;
- Their understanding of the course content from conversations with subject teachers.
- The method of assessment. *While a number of subjects are assessed 100% by exams, there are subjects with NEA components which are completed and marked prior to the start of the exam period.*

We have used students' AP1 data from the Autumn Term to make some recommendations with regards to subject choice based on those subjects they are performing well in. Please discuss these with your child as part of their decision-making process.

Please note:

- *Students study Art in Y7 and 8, but can choose between Fine Art, Textiles and Photography for GCSE. Students may only take one of the Arts subjects from the 3 on offer as the specification is the same across the three.*
- *A small number of students have been identified by our SEN Team to undertake a Bespoke Curriculum. This will replace one of their option choices and provide the opportunity for the consolidation of Core knowledge and skills in English, Maths and Science. Further information will follow regarding this.*

Business and Sociology:

Subjects recommended above are subjects which your child has already been taught at Key Stage 3. In addition to this, they may be considering Sociology or Business. With these subjects, it is important that they consider whether they feel confident in subjects which will support their success.

Subject	Facilitating Subjects: <i>consider your child's confidence in these subjects as they will support your child being able to tackle and enjoy this subject at GCSE.</i>	
Business	English	Extended written responses and essay questions feature heavily in the exam.
	Maths	To support with the calculations which are required throughout the course.
	Geography	The content is linked to some aspects of Human Geography, and the questions and essay response required are similar in structure.
Sociology	English	Analytical and evaluative skills. Extended writing.
	Geography	An understanding of migration, movement and globalisation.
	History	Historical development of society over time. Extended written responses. Source-based analysis.
	Maths	Interpretation of data and drawing conclusions from it.

Key Events and Resources:

To support you and your child in this process, we have outlined the key events and resources available to you and your child. An FAQ sheet is also attached to this letter.

Date	Event	Audience	Further Information
Monday 9th February	Options Launch Letter	Parents and Carers	All parents will receive this letter, and audio recording of the letter, explaining how the options process will work for their child(ren).
Tuesday 10th February	Options Assembly	Year 8 students	All students will attend an assembly in the chapel, where the options process will be introduced, and any initial queries will be answered.
Thursday 12th February	Subject Fayre 4.30 – 6.30pm	Year 8 students and their parents and carers	An opportunity for face-to-face conversations with subject leaders regarding available subjects and suitability. Online subject presentations are available for all parents to access.
Friday 13th February	Options Form Live	Year 8 students	All Year 8 students will receive an email with a link to their Options Form. Parents will receive the same information via email.
Tuesday 10th March	Parents Evening	Year 8 students and their parents and carers	An opportunity to review progress across all subjects. Academic progress is one of the important factors to consider when considering appropriate subject choices. <i>I will be bookable for any options process-related questions during this evening. Parents who are unable to attend the subject fayre will be prioritised for appointments.</i>
Monday 16th March	Options Form Deadline	Year 8 students	Final deadlines for the submission of subject preferences form.
w/b 18th May	Subject Allocations	Year 8 students	All students will receive their subject allocations.

Supporting Your Child Through the Process

Selecting GCSE subjects is a significant decision, and we encourage open discussions at home about your child's interests, strengths, and future aspirations. The subject presentations, face-to-face and online events will provide valuable guidance: we encourage you to engage with these resources.

If you have any questions or require further support, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child makes informed and confident choices about their GCSE journey.

Best regards,

Sarah Morgan

Vice Principal