



13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 9 GCSE Options Process**

Last Wednesday we launched the Options Process with Year 9 students during an Information Assembly. Students received an overview of the process, the range of subjects to select from and the support available to all students.

From today the Options Booklet and subject information videos are available via our school website at [www.gshs.org.uk/year-9-options](http://www.gshs.org.uk/year-9-options).

All students study the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science. They will also attend lessons in Physical Education, Religious Education, Careers Education and Personal & Social Education. In addition, students will select and place in rank order the four subjects that they wish study in Year 10 and Year 11.

In their ranked options, students must select **at least one subject** from Geography, History, French and Spanish.

The GCSE option subjects are listed below:

English Baccalaureate Subjects	All Other Option Subjects	
Geography	Fine Art	Hospitality & Catering
History	Photography	Health & Social Care
French	Textiles	Drama
Spanish	Sport	Music
Computer Science	Media	Business Studies
	ICT	Religious Studies

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people. Choosing the EBacc (minimum of Geography or History **and** French or Spanish) at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January we will host the Year 9 Options Evening in School, 5:00 - 7:00pm, for all parents/carers and students. This is a very important evening which will include a Headteacher

Southgate, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 6SA

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**Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)



# George Stephenson High School

Presentation, Department Visits and a bookable 1:1 Appointment with an Options Advisor. The appointment will focus on a student's interests, current level of effort in their subjects, long-term ideas about careers and the way they like to learn. Following the conclusion of the 1:1 appointment the Option Form can be submitted either in person on the night or electronically. The deadline for selection and submission is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Further information about booking an appointment at the Options Evening will follow.

Please take time to process the range of information and guidance available, we do welcome conversations with parents/carers during the process and will do our best to answer queries quickly. At each stage in the process, you will be kept informed. Do not hesitate to contact Mr Harrison, Year 9 Guidance Manager, or Mr Houghton, Year 9 Progress Leader, with any queries.

We look forward to seeing you at the Options Evening on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D. Lee  
Assistant Headteacher

Southgate, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 6SA

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