

Summary Transcript for J Evans Options Intro 2021

INTRODUCTION

Hello students, parents and ladies and gentlemen, welcome.

My name is John Evans and I am the Deputy Head of Ferndown Upper School and I am responsible primarily for the options process and Mrs Chater who is Assistant Head and responsible for curriculum and Mrs Milsom who is the curriculum manager.

I hope you find all the information and documentation on this website very useful.

You will find all of the subject information from different Heads of Subject and so you can see what the courses are and come to a good sound set of choices.

Options are really, the only chance for students to choose what they do, we are really keen at Ferndown Upper School to make sure that all of our students have as much information they need and as much access to professionals and teachers as possible to ensure the process goes smoothly.

Current year 9 students will start their options after May half term this year even with the current pandemic on, but this may change based on national circumstances and changes to year 11 exams and so on.

Our Year 9 option process this year will be a virtual experience, but please remember that students can contact teachers, subject leaders via email and via Teams with any queries.

SLIDES BEGIN

Slide 1: *You can see there these are options for Year 9s 2021-2023.*

Slide 2: *There are few things to remember. Why do we have options? Options are for students to specialise in things that interest and engage and inspire them, and we really hope your option subjects do that. That's not to say of course core subjects won't do the same. But where you have some choice, you have a better chance of making sure you are doing something you really enjoy. These are likely to sustain your interest over the longer term. We have a huge range of option subjects and we're really proud at FUS of our curriculum as we believe its very broad. You can see a whole range of subjects through the Arts, through maths, through design technology, photography all of our social sciences, history, geography, modern languages, PE GCSE, health and fitness and a very wide range of options to choose from.*

All students will study English Language, English literature, all three single sciences (one of the only non-selective schools in the country to do this), Careers, PSHE and core PE.

Slide 3: *There are good and bad reasons for making choices [Mr Evans reads slide]*

Makes other points made: Make sure you enjoy it, maybe you want to take study further.

Slide 4: *The process starts with this presentation and looking at all the subject pages on the website. You then need to make four choices and I now want to go through this briefly.*

Slide 5: *The way we organise our options at FUS is in 4 blocks, A,B,C,D. [Mr. Evans shows an example blocking of subjects].*

*Students must pick one first preference and one second preference from **each block**.*

Do not put the same subject choices in **FIRST Preference** in two blocks.

You can see Vocational and GCSE, which are similar courses, the GCSEs are little more academic and the vocational courses are more hands on, you cannot follow both types within one subject.

Slide 6: *We work really hard to try and make sure that as many students as possible can get as many first choices as possible. But that can't be guaranteed as the number of students who opt may be too many. So, if there is one class running and 38 students opt for it, some of those students will get a second choice. Most students will get 4 first choices but don't be surprised if you get at least one second choice. We will ensure discussions happen around this with parents, students etc. But there is always an issue with courses as they are determined by staffing and the timetable.*

What I would say to you is there is no benefit in rushing, there is a date for you to do them online. There is non first come first served benefit to be had. So take your time, find out the information, talk to parents, talk to teachers, make the right choice.

Slide 7: *Parents are full of life experience to talk to about options. Parents and students can talk to teachers. We would have normally had an options evening but unfortunately that is not possible. So I strongly advise you get in touch with Heads of Subject (information is on the subject pages below). Gather your information and make your choices by the 26th February.*

Other key people include your Head of Year, Mr. Collins. Mrs Clay our SENCO and Mr. Garnet our careers advisor.

Slide 8: *So, finally from me, what are the important dates for us.*

On Wednesday period 1&2 Careers input in virtual lessons, and this will highlight the key questions around careers and option choices. On the 26th and 27th January there will be a virtual teacher parent consultation evening. This is a good opportunity to talk about progress and lessons but also about options in that subject area. 26th February option forms are due online.

Mrs. Milsom, Mrs. Chater and I will then look into maximising the first choices students get and we will relay that to you by the middle of May at the very latest. It's likely to be a lot of earlier.

These are the main options contacts if you have any options queries so get in touch.

Well thank you for listening, I hope everything is going okay for you at home as I know that it is a very hard for everybody, and thank you for all your hard work at home. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions regarding the options.