

December 2025

Re: Y9 Options 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Y9 Options Key Dates

- Wednesday 14th Jan. 2025: **Year 9 Options Launch to students in school**
- Wednesday 14th Jan. 2025: 6.30-8.30pm: **Options Evening**
- Thursday 22nd Jan. 2025: **Teacher Consultation Evening- online 4-7pm**
- 12 noon, Monday 2nd Feb. : **Options Online Form Deadline**

Launch of GCSE Options Choices (14th January)

The options process for your son/daughter will begin on **Wednesday 14th January**. On this day students will receive a careers session during periods 1 to 3 which will help prepare them for making their options choices.

Online Options System

This year we are using the Student Portal on Bromcom to collect your child's option choices, The Options widget will appear on their student portal on 14th January. On this day, students will also receive an email with the link. This email will be sent to their school email address from our curriculum manager, Gayle Milsom.

Please note: We are planning that all Year 9 students will start their GCSE options after the May half term of Year 9, rather than in September of their Year 10. This will enable seven weeks of additional teaching for these groups.

Options Evening 14th January 2026 6.30-8.30pm

To support you and your child with the process and to answer any questions you may have about the options available to them, we will be holding an options information evening in school on 14th January. To ensure that there is sufficient room for everyone in our school hall, we are splitting the evening into two halves.

Students in 9X*- the evening will begin with a presentation in the hall at 6.30pm about the process and how to use the online option system. This will be followed by an opportunity for you and your child to visit subjects around the school to find out more from our staff about what different courses entail.

Students in 9Y*- you are invited into school at 6.30pm to visit subjects around the school to find out more from our staff about what different courses entail. At 7.30pm there will be a presentation in the hall about the process and how to use the online option system.

*check your child's Maths class on their timetable if you are unsure if they are X or Y.

Teacher/Parent Consultation Evening 22nd January 2026

Head Teacher: Philip Jones



On **Thursday 22nd January** from 4.00pm – 7pm, there will be a Virtual Subject Consultation Evening for Year 9 students. Parents will be able to book an online meeting with teachers to discuss progress, set targets for the coming months and to ask any relevant questions about options.

Bookings will be open from Thursday 15th January 6.00pm until 6.00pm on Wednesday 21st January. Click on the link below to make these appointments.

We sincerely hope that you will take these opportunities to become informed about options and to meet with teachers to discuss your child's progress and targets.

<https://ferndownupperschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

If you experience any difficulties with booking the appointments, please email Tracy Randell who can make the appointments for you. Do include the time frame which best suits you: tracyrandell@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Getting the most out of the sessions:

Due to the limited time available for each session I have the following advice on how to ensure you get the most out of your parents' evening meetings:

- Check MCAS before the parents evening, particularly the most recent assessments, and talk with the student about their target/how work is getting on
- If you have any specific questions for subject teachers, ask them at the start if possible
- If you think there is a longer conversation needed, the teacher can email with more context/information where required, or if appropriate for specific issues can arrange a time to talk

Please note that only one appointment can be made for Science (It will state Biology). That teacher will have all the information regarding all three sciences: Physics, Chemistry and Biology. This enables staff to meet with more parents.

Waiting lists

If you are unable to make an appointment with a specific member of staff, please add your name to the waiting list and the staff member will contact you via phone or email by the end of Friday 30th January.

You will find this link useful- it explains how to log in to your virtual appointment. I recommend reading this in advance of your first appointment so that you are fully prepared.<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

Yours faithfully

Sonia Chater

Deputy Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Philip Jones

