


Welcome to Year 9 Options Evening

11th January 2023

Thank you all for attending tonight ...

- The students have had an assembly and input in lessons today.
 - I would like to thank all of the staff who have been involved – Mrs Milsom is at the heart of the whole process.
 - Then Mrs Chater, who runs the curriculum here at Ferndown.
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Agenda

- ◇ A brief overview from me
- ◇ Mrs Chater: Introduction to Options
- ◇ FAQs
- ◇ Talks with subject leads

My advice for choices

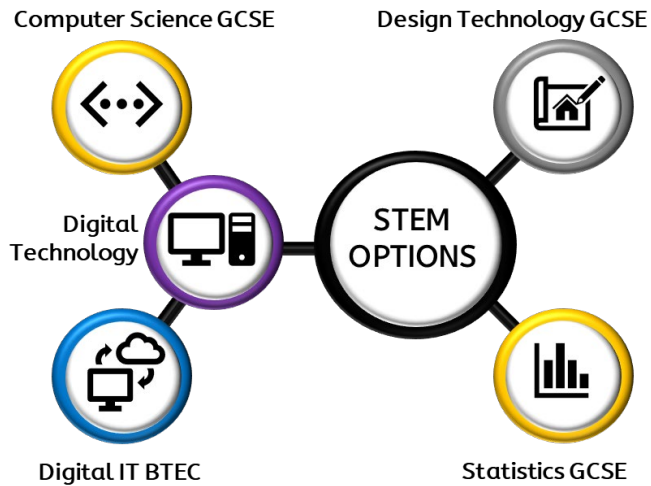
- ◇ Keep your opportunities open
- ◇ Plan towards your future aspirations
- ◇ Play to your strengths – choose what you enjoy

Don't select on who your teacher has been this year as you do not know who will be teaching you for GCSE.

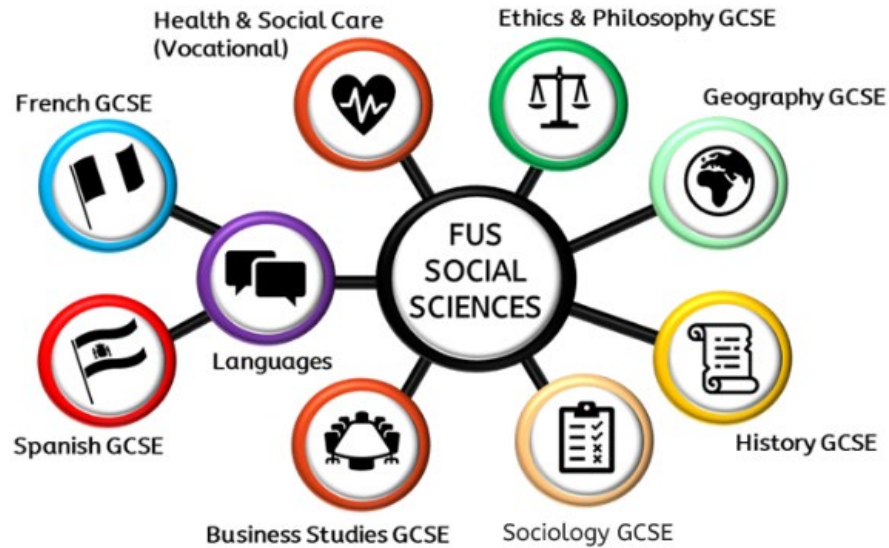
Students have had taster sessions today.

Keep Your Opportunities Open

STEM



SOCIAL SCIENCES

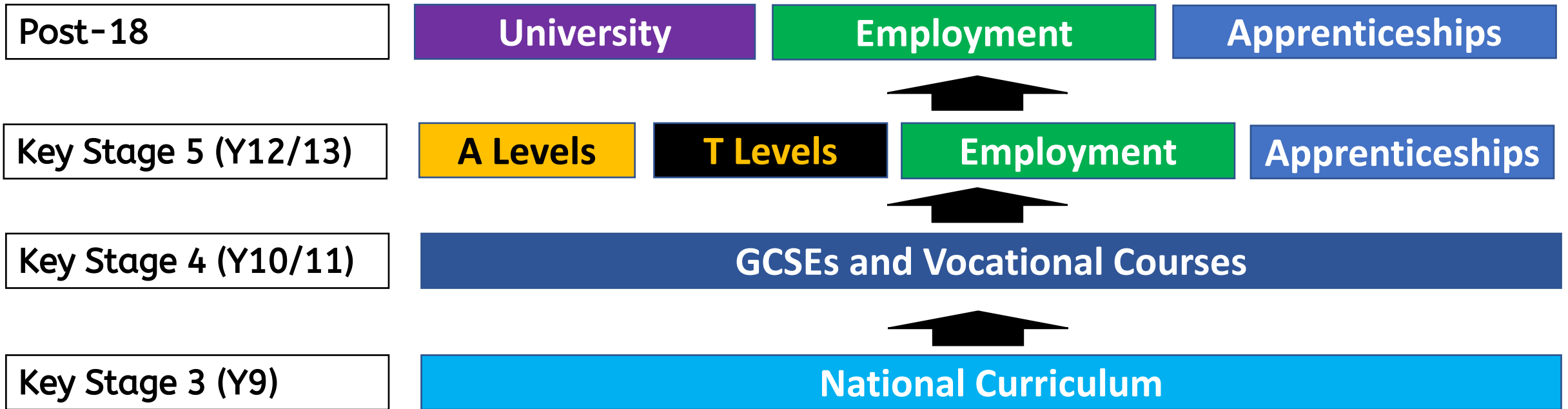


CREATIVE



Build bridges to your aspirations

How do you get there?



And don't worry ...

- Students do narrow their focus of study as they progress through school
- But there will always be the opportunity to change if required – so subjects can be changed up to the end of the first half term if there is space to do so

Now to Mrs. Chater

Using the online options system

- You son / daughter will have been sent an **email today** from **Mrs Milsom** with the user-id and password that they will need to access the website where you are able to choose their options for later this year.
- The website can be accessed here using the QR code in your booklet
- Using the software is really straightforward – the next slide shows some screen shots to show you the process.
- Unfortunately, there is a limit on the number of characters that we can use for subject names so there are some very slight differences between the names shown in the rest of the options booklet / school website, and the ones shown here.
- When you first log in, this is the screen that you see (next slide). You need to choose ONE of these subjects before you are able to move on. This is your first choice.

T.O.O.L.S

TimeTabler Options On-Line System



Ferndown Upper School Year 9 Options 2023

To leave without making any choices: [Log out](#)

Choices for: : Year 9

Extra information: Click [here](#) for an **example**/instructions. Click [here](#) for **course information**.

Step 1 of 3

[Start](#) > Choice 1 > Free choice (with reserve) > Confirmation

Choose ONE of the following Subjects:

- Digital IT BTEC (Cb)
- Ethics & Philos (Ep)
- Health & Fit (Hh)
- Media Inter (Mi)
- Maths Stats (Sm)

Next you will have your three free choices

Next

Taught in 3
hours per
fortnight



To leave without making any choices: [Log out](#)

Choices for:

Extra information: Click [here](#) for an example. Click [here](#) for course information.

Step 2 of 3

[Start](#) > [Choice: Digital_IT_BTEC](#) > Free choice (with reserve) > Confirmation

Please enter your 3 choices by entering 2, 3, 4 in the box by your chosen subjects.

To mark your Reserve choice, put 'R' by that subject.

Subject	Choice
Art (Ar)	<input type="text"/>
Business Stud (Busi)	<input type="text"/>
Computer Sc (Co)	<input type="text"/>
Drama (Dr)	<input type="text"/>
Design Tech (Dt)	<input type="text"/>
Food Technology (Food)	<input type="text"/>
French (Fr)	<input type="text"/>
Geography (Gg)	<input type="text"/>
History (Hi)	<input type="text"/>
Health&Social C (Hs)	<input type="text"/>
Media GCSE (Ms)	<input type="text"/>
Music (Mu)	<input type="text"/>
PE (PE)	<input type="text"/>
Photography (Po)	<input type="text"/>
Sociology (So)	<input type="text"/>
Spanish (Sp)	<input type="text"/>
Textiles (Text)	<input type="text"/>

Taught in 5 hours per fortnight

In this screen you can **select your other three choices** plus your **reserve**. Allowable entries are 2, 3, 4, and R. Click submit when you are happy with your choices.

The next screen will display the choices you have made and allow you to **confirm** or go back and edit your selections.

Finally, once you have made your choices, you can ask for an **email** to be sent, confirming your choices. You can have this sent to any email address you choose. (Please check SPAM)

If you decide before the submission deadline that you want to **edit your choices**, you are able to go back in as many times as you like to edit your selection. Once the deadline has passed, access to the website will be disabled.

For any queries please contact Mrs Milsom, Curriculum Manager gaylemilsom@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

GCSE And Vocational Subject Choices

Optional courses are either GCSE or vocational/BTEC courses in option columns. The latter are GCSE equivalents but often with less formal examination and more practical learning.

Students who are interested in studying the following subjects should note:

- Study **Either** Computer Science GCSE **or** Digital IT BTEC – **not both**
- Study **Either** Media GCSE **or** Digital & Creative Media BTEC – **not both**
- Study **Either** PE GCSE **or** Health & Fitness (Vocational) – **not both**

Maths Statistics – List A

This is available for students in maths groups
9x1, 9x2, 9x3 and 9y1, 9y2, 9y3 only.

The process after the deadline

- In **previous year students** have been limited to choices made within four sets of **blocks**. To increase the amount of choice open to students this year we will be building the timetabling around the current year 9 students' preferences for subjects.
- Upon receiving the option choices by the deadline, **we will construct a timetable based on the optimum combination of subjects** that give the most students their first option choice, only using their reserve choices where needed.
- We are confident that this will provide students with a more **bespoke curriculum** that suits the students' aspirations rather than be limited by our timetabling constraints.
- Like all years though, **some students will not get all their first choices** (though this is normally around 90-95%) and where we cannot timetable them due to choice clashes or classes become full it may be required to use the reserves. This will always be done in discussion with the Head of Year, Options Team and the student, before final decisions are made if first choices cannot be offered.

Important Dates



Wednesday 11 th January	Options Launch Day Website and Option Online system goes live https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/options-information/ https://www.studentoptions.co/FUSYR9/
Thursday 19 th January	Virtual Parents Evening 4-7pm- booking system now open. A chance to discuss option choices with your teachers https://ferndownupperschool.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/
Monday 30 th January - Noon	Deadline for options to be chosen
February- April	Timetable construction Any students who are unable to study their first choice courses will be spoken to and parents will be contacted
Mid May	Option choices will be confirmed for all students
Monday 5 th June	Students begin their options courses

What is the reasoning behind not having a language as a compulsory option?

- *At FUS we believe in offering a full range of choices to our students. We offer two different languages in our options allowing our students to pick up to two if they are passionate about this. If your child is a keen linguist and is interested in taking this forward, we highly recommend learning an additional language as this opens many futures options.*

What is the school's view on the EBACC? (eg. impact on university entry)

- *EBACC or English Baccalaureate was introduced a number of years ago with an initial aim to achieve certification if a pass was achieved in certain combination of subjects. This never came to fruition and is now used as a performance measure of schools. Our option choice list allows students to pick EBACC combinations, which include a language, history OR geography, computer science or statistics. However, we believe students should have choice over their options and never force students to take these.*

FAQs

What if my child is not interested in any other subject for a reserve choice in that list?

- *We advise that you write in the comment box at the bottom to explain why, but it is important you consider this as you may not get all your first choices*

How will we be notified of what options have been given /granted and when will this be also will there be time from notification to GCSE course starting?

- *We will give final confirmation of options in Early Summer 1 half term just after Easter. However, before this point, many conversations lead by our Curriculum Manager, Mrs. Milsom will happen with students to ensure their choices, course demand and student aspirations are considered before final decisions are made. If reserve choices are required all parents and students will be communicated with before course confirmation.*

FAQ

What is the difference between a vocational qualification and a GCSE qualification?

- *Vocational qualifications AND GCSEs are 'Level 2' Qualifications. Vocational qualifications generally have a higher coursework component compared to their GCSE equivalent. These courses are less academically demanding in terms of terminal or final exams. In some cases, higher university entries may not consider vocational options at GCSE, though this view is restricted to the most competitive universities like Cambridge and Oxford. Most universities accept vocational qualifications at GCSE and Sixth Form level.*

PE is a core subject; do they have to pick one of the PE options too?

- *No, students do not have to pick PE as an additional subject. However all students will get one hour a week Core PE to ensure they complete physical activity/exercise as required by the national curriculum in our fantastic sports facilities.*

FAQs



How will I know if I enjoy a subject which I've not experienced yet (e.g. Business Studies or Media) Are we able to change subjects if we change our minds?

Students will have up to 4 academic weeks to decide whether a course is for them. If within this time they decide they may want to change, conversations will be had between them, parents and our options team. It may not be possible during this period to swap to another course which is already full so decisions need to be taken carefully in the first instance.

Before taking on the subject, why not talk to students who may already take it in other year groups? Or talk to the teachers who deliver it to informed as much as possible?

Where do we find out where the content of each course is?

All course information can be found by clicking on the course titles at the bottom of the Options webpage. Each contains a video from our subject leaders as well as course-specific information.