

Year 9 Options Evening

What will the GCSE Options Process look like for my child?

For general enquires about the Options Process, please contact

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- **Mr Warsop –Assistant Principal - kwarsop@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk**

Why is this Parents Evening so important?

Year 9 is a pivotal year where students begin making decisions that shape their GCSE journey and future opportunities. Our Parents' Evening and Options Launch is an important chance for parents/carers to work in partnership with the school.

Parents/Carers, today you will get a chance to:

- Speak to subject teachers about current progress and areas to improve.***
- Understand option subjects, course demands, and pathways.***
- Receive advice to help your child choose subjects that match their strengths and aspirations.***
- Leave with clarity about key dates, support available, and next steps.***

What is the Options Process

Year 9 Options is the process where your child starts choosing some of the subjects they will study for GCSEs in Years 10 and 11

Up to now, all students have followed a similar timetable. From Year 10, they still study the core subjects (Eng, Maths, Science and RE), but they also get to choose a number of additional subjects based on their interests, strengths and future plans. Those chosen subjects are called their “**options.**”

The purpose of Year 9 Options is to help students:

- build a GCSE timetable that suits them.
- choose subjects they will be motivated to work hard in.
- keep the right doors open for future courses and careers.

As part of the process, students will learn what each subject involves, what the workload is like, and how it is assessed. Parents’ Evening/Options Launch is important because it gives you the chance to speak to teachers, ask questions, and make sure your child’s final choices are well informed.

The Options Journey

The Options Journey

This is the first exciting step in understanding what your future holds...



Choosing a subject is not difficult. Making the right choice, however, is a different matter

It is wise to choose subjects at which you have been successful and in which you clearly have ability.

There is no point in choosing subjects in which you do not have a basic interest.

You should not choose a subject simply because many of your friends have chosen a particular subject. You should consider your own needs.

Which Options are best for me?

So much choice...

The options process can often be daunting for you.



Key Questions

- **What do you want to do in the future?**
- **What subjects do you love?**
- **What subjects are you making good progress in?**

2025-2026

Y9 OPTIONS

1 OPTIONS LAUNCH

THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2026

Year 9 Parent's and Options Information
Evening: 4.45pm to 6.45pm

Find out more about:

- Options pathways
- Options subjects on offer
- Your child's progress in their subjects
- Next steps and support offered.





2 **OPTIONS BOOKLET**

From THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2026

Parents/carers will receive a copy of the **St Marks 2025-2026 Options Booklet**. This will help them to understand what each qualification will entail at GCSE including the way that they are assessed and the topics covered in the course.

4 GUIDED OPTIONS INTERVIEWS

From MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

Your child will have a one-to-one meeting with a relevant member of staff to explore their education and career aspirations and how their options choices will support these.

At the end of this meeting they will select their five options subject preferences.



3 TASTER LESSONS

MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2026 to FRIDAY 30th JANUARY 2026

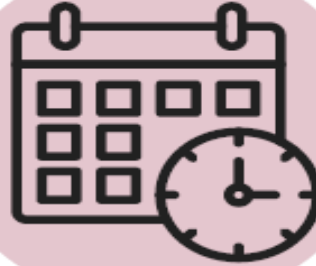
During this fortnight, your child will have the opportunity to experience GCSE style lessons in all of their subjects to help them in making their final options choices.



5 TIMETABLE CREATION

MARCH 2026 - APRIL 2026

We will be working hard to create a timetable that gives as many students as possible their first choice options subjects.



6 CONFIRMED ALLOCATIONS

END OF MAY 2026

Your child will receive confirmation of the three options choices that they have been allocated out of the five preferences that they selected.

Subject Choices

**What subjects
do I have to
take?**

Core Subjects at SMA

What subjects can I take?

Core Subjects

The **Core Subjects** are subjects that all students are required to study. These compulsory subjects are the basis of the curriculum which your child will study.

Our **Core Subject** Offer:

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Science (Double or Triple Award)

As a Church of England Academy, **Religious Education** is also one of our core subjects.

English Baccalaureate (EBACC) Subjects

What subjects can I take?

English Baccalaureate (EBACC) Subjects

The **EBACC** is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. Employers are interested in students who can show a breadth of study

The **EBACC** consists of:

Core Subjects

English Language and Literature

Maths

Science (Double or Triple Award)

Plus

A Humanity: History or Geography

and

A Language: French or Spanish

The Open Subjects

What subjects can I take?

Open Options Subjects

Open Options subjects are ones that students have a free choice in. These include:

Sport

- GCSE PE

Creative Arts:

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Art – Textiles
- BTEC Performing Arts (Drama)
- GCSE Music

Computing and Enterprise:

- BTEC Business
- BTEC ICT
- GCSE Computer Science

Social Sciences

- GCSE Citizenship
- GCSE Psychology

WHY STUDY ANOTHER LANGUAGE?



Better career prospects

Huge demand for linguists in travel, hospitality, marketing, sales and Technology.



Improves your English

Focus on grammar, tense and verbs and helps you with the rules of the English language



Better memory

The nature of the subject means you are developing skills in improving your working memory



Easier travel

Communicating with others!

Our Options Pathways

What subjects can I take?

Our Options Pathways

All students will study the **5 Core Subjects**:

- English Language & Literature
- Maths
- Science (Double or Triple Award)
- Religious Education

■ You will then pick **two subjects** from the EBACC choices

- **A Humanity**: History or Geography
- **A Language**: French or Spanish

It is strongly recommended that students pick a humanity and a language

■ You will then **rank 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice** from the remaining open options

Our Options Pathways

Student A

5 Core Subjects:

- English Language & Literature
- Maths
- Science (Double or Triple Award)
- Religious Education

Two subjects from the EBACC:

- A Humanity: History
- A Language: French

Open Options subjects:

- GCSE PE – 1st
- GCSE Art – 2nd
- GCSE Computer Science – 3rd

These are
your 5
preferences

Choices Allocation

Students will be allocated 3 choices from the 5 preferences that they pick (this includes their EBACC language and humanity choice).

Yr9 Options FAQs



Yr9 Options Booklet 2025 -2026

