

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Year 9 Options Evening 'live' Event:
Thursday 18th March 2021 (5.00pm – 7.30pm)**

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our **Year 9 Options Live Event**; one of the most significant events in your son/daughter's education to date. For most students, choosing courses to study in Years 10 and 11 should be a very exciting time, for others it may seem a little daunting but hopefully for all our students it will be both thought provoking and well-timed. Our aim at Shoreham Academy is to fully support you and your child throughout this process by providing as much information, guidance and balanced professional opinion for you and your son/daughter to confidently make the most appropriate option preferences.

Your son/daughter will have this phase of the options process explained to them in more detail during an assembly on PSHCe day on 17th March. Students will receive an options booklet for you to work through with them before the Options Live Event. You will also be able to access links to subject videos on the website.

Information can be found on the Parents' section on our website <https://www.shoreham-academy.org/parents/options> and students will be sent key resources via Firefly. The official Options Preference Form will be available on our website in the week beginning 22nd March to allow students plenty of time to carefully consider their choices.

The Options evening live event on 18th March will include an important presentation made by Mr K Felton, Assistant Principal, during which the whole options process will be explained. This live event will start at **5:00 pm via MS Teams**. [Click Here](#)

After the presentation, parents and students can review subject videos and join on-line 'live' subject forums, where subject teachers will be available to answer any questions. In addition, we would also encourage parents and students to e-mail staff with specific questions you or your child may have regarding subject option preferences if you need more information.

I hope that you will be able to attend this exciting and important event, however, if you are unable to do so but would like further assistance, we will share a recording of the presentation and place this on the website. Please feel free to contact Mr Felton via email at any time (info@shoreham-academy.org) or visit the parents' section of the website.

Yours sincerely



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Frequently Asked Questions

When does the process start?

Students will attend an assembly to launch the options process on 17th March 2021. Students will receive an options booklet which will also be available on the website. A timeline of the options process is available on the website [click here](#).

Which subjects are core (compulsory) and which are option subjects (optional)?

Mathematics, English, and science are compulsory for all students which makes up the core. Physical Education and Religion and world views will also be compulsory. These subjects will not appear on the options preference form. The three remaining subjects are optional, although all students will study either geography or history.

Why is it important for students to select the right option preferences?

It is vitally important that students are offered a selection of courses that suit their academic profile and interests so that they have access to the widest selection of opportunities beyond Shoreham Academy. We review all students' preferences and want to make sure that they reflect the high levels of ambition we have for them.

Do all students need to study languages?

Most students at Shoreham Academy will choose to study languages because of the positive difference it makes with next steps. This is reinforced by past students who tell us that studying a language has supported their applications to both university and apprenticeships. Unlike some schools locally we do not insist that all students take a language because this might not be the most suitable subject choice for them.

Is it possible to change option preference?

We are anxious to ensure that the options selected for each student are suitable for their academic profile so that they have access to the highest of aspirations and opportunities in terms of further education. We will be reviewing all students' preferences to ensure that they are choosing options that enable them to achieve their potential. However, should an option be unsuitable, an option change can be requested by writing to the principal detailing the nature of the problem.

What if students get to year 10 and don't like a subject?

Normally we would allow students to change a subject within the first two weeks of the Autumn term, however we will extend this opportunity until the end of September.

How will the options evening be run this year?

Due to the current lockdown and in order to ensure everyone's safety, this year the options evening will be virtual, meaning that it will take the form of a live event. Because a great deal of the options evening involves gathering information about each of the courses being offered, we have asked departments to produce recorded presentations for each subject and teachers will be available to answer questions 'live' in subject forums. These, alongside more general information and advice, will be available on the academy website on Thursday 18th March.

When do students decide their option preferences?

This year, the option choices will be made electronically via Microsoft forms. The deadline for completing the form will be 26th March 2021. Please note that Options preferences must be



agreed by parents/carers before submission. Student preferences could lead to a conversation to refine and confirm option preferences with a member of the Shoreham Academy staff. We will share final options with students in May 2021.

Will students definitely get the subjects they have selected?

The vast majority of students will be able to study their subject preferences. However, there are instances where this is not possible, for example if a subject has too few students to form a class. For this reason, we ask that students also choose a back-up subject or additional preferences. If it is necessary to use the back-up subject, this will be discussed with the student as soon as possible before any decision is made. This is done on an individual basis.

What happens if students make a mistake when completing the on-line form?

Students should e-mail carin.claesson-goom@shoreham-academy.org but our advice is to take care when completing the form to avoid this happening.

Where can students get help?

We encourage students to discuss their preferences with parents or carers, teachers, mentors, ILS (Inclusion Learning Support) and their pastoral team who can offer support regarding students' option preferences. In addition, Mr Felton, Miss Joyce and Mrs Claesson are all available for advice and guidance related to the options process. Miss Silverman is also available for progression and careers advice.

Making the Preference Decision

The options process is designed to help students narrow their preferred subjects so that they can ultimately make the correct choices. They can use the recordings from the virtual options evening (published 15th March) to help them learn about the subjects on offer. We will also be running lunch-time drop in sessions during the week commencing 22nd March to give the year 9 students an opportunity to meet with subject teachers and ask more questions. They can also contact their subject teachers via email to discuss with them whether they think they would be suitable to study their courses.

Students should aim to choose subjects that they:

- Like
- Are good at
- Are particularly interested in
- Feel might help them in the general career area that they are interested in

They should not choose subjects because:

- They like the teacher – as they may have a different one next year.
- Their friends have chosen it - as they may be in a different group.

We strongly recommend that students are fully informed before making this important decision and encourage them to use all available support resources and ask for help if they need it.

Many thanks

The Options Team



