

**Headteacher: Tim Marston**

Wreake Valley Academy

Parkstone Road, Syston, Leicester LE7 1LY

T: 0116 264 108

E: admin@wvacademy.orgW: www.wvacademy.org

Dear Year 9 Students, Parents & Carers

Year 9 Options 2021

During one of the stranger academic years on record there are still key decisions that need to be made. For students in Year 9, choosing the subjects which will form the curriculum they study through until the end of Year 11 is one of those key decisions.

The process has some differences to previous years but I'm confident the information available to you in the presentations and subject guides should help you through it and we are here to support you in the decisions that you make.

There are some myths about the choices made at Year 9 and some potential misconceptions too. I would strongly encourage students and parents to actively discuss these decisions but I would also strongly counsel you to select courses that you are genuinely excited about studying.

Everyone will study:

- Maths
- English (language and literature, 2 GCSEs)
- Combined science (2 GCSEs unless a student opts for triple science)
- Personal development (non-examination)
- Core PE (non-examination)

In the past we have insisted that students make a straight choice between history and geography and also encouraged groups of students to opt for a modern foreign language. However, what we are now offering is an open choice of four subjects. We believe all of the subjects we offer will be of value to our students, so you should pick the ones you really want to study for GCSE (or BTEC) and that you are motivated to thrive in.

To be as clear as possible and to dispel any myths, the following statements are true about progression to most sixth forms, including Bradgate Sixth Form:

- Triple science is an excellent choice for talented scientists and anyone looking to study science at A Level. However, you do not need to have studied triple science to study sciences at A level; a grade 6 in combined science will allow access to A Level science in most academic sixth forms.
- History or geography and a modern foreign language may be looked for by sixth forms to indicate the academic rigour of the GCSE curriculum studied by a student, but are not compulsory.

- A grade 5/6 or higher in any of the subjects available to you will be a better indicator of your potential to study A Level than a grade 4 in a traditionally academic subject.
- When Oxford University look at A Level results of applicants, they look at the subjects that link directly to the degree they are offering but they also strongly recommend that one of the three A Levels is something that the student simply loves to study and has thrived in. For example, a medical student might need an A Level in chemistry and biology but the third A Level is just as likely to be drama or art (especially if these subjects are something that the student can excel in).

The point I am trying to make is that whilst the choices you make are important and your futures should be considered, the most important thing is that you select subjects you are going to love studying.

How to make your choices

The subjects you can study next year are organised into option columns. You have to select one subject to study in each column; apart from that, your choice is completely free.

Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H
Art Business Food preparation and nutrition Geography Product design	Computer science French Health and social care Media Physical education Product design	Drama Food preparation and nutrition History Music Sociology	Business Drama Media Physical education Triple science

Please complete the Microsoft Form to inform us of your choices by clicking this link:

[Form to make your subject choices.](#) In addition to the four choices you make, we also ask you to make two reserve choices. We will aim to accommodate all of your choices, but we cannot guarantee this, which is why we ask you to select two reserve choices. When more students choose a subject than we can accommodate, we will refer to the overall attitude to learning for individuals to allocate places.

Before you make your final choices, please read the information provided by each subject about their course; there is an information sheet and a narrated PowerPoint for each. The subject information can be found on our website by clicking this link: <https://www.wreake.bepschools.org/learning/curriculum/key-stage-4-curriculum/>

Take your time and consider the choices available to you; this is not a first come, first served process. You have from Monday 22nd Feb 2021 – Friday 5th March 2021 to complete the choices form online.

Students will be informed of the final decisions regarding their choices in June 2021. We will be in touch before then if we need to consider reserve choices.

If you have any questions, please contact any one of the following:

Mr Hunt dhunt@wreake.bepschools.org;

Mr Johnson mjohnson@wreake.bepschools.org;

Mr Naujeer ynaujeer@wreake.bepschools.org

Yours sincerely

Tim Marston
Headteacher