



Year 9 Curriculum Choices 2025-2026

Mr Greenish

Assistant Principal (Curriculum and Progress)



ACHIEVEMENT ● CARE ● EXCELLENCE



Welcome



Year 9 at GWA

- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Ambitious and aspirational curriculum
- Diverse and coherent curriculum choices
- Confident, independent, life-long learners

A special feature of the Great Western Academy curriculum is that we offer a selection of option subjects which students study in Year 9.

Why?

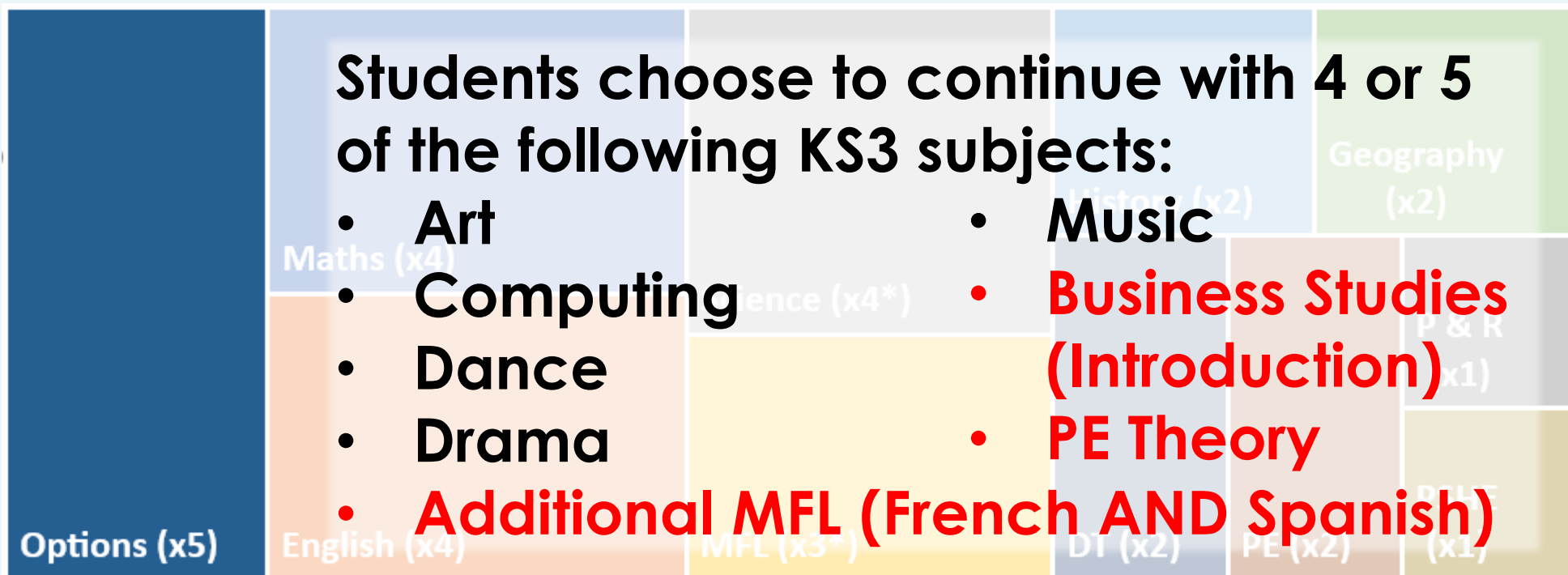


This gives students the opportunity to try subjects which they might want to opt for at GCSE and to spend more time doing subjects that they enjoy and find interesting.

It also gives them experience of making good choices so that they are better placed to make well informed decisions when they choose their GCSE subjects next year.

Y9 Curriculum at GWA

In Year 9 the curriculum is still made up from the same core subjects alongside 5 optional subjects*.



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Mathematics
English
Science*
History
} Geography
P&R
PE
DT
MFL
PSHE

**Combined
Science**

- Covers all of the program of study in biology, chemistry and physics
- Less content and shorter exams
- Accepted by all post-16 providers to access A-level science courses (Grade 6-6 minimum requirement)


**Separate
Sciences**

- Provides greater depth and greater challenge
- More content and longer exams
- The corresponding subject at grade 6 required as a **minimum** for A-level courses

- If you are in X1/X2/Y1/Y2, you will start the separate Science GCSE course.
- If you are in X3 or Y3, you will start on the combined Science course.

In both cases, this is so you can access the learning at an appropriate pace and level of challenge, helping you to achieve the best GCSE outcomes possible.

Performing Arts


3. Please choose your preferred option from Dance, Drama or Music (you will be able to choose more later) * 

Dance

Drama


Music

French and Spanish

4. Please choose your preferred option for languages in Year 9 * 

- French only
- Spanish only
- Both French and Spanish

Reserve Choice

6. Please make a reserve choice. This must be different to any previous choices. * 

Select your answer



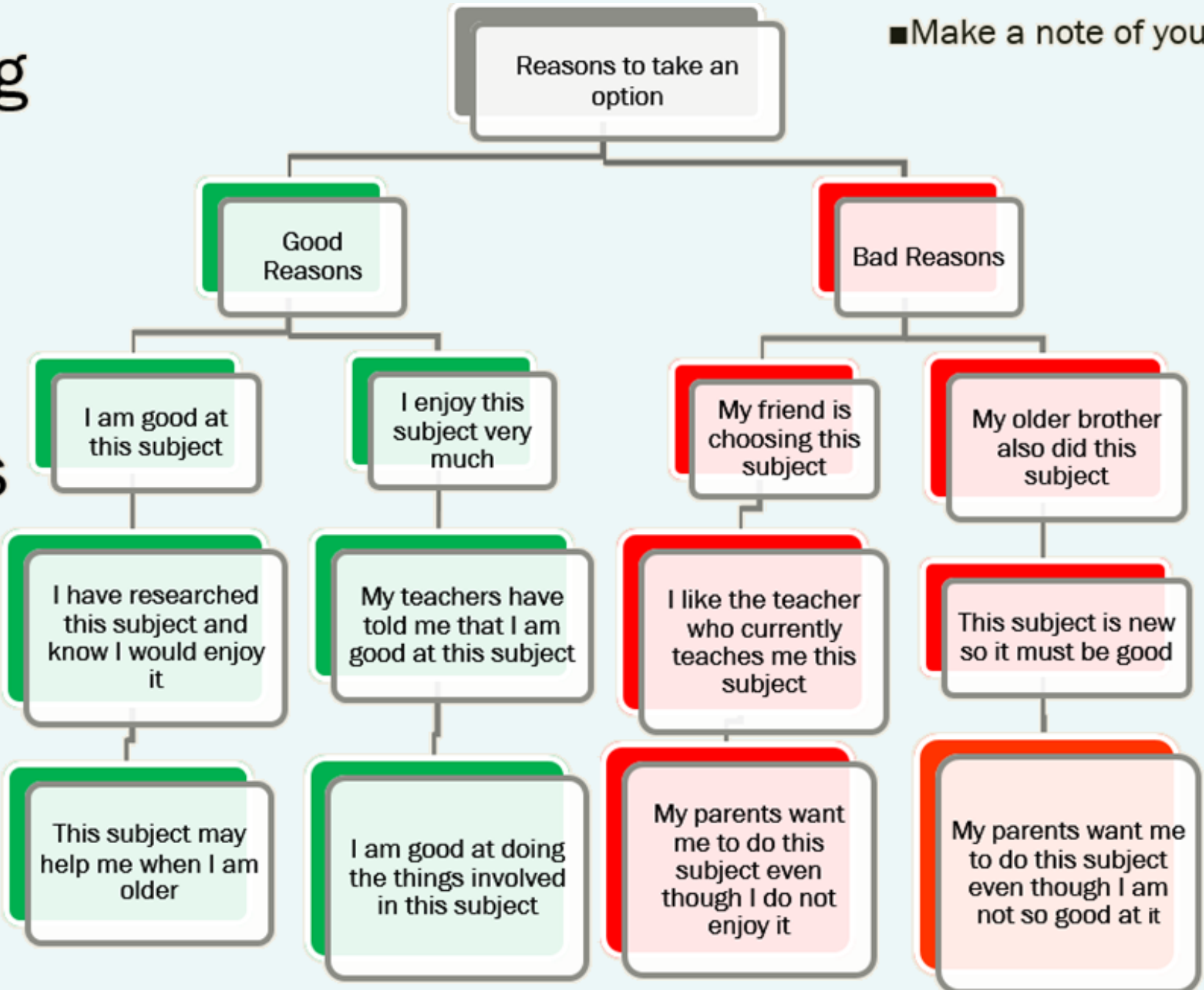


We will do everything we can to enable students to study their first-choice options.

However, no school can guarantee they will be able to timetable all combinations.

Choosing your options: Good and Bad Reasons

■ Make a note of your choices





Dos

Next steps...?



Don'ts

- Talk decisions through with your child, but encourage them to make the decision themselves
- Encourage your child to think carefully about what subjects they want to continue with
- Encourage your child to talk to their teachers about what they will study in Year 9 in their subject and how it might help them in the future
- Be ready to make choices over the half-term break
- Encourage your child not to just do what their friends are doing!
- Ignore the need to make a decision – otherwise the decision will be made for each student
- Do it alone – talk to people around you and have a think about what the consequences of each decision (good and bad) might be
- Forget... we are here to help you!

How Do I Make My Choices?

Students will be sent a link to a Microsoft Form.

Please think carefully before making option choices:

- have they spoken to their teachers about their choices?
- are they making the choice for the right reasons?
- have they thought about GCSE options – what will these GCSEs enable them to do when they are 16?

Use the form to indicate your choices, including your reserve choice

Year 8 Curriculum Choices 2025

Please make your Year 9 curriculum choices below, following the instructions carefully.

Your choices should be submitted by 9am on Thursday 3rd April.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to your teachers and/or your tutor.

Hi, Rupert. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

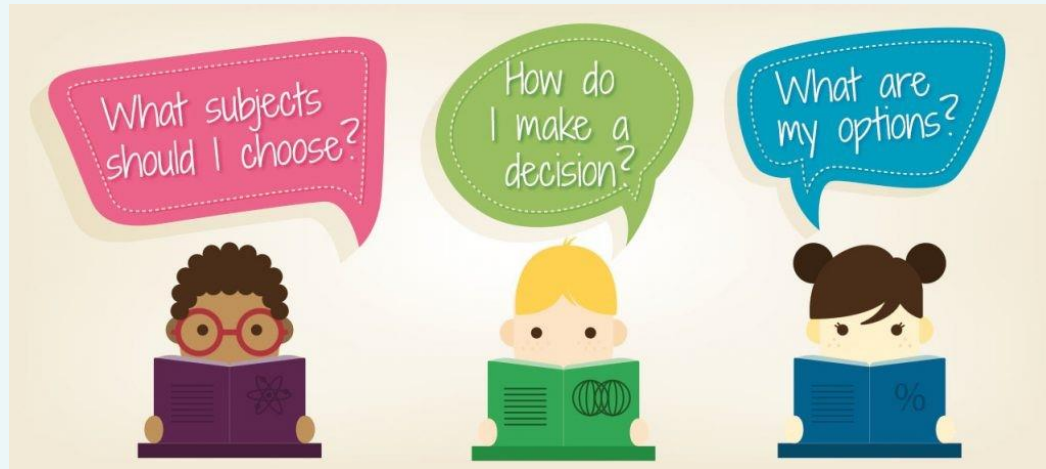
* Required

1. Full name *

Enter your answer

2. Tutor Group *

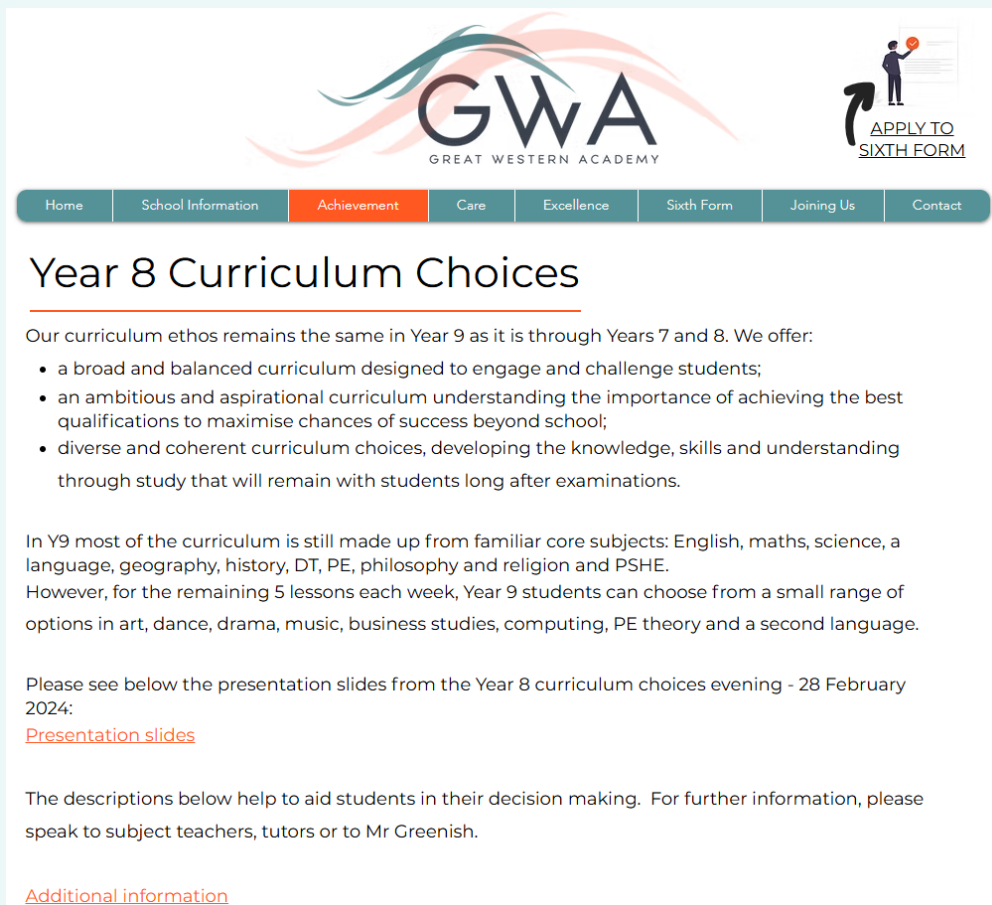
Who Can I Ask For Help?



Reassurance – **we are here to support you...**

- Mr Greenish: about any part of the options process
- Your teachers: subject information – use the subject evening to help find out more and watch the subject videos
- Your tutors: they can give an overview of your strengths
- Your Head of House
- The SEN Team: ask them about any SEN related questions

Where Can I Go For Help?



The screenshot shows the Great Western Academy (GWA) website. At the top is the GWA logo with the text 'GWA GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY'. To the right is a graphic of a person holding a red circle with the text 'APPLY TO SIXTH FORM'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, School Information, Achievement (highlighted in orange), Care, Excellence, Sixth Form, Joining Us, and Contact. The main heading is 'Year 8 Curriculum Choices'. The text below reads: 'Our curriculum ethos remains the same in Year 9 as it is through Years 7 and 8. We offer:' followed by a bulleted list: 'a broad and balanced curriculum designed to engage and challenge students;', 'an ambitious and aspirational curriculum understanding the importance of achieving the best qualifications to maximise chances of success beyond school;', and 'diverse and coherent curriculum choices, developing the knowledge, skills and understanding through study that will remain with students long after examinations.' Below this is a paragraph: 'In Y9 most of the curriculum is still made up from familiar core subjects: English, maths, science, a language, geography, history, DT, PE, philosophy and religion and PSHE. However, for the remaining 5 lessons each week, Year 9 students can choose from a small range of options in art, dance, drama, music, business studies, computing, PE theory and a second language.' This is followed by: 'Please see below the presentation slides from the Year 8 curriculum choices evening - 28 February 2024:' and a link 'Presentation slides'. The final paragraph says: 'The descriptions below help to aid students in their decision making. For further information, please speak to subject teachers, tutors or to Mr Greenish.' and a link 'Additional information'.

- School website: <https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/learning/year-9-options>
- [Career Pilot](#) Picking your options - This page gives you a range of information on how to pick your GCSE subject options.
- [Career Pilot](#) Using LMI - This page shows you Labour Market Information (LMI) for a range of areas. Use it to see which industries are growing, where employment rates are higher and see how many apprenticeship opportunities are available in that area.

What Happens Next?

Thursday 6th March – Year 9 Curriculum Choices Evening for Y8 parents & students

Tuesday 18th March – Year 8 Subject Evening

Thursday 3rd April – Deadline for completing curriculum choices forms

Term 6 – 2024-2025 student timetables published



Thank you



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