

Year 9 Options Assistance Booklet



Introduction

You are about to make important decisions about your future. How do you know these decisions are the right ones?

Well, the first thing you need to know is *what are your choices?* Do you have the booklet which shows you what choices you can make and what are the *compulsory* subjects?

Next you need to know how much time you have. Do you know the *deadline* ? Are you coming to the *Options Evening*?

Now you have sorted out these two factors, you can get down to work.

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How do we make decisions?

Some people know exactly what they want to do and what they are good at. They are a small number of people however and other (the majority) need to think about things and ask questions and get help and advice.

There are a number of people that can help you to do this

- Teachers
- Parents
- Older siblings
- Career Adviser
- Friends

You can discuss you decisions with these people and get their advice, but in the end the decision is *yours* and it will be *you* that will be taking the subjects and the eventual GCSE.

There are also a number factors that can *influence* your decision. For instance you may be interested in people or ideas from

- Social Media
- Friends
- Television –

When making a decision about your future it is important to look at *you* as an individual. What are you *interested* in and what are you *good* at? Are they the same things? You can start by considering all of your subjects :-



Subject	Do I like it?	Am I good at it?
English		
Maths		
Science		
Language		

Fill in the other subjects in the boxes and complete it.

When you have finished, you may have a clearer picture. Obviously you will have to do the core subjects but it may help you to reflect on what subjects work for you.

My personality

Making options in Year 9 is part of the process that leads you towards the qualifications that you will take in Year 11, 12 and 13 and beyond. This will eventually lead you to university or an apprenticeship and eventually into a job.

A job or career is about your qualifications but also about your personality. Take some time to consider your personality

Are you



...very sociable and like being with people, or are you a quieter, more reflective person?



...a team person or one who likes to be the leader?



...good at big ideas or one that is more interested in the finer details?

Identifying these areas will help you to make decisions about what best suits you. For instance it may help you to decide between History (fine detail) and Drama (team work and ideas). If you find it hard to do this, then ask parents and friends who know you well. Use the space below to note down some of your personality or character traits

My Skills

Skills are things that you can do and add another element to your personality. Some are based on your personality - some people can very well at public speaking for example. Others are based on things you have learned to do such as swimming a long distance.

Take some time to think about your skills – use the pictures to help you.



Think of some skills of your own:-

Hopefully now you have had some time to think about yourself and your personality and skills. You have also had time to think about subjects at school. Now you can move forward with your research to find out what sort of jobs you could consider with the choices you are making.

On the next page, you will find some useful websites to help you.

<https://icould.com/what-next/choices-at-14/> Helpful support and video stories

<http://www.gameplan.ac.uk/> Gameplan is a free games-based website provided by King's College London that allows 10-14 year olds and their parents to explore university.

<http://icould.com/buzz/> **online personality test for KS3**

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> Government careers information website

<http://choiceslondon.com.gridhosted.co.uk/further-study-and-qualifications/>
Choosing a course and qualifications

www.ucas.co.uk university website – lots of information and help

www.getingofar.co.uk information about apprenticeships

