



Date: Wednesday 12th February 2025

Our ref: EMM/sjt

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 9 GCSE Options Information

Following the Curriculum Information Evening on Thursday 16th January, I am now able to share some additional details and confirm dates and deadlines.

Taster Day

Year 9 Taster Day for GCSE options subjects will be on Tuesday 4th March. The day will be divided into six 50-minute sessions, allowing students to experience GCSE style lessons for six different subjects. Unlike the final options submission, there will not be any restrictions on taster day subjects, so students can choose any combination of subjects. However, I would advise against choosing a subject for which they do not meet the entry requirements, as they will not be able to choose this subject when they submit their final options choices, so it would be better if they only try subjects that they will be able to choose. Students will make their subject choices for Taster Day via the Applica website. They will be sent a welcome email from Applica and an email with a link to the application form on Thursday 13th February, and the online form will be open from 12.50pm on this day. I will be available in E11 from 12.50pm – 1.15pm on Thursday 13th February and Friday 14th February if students would like to submit their choices in school, or they can do this at home if they prefer. **The deadline to submit subject choices for Taster Day is 4pm on Tuesday 25th February.** If students have not submitted their choices by the deadline, they will be placed in any classes with spaces. Each class is restricted to a maximum number of students. Once a class is full, students will no longer be able to select the subject in that session, and they will need to choose an alternative. Students will choose one subject for each session from the timetable below.

| Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dance | History | Fine Art | Fine Art | Geography | Geography |
| History | Geography | Computer Science | Separate Sciences | Drama | Drama |
| Health and Social Care | Music | Separate Sciences | Graphic Communication | Physical Education | Physical Education |
| Graphic Communication | Health and Social Care | Graphic Communication | Health and Social Care | Psychology | Psychology |
| Textile Technology | Classics | Sociology | Sociology | Business | Business |
| Separate Sciences | Fine Art | Economics | Economics | Media | Media |
| Physical Education | Sociology | Media | Drama | Food Preparation and Nutrition | Food Preparation and Nutrition |
| - | Business | Textile Technology | Textile Technology | Classics | Psychology |
| - | - | Food Preparation and Nutrition | - | - | - |

Please note that Physical Education will be a theory lesson, so all students should attend school in their normal school uniform, not PE Kit.



Subject Information

In addition to the information shared at Options Evening and in the Curriculum Information booklet, which can be found on the school website by following this link: [GCSE Option Choices - St Bernard's High School](#), teachers are providing subject-specific information, which will be available on Teams from Wednesday 5th March.

I can now confirm that the computing option offered will be Computer Science, and more information will be shared on Teams with the other subjects on Wednesday 5th March.

Submission of Final Options Choices

Students will submit their final options choices (one subject from each block, as shown in the Curriculum Information booklet, plus one reserve subject from any block) during form time on the following dates:

9A – Monday 17th March
9C – Tuesday 18th March
9F – Thursday 20th March
9H – Monday 24th March
9M – Tuesday 25th March
9R – Thursday 27th March

Students will not be able to access the online form before the dates above, but they will be able to change their choices until the deadline on **Wednesday 2nd April at 4pm**. All submissions made before the deadline will be treated equally. After this date, any requests to change a subject must be made by an email from a parent/carer to emm@stbernards.southend.sch.uk and if subjects are full, students will be placed on the waiting list.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Miss E March
Assistant Headteacher