

# Year 9 Options 2023

## Options Booklet



**Consilium**  
Academies  
*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

*'Excellence in all that we do'*

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# Wyvern Academy

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

Dear Student,

I welcome you to our Year 9 options guide at Wyvern Academy. The information found here will provide you with details on how you make important choices around the subjects you study in the next stage of your educational journey. It is very important that you make an informed choice focussing on what you will need to study for the Post-16 destination and course that you choose in Year 11. As a Professional Learner, your ability to make independent choices based on information given is a key skill - this needs to be used very carefully during this process.

In Years 10 and 11 you will study four compulsory GCSE subjects; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science together with Core Physical Education (PE) and Personal Development. **You will also study three subjects, each equivalent to one GCSE, which you choose from those on offer through the options process at Wyvern Academy.**

When you choose your option subjects make sure that you make an informed choice by reading the subject information in this booklet and speaking to the subject teachers during our Options Evening on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Using this information choose subjects which interest you most. The more a subject interests you the more engaged you will be with it. The more you are engaged with a subject, the more likely you are to achieve well and make good progress. Do not choose option subjects based on the teacher, as this may change, nor based on what your friends are choosing. **This is your choice for your future.**

**Please note that the option choices you make are not guaranteed.** Whilst there are fifteen option subjects on offer, these may not run from September 2023 if there are not sufficient pupils choosing them. The option subjects selected by pupils also determine how the subjects can be grouped together on the timetable. As a result some option subject combinations will not be possible when timetabling begins. You are therefore asked not only to choose your three preferred option subjects, through steps one and two on the 'Option Choice Sheet', but to indicate two reserve subjects to help us to provide you with the options which fit closest to your wishes.

Your completed *Option Choice Sheet* should be submitted to the Main Office by **no later than 11:15am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. If you have any questions or queries about our options process, please contact [wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com) or speak to your Form Tutor; Head of Y9, Mrs Page or our Careers Advisor, Miss Longstaff.

Yours faithfully,

Mr O. Inglis  
Headteacher



# Key Information

## Dates and Contacts

### • Week Commencing 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

- Students received initial options assembly with Mr Parker
- Options guidance meetings with Miss Longstaff commence

### • Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

- Year 9 Parents' Evening (16:00 – 18:30)
- Key Stage Four taster lessons to commence in all curriculum areas

### • Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- Year 9 Options Evening (18:00 – 19:30)
- Parent/carer presentations to take place in the Main Hall at 6:05pm

### • Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

- Deadline for returning forms to the Main Office

### Useful Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com](mailto:wva.enquiries@consilium-at.com) in the first instance. Your enquiry will be signposted to one of the members of staff below.

- **Mrs N. Page**, Head of Year, can support both students and parents through the options process. She will be available to speak with students if they are struggling to make decisions and can signpost students, parents and carers to additional support where necessary.
- **Form Tutors** are very well placed to offer parental support with the option process, in addition to discussing routes available with individual students.
- **Miss J. Longstaff** is our designated careers lead and can be contacted by students or parents to discuss options, pathways and career opportunities.
- **Mrs S. Parker**, Deputy Headteacher, is responsible for leading the options process and can be contacted to offer further support where necessary.



# Options Blocks

## 2023

The National Curriculum requires that all students study a core curriculum including the subjects below:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science - Combined

Physical Education – Non Exam

Personal Development – Non Exam

**OPTION 1:** Students should select **ONE** subject from the list below:

Geography

History

French

**OPTION 2:** Students should select **TWO** subjects from the list below:

Art and Design

Business and Enterprise

Computer Science

Creative iMedia

Drama

Engineering

Food and Nutrition

French

Geography

Health and Social Care

History

ICT

Music

Religious Studies

Sports Studies

Triple Science



# The English Baccalaureate

## Guidance Information

You might have heard of the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) but are unsure of which subjects are included and how it fits into the options process in year 9.

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right but rather a combination of GCSE subjects. The EBacc was introduced by the Government in 2010 to encourage students to study a broad range of core subjects to help them go on to study higher education courses.

### The Research

- A study by the [UCL Institute of Education](#) shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.
- [Sutton Trust research](#) reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

### The Courses

In order to achieve the English Baccalaureate, students should have a mix of GCSE subjects which includes at least one subject from each of the areas outlined below. Detailed in the table are the qualifications on offer at Wyvern Academy that support students in achieving the EBacc.

| Area       | Qualifications   |
|------------|--|
| English    | English Language, English Literature   |
| Maths      | Mathematics  |
| Science    | Combined Science, Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Computer Science |
| Humanities | Geography, History   |
| Languages  | French   |



# ART2





# Business and Enterprise

**Exam Board:** Pearson BTEC Level 2 Tec Award in Enterprise

# ICT1



A vocational qualification in Enterprise will allow students to move on to a range of vocational courses or A-levels. The skills acquired will support students into further education and beyond into the world of work. Students typically move into level 3 qualifications such as A Levels, Or technical qualifications in Business.







GCSE

# Computer Science

For further details, please speak to: Mr C. Holden

Exam Board: GCSE Computer Science (OCR)

Where will you find us on Options Evening?

**ICT1**



## Why should you choose Computer Science?

GCSE Computer Science will give you the opportunity to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition and logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.\*

\*Computer Science is a difficult GCSE with some higher level mathematical concepts, therefore it is advised that you should be looking to achieve a grade 6 in Maths by the end of year 11 to choose this option. Please speak to Mr Holden if you do not meet this entry requirement but wish to take Computer Science.

## How will I be assessed?

- Component 1: Computer Systems – 50% of total GCSE – exam
- Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – 50% of total GCSE - exam

## What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

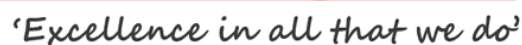
GCSE Computer Science is a highly regarded qualification that opens many doors to further study, a typical pathway is to study A-Level Computer science at 6th form and move on to University to study the subject further. However, you could also opt to study vocational IT related subjects at college or take an apprenticeship in IT related industries. Many Computer Science students also opt to move into industries such as data management, cyber security, law enforcement, forensics and entertainment sectors such as computer game design.



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# ICT1





For further details, please speak to: Mrs D. Moon / Miss L. Pell

Exam Board: GCSE Drama (AQA)

Where will you find us on Options Evening?

**ART2**



### Why should you choose Drama?

GCSE Drama offers a challenging and very exciting opportunity for those students who are interested in performance and production. GCSE Drama offers students the opportunity to explore a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. You will demonstrate your own abilities through practical elements of the course as well as your theory and understanding in written assessments.

Students will create, perform and respond to drama, informed by increasing theoretical knowledge so that they become skilled at selecting the most effective means of expression. It covers aspects of improvisation and scripted performances and provides students with the opportunity to learn about stage lighting, sound, costume and design. Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course which encourages students to develop as independent learners with analytical awareness and critical, reflective thinking skills.

### How will I be assessed?

- Component 1: Understanding Drama – 40% of total GCSE – Written Exam
- Component 2: Devising Drama (practical) – 40% of total GCSE
- Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical) – 20% of total GCSE

### What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

A GCSE in Drama can lead onto many A-Level courses, including Drama, Theatre Studies, Performing Arts or a vast range of BTEC level 3 courses. Students also have the option of moving onto Drama degree courses at university, drama schools or careers in education, marketing, law and the television and film industry.





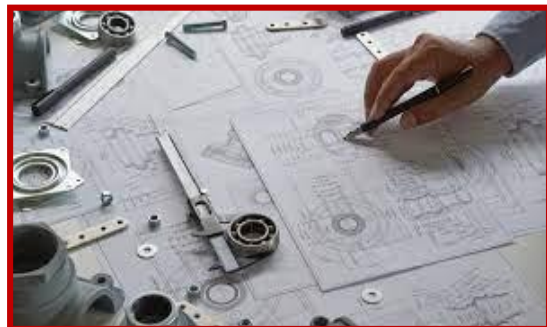
# Vocational Engineering

For further details, please speak to: Mrs J. Cass / Mrs T. Wilson

Exam Board: TBC

Where will you find us on Options Evening?

**ART2**



## Why should you choose Engineering?

This qualification is aimed at learners who wish to study the processes involved in designing new engineered products and the requirements of a design specification. Through research and practical activities, learners will understand how market requirements and opportunities inform client briefs and will use practical skills such as drawing, computer modelling and model making to communicate ideas.

This qualification is aimed at everyone who would like to find out more about engineering by:

- learning about the key engineering sectors – mechanics, electrical/electronic and engineering design and how they contribute to industry.
- developing key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research, observation, measurement, planning, making, using CAD and disassembly.
- developing key skills for employment in engineering sectors, such as problem solving, design, creativity, communication and collaboration.

## What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of engineering skills. You may want to go on to further study such as A Levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. You will find that many of the ideas covered here are further developed in qualifications such as BTEC Nationals in Engineering and Information Technology. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the engineering sector as an apprentice or a trainee. The course also links to engineering at degree level if you aspire to continue with this subject after KS5. The best option for you will depend on both the grades you achieve in this qualification and in any other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and the advice you can access about further learning and training opportunities available.







**For further details, please speak to: Mrs K. Phillips**

**Exam Board:** GCSE Food and Nutrition (Edugas)

## Where will you find us on Options Evening?

# TEC3



## Why should you choose Food and Nutrition?

The GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life. The course will include a focus on:

- Knife skills
- Prepare fruit and veg
- Prepare combine and shape
- Tenderise and marinate
- Select and adjust a cooking process
- Weigh and measure
- Preparation of ingredients and equipment
- Use of equipment
- Water based methods of using the hob
- Dry heat and fat based methods using the hob
- Using the grill
- Using the oven
- Make sauces
- Set a mixture
- Use of raising agents
- Shaping and finishing a dough
- Test for readiness
- Judge and manipulate sensory properties

## How will I be assessed?

- 50% Coursework. Made up of:
  - Non-Exam Assessment 1: 30%
  - Non-Exam Assessment 2: 70%
- 50% Examination

### What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

This specification will enable learners to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways. There is a job for everyone within the food industry. Ideal for students who may wish to pursue a career in dietetics, nutrition, marketing, nursing, health care, sport science, product development, catering, teaching, food journalism, retail, public relations, advertising and market research.





For further details, please speak to: Mrs J. Watford

Exam Board: GCSE French (AQA)

Where will you find us on Options Evening?

**ICT 2**



### Why should you choose French?

Languages open up a whole range of exciting future career pathways and possibilities for the modern world. Students will study a wide range of interesting topics relating to the French language and the culture of French speaking countries. During the course you will increasingly understand how the French language works through a range of topics, such as technology, free-time, French festivals, charity work and careers. You will grow in confidence, accessing a wide range of high quality, authentic texts and have first class communication skills, working in pairs and small groups. You will have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular visits to enhance your cultural and language experience, take part in study days and competitions at Tyneside cinema and local Universities.

This course is suited to all students, but it helps if you have an interest in other cultures and broadening your horizons. Students will be using and developing a range of soft skills as well as learning another language. In the ever-developing world, it is now more important than ever to learn a foreign language and employers are looking for this skill too!

### How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: Listening – 25% of total GCSE
- Paper 2: Speaking – 25% of total GCSE
- Paper 3: Reading – 25% of total GCSE
- Paper 4: Writing – 25% of total GCSE

### What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

GCSE French is useful in a range of jobs. Careers which use languages directly include; journalism, Primary and Secondary teaching, translating, travel and tourism, law, marketing. Careers where you will use the skills you learnt studying a language include; Public and Armed Services, accountancy, leisure and hospitality, business services, healthcare. A language opens doors and opportunities for travel and working abroad. Once you have a GCSE in French, it will be easier to learn a second language.

If you are thinking about going to University, it is important to consider choosing a GCSE in a language. Universities regard languages as “facilitating subjects” which means they will look favourably on applicants who have studied a language to at least GCSE standard.







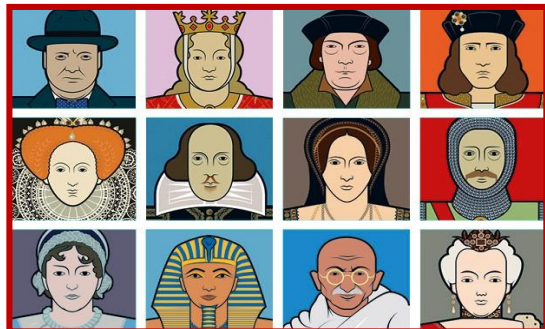
## ICT 3







## ICT2





# ICT1







# Religious Studies

**For further details, please speak to: Mrs L. Mitchell**

**Exam Board:** GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)

## Where will you find us on Options Evening?

# ICT 3



Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth. This will enable them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, developing analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills.

This is a traditional, academic subject which helps students to consider the people in the world around them. Students will learn about their beliefs, how they live their life according to their faith and how a multi-faith society functions. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their own views on these beliefs and practices and evaluate moral issues. Students should be prepared to voice their own opinions, challenge those of others and ask questions whenever possible.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices -50% of total GCSE

- Focus areas: Christianity and Islam

Component 2: Thematic studies – 50% of total GCSE

### What can I do with this subject when I leave Wyvern Academy?

A GCSE in Religious Studies will indicate to potential employers that an individual has excellent evaluation and critical analysis skills – both written and verbal. It suggests that they are prepared to question, evaluate and consider all viewpoints. There are excellent opportunities for debate and discussion around many key issues faced by society. The analytical and literacy skills developed during this course will provide an excellent foundation for students wanting to continue studies at A-level, particularly those in the Humanities.







## ICT 3





## ART2



# Year 9 Options 2023

## Options Choice Sheet



|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Student Name |  |
|--------------|--|

|             |    |    |     |     |
|-------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| Tutor Group | 9S | 9T | 9WR | 9WY |
|             |    |    |     |     |

### CORE SUBJECTS

| English Language | English Literature | Mathematics | Combined Science | Core PE | PSHE |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|---------|------|
| ✓                | ✓                  | ✓           | ✓                | ✓       | ✓    |

**Option 1:** Choose **ONE** subject from the list below

| Option 1       | TICK |
|----------------|------|
| GCSE Geography |      |
| GCSE History   |      |
| GCSE French    |      |

**Option 2:** Choose **TWO** subjects from the list below

|                                     | TICK |                                    | TICK |
|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|
| GCSE: Art and Design                |      | GCSE: Geography                    |      |
| Vocational: Business and Enterprise |      | Vocational: Health and Social Care |      |
| GCSE: Computer Science              |      | GCSE: History                      |      |
| Vocational: Creative iMedia         |      | Vocational: ICT                    |      |
| GCSE: Drama                         |      | GCSE: Music                        |      |
| Vocational: Engineering             |      | GCSE: Religious Studies            |      |
| GCSE: Food and Nutrition            |      | Vocational: Sport                  |      |
| GCSE: French                        |      | GCSE: Triple Science               |      |

**Stage 3:** Choose **TWO RESERVE** choices based on the list above.

[You should not choose any of the choices selected in option 1 or option 2]

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Reserve Subject 1 |  |
| Reserve Subject 2 |  |

Return your form to the Main Office by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023.



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