

Year 9 Curriculum

Wednesday 5 February 2025

Please keep all microphones and cameras off

(We will be recording the presentation)



Tonight is not...

...about choosing which subjects students will study at GCSE. Any choices students make for Year 9 are **NOT** firm commitments to study a particular subject at GCSE.

However, some decisions, particularly those around study of languages and RE, will determine whether or not it is possible to continue study of a subject to GCSE.



Rationale

- To introduce some early personalisation into the curriculum.
- To enable the transition from KS3 to KS4 to be smoother.
- To facilitate the study of one language for the majority of students, while still providing the opportunity for study of two foreign languages where appropriate.
- To allow students the option of sampling potential GCSE options in greater depth prior to GCSE.



Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics.
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics.
- History, Geography, RE.
- PE
- Computing
- PSHE
- One language from French, German or Spanish (students should choose one language in their language choice option on MCAS)
- Design Technology
- Drama



Additional Subjects (4 Periods per Fortnight)

(Students choose their first 3 preferences on MCAS and will be allocated 2 of these)

- Art, Craft and Design – Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography
- Music
- Food and Nutrition
- PE Theory
- Computing
- Philosophy & Ethics
- French (as a second language)
- Latin



Why Latin?

- A very good course to do if you are aspiring to careers in law or medicine.
- A lot of other languages, not least our own, take some of their roots from Latin, so study of it can help to support your understanding in other languages.
- You will study aspects of Roman culture as well as the language. This will link nicely to aspects of Art, Design, History, Music and Drama.

Why Computing, PE and Philosophy & Ethics?

- The computing course will have a strong emphasis on the theory of computer science, particularly coding. The core computing course will have more emphasis on IT skills and knowledge for life, although there will be aspects of coding covered in this, as well as in Design Technology.
- The PE course gives students a taste of what GCSE PE will be like. It is very much theoretical, and not an extra 4 hours of doing sport.
- All students sit a short course GCSE in Philosophy & Ethics (RE) at the end of Year 10. By taking the additional Year 9 course you will give yourself the option to take the Full Course qualification instead.

'Focus Fortnight'

- Launch Assembly with Mr Reid
- Guidance talk on Wednesday 5 February
- Lesson time in additional subjects designated to information and guidance, as well as an opportunity for Q & A.
- Course details available on the website and printed versions will be provided to students. A link has been sent to parents.



So what now?

- Read the course details, ask your teachers lots of questions
- Choices to be submitted via MCAS (Bromcom App) by Monday 3 March
- Options 'widget' will open on MCAS by Tuesday 11 February
- Your language choice must be a language you are currently studying
- Numbering of choices for additional subjects is important
- Further meetings with students about their choices if required
- Confirmation of options – During Term 6



Frequently Asked Questions

- Will I be able to pick up a subject at GCSE if I drop this subject in Year 9?
 - With the exception of languages and Philosophy & Ethics this is possible, although it will be an advantage to have studied the subject in Y9
- Will I be disadvantaged at GCSE if I do not study this subject in Y9?
 - It will clearly be an advantage to have studied the subject in Y9
- Can I study French as my main language choice?
 - Yes, French can be studied as the main language choice
- Can I study Latin as my main language choice?
 - No, Latin will need to be studied in the additional subjects choices
- Can I study Latin in addition to both of the languages I currently study?
 - No, in order to study a broad and balanced curriculum it is not recommended to study 3 languages in Y9
- What happens if I change my mind in September?
 - If you have changed your mind, please contact Mr Reid on rgr@marling.school or talk to him in school. We will always try and help you and will look at how your options can be changed if it is possible.
- Will I get my first two choices of additional subjects?
 - We will endeavour to give you your top 2 preferences, however if this is not possible we will look at preferences 1 and 3, and failing that preferences 2 and 3, please carefully consider the order of your preferences to enable us to give you the best opportunity of studying the subjects that you most want to.



Individual Advice and Guidance for Students

Pick Subjects...

You can achieve at and that you enjoy.

That you have researched and you are fully aware of the subject's requirements.

Don't pick subjects...

Because friends are choosing them.

Just because you like the teacher.

Just because they are new!



Individual Advice and Guidance for Students

In summary....

- What are **YOUR** future aspirations?
- Which subjects do **YOU** enjoy?
- Which subjects are **YOU** particularly good at?

