



Welcome

Year 9 Options Information Evening February 2024



Making the right choices

From October's Information Evening...

Our Expectations

- Key theme for year 9 - ***Making the right choices***
- Students will pick their year GCSE options this year
- Many opportunities are available for the year 9 students to get involved with and develop leadership skills
- We are all keen to work together as a school to reduce our negative impact on the environment – we are proud eco school which is important to our school community
- Become a reflective learner



Poynton High School Charter

Educate – Challenge – Empower

- We are proactive in making the positive changes needed for a world where everyone is treated fairly and equally.
- We are KIND and acknowledge that 'banter' can be dangerous and harmful to others, it cannot be used as an excuse.
- We recognise that peer on peer abuse takes a wide range of forms, ranging from sexist name-calling to physical abuse and have a zero tolerance of this.
- We openly challenge harmful language, stereotypes and actions (that show prejudice based on gender, sexuality, disability, race, ethnicity, religion and background.)
- We offer opportunities to talk about how we feel and actively encourage each other to support positive mental health.
- We support each other to make improvements and recognise that failure is part of the path to success.
- We LISTEN to each other and are mindful that everyone faces their own challenges and insecurities. We strive to understand each other.
- We allow and encourage others to do their best, and look out for each other so that this can happen never putting barriers in their way. We have high aspirations for ourselves and each other.
- We are honest.
- We support each other to stay safe in all of our interactions, including online. We look for opportunities to make others feel safe and boost their confidence.

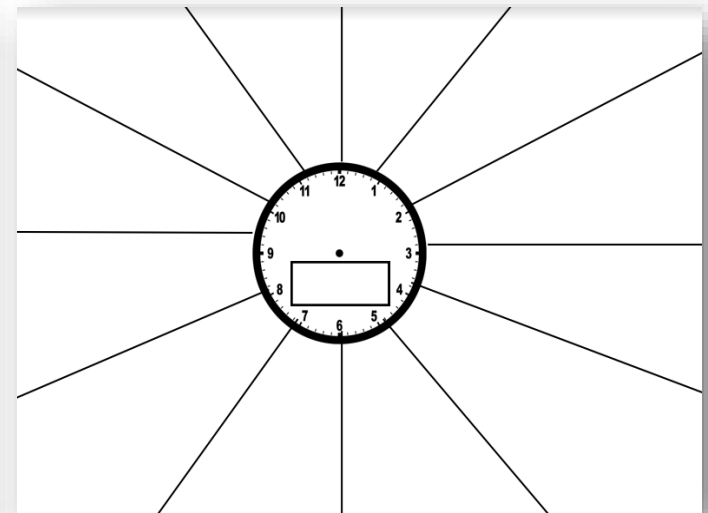
Bringing us together to make sure that EVERYONE in is valued and works to promote an inclusive school community.



The Next Steps

- Our expectation of the students to make the right choices continues after the GCSE options process
- All students continue with all subjects – we expect the students to continue to engage and work hard in all the subjects across the curriculum, continuing to learn and gain valuable knowledge and skills
- The Year 9 exams will be treated as preparation for GCSE examinations and our high expectations of the students for this will reflect that.

Year 9 Exams			⋮
📅	EXAMS SEATING PLAN	Due Apr 27	
📖	REVISION: Seneca Learning	Posted Apr 21	
📖	Revision Resource: Revision Clock BLANK	Posted Apr 1	
📖	Year 9 Exam Timetable	Posted Mar 31	
📖	Revision Guidance 2	Posted Mar 24	
📖	Revision Guidance 1	Edited Mar 24	



Revision Strategy

**How to support with
preparing for the Y9
exams**

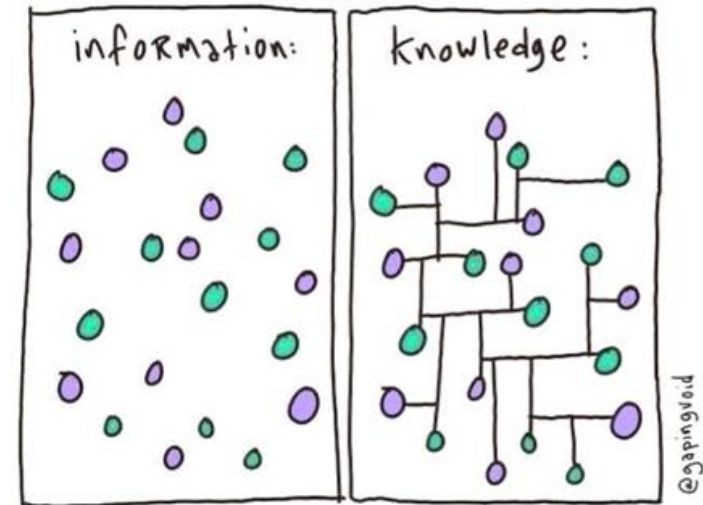


STEP ONE

You need to get what you are wanting to revise into a format that helps your thinking. Something that is easy to use. There are lots of techniques you can use, including:

Preparation

- Working out which topics you need to focus on
- Creating Mindmaps
- Making Cue Cards/Flash Cards
- Summarising notes
- Cornell Note Taking
- Transforming your notes into memorable images
- Designing an evil mock exam paper
- Planning answers to questions



STEP TWO

This is the stage that makes your learning 'stick'. The only way to commit content to memory is to test yourself, we call this the Performance Stage as you are testing your performance. This is the stage where the magic happens.

Performance

Again, there are a lot of techniques that you can use in this stage, including:

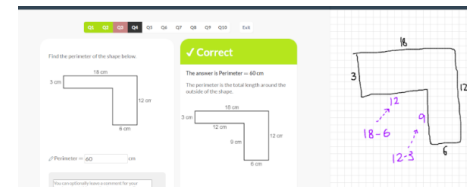
Attempting an exam question WITHOUT NOTES in timed conditions

Recreating an aspect of your mindmap FROM MEMORY
Quizzing yourself with your cue cards

Teaching someone else the topic WITHOUT NOTES

Reading your teacher's feedback and changing your approach

Mind Dump – noting down everything you know from a topic
Practice questions (often online e.g. Dr Frost for maths or Seneca questions)



STEP THREE

Revision isn't a last minute cramming session before the exam. IT TAKES PLACE OVER TIME.

Progress

M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T✓	F
ENGLISH	GEOGRAPHY	MATHS	SCIENCE	FRENCH	ENGLISH	GEOGRAPHY	MATHS	SCIENCE	FRENCH
ENGLISH	GEOGRAPHY	MATHS	SCIENCE	FRENCH	MATHS	FRENCH	SCIENCE	GEOGRAPHY	ENGLISH
ENGLISH	GEOGRAPHY	MATHS	SCIENCE	FRENCH	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	FRENCH	MATHS	GEOGRAPHY

By mixing up or 'interleaving' what you revise and when, you will remember that material far more effectively simply due to the fact that you will have to revisit that material multiple times with more gaps in between.



Year 9 Options

February 2024

Mr Matthew Dean – Headteacher

**Mrs Debra Howells – Assistant
Headteacher**



Purposes

- To explain the options process for Year 9
- To answer parental queries



Ofsted June 2023

‘leaders have designed an ambitious curriculum which explicitly builds on pupils’ previous learning’.

‘teachers deliver subject curriculums that are aspirational and meet the needs of pupils well’.



GCSEs

- Linear
- Extended writing
- Grading system 9 to 1
- Mainly examination with less non-exam assessment





Department
for Education

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
⑤ STRONG PASS	
④ STANDARD PASS	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U



The Curriculum

- Meets statutory requirements
- Gives students choice
- Allows particular talents and interests to be developed
- Enables students to progress to the next step in education or their career
- Enables students to gain excellent results



English Baccalaureate

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- A Humanities Subject (History and/or Geography)
- A Modern Foreign Language French/Spanish



Curriculum

- September 2024
- Core curriculum = 30 periods
(6 GCSEs)
- Options = 20 periods (4 GCSEs or CNAT)



What is in the Core?

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Studies
- PE (non-examination)
- PSHCE (non examination)



Year 10 - the Core Curriculum

English Language and English Literature	Maths	Science	Religious studies	PE
8	7	9	4	2
2 GCSEs	1 GCSE	2 GCSEs	1 GCSE	



What is in the Options?

A range of courses

- GCSEs
- Cambridge Nationals (CNATS)
- All these are equally valued by employers and colleges and are pathways for courses at Poynton and elsewhere.



Options Form

NAME - _____

FORM - _____

In addition to the core curriculum you select **four** option subjects

Section A – Choice 1

You must select one EBacc subject from this section.

To follow an English Baccalaureate curriculum, you will need to select both a Language and a Humanities.

French	
Geography	
History	
Spanish	

Section B

Your remaining 3 subjects (choices 2,3,4) will come from the list below **plus** a reserve subject

You **cannot** study both of the following subjects together: Art & Design and Photography or both Textiles and Product Design or PE and CNAT Sport Studies



Art & Design OR Photography	Art & Design	
	Photography	
Business		
Computer Science		
CNAT Creative iMedia		
Dance		
Drama		
Food Preparation & Nutrition		
French		
Geography		
History		
Music		
Spanish		
Product Design OR Textiles	Product Design	
	Textiles	
Physical Education OR CNAT Sport Studies *	Physical Education	
	CNAT Sports Studies	
Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics).		
You will study three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics over 14 hours		

Now list your subjects in your order of preference (1= first choice).

Also, add a 5th as a reserve choice.

Choice 1
Preferred Choice 2.
Preferred Choice 3.
Preferred Choice 4.
Reserve Choice.



Section A = Choice 1

Students select **one** subject from Section A

- French
- History
- Geography
- Spanish



Section B -Optional subjects

2024-2026

Students select 3 subjects **plus** a reserve

Art & Design or Photography

Business

Computer Science

CNAT Creative iMedia

Dance

Drama

Food & Nutrition

French

Geography

History

Music

Product Design or Textiles

PE or CNAT Sport Studies

Separate Science

Spanish



Cambridge National or GCSE

- Some subjects will offer a Cambridge National qualification.
- CNAT Creative iMedia
- CNAT Sport Studies
- Teachers will explain these in the subject presentations.



Cambridge National or GCSE

- CNATS are graded
- **Level 2** = Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass
- Equates to 9-4 at GCSE
- **Level 1** = Distinction, Merit, Pass
- Equates to 3-1 at GCSE
- Two internally assessed modules
- One external examination module
- GCSE pass grades are 9-1
- Assessment by examination at the end of Y11
- Non-exam assessment in some subjects



Science Pathways

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

GCSE Biology

GCSE Chemistry

GCSE Physics

Pathway 1

Combined Science
Trilogy

two GCSEs

9 hrs of core science

Pathway 2

Separate Sciences

three separate GCSEs

14 hrs Science



Section B

Students select 3 subjects plus a reserve

- Select the subjects in order of preference
- Choice 1 is from Section A
- Preferred choices 2, 3 & 4 from Section B
- Also select a **reserve subject**
- We then create the best fit for the option boxes.



Option Boxes

- The Option Boxes are different every year and benefit the majority of students
- Some combinations may not be possible but we will not know that until students have opted.
- We will then use their **reserve subject**.
- If a subject is oversubscribed then unfortunately some students will not be able to take the subject. The order of preferences will help us to decide which students are affected.
- If there are insufficient numbers to make a course viable then the course will not run. Your reserve subject will then be used.

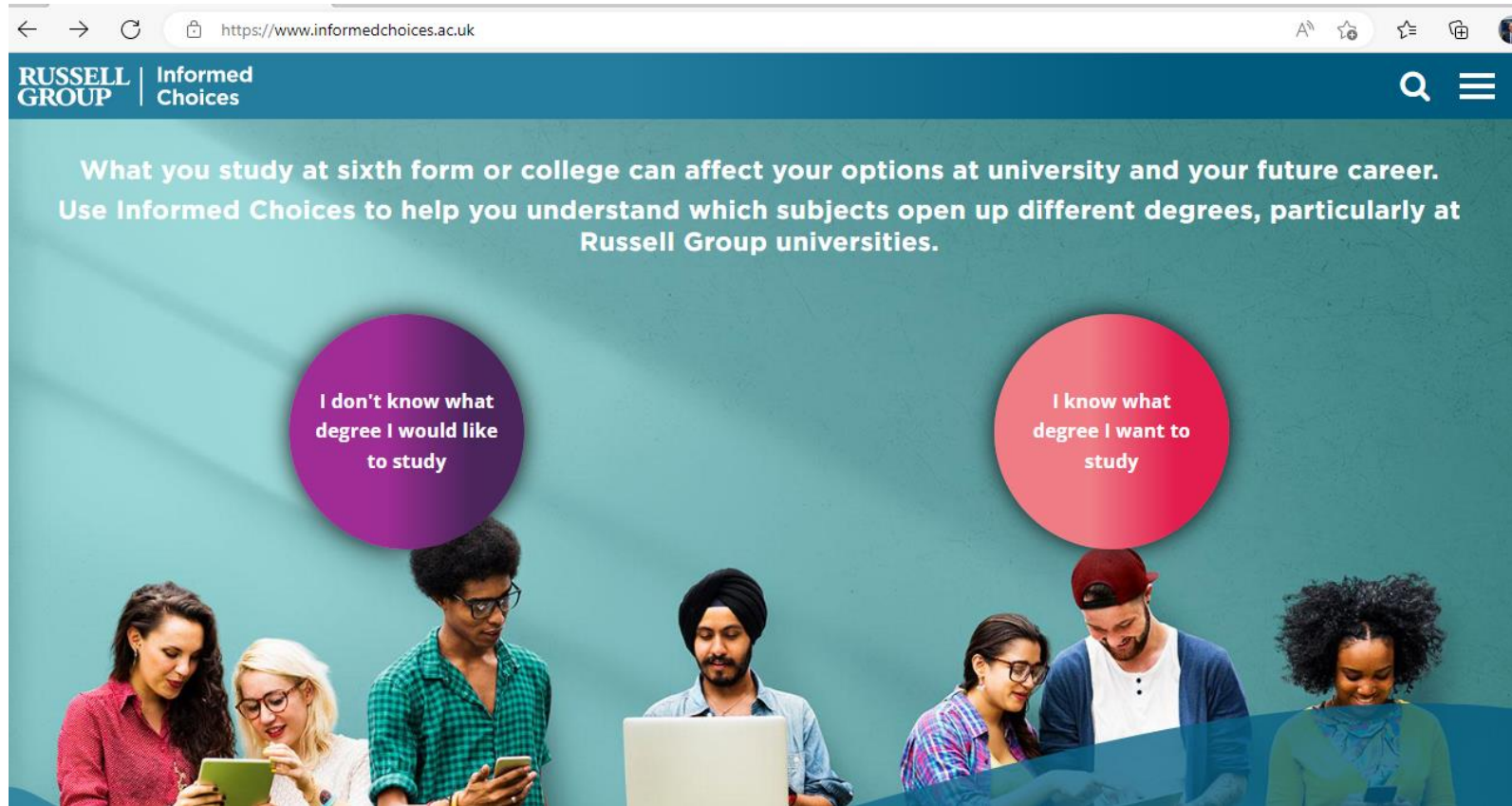


Completing the Google Form

- Select 4 subjects plus a reserve
 - Section A = Choice 1
 - Section B = Choices 2, 3 & 4
 - Choose subjects in order of preference
 - Choose a reserve subject
-
- Submit google form
 - Deadline Monday 18th March



www.informedchoices.ac.uk



National Careers Service

We provide information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work.

Use our career tools to help you with your choices on careers, training and work. Whatever your situation, there's something to help.

Explore careers

Find the next step in your career

Skills assessment

Learn more about your skills

Find a course

Study for your future

Help to get a job

How to get the job you want

About us

The National Careers Service can help you with your career, learning and training choices. [Find out more](#) about the different ways we can support you.

This service is available to people who live in England.

Contact us

Call 0800 100 900 or [use webchat](#).

You can also contact us [in other ways](#), including sending us an online message or post.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

What Happens Next?

Wednesday 28th February	Options talk to Y9 period 5 Options Information Evening for parents 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Hall
Thursday 29th February	Option Booklets issued to students in form SDD activities to help make their choices
7th March	Year 9 Parents Evening
Monday 4th - 15th March	Subject Option talks in lessons and also on the website
Monday 18th March	Deadline to submit options form
April	Students check that choices have been entered correctly



Changing Your Mind

- Requests for changes must be in writing email from parents
- Email Mrs Howells dh@phs.cheshire.sch.uk



Preparing students for the journey

Had a presentation today by Mrs Howells

Get their Option booklets tomorrow

Staff presentation about their subjects in lessons

Parents Evening

Time with form tutors

Careers Advice via Mrs Bibby



Which way to go?



- Confusion
- Undecided
- Too many options
- Will it match my career choice?
- I don't know what I want to do yet
- Parental Pressure
- Teacher Pressure
- Friendship Pressure



Careers Advice

- To make good choices for your future you will need reliable, up to date information
- To help you, school subscribes to a careers information platform called 'Indigo'. www.indigo.careers
- Your username is your school (PHS) email account (**NOT** True Learning)
- The password for Indigo is **Poynton21**



Year 11 - I didn't know ...

- How different my GCSEs would be compared to Year 9 in the same subject
- How much work I would need to do outside lessons for some subjects
- How many non-exam assessments I'd have to do and how they would have to be done about the same time
- How so much of my interest in the subject in Year 9 was due to my teacher
- That there are no easy subjects - just ones that some people find more difficult than you and some that they find easier than you do



Advice to take away ...

- Choose what you enjoy
- Choose what you are good at
- Don't just follow the crowd
- Get informed – ask for advice
- Balance is best if in doubt.

