



22 January 2021

GCSE OPTIONS EVENING

Dear Parents / Carers,

The GCSE Options Evening is to supplement the information provided on the school website (Curriculum>GCSE Options) which includes an options guide and videos from all Heads of Department for option subjects.

Students will need to make subject choices, however the following subjects, six and a half GCSEs in total, are compulsory, **English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Religious Studies** (half-course GCSE).

The following subjects are compulsory but not examined, **PSHE, Citizenship, Physical Education and Games**.

Students are required to take **four other** subjects from the list below. **At least** one subject must be chosen from category (A) and **at least** one subject must be chosen from category (B). You may choose more than one subject in either category i.e. you could take History *and* Geography if you wish.

- (A) **Geography**
- (A) **History**

- (B) **French**
- (B) **German**
- (B) **Latin**
- (B) **Spanish**

- **Art**
- **Computer Science**
- **Design Technology**
- **Music**

Due to the current restrictions in place, the Options Evening will take place remotely on **Wednesday 3 February starting at 6pm** and details on how you and your son can join this meeting will be circulated prior to the event. This will include an opportunity to ask questions and will supplement the information already on the school website alongside the School Report (26 February) and Year 8 Parents' Evening (4 March), all of which are designed to provide you with all the information you need to make an informed choice by the deadline of **Monday 8 March**.

The process of making subject choices will be completed electronically. Students will not have access to the Options Portal until after the Options Evening on Wednesday 3 February.

The process is as follows:

1. Students will receive a registration email from noreply@sims.co.uk after Wednesday 3 February containing a unique invitation code. From this they will set up a SIMS Online Services account, using their school Office 365 account details.

Before completing the registration process, users should be signed out from all other third-party accounts (eg Facebook/Twitter/Google). Alternatively, the registration process should be carried out in a private browser window.

For verification purposes, students are required to enter their Date of Birth.

2. Once the registration process is complete and the Options process begins, students will be able to sign in via the following URL for SIMS Options Online <https://www.sims-options.co.uk> to submit their GCSE Option choices for Year 9. They will see this sign in screen and should choose to sign in with Office 365, then enter their school account details as in the registration process.



3. Students will need to select their four Subject Choices and then ensure to put them into their order of preference. Instructions of how to change the order will be shown on screen. They will also need to select two Reserves and put them into their order of preference. More details and guidance will be shared when the portal is open.

I would encourage you to start discussing and considering GCSE options, if you have not done so already. If your son finds it difficult to decide on a career or subject, then consider which subjects they enjoy and in which there is proven academic ability or potential, also try to maintain a balance of subjects, in this way a wider range of options is kept open.

Yours sincerely,

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