

Dear Parent/Carer

### GCSE Option Choices

The time is upon us whereby your child is making choices about the subjects they wish to study through to Year 11, when they will take their GCSEs.

In Years 7 & 8, your child has accessed a wide range of subjects, and undoubtedly will have made decisions about which subjects they enjoy and where they experience success. They also will be beginning to think about what they may like to do in the future and what interests them. Your son/daughter should use these experiences, as well as conversations with yourself and the teaching staff at the Academy to make choices for study during Years 9 - 11.

The Options process is relatively simple. As well as studying English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science, your child chooses 3 additional subjects to study. Your child must;

1. **Choose 1 subject** from Geography, History or Spanish
2. **Choose 2 further subjects** from Dance, Drama, Food, PE, Music, Art **or** 3 Dimensional Design, Computer Science, Religious Studies, Geography, History, Spanish
3. **Choose 2 different 'reserve' subjects** from the list above. We work hard to try to offer all of our young people their first choices, but this is not always possible. We therefore ask that they make reserve choices, which they may be assigned

You will notice the introduction of 2 new GCSE courses; Computer Science and 3 Dimensional Design. ***If your child is opting for 3D Design, they cannot take Art as their second option. Computer Science will run subject to us being able to appoint a Computer Science specialist.*** We are currently advertising this role. If your child is choosing ***Computer Science as an option, please can they make 3 reserve choices*** instead of two.

Next steps:

1. Complete the Options Form, detailing your child's 3 subject choices AND their 2/3 reserve choices (remember to choose 3 if Computer Science is a choice). **ALL students must select 3 choices and either 2 or 3 reserves.** Incomplete Options Forms will not be accepted
2. Your child must bring the **fully completed** Options Form to their 1:1 Curriculum Interview, which will take place from 18 March. Times of these interviews will be shared on Tuesday 12 March during the Period 5 session
3. You will receive confirmation of which Options your child will be taking from September 2019 during Term 5, once we have been able to schedule groups and plan the timetable

When making your choices, please consider the following:

- Please ensure your child chooses subjects which they are interested in and like. Please do not allow them to make choices based on what their friends are doing or because they 'like' their teachers
- Subjects will only be offered if enough students choose that subject. If an option subject is unable to run students will study on of their reserve options
- In the event of a subject having more students opting for it than places available, some students will be allocated their reserve choice. This decision will be based upon evidence of the students' effort and attitude in the subjects over recent assessment points
- Once options have been confirmed, there will not be any movement between option subjects
- Some students may wish to follow the English Baccalaureate. This is the subject combination of English, Maths, Science, a language [Spanish] and either History or Geography. It is not a qualification, but can be used on CVs to reflect breadth of study. Some Universities will look to this when offering places
- All students will follow Combined Science. This requires students to study all three scientific disciplines [Biology, Chemistry, Physics] and leads to two GCSE qualifications. In Year 11, the decision may be taken for some of the highest performing students in Combined Science to take Triple Science, which leads to 3 GCSE qualifications. Both Combined (2 GCSE equiv) and Triple Science (3 GCSE equiv) are widely accepted routes to study Sciences at A Level. Decisions about entering students for Triple Science will be made based upon attainment in Science during Year 10.

We hope that the information above provides clarity and reassurance about how these important decisions will be made at Oasis Academy John Williams. Please be assured that we will endeavour to confirm choices during Term 5.

Thank you in advance for your support and engagement with this process.

Yours sincerely



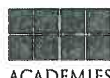
Philip Cocks  
Vice Principal

Executive Principal of Oasis Academy John Williams  
Victoria Boomer-Clark

Petherton Road, Hengrove, Bristol, BS14 9BU  
Tel: 01275 894680. Fax: 01275 832883. [www.oasisacademyjohnwilliams.org](http://www.oasisacademyjohnwilliams.org)



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

LM: \_\_\_\_\_

**Options Choice for Year 9-11 Study**

Choose 1 Subject from		All Subjects Group	
Place a tick beside the relevant subject. There is no need to make a reserve choice.		Choose two 1 <sup>st</sup> choice subjects and two reserve subjects. If Computer Science is a choice, please choose 3 reserve subjects	Place a tick beside your 2 first choice subjects, and an R beside your reserve subjects
Geography		Art	
History		3D Graphic Art	
Spanish		Computer Science	
		Dance	
		Drama	
		Food	
		PE	
		Music	
		Religious Studies	
		Geography	
		History	
		Spanish	

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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