

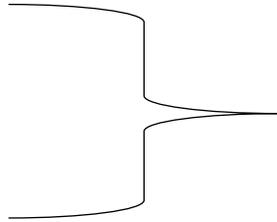
Year 9 Options



What will my child study?

- EVERYBODY studies the 'common core':

English Language
English Literature



2 GCSEs

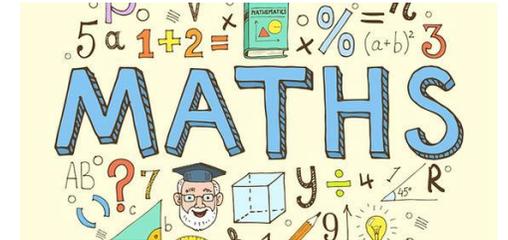
Mathematics

1 GCSE

Science (double or triple)

2 or 3 GCSEs

Core PE – one lesson a week

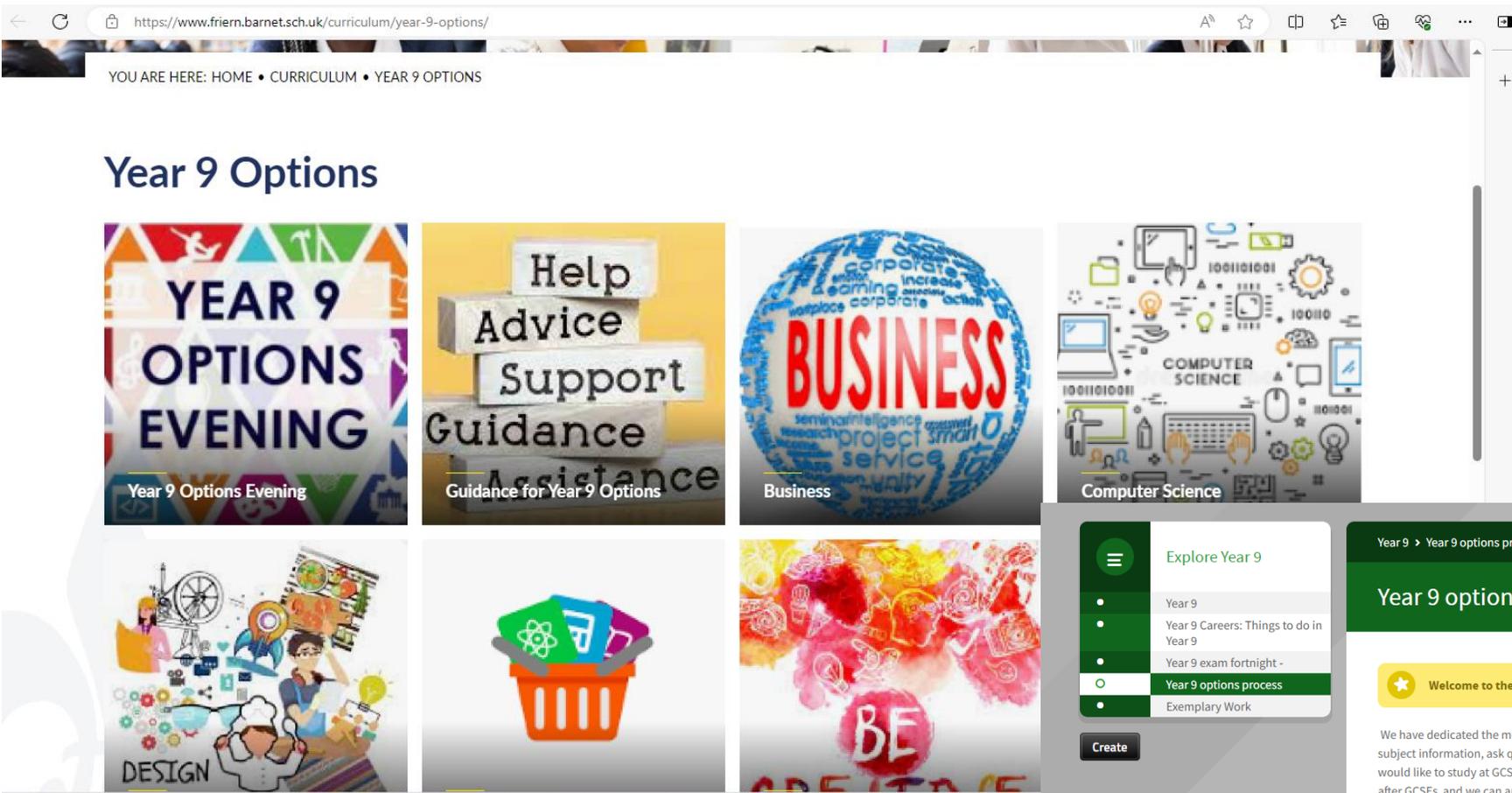


The option subjects:

- French
- Spanish
- Design and Technology
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Religious Studies
- Business Studies
- PE
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- Computer Science



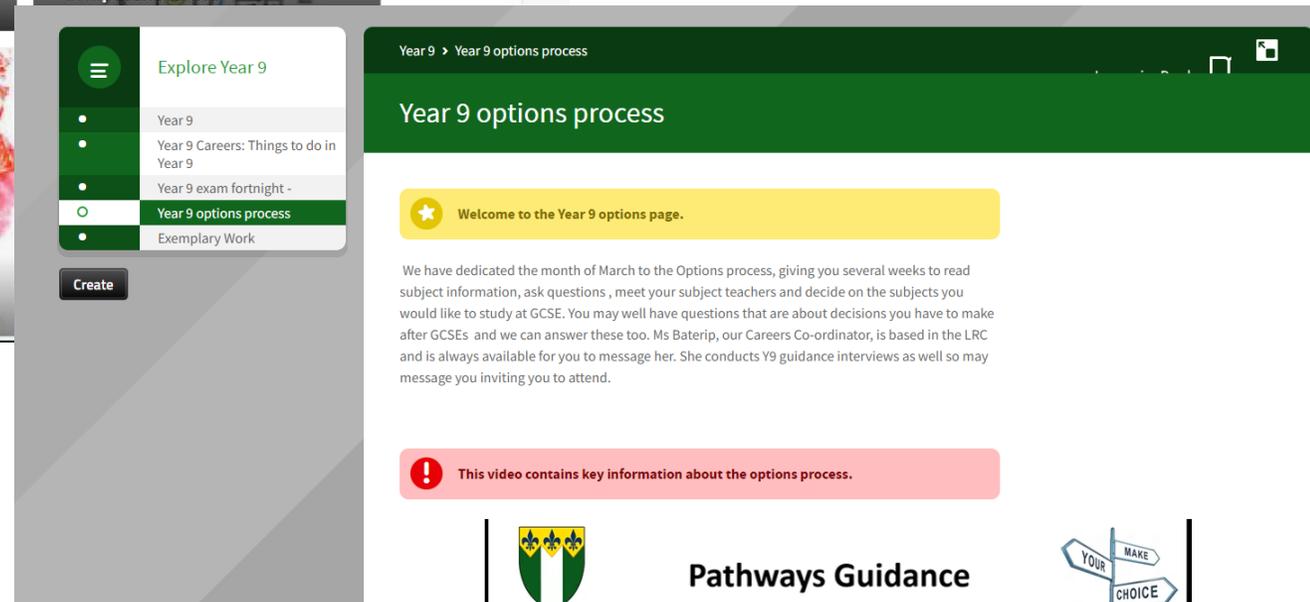
Where can I find information about options?



The FBS website

Students have been set a task on Firefly titled 'Options information' with links to both of these!

Firefly



Year 9 Options



Guidance for Year 9 Options

Please click on the video for guidance on the Year 9 Options process.

Year 9 Options Video



Useful information:

[Options Guidance Booklet](#)

[How to use SIMS Options Online](#)



FRIERN BARNET SCHOOL

14-16 Pathways Guidance Booklet 2025-2027



A few hard copies of the booklet are available: please speak to me if you require one.

What CAN'T my child choose?

- There are certain subject clashes that need to be avoided:
 - French OR Spanish
 - Media Studies OR Film Studies
 - No more than two of Dance, Music and Drama.

Consider the weighting of coursework and exams!
(Lots of coursework subjects – your child will be busier Jan-April, but will have fewer exams. Are they well organised?)



Can my child take a GCSE in our home language?

Community language GCSEs are available in:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Gujarati
- Italian
- Japanese
- Modern Greek
- Modern Hebrew
- Persian (Farsi)
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Turkish



*these are subject to change!

What is Pathway B?

- This will only affect a small number of students.
- Core subjects are the same.
- Three options subjects from the previous list.
- Three lessons a week are spent on life skills: for example, developing effective study and revision habits, improving literacy skills and establishing techniques and strategies to assist with further education and the world of work.



Completing the Options form

- The options selector will go live on 17th March
- Students will be set a task on Firefly and will be shown a video in form time explaining how to use it
- Four options choices (three for those on Pathway C) in order of preference and two reserves
- Students must have completed the online options form by Friday 20th March.

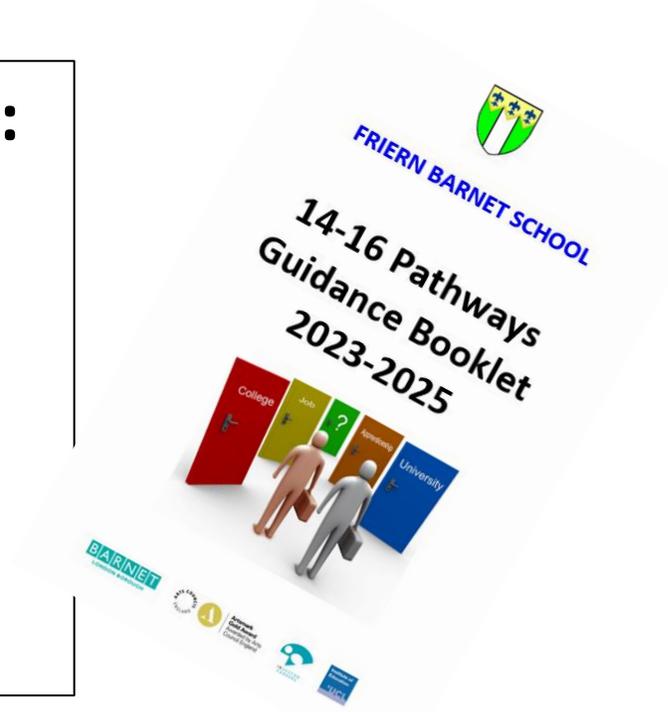


The advice we have given students:

- DON'T choose a subject because your friends are doing it
- DON'T select an option because it's taught by your favourite teacher
- DO make two reserve choices: we can't guarantee first choices!

If you would like further advice or have questions:

- ✓ **Ms Newey, Assistant Head Teacher**
- ✓ **Mr Tonaydin, Head of Year 9**
- ✓ **Ms Baterip, Head of Careers**



FAQ: Is it important that my child knows what career they want to follow?

- No, not at this stage. Young people often change their minds - this is a natural process because as they develop as an individual, so do their career intentions. It is important to keep as many doors open as possible and to aim high! However, if they do have a serious career idea they should check if any subjects are essential or desirable. Ms Baterip, the Careers Officer, can offer advice.



FAQ: Can my child change their subject preferences at a later date?

- They should consider the option preferences that they make as final. After Easter it will be difficult to change decisions. Students should let us know, as soon as possible, about any changes or concerns they may have about a subject. **CHANGES ARE NOT USUALLY ALLOWED AFTER THE START OF JUNE** as the timetable will have been put in place by then.



FAQ: What qualifications does my child need to progress to post 16 courses?

- Your child will need the equivalent of seven good GCSE qualifications (grade 5 or above) in order to progress to Level 3 (Advanced qualifications, e.g. A levels or BTEC level 3). Students will usually need to attain a grade 6 in their chosen subjects to study them at A level. Some sixth form colleges are requesting students achieve a grade 7 in their chosen subjects in order to start A levels.
- Students choosing to follow a more vocational route, such as BTEC, can start a level 2 course with at least 4 grades at a 3 or above.
- Students who do not achieve a grade 4 in English or maths will need to retake these subjects at college.



Planning ahead...

- It is important that students reach their potential in Years 10 and 11 so that they can have a range of opportunities available to them at Post 16 for further education, employment or training.
- For all types of employment, students will need to demonstrate excellent attendance, a consistently good attitude to learning and good qualifications in English, mathematics and at least five other subjects.

