



Year 9

**Key Stage 4 Options
2025-27**

Making the Right Choices



Mrs McFadden

Headteacher



- 1. Academic Excellence;**
- 2. Acquiring Knowledge;**
- 3. Social Justice;**
- 4. Public Service;**
- 5. Diverse Opportunities;**

Durham Johnston's Core Values



1. **Academic Excellence;** choose the subjects that you are good at and feel confident in.
2. **Acquiring Knowledge;** choose the subjects that will offer the knowledge and skills that will help you to succeed.
3. **Social Justice;** we don't force students to do subjects because that will make the school look good; we also don't set our students up to fail and offer honest advice.
4. **Public Service;** think about how your choices will help you to make a positive contribution to society.
5. **Diverse Opportunities;** don't close doors now. Keep your options open if you are unsure about what you want to do at 16 and 18; specialise now if you know exactly what you want to do.

Durham Johnston's Core Values



Making Good Choices

When choosing your option subjects, it will help to consider the following:

- **What subjects are you interested in/do you enjoy?**
- **What subjects are good at? What are your strengths?**
- **What type of course would suit your skills? Practical or written?**
- **What type of assessment will you do best at?**
- **Will this combination of subjects keep your options open for future choices?**



Making Good Choices

Good Reasons to choose a subject

- Interest and enjoyment
- Type of course
- Future plans

Bad Reasons to choose a subject

- My friend is choosing this subject
- My older brother chose this subject
- I like the teacher who currently teaches me this subject
- This subject is new so it must be good
- Someone else thinks you should do it but you don't enjoy it / are not good at it



Sources of Information

- Options Information Evening
- Options website
- Options booklets
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Subject teachers
- Form Tutor, Miss Stannard, Mr Briggs
- Individual support
- University and careers websites
- Parents, carers and family



DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE

Key Stage 4 Options

Mr Horn
**Associate Assistant
Headteacher**



Core Curriculum

**In Year 10 and 11 you
will study:**

- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Science (2/3 GCSEs)
- RE (1 GCSE)
- PE





Options Subjects

- Computing
- Geography
- History
- French
- German
- Latin
- Spanish

- Art
- Business
- Computing
- Construction
- Drama
- Design Technology
- Engineering
- Engineering (Vocational)
- French
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- German
- Health and Social
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Photography
- PE
- Spanish
- PE (Vocational)
- Textiles



Pathway 1

- Traditional GCSE pathway which includes 3 GCSE subjects in addition to the core
- Wide range of GCSE subjects on offer and a range of combinations are possible
- Excellent progression into Post 16 education both here and elsewhere (A-levels, Vocational Qualifications)





Pathway 2

- Students may choose up to two Vocational subjects
- Students can still choose 3 GCSEs if they wish
- Vocational subjects are equivalent to GCSEs and tend to be more practical.
- They have smaller assessments over the two years rather than a big final examination
- Excellent progression to post 16 education both here and elsewhere





English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a core group of academically focused GCSEs.

You do not have to take these subjects to go to university, but taking a mix of these may help you to be flexible in your university course choices.

To fulfil the EBacc requirements you need to study:

- English, Mathematics and Science
- History or Geography
- A modern or ancient Language





Options Form

Section A					
You must pick one subject from the list below.					
Computing (GCSE)		German (GCSE)		French (GCSE)	
Geography (GCSE)		History (GCSE)		Latin (GCSE)	
		Spanish (GCSE)			

You MUST pick one subject from Section A

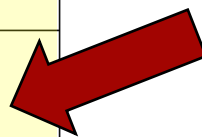


You then pick **TWO** subjects from section B.

Vocational are for **Pathway 2 only**.

Section B			
You must pick two subjects from the list below.			
You must also pick one reserve subject .			
To fulfil the requirements of the Ebacc, you will need to include a language and either History or Geography.			
Please note: It is not possible to choose Art and Photography.			
Art (GCSE)	Business (GCSE)	Computing (GCSE)	
German (GCSE)	Drama (GCSE)	Design Technology (GCSE)	
Engineering (GCSE)	Food and Nutrition (GCSE)	French (GCSE)	
Geography (GCSE)	History (GCSE)	Latin (GCSE)	
Music (GCSE)	Photography (GCSE)	PE (GCSE)	
Spanish (GCSE)	Textiles (GCSE)		
Pathway 2 students only			
Construction (Vocational)	Engineering (Vocational)	Health and Social Care (Vocational)	
	PE (Vocational)		
Reserve Subject			

Remember to choose a reserve subject.





You have the option to pick an additional GCSE in Music or PE.

Section C

Please indicate if you are interested in studying an additional GCSE in Music or PE.

Please note: If you are interested in this option you should first read the FAQs and then contact Mr Holmes (Music) or Mr Hopper (PE) via email or teams before selecting it here.

Extra Music (GCSE)		Extra PE (GCSE)	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

You **MUST** speak to Mr Holmes or Mr/Mrs Hopper before choosing these options.



If you speak any additional languages please provide details as we may be able to enter you for an additional GCSE.

See Miss Schwaiger if you have questions about this option.

Section D

If a student speaks an additional language to a high standard, it may be possible for them to sit the GCSE in this language and gain an additional qualification. This is normally students who are native speakers or whose parents are native speakers.

If you are able to speak any additional languages and would like to find out more about this option, please provide details below.

If you have any questions relating to this option, please contact Miss Schwaiger Subject Leader for Languages.

Language Spoken:

Details:



There is a box at the end for comments or additional requests.

Additional Comments			
Student Signature		Parent/Carer Signature	



Next Steps

- Check your Pathway
- Read through the online Options Booklets carefully
- Talk to subject teachers tonight
- Review Year 9 Progress reports 5th February
- Talk to individual teachers about your progress at the Year 9 Progress Evening 10th February
- Contact us if you have questions
options@durhamjohnston.org.uk
- **Complete the form and hand in to your Form Tutor by Friday 21st February 2025**



Year 9

**Key Stage 4 Options
2025-27**

Making the Right Choices