Welcome
Year 9 into 10 Options Presentation

It’s Time to Choose

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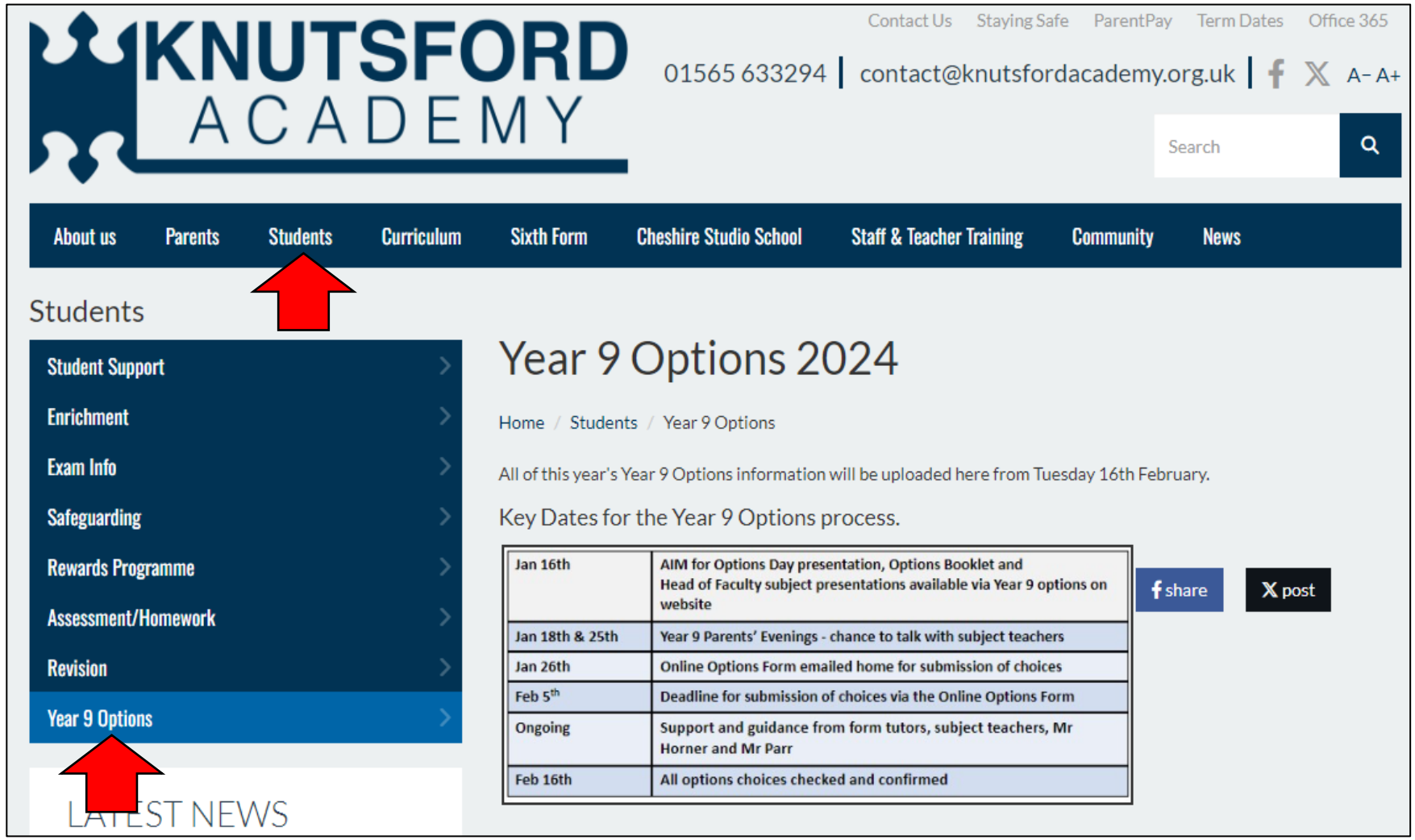
Year 9 into 10 Options: Key Dates

Tuesday January 14th	AIM for Options Day presentation, Options Booklet and Head of Faculty subject presentations available via Year 9 options on website.
Thursday January 16th (French Side) Thursday January 23rd (Spanish Side)	Year 9 Parents' Evenings - chance to talk with subject teachers.
Friday January 24th	SIMS Options Online available for submission of choices.
Friday February 7th	Deadline for submission of choices via SIMS Options Online
Ongoing	Support and guidance from form tutors, subject teachers, Miss Appleton and Mr Parr. Mrs Pickford
February 28th	All options choices checked and confirmed.

Year 9 into 10 Options: Key Resources



Year 9 into 10 Options: Key Resources

Year 9 into 10 Options 2025 Subject Guide Booklet

It's Time to Choose

This booklet explains all about the GCSE and vocational subjects which are offered at Knutsford Academy.

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Computer Science GCSE (AQA)

The advancements in technology are incredible, and whilst IT skills will make students competent users of technology – Computer Science can unlock students' potential and position them as the creators of the next technological innovation, groundbreaking app or global reaching website.

During the course, students explore the ideas of computational thinking and problem solving and look at how computer programs are developed. Students learn to program in Python and become competent coders.

Students will also study data representation, internal hardware and experience taking computers apart, learning about the components. They will study networking and cyber security and gain a critical awareness of how organisations maintain their systems securely.

Assessment

Paper 1 (Exam 50%)
Students are assessed on computational thinking, algorithms and programming concepts.

Paper 2 (Exam 50%)
Students are assessed on a wide range of computer science topic areas such as networking, security, computer hardware and SQL

Contact – Mr D Cole dce@knutsfordacademy.org.uk

Dance GCSE (AQA)

The GCSE Dance course is assessed both practically and theoretically in order to provide students with the necessary skills to springboard progression into A Level study.

Why choose GCSE Dance?
- You are a student who enjoys the subject and you are prepared to progress your knowledge and realisation of performance and choreography.
- Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity.
- This course recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and students will study a range of dance styles. They can choose any style to perform and choreograph in, providing it meets the assessment criteria.
- The study of the anthology of professional works will develop students' ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences and provides a springboard for engaging practical tasks.

Assessment

The practical area of the course assesses students' **performance** as both a soloist and as part of ensemble equating to 30% of the final GCSE marks. In addition students will study the **craft of choreography** (30% of the final marks) which will be realised through the composition of either a solo or group piece.

The theoretical element of the course involves critical appreciation of students' own work and professional dance works prescribed by the AQA. This will culminate in a **written paper** totalling 40% of the GCSE qualification

Contact – Mrs L Scott lst@knutsfordacademy.org.uk

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

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GCSE Core Curriculum ▶ **Additional Compulsory Curriculum** ▶ **Options Choices**

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Dual Award)

- Physical Education
- PSHCE
- Work Experience (1 week in Year 10)

All students will study a common **core** and **compulsory** curriculum throughout Years 10 and 11.

You can change your choices at any point during the options process within SIMS Options Online.

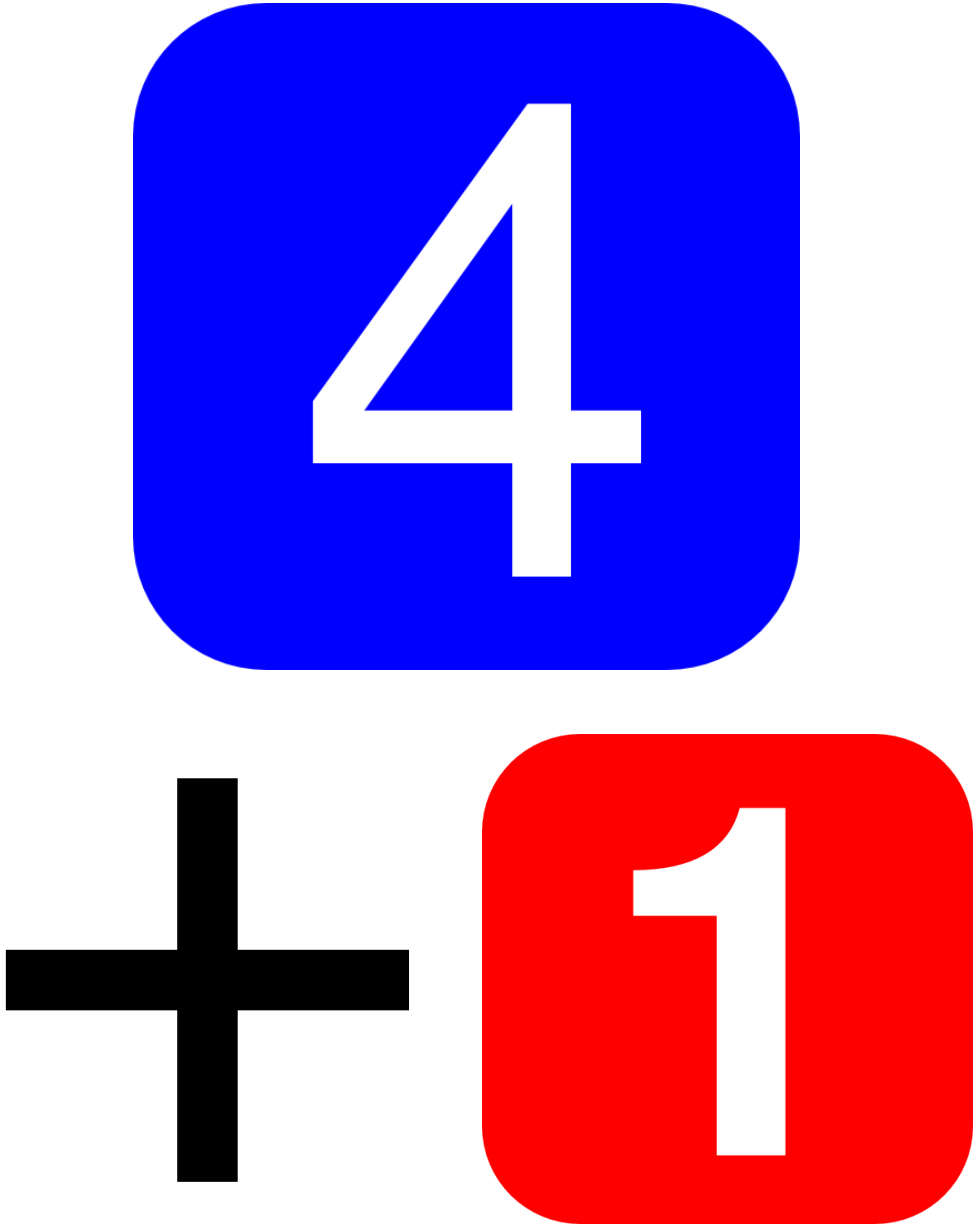
Choose any 4 subjects from those listed below (plus 1 reserve).
'Pathway 1' students must select a language.
Triple Science requires a minimum Progress grade of 6.
You can blend GCSEs with vocational subjects if you want to.

GCSE Subjects

French	Spanish	History	Geography	Religious Studies	Triple Science
Business Studies	Psychology	Computer Science	Drama	Dance	Music
Art Photography	Graphics	3D Design	Textiles	Media Studies	P.E

Vocational Subjects

Child Development	Construction	Health and Social Care	Digital Information Technology
Hospitality and Catering	Travel and Tourism	Sports Studies	



Everybody will be able to choose *4* subject options as well as *1* reserve subject option.

Students will make these choices from a free choice within SIMS Options Online.

This system will design the 'best-fit' combination of subject pools for all students.

Reserve choices may be used if a choice of subjects does not quite fit into this 'best-fit' combination.

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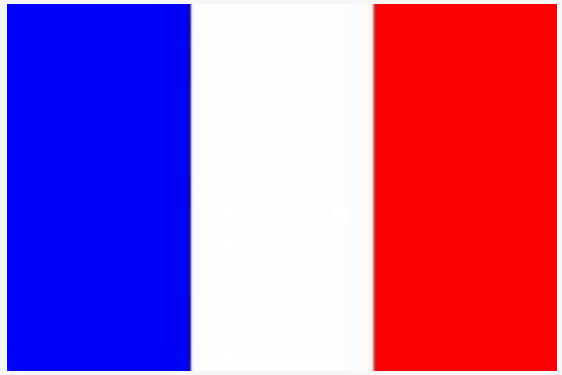

Considerations

Language Pathway 1 students MUST select either French or Spanish as one of their 4 choices.

Language Pathway 2 students CAN do so but do not have to do so.

Triple Science will require a minimum tracking progress grade of 6 to be eligible.

Some courses are subject to limited places: Construction and Photography

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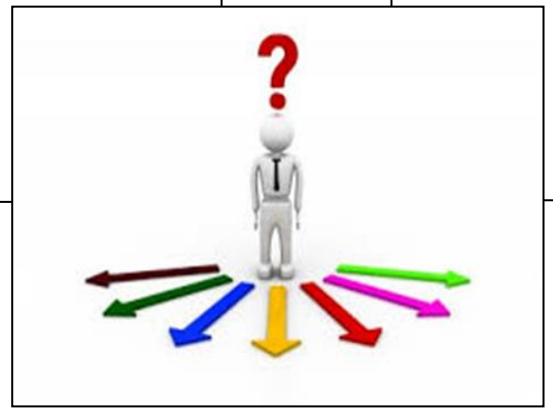
Supporting your child's choice

- Breadth and skill range
- Future career plans
- Interest, enjoyment, talent
- Learning style
- Teacher advice
- Research and taster sessions



- Specialise and narrow
- Living in the 'now'
- An ‘easy’ option
- Following friends
- Teacher preferences
- Just ‘sounds good’
- Ticked anything

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Whichever subjects are chosen...

Effort, attitude and performance are expected and remain important for the whole of Year 9 in every subject.

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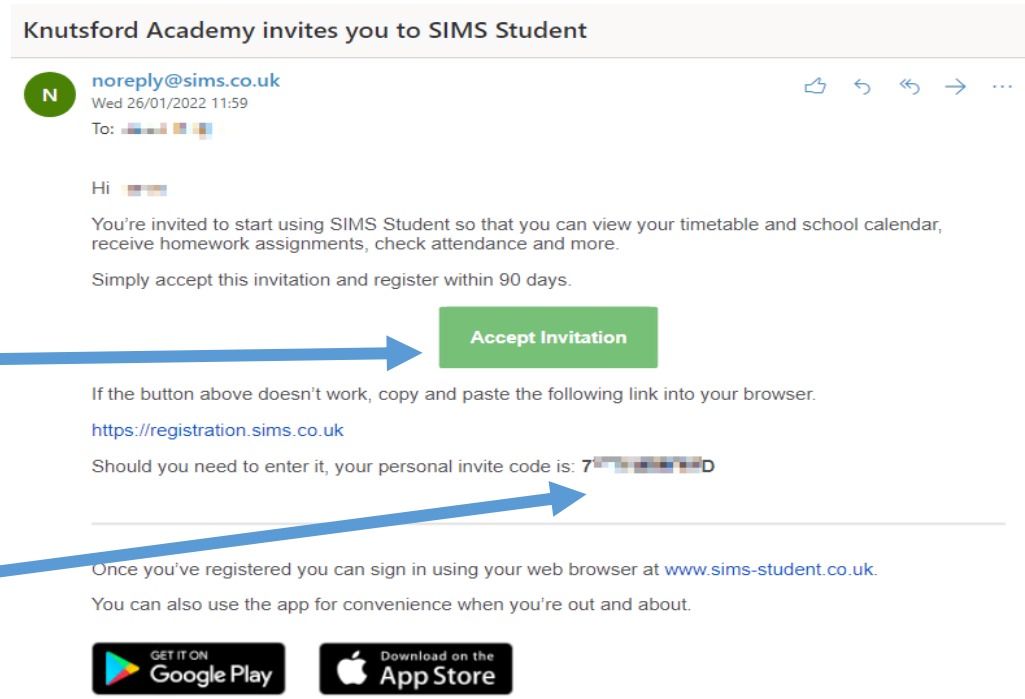
Invitation email – this will be sent today!

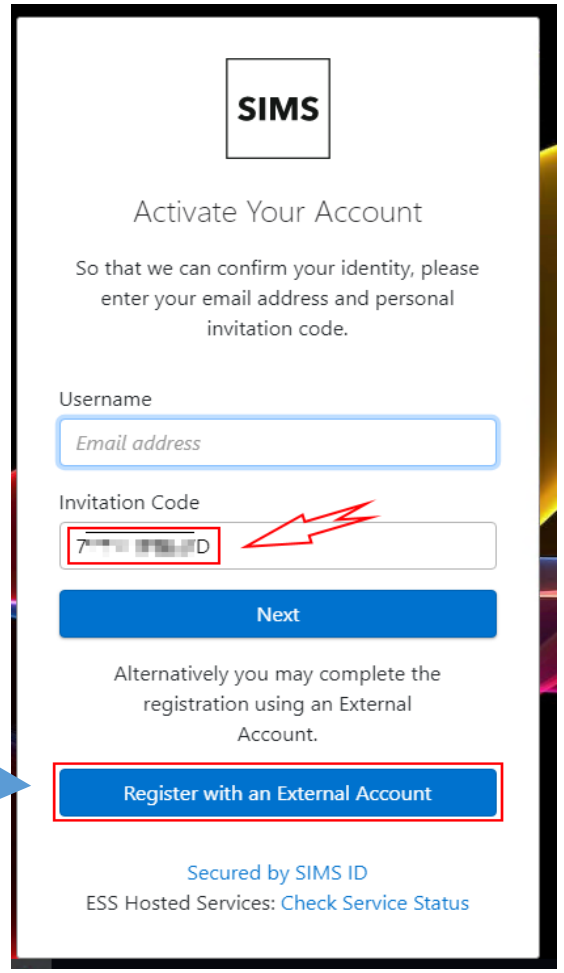
Find the invitation email. It will have been sent from the email address:
noreply@sims.co.uk

In the invitation email, click on **'Accept Invitation'**

Copy the **Invitation Code** NOW as you will need it later.

Select **'Register with an External Account'**





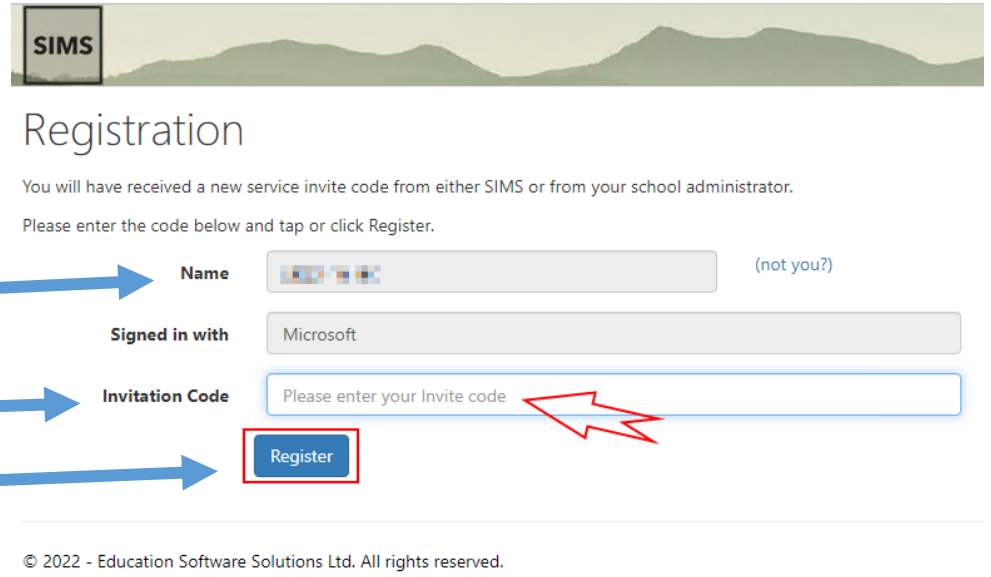
Year 9 into 10 Options: Registering for Options Online

Registering

Check your name.

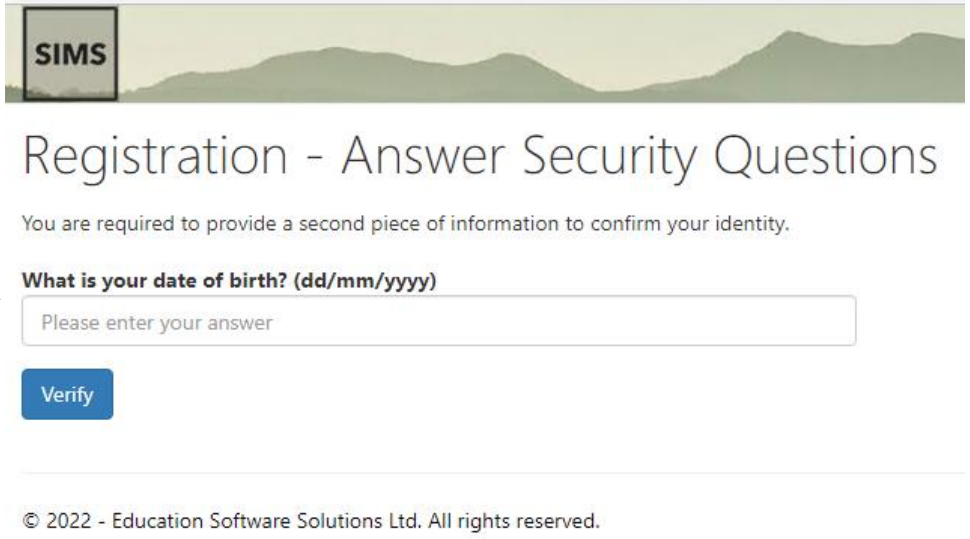
Paste in the Invitation Code.

Click Register.



Enter your date of birth.
It must be typed in as
dd/mm/yyyy

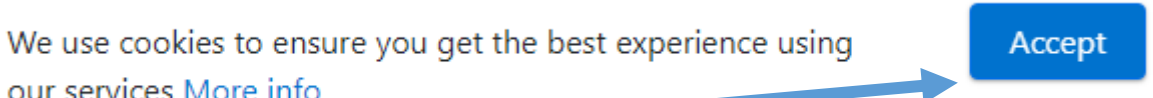
So for the 1st February 2008 type 01/02/2008.



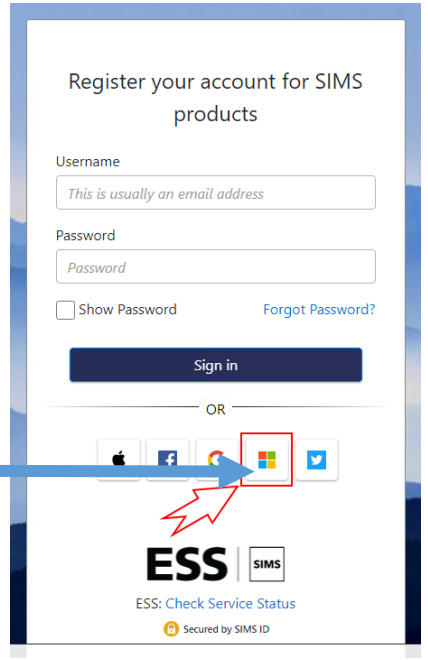
Year 9 into 10 Options: Registering for Options Online

Sign In

Click on **'Accept'** for the cookies permission prompt.



Select the **Microsoft 365 icon** on the registration page.



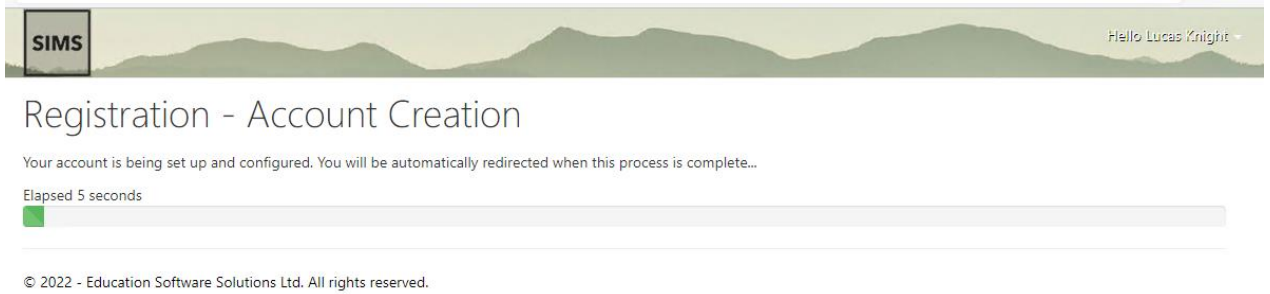
Year 9 into 10 Options: Registering for Options Online

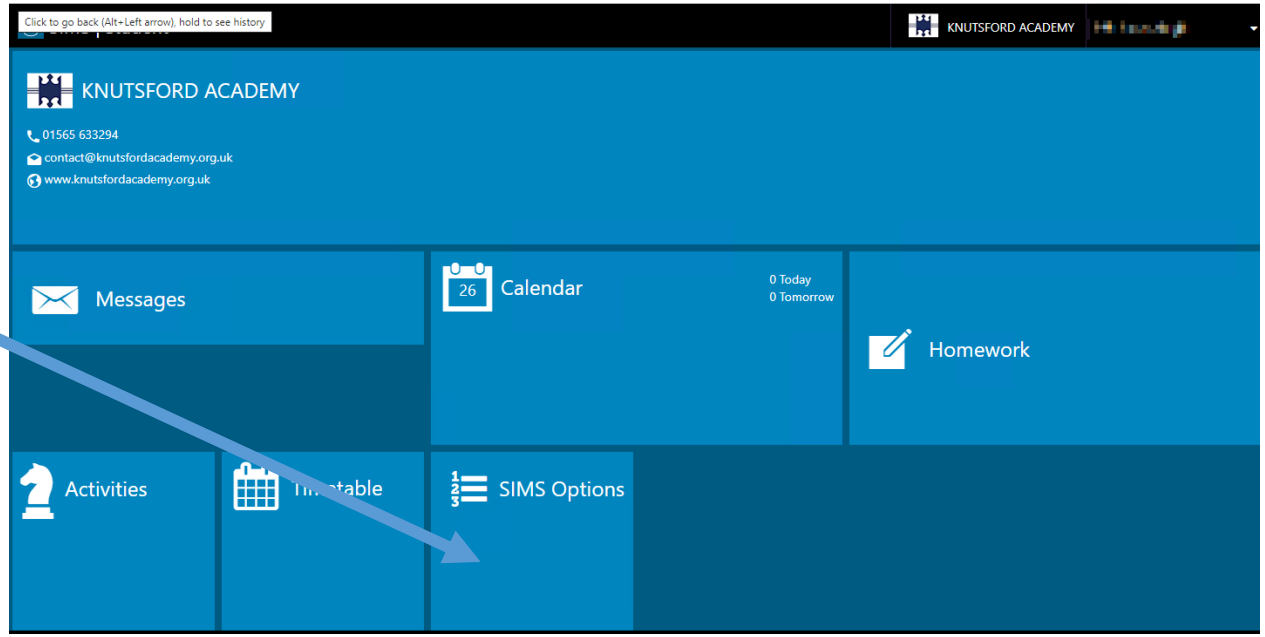
Almost done…

Wait for **Account Creation to complete.**

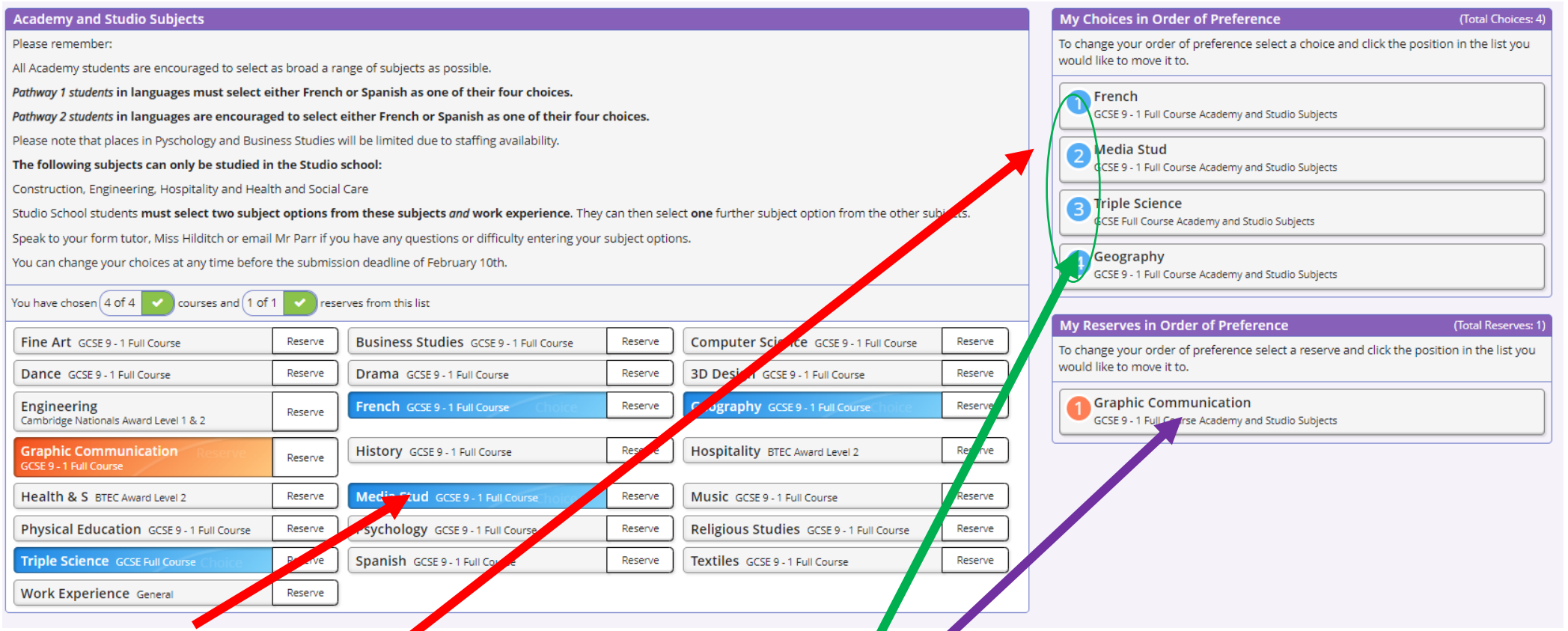
This screen will vanish and you are now ready to access SIMS Options Online.

You are now signed into the SIMS Student website. **SIMS Options** is on the bottom row.





Year 9 into 10 Options: Submitting your choices in SIMS Options



1. Click, drag and drop your subject choice over to the menu on the right hand side.
2. Make sure that you organise your choices into preference order.
3. Remember to also select a reserve choice. These will be used by the system to match as many students as possible into subject choices.
4. Save your selection by clicking the cloud/arrow button top left.

Watch a video demonstration of how to submit choices here.

Key points

- Choose 4 subjects plus 1 reserve - no guarantee of your preferred 4 choices. Reserve choices matter!
- Check your language pathway.
- You can blend GCSE and Vocational subjects.
- Everyone will do work experience.
- Research subjects carefully – all subject talks and options guide are online
- Seek advice from your parents, subject and form teachers or Mrs Pickford in Careers.
- Some subjects may refer to progress data in related subjects before accepting students if over-subscribed.
- Changes **CAN** be made through the options process.
- Deadline for submitting choices online via SIMS Options is February 7th.
- No 'first-come, first-served' - all submissions treated equally.
- Lots of support and time :)

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