



# Welcome Year 9 into 10 Options Presentation

## It's Time to Choose



## **Year 9 into 10 Options: Key Dates**

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

# Year 9 into 10 Options: Key Resources

**KNUTSFORD ACADEMY**

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## Year 9 Options 2024

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All of this year's Year 9 Options information will be uploaded here from Tuesday 16th February.

Key Dates for the Year 9 Options process.

Jan 16th	AIM for Options Day presentation, Options Booklet and Head of Faculty subject presentations available via Year 9 options on website
Jan 18th & 25th	Year 9 Parents' Evenings - chance to talk with subject teachers
Jan 26th	Online Options Form emailed home for submission of choices
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for submission of choices via the Online Options Form
Ongoing	Support and guidance from form tutors, subject teachers, Mr Horner and Mr Parr
Feb 16th	All options choices checked and confirmed

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# 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](mailto: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](mailto:lst@knutsfordacademy.org.uk)

## GCSE Core Curriculum

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science  
(Dual Award)

## Additional Compulsory Curriculum

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.

## Options Choices

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	

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

**4**

**+**

**1**

**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.**





## 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.

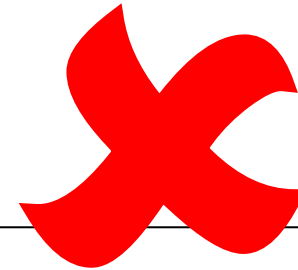
Some courses are subject to limited places:  
Construction and Photography

# 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**





Whichever subjects are chosen...

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



## Invitation email – this will be sent today!

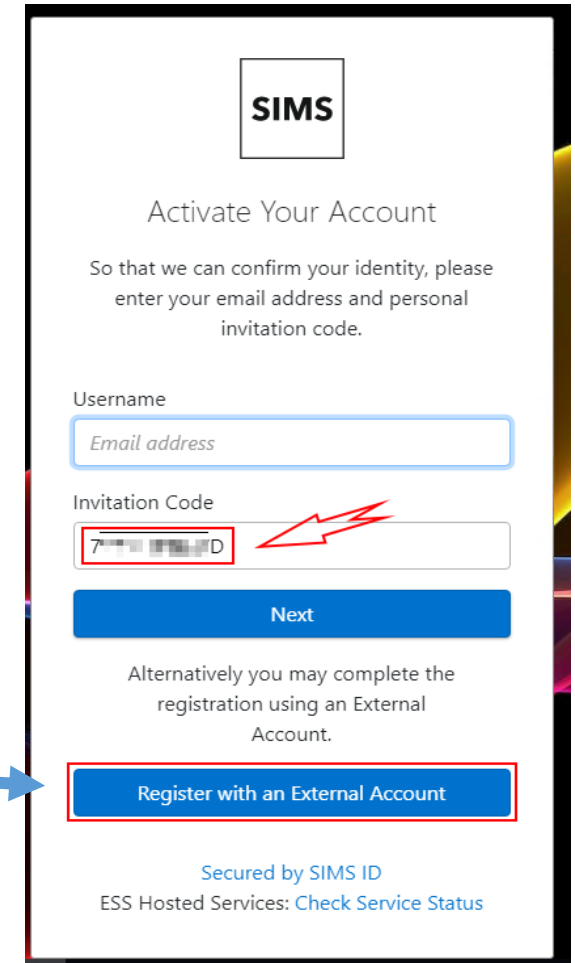
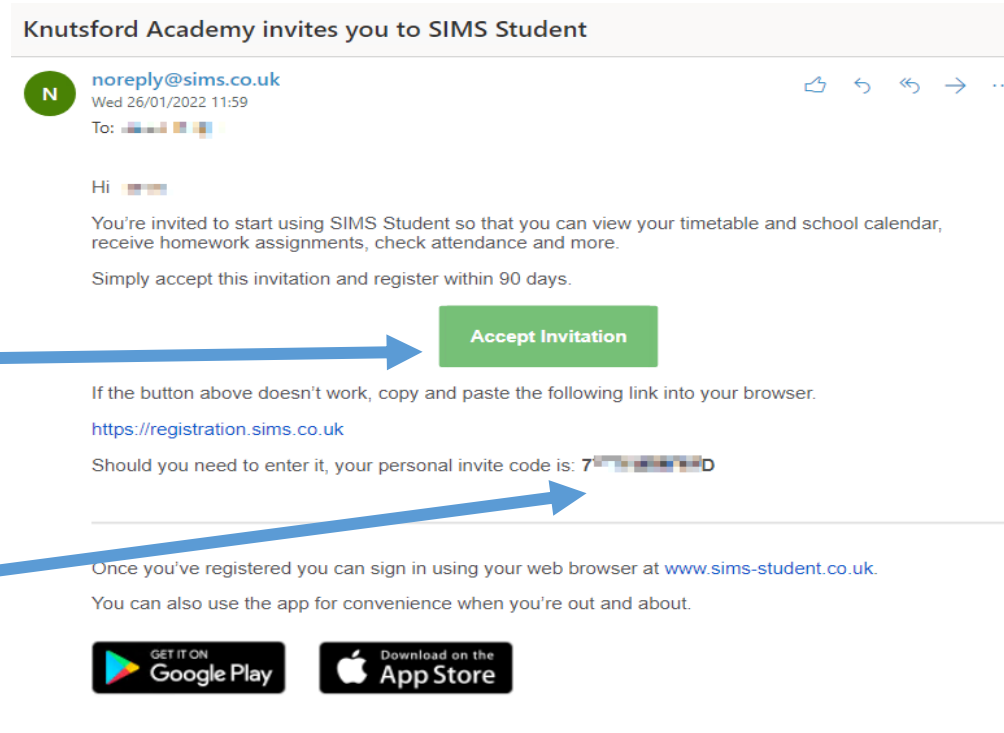
Find the invitation email. It will have been sent from the email address:

[noreply@sims.co.uk](mailto: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'**



## 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.

**SIMS**

### Registration

You will have received a new service invite code from either SIMS or from your school administrator.  
Please enter the code below and tap or click Register.

**Name**  (not you?)

**Signed in with**

**Invitation Code**  ⚡

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**SIMS**

### Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.

**What is your date of birth? (dd/mm/yyyy)**

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## Sign In

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

We use cookies to ensure you get the best experience using our services [More info](#)

Accept

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

Register your account for SIMS products






Username  
*This is usually an email address*

Password  
*Password*

Show Password [Forgot Password?](#)

Sign in

OR

**ESS** **SIMS**

[ESS: Check Service Status](#)

Secured by SIMS ID

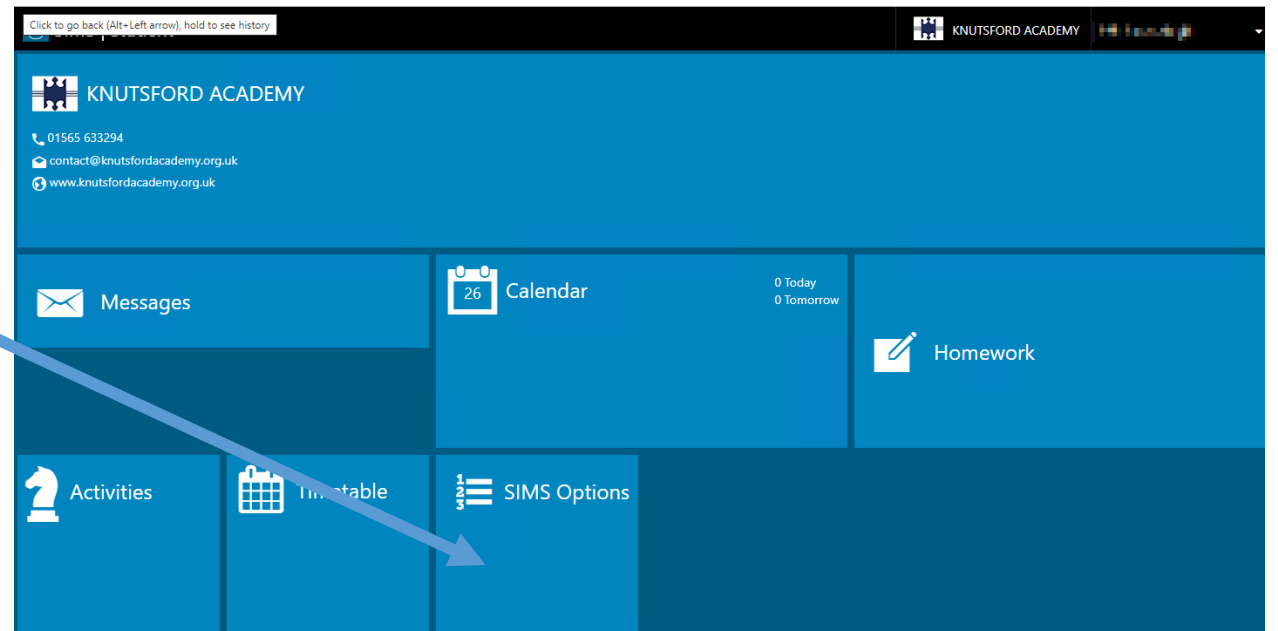
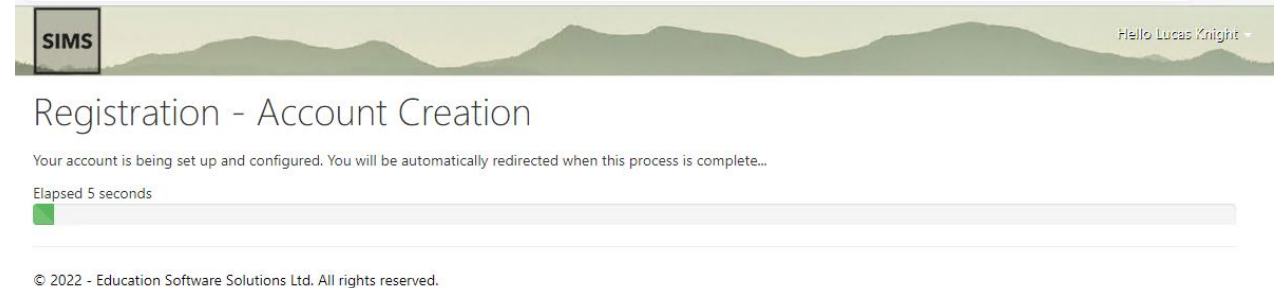
# Year 9 into 10 Options: Registering for Options Online

## 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

The screenshot displays the SIMS Options interface. On the left, under 'Academy and Studio Subjects', there are instructions and a grid of subject options with 'Reserve' buttons. On the right, there are two panels: 'My Choices in Order of Preference' and 'My Reserves in Order of Preference'. A red arrow points from the 'Triple Science' button in the subject grid to the 'Triple Science' choice in the preference list. A green arrow points from the 'Geography' button in the subject grid to the 'Geography' choice in the preference list. A purple arrow points from the 'Graphic Communication' button in the subject grid to the 'Graphic Communication' reserve in the reserve list. A blue circle highlights the preference list items.

**Academy and Studio Subjects**

Please remember:  
All Academy students are encouraged to select as broad a range of subjects as possible.  
**Pathway 1 students in languages must select either French or Spanish as one of their four choices.**  
**Pathway 2 students in languages are encouraged to select either French or Spanish as one of their four choices.**  
Please note that places in Psychology and Business Studies will be limited due to staffing availability.  
**The following subjects can only be studied in the Studio school:**  
Construction, Engineering, Hospitality and Health and Social Care  
Studio School students **must select two subject options from these subjects and work experience.** They can then select **one** further subject option from the other subjects.  
Speak to your form tutor, Miss Hilditch or email Mr Parr if you have any questions or difficulty entering your subject options.  
You can change your choices at any time before the submission deadline of February 10th.

You have chosen 4 of 4 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Fine Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Dance GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	3D Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Engineering Cambridge Nationals Award Level 1 & 2	Reserve	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Graphic Communication GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Hospitality BTEC Award Level 2	Reserve
Health & S BTEC Award Level 2	Reserve	Media Stud GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Music GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Physical Education GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Psychology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Religious Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Triple Science GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Work Experience General	Reserve				

**My Choices in Order of Preference** (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 French  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Academy and Studio Subjects
- 2 Media Stud  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Academy and Studio Subjects
- 3 Triple Science  
GCSE Full Course Academy and Studio Subjects
- 4 Geography  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Academy and Studio Subjects

**My Reserves in Order of Preference** (Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Graphic Communication  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Academy and Studio Subjects

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 7<sup>th</sup>.
- No 'first-come, first-served' - all submissions treated equally.
- Lots of support and time :)



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