



LETTER



Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to invite you to our Y9 GCSE Preferences Evenings at school on Thursday 25th January. This event is the main introduction to the Y9 GCSE preferences process which engages students, parents and carers in partnership with the school. We would like students to accompany their parents or carers throughout the evening.

All the information needed is available at <https://www.lythamhigh.lancs.sch.uk/students/year-9-preferences>. It would be advisable to use this link to re-watch the loom and accompanying letter distributed earlier in January. Paper copies of required information will be provided on the evening.

The preferences process helps each student to carefully consider and then indicate their preferred subjects to study in Year 10 and Year 11. Student preferences then inform the process by which we ensure that all students ultimately follow a broad and balanced curriculum suited to their needs, aspirations and many future careers.

The most important principle to remember is that year 9 students are not selecting their preferences based on a single current careers plan. All students will study a broad and balanced curriculum in year 10 and year 11.

An outline of the career work available during year 10 and 11 will be provided as part this evening. This work will provide multiple opportunities to consider many different careers and therefore will support careers and education decisions made at 16 years old and 18 years old. Furthermore, when students indicate their preferences, they can sign up to our Aspiration and Careers Excellence Programme.

Logistics for the evening

Please be aware that there are limited options available for parking on our new site and in the former Lytham Sixth Form College car park. If you are street parking, please kindly consider our neighbours.

Different form groups will arrive at school at either **5.15pm, 6.00pm or 6.45pm** as shown below.

On arrival, go to the Assembly Hall to collect an information pack and be seated promptly for the presentation.

Following the presentation, move to the Dining Room to see subject leads and as necessary see the SEND team, colleges and help desk colleagues.

Two phases of Y9 GCSE preferences evening	Forms: 9EBR 9ESM 9GBU 9HWS 9DBO	Forms: 9LFI 9MAM 9MGD 9NSP	Forms: 9RAK 9SFT 9SSA 9TBI
Assembly Hall – Presentation – will start promptly.	5:15pm	6:00pm	6:45pm
Dining Room – Visit relevant subjects in the marketplace, visit the help desk, colleges, SEND Team as necessary.	6:00pm	6:30pm	7:15pm

Yours sincerely

Mr. T Cubbon
Deputy Headteacher



A summary of the key principles of the preference process

1. The first key principle is to avoid making their GCSE preferences around a single career. Careers experts advise students to prepare for five careers over their working lives. A broad and balanced range of subjects is more useful than a narrower range of subjects and should be considered as a whole, alongside the core and additional careers activities provided during Year 10 and 11. The preferences process is not a chance to simply 'drop' a subject because it is challenging. No subjects should not be ruled out yet and students must continue working hard in all subjects.
2. Secondly, consider the whole Y10 and Y11 curriculum to help students see the impact of their preferences. All students have 50 learning hours per fortnight, including 30 core hours of English, Maths, Science, Physical Education and Personal Development. There is a further 10 core hours for which students can make a preference between Geography and History and between French and German. Finally, there are 2 two blocks of 5 hours for open choice subjects. Some students may prefer to use one 5 hour open choice block to increase their science time up from '10 hours of combined science in the core', up to '15 hours to study single sciences'.
3. The preferences chosen by each student will be considered on an 'case by case' individual basis. We will endeavour to provide the subjects preferred, but only where this makes for a suitable curriculum and supports onwards study and employment routes. Students will indicate three reserve preferences and may be advised to study a reserve choice. In such cases, there will be thorough consultation, support and guidance for students, parents and carers. Changes are difficult once Y10 subjects are confirmed in July. Please assume late changes won't be possible. Late problematic changes are rare when there is good communication between home and school. Please don't hesitate to contact the preferences team at any stage of the process by emailing GCSEpreferences2024@lsahigh.org.

Subject Information

There are 50 hours of learning each fortnight over week A and week B combined.

Core subjects – All students take GCSEs in mathematics, English Literature and English Language.

Core Subjects – ensure a broad and balanced curriculum and maximise study and employment opportunities.

- Every student must study History OR Geography
- Every student must study French OR German
- Every student must study either Combined science or Single sciences

Science preference – 10 hours of Combined Science or 15 hours of Single Science

Please re-watch Mrs Downey's Science subject loom available on the website.

Science teachers will advise further during our Video Consultation Evening on Thursday 1st February.

Open choice subjects

These subjects are limited in space so please order your preferences carefully, including 3 reserve subjects. Selecting Single Sciences reduces open choice subjects from two open choice subjects down to one subject. Combined Science students study French or German, Geography or History and two open choice subjects. Single Sciences students will study French or German, Geography or History and one open choice subject.

Subject combinations allowed or not allowed

It's possible to study both French and German. Select a second language in your open subject preference.

It's possible to study both Geography and History. Select the second subject in your open subject preference.

It is not possible to select both GCSE PE and Sports Studies OCR on any part of your preference form.