

— THE —  
SWEYNE PARK  
— SCHOOL —

# **Year 9 Options Evening**

Thursday 23 February 2023

**A Rights Respecting School, A Thoughtful School**

# Options Evening 2023

The purpose of this evening is to:

- ✓ provide an overview of the Key Stage 4 curriculum;
- ✓ inform families about subject requirements and grading;
- ✓ provide an opportunity to find out more about the Options process.

# GCSE grading

The **GCSE grading system** awards pupils within a **scale ranging from 9-1**.

The **highest** grade which can be achieved is **9**.

9-1 grade system	Old A* - G grade system
9	
8	
7	A
6	
5	
4	C
3	
2	
1	

# Vocational course grading

Pupils studying vocational courses are awarded a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\*.

They are equivalent to the number grades awarded for GCSE courses.

9-1 grade system	Vocational courses grading
9	Level 2 Distinction *
8	
7	Level 2 Distinction
6	
5	Level 2 Merit
4	
3	Level 2 Pass
2	
1	Level 1 Distinction
	Level 1 Merit
	Level 1 Pass

# Assessment

- ✓ Most subjects are **graded by external exams at the end of Year 11.**
- ✓ A number of subjects, including **vocational courses**, will also have **internally marked** assessments, which are then **externally moderated**. **A minimum attendance figure of 93% is required for entry to vocational courses.**
- ✓ **Nearly all subjects** will have additional marks for **spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG).**
- ✓ Specific details of assessment for each subject can be found in the Options area of the school website.

# How can I support my child's learning?

- ✓ Encourage your child to view homework as a **key element** to developing and checking the learning completed in school.
- ✓ Use Show My Homework and on-line resources.
- ✓ You might also encourage:
  - **wider reading** around the subjects studied;
  - completing **past papers**;
  - **re-doing work** to improve first attempt;
  - making **notes** on key topics and **keeping organised files throughout the 2 years.**

# How can I support my child's learning?

- ✓ Encourage excellent **attendance**.
- ✓ Provide a **quiet place** where your child can work, avoiding any possible distractions.
- ✓ Encourage a **good routine**, balancing homework, revision, and time for any extra-curricular activity and leisure.
- ✓ Help to manage the workload by encouraging your child to **meet all deadlines**.
- ✓ Monitoring homework on **Show My Homework**.

# The Open Pathway

All pupils will study:



English Language & Literature GCSEs  
Mathematics GCSE  
Combined Science GCSE  
Citizenship, Personal and Religious Education  
Physical Education (Core)

All pupils will have a choice of 4 subjects in total.  
(Max. 3 vocational)



4 option choices  
in total



# Open Pathway Options

## **GCSE qualifications:**

Art & Design  
Design and Technology  
Drama  
French  
Geography  
History  
Media Studies  
Music  
Physical Education (PE)  
Religious Studies

## **Vocational qualifications:**

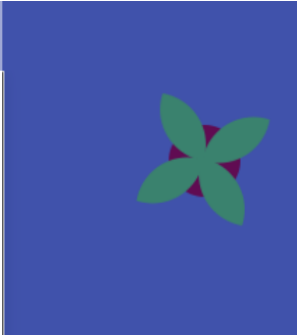
Creative iMedia (ICT)  
Enterprise (Business)  
Health and Fitness  
Health and Social Care  
Hospitality and Catering  
Performing Arts  
Physical Education (Sports Studies)

# Completing the Options Form



Questions

Responses



## GCSE Options form - Open Pathway

### Complete personal details first

1. Pupil's school e-mail address ([firstname.lastname@spspupils.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@spspupils.com)) \*

2. Surname \*

3. First name \*

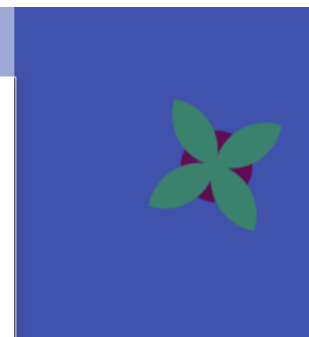
# Completing the Options Form



Questions

Responses

GCSE Options form - Open Pathway



## Section 2

Please enter your six preferences in the boxes below in rank order from 1 to 6. We will do our utmost to accommodate your preferences, but please note that it will not always be possible to guarantee your top four preferences for various reasons. For this reason, preference numbers 5 and 6 should be subjects which are chosen carefully. Vocational subjects are indicated with an asterisk. Please do not duplicate any answers.

Please note the following restrictions:

- (a) pupils may study a maximum of three vocational qualifications
- (b) GCSE Drama and Performing Arts may not be studied together
- (c) Health & Fitness and Sports Studies may not be studied together.

### 7. Preference 1 \*

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Computer Science
- Creative iMedia \*
- GCSE Design & Technology: Resistant Materials & Graphics
- GCSE Design & Technology: Textiles
- GCSE Drama
- Enterprise (Business Studies) \*
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- Health & Fitness \*
- Health & Social Care \*



### 8. Preference 2 \*

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Computer Science
- Creative iMedia \*
- GCSE Design & Technology: Resistant Materials & Graphics
- GCSE Design & Technology: Textiles
- GCSE Drama
- Enterprise (Business Studies) \*
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- Health & Fitness \*
- Health & Social Care \*



# Making the right subject choices

## Consider:

- ✓ Choosing subjects that you **will enjoy** and which your **KS3 progress** indicates that you are ready for the challenge at KS4.
- ✓ Having a **balance of subjects** in terms of the **skills developed**.
- ✓ Exploring **new subjects** carefully, to check that the course content matches what you think it may involve.
- ✓ **Post-16 choices**, remembering that you can often study a subject at post-16 level, even if you have not studied it at GCSE.

# Options 2023

We will try our very best to offer the **first** preferences of as many pupils as possible. However, we **cannot guarantee** these.

**Guidance meetings** will run throughout next week via SchoolCloud. Details have already been sent to parents via e-mail.

Please submit the online form by **Weds 15 March 2023**.

**Contact us** if you would like any further assistance or advice. Your child's teachers, **Maria Shangolis** (Assistant Headteacher), **Josh Fernandez** (Head of Year 9) and the Year 9 form tutors will be happy to help.