



Avonbourne Boys' Academy
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Avonbourne Girls' Academy
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Year 9 Options Booklet

Purple Pathway

*A guide to the courses and qualifications
available from September 2022*

Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies
March 2022

Dear Year 9 Student,

Welcome to Key Stage 4

Beginning Key Stage 4 courses is an important and exciting new phase in your lives. We have worked hard at Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies to ensure you have been given a wide range of subject areas and a high quality curriculum so far during your time with us. You now have an opportunity to choose some of the subjects that you would like to study in Years 10 and 11 (KS4).

This is the most important stage in a student's education so far and we understand it can be an anxious time. Making the right decisions and choices is of vital importance. This booklet and the options process are designed to guide you and your parents or carers through the subjects and courses available and to help you make an informed choice regarding the option subjects you wish to study.

Following your assembly today there is an Options Choices Event at 5.30pm this evening (Thursday 10th March) to support you at the start of this options process. This event will provide an opportunity for you and your parents to ask Subject Leads any questions you may have.

You will need to submit your option choices through the form in this booklet by 24th March. This form will need to be signed by both yourself and your parent/carer. Please return this form to your tutor.

It's important to remember to choose subjects that will give you a broad and balanced curriculum; those that you will need to progress into sixth form and beyond Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies; and those that you are good at and enjoy.

We encourage you to discuss careers and future study choices with your parents/carers during this important time.

The links given to you previously are listed below which you may find useful as part of these discussions:

www.careerpilot.org.uk for researching career options for 13-19 year olds

www.lcould.com for up-to-date Labour Market Information.

www.getingofar.gov.uk for information about Apprenticeships.

www.ucas.com for information on Higher Education and University.

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk for alternatives to University.

If you have any questions or queries that are not answered in this booklet, please don't hesitate to contact me at year9options@avonbourneacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Feona Copley
Assistant Principal
Raising Achievement Lead

Guidance

You have been selected to follow the Purple Pathway which is an academic pathway. This means you can choose either academic or vocational subjects for three of your option choices. You will also be studying: Maths, English, the Sciences and a Humanities subject.

Core Subjects

There are certain subjects that every Purple Pathway student studies throughout Years 10 and 11.

Core Subjects:
GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Science

As well as these subjects, you will have core PE lessons which will not lead to a qualification.

In terms of GCSE Science, students will either study the Combined Science (which will result in achieving two GCSEs) or Separate Sciences (which will result in achieving three GCSEs: one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics). Triple Science is offered only to the highest performing students at the end of Year 10.

Option Subjects

Purple Pathway students will be able to choose four subjects to study. One will be a humanity, the other three are from our open options. You will also need to pick two back-up choices and it is important that these are different from your main choices. There is a possibility that some courses may be oversubscribed and therefore back-up choices are required. Please also note any subject combinations which cannot be picked (indicated by *).

We have ensured this pathway allows you to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum. Please don't just pick your favourite subjects, remember to consider which subjects you need to do to prepare you for your next steps in the future.

The option choices will be as follows:

Option 1: Humanities Option

GCSE History
GCSE Geography

Options 2, 3 and 4: Open Options

GCSE History
GCSE Geography
GCSE Dance
GCSE Fine Art*
GCSE Spanish**
GCSE Design and Technology
GCSE Sociology
GCSE Textiles*
GCSE Music
GCSE Religious Studies
GCSE Media Studies
Level 2 Hospitality and Catering
OCR Sport Science
OCR Enterprise and Marketing
BTEC Travel and Tourism
BTEC Health and Social Care

*We want to ensure you study a broad curriculum which leads to as many options as possible for you later on. Due to the crossover in very similar content across some courses which would lead to a narrowing of your curriculum and possible future choices you cannot take GCSE Fine Art and GCSE Textile Design together.

** If you would like to choose Spanish as an option could you please email year9options@avonbourneacademy.org.uk.

Making the Decision

The options process is designed to help you gradually narrow your preferred subjects so that you can ultimately make the correct choices.

Aim to choose subjects that you:

- Like.
- Are good at.
- Are particularly interested in.
- Feel might help you in the general career area that you are interested in.

Do not choose subjects because:

- You like the teacher – as you may have a different one next year.
- Your friends have chosen it as they may be in a different group.

If there is anything that you do not understand at any stage then please talk to someone; your parents or carers or the Year 9 options team are all available for advice and guidance.

So that you are fully informed before making this important decision, what follows is an information sheet for each of the core and option subjects that are available.