



More House School

Year 8 to 9

Options Information

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the **Year Eight to Nine Options Information Booklet**. I hope you will find this a useful resource, providing detailed information on the different subjects available to pupils when they start Year Nine and how this process helps them make informed choices for years Ten and Eleven.

The purpose of Year Nine is for pupils to have an opportunity to study a range of subjects they think they have an interest in. At the end of Year Eight pupils will select a total of **6 subjects** to study, timetabled for three periods each fortnight. This period of study will help boys identify not just the subjects they are interested in, but also the skills they possess which will help them achieve.

The information in this booklet should be viewed alongside the **MHS Options 26-27 Curriculum Overview Booklet** (published to the Parent Portal) which contains a wealth of subject-specific resources.

Using the knowledge and skills gained through studying these 6 subjects, at the end of Year Nine, following Parents' Evening, the boys will be asked to choose 3 optional subjects to study in Year Ten and Eleven. Options will be grouped together on the timetable in 6 blocks and pupils will choose 1 subject from each. Subjects are initially blocked together based on previous pupil choices but we recognise that this won't suit everyone and, whilst we can't guarantee a solution, we will do everything we can to help each pupil study their first choice.

The process for the rest of this academic year is as follows:

1. Year Eight to Nine subject specifications published to parents
2. Initial timetabled blocks released to parents
3. Year Eight Parent's Evening - Pupils to submit their first choice of options
4. The school will be in touch with parents where their son's first choice(s) cannot be accompanied as soon as possible and before the end of the Trinity Term.

Yours sincerely,

Lewis Clarkson  
Head of School

# Non-core Options

To help your son make an informed decision on his 'non-core' subjects you will have the following information to help:

1. Half Termly Tracking Reports. These only provide an overview but are an indication of the type of subject your son enjoys and also where his skill set may lie;
2. Full Annual Reports published ahead of the deadline to submit subject choices;
3. Non-Core Parents' Evening will provide an opportunity to discuss your son's progress and aptitude in the carousel subjects;
4. The MHS Options 26-27 Curriculum Overview Booklet.

Unfortunately, due to timetabling constraints, 'non-core' subjects cannot be chosen at random and, instead, are organised into six different blocks. The initially published blocks are simply a starting point. If your son would like to study more than one subject and they are in the same block, please do not worry. Once all pupils have submitted their choices, we will review the blocks to see if we can find a solution (please be aware that priority is given to resolving Year Ten clashes as pupils in Year Nine have an opportunity to change subjects during the year).

## Option blocks

Each pupil will choose ONE subject from each of the six blocks, making a total of six subjects. These are subsequently timetabled for three lessons each over the fortnightly timetable, with additional time afforded on scheduled Flexi Fridays.

Please note the following points:

- On occasion, pupils will find that there is more than one subject in a block that they would like to study. Whilst we always try to mirror our options across blocks (Block 1 and Block 2 for example), offering two separate choices, we recognise that this still may pose a challenge. In this case, there will be two points in the school year where boys are asked if they wish to swap any of their subjects, and we will facilitate this wherever possible. Pupils are only able to swap subjects within blocks, and can only do so if there is space in the other subject.
- We will make every attempt to offer each pupil his first choices but, in the event that a subject is full, we ask that **you nominate one further subject which would work as a suitable alternative.**

# Selecting Options

The initial timetabled blocks are detailed below. You will notice that the same subjects appear in two blocks. There is NOT the option to study the same subject in two different blocks.

**Please review the blocks below and choose one subject from each block totaling SIX DIFFERENT subjects.**

## YEAR 9 BLOCK 1

GCSE **Design & Technology**

BTEC Tech Award **Enterprise**

GCSE **History**

BTEC Tech Award **Media**

GCSE **Psychology**

BTEC Tech Award **Sport**

## YEAR 9 BLOCK 2

GCSE **Design & Technology**

BTEC Tech Award **Enterprise**

GCSE **History**

BTEC Tech Award **Media**

GCSE **Psychology**

**BTEC Tech Award Sport**

GCSE **Spanish**

### YEAR 9 BLOCK 3

TQUK **Design, Engineer, Construct (DEC!)**

BTEC Tech Award **Digital Information Technology (DIT)**

GCSE **Drama**

GCSE **Photography**

GCSE **Sociology**

BTEC Tech Award **Travel & Tourism**

### YEAR 9 BLOCK 5

BTEC Tech Award **Art & Design Practice**

GCSE **Computing**

BTEC **Cooking**

BTEC First Award **Engineering**

GCSE **Geography**

GCSE **Music**

GCSE **Religious Studies**

### YEAR 9 BLOCK 4

TQUK **Design, Engineer, Construct (DEC!)**

BTEC Tech Award **Digital Information Technology (DIT)**

GCSE **Drama**

GCSE **Photography**

GCSE **Sociology**

BTEC Tech Award **Travel & Tourism**

### YEAR 9 BLOCK 6

BTEC Tech Award **Art & Design Practice**

GCSE **Computing**

BTEC **Cooking**

BTEC First Award **Engineering**

GCSE **Geography**

GCSE **Music**

GCSE **Religious Studies**

# Making your choices

## The difference between BTEC/Tech Award and GCSE

The BTEC/Tech Awards offered in Year Ten and Year Eleven are equivalent to GCSE. The key difference is in how they are assessed. GCSEs are typically assessed through public examination, with some subjects having a smaller element of Non-Examined Assessment, which is completed during the academic year. BTEC first awards (Engineering) are typically weighted 25% examination and 75% coursework. Tech Awards are new for teaching from 2022 and are designed to help learners to:

- **Explore** what it's like to work in the sector and gain the underpinning knowledge and skills required to work in it
- **Develop** key knowledge, skills and behaviours, and learn about essential tools, techniques and equipment
- **Apply** their learning to real-life contexts, and/or vocational scenarios in both learning and assessment

Tech Awards are typically weighted 40% examination and 60% coursework, however the completion of coursework is restricted to timeframes dictated by BTEC.

There is a misconception that BTECs are easier than GCSEs, they are not - they are just different. However, please be aware that some Sixth Form colleges may only accept a Merit in a BTEC subject as the equivalent of a pass. This depends entirely on the college and the course applied for.

## Next Steps...

**The deadline for submitting your son's choices is Friday 15th May 2025.**

To register your son's choices, complete this electronic form:

**[Year Eight to Nine Options - 2026](#)**

We **do not** operate on a first come, first choice basis so please do not rush to submit early, although late submissions will result in any clashes not being considered when reviewing the timetabled blocks.



If you feel you need more information before submitting your son's choices, please contact his form tutor who will ensure that your question(s) is directed to the right person.

**MORE HOUSE SCHOOL**

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