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# Frequently Asked Questions

## How many Options can I choose?

You can choose three options.

## I am already studying Astronomy. Does this count as one of my option subjects?

No. This is studied *in addition to* the three option choices.

## How can I find out about the Option subjects?

The *Curriculum Information booklet* has information about every optional subject. It gives details about the exam board specification. In addition, on the Teams site you can also find a *subject presentation*. This provides additional information such as what a 'typical lesson' may be like, examples of student practical work and what subjects say about the course. You can share this information with your parents who can help to decide.

## Are there any restrictions on the option choices?

The only restrictions are that you cannot choose more than 1 art-based subjects. These are 3-D Art, Art & Design, Graphical Design, Textile Design.

## Can I choose more than one language?

The core languages are Italian and Spanish – all students study one of these. In addition to this, you can also choose French as one of your three option choices.

## What happens if subjects are over-subscribed?

We know that students are likely to make the best progress if they are happy with their subject choices; that is why we try hard to accommodate their option choices. Last year 98% of students got their first three option choices with just three students in needing to use their reserve.

## I have changed my mind about one of my Options. Is it too late to change?

The deadline for your preferences to be saved using Options Online is 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022. You can go back into Options Online and modify your choices up until that date. If you change your mind after this date, please speak to Ms Jackson as soon as possible.

## Do I need to choose the Options my parents want me to study?

No. Do try to get your parents on board by speaking to them about the reason for your preferences. The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum so you will be well equipped for further study whatever choices you make.

## I don't know what I want to do as a career. How can I make sure I am making the right choices?

Most students do not know what career they want to follow and even those that do may well change their mind along the way. We know this and that is why the curriculum at KS4 offers a broad and balanced curriculum which is designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge you need to pursue a range of careers in the workplace of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## I have read the Curriculum information booklet and watched the subject presentations, but I am still not sure what Options to pick. How do I decide?

There is no easy answer to this! Remember that your parents, subject teachers, tutor, and Ms Jackson are all here to help you decide. Try to think about whether you have some aptitude for a subject, whether you enjoy the subject (if you are studying it already) and how this will fit with all your other subjects – an example of this is that if you choose several subjects with a performance element you may find it tricky to attend the rehearsals for each subject. It is normal to feel unsure, but we are here to support you!

## How do I fill in my Options preferences?

We use a system called Options Online. You will be sent an email from sims (check your 'Other' folder in Outlook). You register online and then complete and save your form. Ms Jackson will be running workshops during tutor time to help you register and complete these forms and there is also a section on the main Options 2022 presentation which you can access via the link on [St Bernard's High School - GCSE Options Choices - 2022 \(stbernardswestcliff.org.uk\)](http://stbernardswestcliff.org.uk)

**Options Online workshops take place in E11 during registration with Ms Jackson**

28/1/21 – Fri 9C

31/1/21 – Mon 9F

Year 9 Options: FAQs

3/2/21 – Thu 9H

4/2/21 – Fri 9M

7/2/22 – Mon 9R

10/2/22 – Thu 9A