



THE
BARCLAY
SCHOOL

YEAR 8

OPTIONS BOOKLET 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 8 Options in preparation for GCSE choices

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks for your ongoing support in helping your child achieve their best here Barclay School. We have an exciting and important year ahead as we prepare to move into Year 9 and begin GCSE courses. I trust that the information which follows will help you to assist your child in the process of deciding about subjects into year 9.

Year 9, as many of you are aware is GCSE Options Year, which we would all acknowledge is a key moment in a student's life. As educators and parents/carers we must support and guide students to make the right decisions to ensure academic success in Year 9, 10 and 11, and on into Barclay Sixth Form.

To ensure that our students are fully prepared and ready for GCSEs we will be making some changes to their curriculum in year 9. Students will still continue to study the core subjects of **Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, RS, PE and PHSE**. In addition to the core curriculum students will be able to opt to study **3** subjects from the following list: **French, Spanish, Additional PE, Music, Art, Drama, Food Tech, Product Design or Computing**.

To assist with this process, I would like to take this opportunity to give you further guidance on the new GCSE grading structure. Reformed GCSEs have been introduced over the last three years. They are graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G. 9 being the highest.

Your child will be awarded these GCSE results in 2021 and they will receive number grades 9 to 1 in all of their subjects. The government have indicated that students will not lose out as a result of the changes.

A statistical method (known as comparable outcomes) will be used so that:

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above;
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above;
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G;
- A grade 5 will be awarded to the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C or bottom third of a grade B. The Department for Education has decided that grade 5 will be considered a 'good pass'.

Please be assured that throughout Year 9 students will receive support and careers guidance around the Options available to them through subject specific assemblies and using the new GCSE grading structure.

What happens now?

- Please discuss with your child which subjects they would like to study and enjoy. It is very important that students choose subjects that they enjoy, not because they like the teacher or it is a subject which their friend is choosing.
- During parents evening on 30th November we are asking parents to come and meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team who will be able to answer any questions which you may have.
- On Friday 1st December students will be given a Year 8 into 9 options form and they will be asked to select the three subjects which they wish to study plus a reserve subject, all forms must then be returned to **Mrs Allen by Friday 8th December**. All choices made will be reviewed to ensure that choices are suitable and realistic. For example, should your child be considering going to University it is highly recommended that they continue studying a language to GCSE level. Any choice changes will be discussed with both student and parent/carer.

If you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the school via your child's Form Tutor or Mrs Charlwood directly on: charlwoodm@barclay.herts.sch.uk

Yours Faithfully



Mark Allchorn

Year 9 Curriculum from September 2018

In Year 9 there is a core curriculum which everybody follows. The core subjects that you will study are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PE (core)
- Geography
- History
- RS
- PHSE

You will then be able to choose 3 optional subjects from the following list:

- French
- Spanish
- Additional PE
- Music
- Art & Design
- Drama
- Food Tech
- Product Design
- Computing

If you are planning to go to university, you should certainly consider choosing a language as many will expect that you have studied a language to at least GCSE level.

Do:

- Choose subjects that you enjoy. If you enjoy the subject, you are more likely to put time and effort into it. The more time and effort you put into it, the more successful you will become.
- Choose subjects that you are good at. You need to gain as many high grades as possible.
- Aim to study a language. Many colleges and universities will look for a language along with English, Maths, Science and a Humanities subject when choosing which students to offer places to. However, you should avoid choosing subjects that you think you will struggle to achieve well in.
- Choose subjects that will support your career route, if you have a definite career in mind. However, do remember that you may possibly change your mind regarding a career route before you leave school. Many people also change career during their working life. That is why it is important to opt for choices that are broad and balanced.
- If you have no definite career in mind choose subjects that you are good at, that you like doing and that give you a broad and balanced range of subjects. Many subjects can be picked up at A Level or beyond without earlier study.

Don't:

- Don't try to get into the same groups or classes as your friend; it probably won't happen.
- Don't choose a subject just because you like the teacher, teachers change.
- Don't narrow down your options too much; you may change your mind about what you'd like to do in the future.

Subject: Art & Design

Course Content:

We create clay sculptures and explore drawing and painting in a project entitled 'Food'. This involves research and investigating the work of other artists. Then making a 'super real' sculpture of a plate of food.

We use photography and printmaking to create colourful and exciting work around the theme of 'Identity'. This project uses cardboard and stencils as well as drawing and painting.

The third project is called 'Creatures' and introduces the idea of surrealism combined with mythical beasts. You will be encouraged to be as creative as possible.

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

You love working with different materials like clay and Paper Mache.

You are someone who enjoys drawing and making things.

You like designing, lettering and graphics.

You love learning new skills and applying them to your artwork.

You enjoy the challenge of using your imagination to create exciting pieces of art in 2D or 3D.

Assessment Information:

Assessment is undertaken at the end of each project and throughout sketchbooks.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

You will be expected to undertake a task for one hour each fortnight. The tasks will link to your projects.

Subject Leader: Mrs H Dodds
(doddsh@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: Computing

Course Content:

The year 8 Computing course offers a good foundation for those students who wish to progress into a Computer Science GCSE.

The course will introduce several aspects of the Computer Science GCSE such as:

- Computer components and their function
- Input and outputs
- Pseudocode
- Flow charts
- Algorithms
- Python programming language

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

To be successful in this subject you will need a good understanding of various computer programs and the workings of a computer.

You will be good at:

- Problem solving
- A love for how things work – You will be exploring how computers do the things they do
- Perseverance
- Team working
- Independence - You will need to refine and improve your knowledge and skills outside of lessons
- Mathematics

Assessment Information:

Assessment will take several forms as learning progresses, including peer assessment and in class tests.

The culmination of this option will be to create a project that identifies a solution, based on a given problem/ scenario. The outcome and success in solving the problem will be the main form of assessment.

The result of the assessment will give a clear indication as to whether the student has the skills to do well at GCSE level.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

Home learning will be set at regular intervals to ensure understanding and progression within the subject and to reaffirm topics covered in the classroom.

It will take several forms including worksheets, independent research and problem solving in relation to the set project.

Subject Leader: Mr L. Gillion
(Gillionl@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: Drama

Course Content:

The Drama course encourages students to work collaboratively in order to create practical work for an audience. Students will be creating, rehearsing, responding, performing, evaluating and exploring Drama and Theatre in order to develop their understanding within the Arts, practically.

Students will work towards a large scale performance and will explore a variety of different disciplines including Lighting and Sound.

They will also have the opportunity to research famous performers and look into the life of a professional performer.

Students will be encouraged to engage in creative activities with confidence, alongside their peers. These social skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines, careers and life experiences in general.

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

Have an enjoyment of Drama and be ready to perform in front of an audience that might not be a group of your peers.

To practically explore the work and share what they have done and learnt with others.

To be able to express yourself practically and through written tasks in order to show progression.

To be able to work as part of a team, whilst listening and sharing ideas and opinions.

To be able to work independently.

Assessment Information:

Students will be assessed practically through performances and written tasks such as evaluations in class.

As part of the Music course, students are able to study towards a Level 1 or 2 Arts Award qualification. This involves students rehearsing a famous performer, developing practical skills, reviewing a piece of live theatre, teaching others a skill and working towards a large scale performance. The Arts Award qualification will be assessed by an external moderator.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

Learn lines for performances.

Research various topics.

Rehearse out of lessons, during school time (lunch).

Develop characters that have been created, through written tasks.

Subject Leader:

Miss McBryde (mcbrydeb@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Mrs Endersbee (endersbees@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: Food Tech

Course Content:

The year 8 Food Preparation and Nutrition course offers a good foundation for those students who wish to progress into a field of Food retail, industry or manufacturing.

The course will introduce several aspects of the Food Preparation & Nutrition for GCSE such as:

- Food Nutrition and Health
- Food Science Skills
- Food Practical Skills
- Food Science
- Food Safety
- Food Choice
- Food Provenance
- Food Preparation Skills
- Product Marketing
- Labelling and Packaging

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

To be successful in this subject you will need a good understanding of the practical skills, food designs, evaluations and key terminology and glossary used in Food Preparation and Nutrition.

You will be good at:

- How food affects our long-term health
- Knowledge of food and nutrition
- Food preparation and cooking skills
- Practical understanding and team working
- Food choices and well-being
- Creating new and innovative recipes
- Knowledge of ingredients and functions of food
- Where food comes from and how it is produced and sold
- Different cultures and what they eat throughout the world
- Independence – able to research present a variety of dishes and able to improve your knowledge and skills outside of lessons

Assessment Information:

Assessment will take several forms as learning progresses, including practical assessments and in class tests.

The culmination of this option will be to create focused practical tasks and some creative projects, based on a specification. The outcome and success in the practical and theory lessons in investigating and making the products will be a form of assessment.

The result of the assessment will give a clear indication as to whether the student has the skills to do well at GCSE level.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

Home learning will be set regularly to ensure understanding and progression within the subject Food Preparation and Nutrition and to reaffirm topics covered in the classroom also as part of the course there is a requirement to bring ingredients for practical lessons.

It will take several forms including worksheets, independent research and problem solving in relation

Subject Leader: Mrs N Panchal
(panchaln@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: French

Course Content:

Units:

- Holidays
- School and People
- Interests and Food
- Cities
- Jobs
- Environment and Lifestyle

Each of these units covers a condensed version of the units that students will cover at GCSE. This will allow students to make an informed decision at the end of Year 9 with regards to studying a foreign language at GCSE level. It also ensures that, should students opt to do French for GCSE, a large amount of vocabulary will not be new to them. As a result, students will be able to focus on grammatical structures and conversational skills at GCSE.

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

- Work hard, both in class and at home.
- Learn verbs, most probably at home, as it will allow you to come to your lessons prepared.
- Be open to various ways of expressing yourself.
- Take notes that will help you understand how to use and manipulate the language in your own way i.e. verb or word-order rules.
- Not be afraid to make mistakes.
- Challenge yourself.

Assessment Information:

There will be a written tracker at the end of each unit, marked according to the GCSE 9-1 scale. A speaking tracker will also be carried out twice during the year. Additionally, listening and reading skills will be assessed throughout the duration of Year 9 both in class and through formal assessments.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

- Learn verbs
- Read as much as you can in French.
- Read as much as you can in English.

Subject Leader: Mr. B Brown
(brownb@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: Music

Course Content:

The Year 9 music course develops skills in performing, composing and listening. During the year students learning about a number of different musical styles and develop performing and composing skills as part of this. In Year 9 students have the option to develop skills on a chosen instrument as both a soloist and as part of an ensemble as part of the learning in class. For example, learning to play the guitar or drums. The composition aspect of the course allows students to study composing in a range of styles including Popular song and film music. Students learn to develop their use of music technology as part of composing. As part of the course students will develop their understanding of different areas in music, develop listening skills and music theory as part of practical topics.

As part of the Music course, students are able to study towards a Level 1 or 2 Arts Award qualification. This involves students rehearsing a famous performer, developing practical skills, reviewing a piece of live music/theatre, teaching others a skill and working towards a large scale performance.

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

Have an enjoyment of Music, performing and composing in a range of genres.

To be able to work as part of an ensemble and review your own work and that of other students.

To be able to work independently and as part of a group.

Assessment Information:

As part of the course, students will be assessed through solo and ensemble performances and through compositions written.

The Arts Award qualification will be assessed by an external moderator.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

Students will be asked to complete a range of tasks, involving researching topics, developing listening skills, rehearsing outside of the lessons and written based theory tasks.

Subject Leader: Ms S Dearn
(dearns@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: Physical Education

Course Content:

In optional Physical Education lessons pupils will learn a variety of practical skills, tactics and principles of play in a variety of sports. Pupils will learn and compete in net/wall games (i.e. tennis, badminton and table tennis), invasion games (football, basketball, netball, hockey and handball), strike and field games (cricket, baseball and rounders), athletics and many more. In addition, pupils will build their knowledge and understanding of how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

A key part of the optional PE subject is the opportunity pupils have to improve their theory side of the subject before picking GCSE PE or BTEC Sport at Key Stage 4. We will focus on the body systems and how they benefit sporting performance, sports psychology and its effects on performance, fitness, health and well-being and how this can increase an individual's lifespan and much more. This ultimately allows pupils a head start in achieving their desired grade at Year 11.

Please note the theoretical side of the course will be performed within the classroom. Pupils will be in the classroom for around 50% of their lessons.

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

A passion for physical activity, exercise, sport or an interest to know how your own body works and functions. If this is you, pick optional Physical Education and learn about how to keep yourself healthy and active.

We are looking for committed pupils, who take pride in their learning and progress. Pupils who share our vision and desire within the PE department to achieve and succeed.

This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils looking for a career in the sports and leisure industry and also for those looking at any career in sport such as sport psychologist, coach, PE teacher or physiotherapist.

Assessment Information:

Pupils will be assessed via four learning areas against the GCSE grading ladder.

Pupils are assessed on the following:

1. Practical ability.
2. Knowledge and Understanding (both theory and practical content).
3. Effort and Attitude to Learning.
4. Social skills i.e. teamwork and communication.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

Pupils will be set home learning on a fortnightly basis. This will be designed to build and improve on the pupils' theoretical aspect of the course.

Example: *Observe a sportsperson of your choice on TV or in person. Write down 4 techniques they performed and complete a movement analysis on these techniques.*

Subject Leader: Mr Buckley
(buckleym@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: Product Design

Course Content:

The Product Design course offers a good foundation for those students who wish to progress into a field of designing or engineering.

The course will introduce several aspects of the Product Design GCSE such as:

- Design Skills
- Drawing Skills
- Making Skills
- Materials and Components
- Process and Manufacture
- Industrial and Commercial Practice
- CAD/CAM
- Product Marketing
- Packaging
- Problem Solving

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

To be successful in this subject you will need a good understanding of the key terminology used in Design and Technology, a good use of various computer programs such as 2D-Design and Google sketch up.

You will be good at:

- Problem solving
- Theory of materials
- Creating new and innovative products
- A love for how things work – You will be exploring how products have evolved the way they have
- Perseverance
- Team working
- Independence - You will need to refine and improve your knowledge and skills outside of lessons
- Mathematics and science

Assessment Information:

Assessment will take several forms as learning progresses, including peer assessment and in class tests.

The culmination of this option will be to create focused practical tasks and creative project that identifies a solution, based on a given problem/ scenario. The outcome and success in solving the problem and the detail taking in making the product will be the main form of assessment.

The result of the assessment will give a clear indication as to whether the student has the skills to do well at GCSE level.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

Home learning will be set at regular intervals to ensure understanding and progression within the subject and to reaffirm topics covered in the classroom.

It will take several forms including worksheets, independent research and problem solving in relation to the set project.

Subject Leader: Mr L. Singh
(Singhl@barclay.herts.sch.uk)

Subject: Spanish

Course Content:

Units:

- Holidays
- School and People
- Interests and Food
- Cities
- Jobs
- Environment and Lifestyle

Each of these units covers a condensed version of the units that students will cover at GCSE. This will allow students to make an informed decision at the end of Year 9 with regards to studying a foreign language at GCSE level. It also ensures that, should students opt to do Spanish for GCSE, a large amount of vocabulary will not be new to them. As a result, students will be able to focus on grammatical structures and conversational skills at GCSE.

What do you need to do to be successful in this subject?

- Work hard, both in class and at home.
- Learn verbs, most probably at home, as it will allow you to come to your lessons prepared.
- Be open to various ways of expressing yourself.
- Take notes that will help you understand how to use and manipulate the language in your own way i.e. verb or word –order rules.
- Not be afraid to make mistakes.
- Challenge yourself.

Assessment Information:

There will be a written tracker at the end of each unit, marked according to the GCSE 9-1 scale. A speaking tracker will also be carried out twice during the year. Additionally, listening and reading skills will be assessed throughout the duration of Year 9 both in class and through formal assessments.

What you will need to do as part of your home learning:

- Learn verbs
- Read as much as you can in Spanish.
- Read as much as you can in English.

Subject Leader: Mr. B Brown
(brownb@barclay.herts.sch.uk)