Year 9: Making the right choices:

A guide for Year 9 students and parents choosing subject options as part of our Information, Advice and Guidance process

This guide contains important information about what our students can opt to study from Year 10 onwards and is essential reading for all parents and students.

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Welcome to the Information, Advice and Guidance process

Students in Year 9 undertake the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) process. It builds upon the IAG process students begun in Year 8 and supports them to select the further subject options to study in Years 10 and 11.

This guide provides a summary of what the curriculum looks like for students when they start Year 10. There will be an opportunity for students and parents to browse videos of what each course entails and speak virtually with subject teachers to ask any questions.

We encourage parents and students to read this guide together. There is basic information about each subject to support students and parents to discuss possible options.

The IAG Process

1. Parents and students receive guidance booklets. Parents to access the IAG section on the website and students to access Trinity TV On Demand.

2. Students will have an assembly about the options available on **Tuesday 8 March**

3. Students will complete their preferences for their options electronically. Parents will be emailed a link to Microsoft Forms to submit questions.

4. VT will focus on the options available and give students a chance to discuss them.

5. Students to select their options by **Friday 18 March**

6. The allocated options are confirmed via email.

Important notice for parents:

Please note students will use Microsoft Forms to select their options. The survey will be available between **Wednesday 9 March** and **Friday 18 March**. We strongly advise that you ensure that you have discussed the options that your child plans to select prior to them submitting their final preferred choices.

Support available

IAG section of the academy website

We have established a dedicated section of our academy website containing information and videos to support parents and carers with the options process. Here you will find a video presentation explaining how the options process works and what support is available to students. There is also a frequently asked questions section which we will continue to update. Through the website page there is an opportunity to submit questions directly to the options team.

Subject promotional videos on Trinity TV

Promotional videos are available via Trinity TV 'On Demand' to support students. These videos are made by subject leaders explaining the course and why students may wish to choose this option. Students can watch short videos for all the options subjects to ensure they are fully informed before making their choices.

IAG assemblies

You will have a year group assembly at the beginning of term 4. In this assembly we will go through in detail the options process, show you how to access support and explain what subjects are available to study.

Following this assembly you will be provided with the options booklet and have a chance to discuss your options with your class teachers and tutors.

VT guidance from tutors

In the week following IAG assemblies time will be dedicated during VT time for students to ask questions and seek guidance from their tutors.

If students have specific course questions, tutors will be able to contact course leaders on their behalf.

Top Tips...

We have a wide range of courses that you can choose from. Students and parents will naturally be keen to ensure that they choose the right ones to support future careers. Here we include our top tips for students and parents to make sure that selected options support future career and university ambitions.

The academy will fully support students to be successful, whatever their chosen career path. Advice will be available to ensure that final choices support both the student personally and their long-term ambitions.

Top tips…for students

- Have a think about what your future career might be. Some subjects have strong links. For example, if you want to become a lawyer then A level history is often a requirement, and you would naturally need to consider specialising in history.
- Check out all your options. You may really like a subject now, or be keen to study a particular one, but don't discount other choices! Do have a shortlist, but be open to hearing about how opting for another subject may help you in the future!
- Remember you will submit your first, second and third choices (fourth choice for G) online and it is vital that you have discussed your choices with your parent(s)/carer(s) before you submit.
- Allow enough time to make your decision. You will be asked to choose a first, second and third option (fourth choice for G) in the event that we cannot timetable your first choices.

Top tips…for parents

- Encourage your child to read this booklet, and discuss with you their shortlist of choices. Whilst enjoying a subject is crucial, it is important that their choice supports their future plans.
- We ask that parents reinforce that students must choose a first, second and third choice (fourth choice for G) so students need to dedicate enough time to making this decision.
- Support your child to complete the Microsoft Form to select their choices in each option block, by the deadlines outlined in this booklet and on the IAG invitation email.

What does the curriculum look like during Year 10?

For students, moving into Year 10 will feel like a natural progression. Students will begin to study content linked to the subject examination specifications.

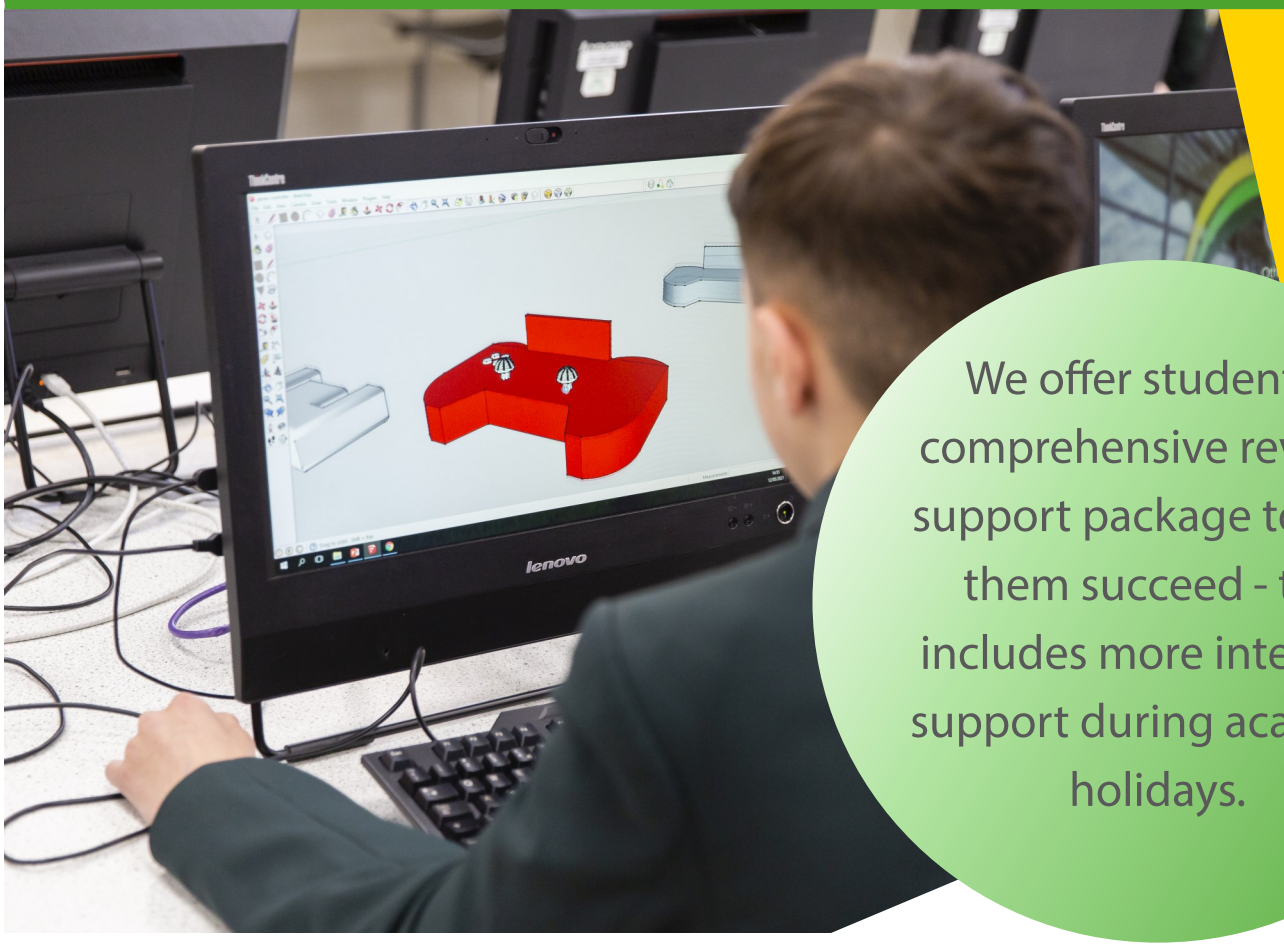
Students study a core curriculum, plus their options. The chart below illustrates the programme of study for students during their time in Year 10.

The curriculum for Year 10 students

Maths	English	Science	Humanities	RS	PE	MFL	Option A	Option B
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

The curriculum for G band students

Maths	English	Science	Humanities	RS	PE	Option A	Option B	Option C
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



We offer students a comprehensive revision support package to help them succeed - this includes more intensive support during academy holidays.

Important information about the curriculum

All students will study the core subjects of English, maths, science, history or geography, religious studies and PE throughout Year 10. MFL is compulsory for R, B and Y students.

The table below indicates the subject choices available to students:

Year 10 options pathway - choose one	**G band options pathway** - choose two
GCSE Religious Studies (full course) GCSE Computer Science Cambridge National in Health and Social Care Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing Cambridge National in Information Technology Cambridge National in Creative iMedia Cambridge National in Sport Studies GCSE History* GCSE Geography*	GCSE French/Spanish GCSE Religious Studies (full course) Cambridge National in Health and Social Care Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing Cambridge National in Information Technology Cambridge National in Creative iMedia Cambridge National in Sport Studies

*You will continue to study the history and geography you selected this year but if you would like to continue with both, this is now an option.

Students sit the majority of their final examinations at the end of Year 11. A small percentage of exams are taken in Year 10. This is to help students manage their workload and experience success in a wide range of qualifications.

Which subjects can students choose from?

The following pages provide a brief summary of the options available to students. We recommend that parents and students read these together. Please submit any questions about the subjects via the Microsoft Form link which can be found in the initial IAG parent email.

GCSE Religious Studies (full course)

Religious Studies is a subject designed to develop critical thinking skills. It is a thought-provoking subject that helps students to understand and evaluate some of life's biggest questions such as should we reintroduce the death penalty? and is it ever acceptable to go to war? The course is split into two halves. Firstly, the philosophy and ethics unit including themes such as War & Conflict, Crime & Punishment and Life & Death. Secondly, the study of the beliefs & practices of both Christianity and Islam. Religious Studies supports a variety of career options, from police and lawyers, ethical medics, and therapists in the NHS to environmental and intelligence officers in the Armed Forces.

GCSE French

French is the sixth most widely spoken language in the world with 220 million speakers. As a result, this GCSE offers students a unique opportunity to explore and develop their knowledge of another culture and develop their communication skills. Furthermore, there are a host of additional benefits to learning a language, including improved memory and logical thinking skills, greater employability, and an improved CV for 6th Form, university and job applications. The French GCSE course is made up of four key skills, each of which has an examined component: listening, speaking, reading and writing. With this in mind, students learn to both speak and write French accurately and creatively, and to listen, read and respond to a range of original French texts.

GCSE Spanish

Spanish, the second most widely spoken language in the world with 400 million speakers, is a language with a global reach, and studying Spanish GCSE allows students to learn about a wide range of other cultures and develop their communication skills. Furthermore, there are a host of additional benefits to learning a language, including improved memory and logical thinking skills, greater employability, and an improved CV for 6th Form, university and job applications. The Spanish GCSE course is made up of four key skills, each of which has an examined component: listening, speaking, reading and writing. With this in mind, students learn to both speak and write Spanish accurately and creatively, and to listen, read and respond to a range of original Spanish texts.

GCSE Computer Science (RBY only)

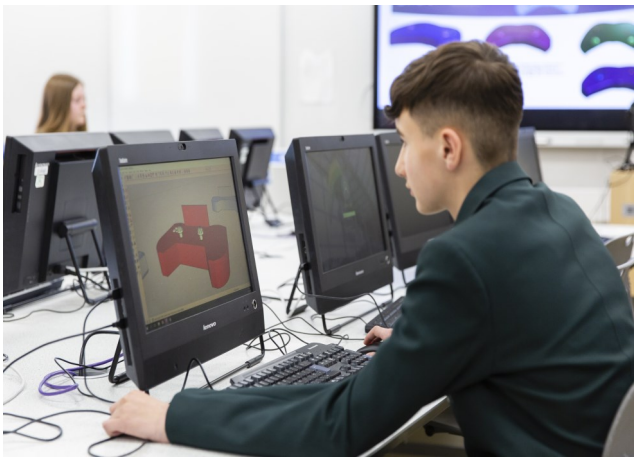
The GCSE Computer Science qualification is split up into 2 exams; Computer systems and Computational thinking, both have an equal weighting of 50%. Paper 1 consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions. Paper 2 exam questions are assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms. Studying GCSE Computer Science allows students to develop planning, problem solving and the ability to write and follow instructions, all of which will be transferable to further study and employment in this area. Students will develop their logical thinking and mathematical skills and will learn about the legal and ethical issues surrounding technology. Students also gain an appreciation of the scientific workings of a computer and security of networks, they will develop programming skills to foster their interest in careers in programming and other highly sought after computing roles in the business world.

Cambridge National in Sport Studies

This course features a combination of practical and classroom-based activities to develop skills and knowledge in areas such as planning and delivery of sports activities, practical performance in sport and investigating provisions for sport including equipment, technology, and facilities to enhance sports participation. This course is predominantly theoretical in nature with elements of practical study. The course is assessed through both coursework and examination elements. This subject may lead to further study in the sports field such as sports development, coaching and fitness and leisure.

Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing

This qualification will help students to recall, select and apply knowledge and understanding of enterprise and marketing; as well as how to present information clearly and with accuracy, using a range of terminology. Students plan and carry out investigations and tasks, testing their solutions, and working safely in a range of situations.
Students will make judgements, draw appropriate conclusions and work with independence to create material which reflects effective planning, development and evaluation and an ability to demonstrate sound practical skills.
The course has three assessment units, one of which undergoes external assessment, and two that are internally assessed.



Cambridge National in Information Technology

This course is split into three units, two of which are internally assessed coursework and the final unit is an externally assessed examination. This qualification will enable you to learn about the different design tools that can be used, the principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing when creating IT solutions or products.

You will develop the skills to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet a client's requirements.

Students will develop the knowledge and skills relating to the purpose, use and types of Augmented Reality (AR) in different contexts and how it is used on different digital devices. You will develop the skills to design, create, test and review an AR model prototype. This will provide students with the learning for a range of IT related further study, important transferable skills and some basic industry knowledge and skills.

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Students will develop an understanding about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. They will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products.
Students will apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience. This qualification will introduce the foundations for further study and a wide range of job roles within the media industry. The qualification also helps to develop other transferable skills including creative thinking, digital presentation, planning and problem solving that will be valuable in other life and work situations.
This course is split into three components, two of which are internally assessed coursework and the final unit is an externally assessed examination.

Cambridge National in Health and Social Care

This qualification provides students with a taste of what the health and social care sector is like, enabling them to make informed choices about their future career. The course includes one external task and two additional coursework elements. Students study topics including human growth and development, health and social care services and factors affecting people's health and well-being. All of these topics will provide students with an opportunity to gain a broad understanding of the health and social care sector needed for future study or employment.

***You will continue to study the History and Geography you selected this year, but if you would like to continue with both, this is now an option.**

10

Geography

Geography is all around us. Studying geography allows students to understand the processes that shape our planet today, such as tectonic, rivers, economics and how we use resources. We will be looking at the big questions that our planet faces over the next 50 years: Is the world becoming more risky? Is the world becoming more interconnected? How can we become more sustainable? How can we close the urban development gap? How does water sculpt our landscape? We will investigate the broad geographical themes of risk, development, sustainability and inequality, while looking at topical, up to date examples that will allow you understand the complex and interconnected world that we live in. Geography is the subject that holds the key to our future, and understanding our planets human and physical processes is vital to understanding our complex world.

History

The study of history into Year 10 will challenge you to answer even bigger questions from the past such as: What have the Romans really done for us? How measly really were the middle ages? How revolutionary was the renaissance? What can we learn about our future from the past 100 years? The events that have unfolded over the last 1500 years have shaped the world that we live in. Through the study of political, technological and social change, we will uncover the journey that humans have been on. We will consider what has changed over the years to create the world that we live in today along with areas that remain very similar to the roman or medieval period. The study of history will equip you with skills necessary to thrive in the modern world.

Securing top grades through the Achieve programme

All students are automatically enrolled onto the Achieve programme. This is a bespoke support programme based on helping all students to achieve their full potential.

We offer a wide range of support to help students excel in all their subjects, such as:

- Workshops and support sessions at the end of the academy day
- Small group sessions on specific areas requiring support
- Revision residential sessions
- Opportunities to be inspired by visiting speakers
- Weekend and holiday sessions

Sessions are based upon the needs of students, and how we can best help them to succeed. Parents are asked to ensure that students attend all sessions as requested, and that the benefits of attending are discussed at home.

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