



Aylsham High School

*Part of the Aylsham Learning Federation
It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child*

Dear Parent/Carer

January 2024

Year 9 option choices

Year 9 students are currently working on their option subjects on Tuesdays and Thursdays in a very mature manner and we are very pleased with the progress they are making. One of the benefits of our options system is that students can review how their choices are going through the year and make changes if appropriate. Whilst we do firmly believe that the majority of students significantly benefit from having the opportunity to take an options course early, it may not be right for everybody. If you would prefer that your child is not entered for an assessment at the end of the course in year 9, or you have concerns about their progress, then please do not hesitate to contact their teacher.

As a state funded school there is an expectation that all students continue to study the core curriculum and, for the majority of students, this is compulsory. The core curriculum includes the following subjects: English, maths, combined science, French, a humanity (geography or history), PE, RS and PSHE, RSHE and citizenship.

This year, as well as deciding which two 'free choice' option subjects they wish to follow in years 10 and 11, students will also have to decide which of the humanity subjects they wish to study (geography or history) as a two year course. If students wish to study both of these subjects then one can be taken as a 1 year free choice option choice.

The following information may help your child with selecting their options this year:

1. Options subject videos

There are videos available for each of the various subjects that we offer. These include, for example, what level they are, what the students will do, what are the expectations of students and how they will be assessed. If, after watching the videos, you have any questions about a particular subject please contact the relevant department via email and they will be able to resolve any queries you or your child may have.

Email address for staff can be found here:

<https://www.aylshamhigh.com/usefulcontactsandemailaddresses>

[Click here to access the playlist](#)

2. Options information on the school website

Options information is available on the school website which includes information about the key stage 4 curriculum, how the options process works, an options booklet, options presentations and guidance on how to make options choices.

<https://www.aylshamhigh.com/optionchoices>

The options booklet also contains links and QR codes to each of the available subject videos.

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Spalding B.A. (Hons) M.Ed. (Cantab)

Deputy Headteachers: Mr C Bridge B.Sc. (Hons), Mr P Brockington B.Sc. (Hons) M.A., Mrs K Garnham B.A. (Hons) M.A.

Director of Business and Community Strategy: Mrs J Tuttle



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3. SIMS Options videos for using the online system

To support families with using SIMS Options, we have made some videos available for you to watch which explain:

- how students choose their options
- how students log into their SIMS Student account to access SIMS Options
- how a parent/carer approves their child's options via their SIMS Parent account



These videos can be accessed [here](#) or via the QR code above

On this playlist is a video for each year group and pathway. Please ensure that you watch the relevant video for your child's pathway which is shown on your child's SIMS Options page.

4. SIMS Options and how to select your choices

Once your child has decided on their options these can be selected and saved via SIMS Options by using SIMS Student and then you, as the parent/carer, will need to approve your child's options through your SIMS Parent account. Please ensure that you and your child have read carefully the information in SIMS Options explaining the pathway that your child has been assigned and the choices that they need to make. It will explain that students need to order their option choices in order of preference but then, if they have certain years they would like to study these subjects in, they need to add this information into the student comments box. We are unable to guarantee that we can follow these year preference requests but we will try to ensure that we follow these if at all possible.

SIMS Options online will be activated on Thursday 18th January at 4pm. We will only be accepting options from students who have the parent/carer approval box ticked. **Choices for all students need to be selected and saved via SIMS Options by Friday 16th February at the latest.**

Form tutors and the SEN/pastoral team will be able to support students with their option choices if needed.

Questions or queries

The options form on SIMS Options makes it clear what decisions have to be made, but if you have any questions or queries about the options process, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Stonestreet, astonestreet@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk or your child can seek out option subject staff, their form tutor or see a member of staff in the STAR office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Brockington'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

P Brockington
Deputy Headteacher