

**Subject
choices for
Year 9**

2021-22

May 2021

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer,

Pupils at Reepham High School receive a broad and balanced curriculum that we hope inspires and motivates them. Our provision is always selected to provide students with the best opportunities for their future and we regularly review what we offer. After our most recent review we have decided to adjust the curriculum pupils will receive in Year 9.

Our current Year 9 curriculum provides pupils with an element of choice and allows the school to customise the curriculum to the individual needs of pupils, maximising their future opportunities as well as keeping them engaged in their own education.

This booklet introduces these changes and explains the decisions that you and your child will now need to make. Please take your time to read this booklet carefully with your child and do not hesitate to contact myself or other subject-specific staff at the school if you need further assistance.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Beale

Deputy Headteacher

The Year 9 curriculum

The vast majority of what pupils study in Year 9 is compulsory; this provides a broad selection of subjects for pupils to experience. The teaching hours (per fortnight) of compulsory subjects is shown in the table below:

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Comp. Science	Geography	History	Art	PE	Tech	PSHE
Hours	7	7	6	3	4	4	2	4	4	1

Alongside these subjects, pupils will select two further courses to study for four hours per fortnight.

Subject	Choice A	Choice B
Hours	4	4

CHOICE A

Pupils must select one of:

- **FRENCH**
- **SPANISH**
- **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

CHOICE B

Pupils then choose a second subject from:

- **FRENCH**
- **SPANISH**
- **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**
- **MANDARIN**
- **MUSIC**
- **BUSINESS**

Pupils naturally are very excited that they are able to choose which subjects they can study, but this is really a very small choice and we would hope that, most pupils will continue with the recommended choice of

Religious Studies **AND** French or Spanish

This combination maximises your options at GCSE.

Please think very carefully about this decision. Having the opportunity to start a new subject and drop a less favoured one, is likely to have many pupils excited. This is **not** a process to discard subjects because you don't like them, but a chance to support pupils who are very keen to specialise in one of the three areas.

IMPORTANT:

- There will be only one group of Music and Business. The three additional subjects are designed specifically for pupils who are passionate in those areas.

Mandarin — Keen linguists who want to learn a new language

Music — An opportunity for musical pupils to work in a specialised group

Business — A foundation course for pupils who may struggle with more academic subjects. If you are working to a high standard in maths and English you will not be selected for this course. Please contact the school if you are unsure if you meet the appropriate criteria

Please read the subject information before making any decision.

- **Pupils MUST study a language in Year 9 to continue it at GCSE; all other subjects can be studied at GCSE even if they are not studied in Year 9.**

Frequently asked questions:

I'm not sure, what should I pick?

If you are unsure you should choose RE and either French or Spanish

I really love languages, can I take two?

There are three possible languages that a pupil can study, so a passionate linguist can pick either:

French or Spanish **AND** Mandarin or French **AND** Spanish

Both of these are excellent choices and you can choose to continue both languages at GCSE or drop one after year 9.

I love music but really want to try Mandarin. What should I do?

Choose Mandarin for next year. This means you have the option of studying it at GCSE. You can select Music as a GCSE during, it is not essential to study it in Year 9.

I really don't want to do French/Spanish/RE

As a school we need to offer a broad curriculum and these subjects are a key part of that. You can choose to drop this subjects at GCSE but you should not drop them now unless you are ideally suited to one of the other options available.

I really like the sound of Business and I'm doing really well in my studies. Should I pick it for next year?

No. The Year 9 Business course is specially designed for pupils who may find more academic subjects challenging. All other pupils who are interested in Business should choose the GCSE Business course for Year 10.

What if a course is oversubscribed?

This is the first opportunity that pupils have to make an impact on what they study, and if their choice is not possible, it can feel like a disaster. Please be warned that there are limited spaces available and although we do everything we can to give every student the subject they select, it is not always possible.

If too many students opt for a subject, Reepham High School reserves the right to decide a pupil's suitability for a course. When doing so, we consider.

1. Late applications. If the subject choice is full or oversubscribed when the form is received, then the student will be referred to their reserve choice. It is very important, therefore, that students meet the deadline given.
2. If the course is a specialised course, that the pupil meets the required criteria.
3. Reports. These are checked for attitudes to learning (effort, homework, behaviour - but not achievement in the subject). The Head of Department will be consulted where reports do not give sufficient information.

A waiting list will be formed in the case of referral to a reserve choice.

SUBJECT

DESCRIPTIONS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In Year 9, pupils will continue to debate unanswerable questions, develop their understanding of the world around them, through philosophical, moral and ethical exploration into their own beliefs and those held by other people. In a world where we can be anything let's be kind.

The topics will include:

- Philosophy for life - Is a unicorn better in real life or in your mind?
- Life after death - What is the cost of life?
- Relationships and families - What is love? How do you make choices?
- Crime and punishment - Why do people commit crimes?
- Religious practices - What is the image of religion? What is work by people of religion? And even discuss Tattoos!
- Religion and art - How do we as humans express our beliefs?

All these topics will incorporate the opportunity for pupils to enhance their questioning skills, which will improve their written and verbal abilities, through creating well-rounded arguments. Pupils will also relate the topics to current affairs and personal experiences, allowing them to develop their understanding of the world around them. This will all be done through the use of different types of media, film, presentations, group work, debating and written work.

The development of knowledge, understanding and evaluation this year will act as a foundation for those deciding to opt for a GCSE in Religious Studies.

NB. These topics are stand alone and so GCSE RS is open to all.

Good to know:

- RS is seen as one of the highest valued subjects by employers and University because of the skills needed to complete it.
- Subject contact: Ireid@reephamhigh.com

FRENCH

Major topics:

- Unit 1: Holidays
- Unit 2: Healthy living
- Unit 3: Media
- Unit 4: Global and international dimensions - environment, citizenship and volunteering.

Key skills being developed:

- Speaking: accent and pronunciation, starting to develop asking questions in French, describing photos
- Writing: using correct spelling and accents
- Reading and listening comprehension (including using authentic materials)
- Knowledge and understanding of grammar (present, near future, past and conditional tenses)
- Translation from French into English and English into French
- Cultural awareness
- Developing more advanced expression in written and spoken French

Text books available to pupils in lessons only:

- Expo 3 Rouge, ISBN: 9780435385 934 & Expo 3 Vert, ISBN: 9780435385 347

Books/resources pupils might find it useful to have access to at home:

- French / English bilingual dictionary

Good to know:

- This option is only available to pupils who have studied French in Year 8.
- If you want the option of taking French at GCSE you must take it in Year 9.
- French is classified as an EBACC subject. Find out more at www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc
- Subject contact: mteillet@reephamhigh.com

SPANISH

Major topics:

- Unit 1: Shopping and city life
- Unit 2: Media
- Unit 3: World of work
- Unit 4: Healthy living

Key skills being developed:

- Speaking: accent and pronunciation, starting to develop asking questions in Spanish, describing photos
- Writing: using correct spelling and accents
- Reading and listening comprehension (including using authentic materials)
- Knowledge and understanding of grammar (present, near future, past and conditional tenses)
- Translation from Spanish into English and English into Spanish
- Cultural awareness
- Developing more advanced expression in written and spoken Spanish

Text books available to pupils in lessons only:

- ¡Mira! Rojo 3, ISBN: 9780435391638 & ¡Mira! Verde 3 ISBN:9780435391645

Books/resources pupils might find it useful to have access to at home:

- Spanish / English bilingual dictionary

Good to know:

- This option is only available to pupils who have studied Spanish in Year 8.
- If you want the option of taking Spanish at GCSE you must take it in Year 9.
- Spanish is classified as an EBACC subject. Find out more at www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc
- Subject contact: bpelaz@reephamhigh.com

MANDARIN CHINESE

This is an accelerated course in Mandarin Chinese for pupils who may wish to take this language as a GCSE option. If you are a keen linguist looking for something different this may be a perfect choice.

Major topics:

- Unit 1: Pinyin system, Chinese basic characters & friends and family
- Unit 2: Leisure time & school
- Unit 3: Food and drink & holidays
- Unit 4: All about me & local environment

Key skills being developed:

- Speaking and listening in Mandarin
- Reading and writing Chinese characters
- Translation from and into Chinese
- Cultural awareness
- Past, present and near future tenses

Textbook in class:

- Jin bu 1 – ISBN 978-0435041137 & Jin bu 2 – ISBN 978-0435041144

Good to know:

- This option is available to all Year 8 pupils.
- If you want the option of taking Mandarin at GCSE you must take it in Year 9.
- Mandarin is classified as an EBACC subject. Find out more at www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc
- Subject contact: tli@reephamhigh.com

BUSINESS

Pupils in Year 9 focus on developing skills that will help them if they wish to undertake the full GCSE course, and give them employability skills for later in life.

An academic base is formed through the understanding of key terms and the general workings of the main areas of a business, including operations, marketing, finance and human resources. This is supported through a range of trips and activities to allow the students to engage practically with real businesses and take part in activities they may do in the future as the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Year 9 Business students play a key role in setting up their own business 'Pen Station', giving great entrepreneurial experiences to the cohort.

Good to know:

- This is an introductory course to Business. You do not need to take this course to choose Business at GCSE.
- Pupils who are interested in Business and are performing at a high standard in mathematics and English should wait until Year 9 Options and select GCSE Business Studies. If you are unsure please contact Mr Beale.
- Subject contact: rhill@reephamhigh.com and mpittaccio@reephamhigh.com

MUSIC

Students will complete performing, composing and listening activities based around the following topics:

- Film music
- Popular music
- New directions in classical music
- The key periods in musical history
- Instrumental music
- Vocal music

In performing activities, students will be given opportunities to rehearse and perform both solo and group (ensemble) pieces within the style of music they are studying. They will learn effective practice and rehearsal techniques in order to make the best progress on their chosen instrument. Students will also look at what makes a good performance and start learning how to communicate through the language of music.

In composing activities, students will learn to write their own pieces in the style of the music they are studying (see above for list of topics). They will learn how to write idiomatically for different instruments and to create contrast within pieces of music as well as how to use the elements of music to convey different moods and evoke various emotions within the listener.

Through listening and studying music within the topic areas, students will learn how to analyse pieces of music using the musical elements. By studying music in different styles, the students will learn how composers create different moods, create contrast and structure pieces of music. The students will then apply this knowledge in the composing and performing activities. Students will also study basic music theory.

Good to know:

- It is desirable but not essential to take Music in Year 9 if you want the option of taking Music at GCSE.
- Only students who have a clear interest in Music should choose this course.
- Subject contact: ggreen@reephamhigh.com

Please return to the email and follow the link to complete the 'choices' form.

