



Wednesday, 14th January 2026

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Year 9 Options

Over the coming weeks, your child will begin making important choices about the subjects they wish to study at Key Stage 4. This is an exciting milestone for our pupils; it represents their first real opportunity to take greater control of their educational pathway and focus on their interests.

The Core Curriculum: All pupils will continue to study our compulsory "Core" subjects: English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Science, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE), Physical Education (PE) and Social Studies (PSHCEe - Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Economic education).

In addition to these, pupils will choose **4 further subjects**, known as their 'Options'.

Important Dates for your Diary

To support you and your child through this process, please note the following timeline:

Now and Ongoing: Careers Guidance (CEIAG)

All Year 9 pupils are currently receiving careers lessons during tutor time and participating in one-to-one careers interviews to explore post-16 pathways.

Thursday 22nd January, 6:00pm: Year 9 Options Evening

This is an in-person event in the main school hall. No booking is required for this event. **It is essential that parents/carers and pupils attend this event together.** At 6:00pm, there will be an introductory talk, and **you will receive the comprehensive Options Booklet**. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to speak with teaching staff about specific subjects. The evening concludes at approximately 7:30pm.

24th - 25th January: Reflection Weekend

Please use this time to review the Options Booklet and talk through the subject information with your child to agree on their preferred choices.

26th - 30th January: Form Tutor One-to-One and Completion of Form

During this week, every pupil will have a dedicated one-to-one discussion with their Form Tutor to finalise their choices and **complete their Options Form in school**.

Subject Viability: While we always endeavour to provide pupils with their first choices, please understand that some subjects may not run if pupil numbers are too low to form a viable class. In these rare cases, we will work closely with the pupil to find a suitable alternative.

Thank you for your continued support during this important transition. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Kirkbride

Senior Teacher (KS4 Standards) Kirkbride.M@risedale.org.uk

