



Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 18th April 2024
4.30pm-7.00pm

Welcome to Farmor's Year 9 Options Evening.

The purpose of tonight is threefold:

1. To gather feedback from English, Maths and Science teachers on your progress this year and how ready you are for GCSE study in these compulsory subjects. You have parents' evening appointments for these.
2. To explore all the additional optional GCSE subjects available for study next year. This will help you to help to decide on the **four** subjects to choose. Staff and current students are available to answer your questions and give you more information.
3. To gain advice from our Careers Advisor and SENCo on making those choices, if you need it.

How do you choose the subjects to study?

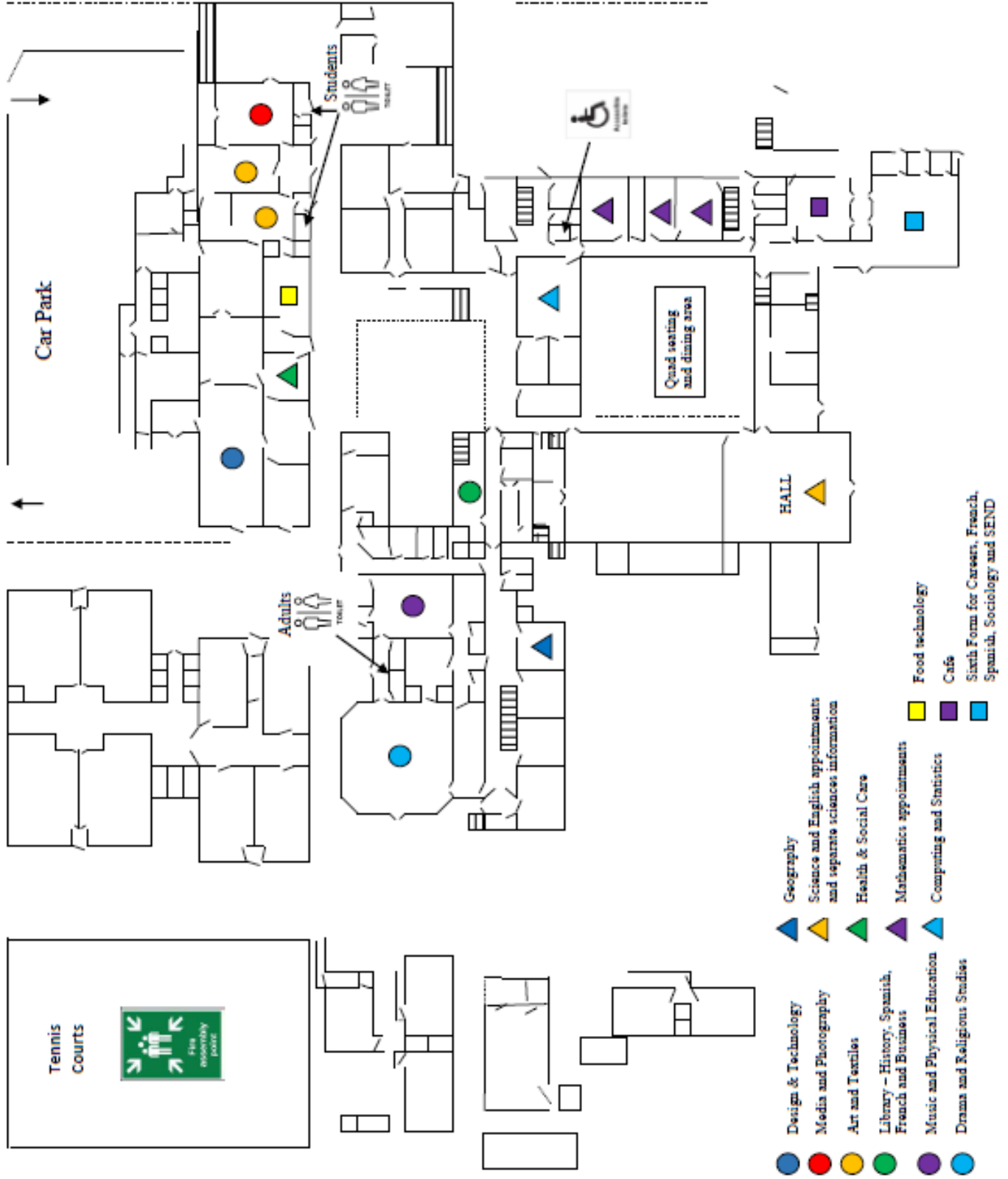
Here are three principles which will help you choose a good combination.

1. At this stage, it is important to keep your choice of subjects **broad and balanced**. You will see on the following pages that we have listed all the subjects and colour coded them to show which cluster they belong to. You should try to avoid narrowing your choices into only one cluster. You should choose from more than one cluster which will keep your options open for post-16 course choices.
2. Some subjects are specialist and lead to a particular industry. Other subjects connect to lots of different career options. If you do not have a particular career in mind, these **professional subjects** can be very useful.
3. How much coursework is involved? You can only choose a **maximum of two coursework-based subjects** as otherwise the workload will become too heavy.

We hope that tonight is both useful and helpful in deciding which subjects to choose. Your form tutor and Mrs Bass (Head of Year 9) are always available for further help and advice if you need it. You have until Friday 3rd May 2024 to complete the option choice form. A link to that form is here:



FARMOR'S SCHOOL OPTIONS EVENING



Route for Options Evening

Arrive by reception.

Go through DT1 to DT3 and DT5

Go to Art – A1, A2, A3

Go down the main walkway to IT1

Turn down the Maths corridor to LRC and refreshments

Go up the stairs by the Quad to the Hall for English & Science appointments

Go out through quad and in by Student Services to the Library

Turn right out of the Library to G1

Take the door from the Geography corridor into MU1 and to the Theatre.

Out to front entrance again.

Maths appointments in M2, M3 and M4

English and Science appointments in the hall

Toilets can be found as shown on the map – follow the signs.

Mrs Emma Timms (SENCo) is in the office off the LRC.

Mrs Lisa Mitchell (Careers Adviser) is in the LRC

Refreshments are located in our French Café in the Red Room in Sixth Form

Link to specification information:

Below is a list of all the options available for you. If you want more information on any of them, follow the links to the relevant page of the website

Remember you can choose **four** of these and only two which are marked in red. You cannot choose Art and Textiles as a combination.



Subject	Cluster	Coursework	Room
Art	Creative	YES*	A1
Business Studies	Professional	NO	LIB2
Computer Science	STEM	NO	IT1
D&T Resistant Materials	STEM	YES*	DT1
Drama	Creative	YES	TH1
Food Science and Nutrition	Vocational	YES	DT5
French	Professional	NO	LIB1 /LRC
Geography	Social Science	NO	G1
Health and Social Care	Vocational	YES	DT3
History	Social Science	NO	LIB1
Media	Creative	YES	A3
Music	Creative	YES	MU2
GCSE PE	Professional	YES	MU1
Photography	Creative	YES*	A3
Religious Studies	Social Science	NO	TH1
Spanish	Professional	NO	LIB2 /LRC
Sociology	Social Science	NO	LRC
Statistics	STEM	NO	IT1
Textiles	Creative	YES*	A2
Triple Science	STEM	NO	HALL

- These subjects all have coursework finishing at the same time of Y11 and therefore you can only choose a maximum of two of these subjects.

GCSEs and Careers

Whatever you choose to do next, employers and universities will look at your GCSE results. Some careers will want you to have taken particular subjects at GCSE. Some A levels need particular grades at GCSE too. If you have a clear career in mind, check your choices are good facilitators for that. If you have no idea, just choose things you enjoy. Have a broad and balanced choice to keep as many options open as possible. If you want careers advice, Mrs Mitchell can be found in the LRC.

Other opportunities in Y10

Other opportunities that open up in KS4 include Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, a week of work experience in the summer of Year 10 and the chance to apply to be a prefect in February of Year 10. All these things give you another way to show your skills and experience, no matter what grades you get at GCSE.

Top tips on GCSE Study

- You have two years' of work ahead of you for your GCSEs, so get study ready! Make sure you have a space to study – you will get more homework and have more to revise. On your lap in front of the TV is not a good way to work!
- Get a good sleep pattern as if you are tired, you cannot think as well as you need to.
- Get organised with folders, a place to keep your work safe, pens, revisions cards etc. Having all you need is a good way to reduce stress.
- Get into good habits – doing your study and revision little and often makes the knowledge stick better and is easier to do.
- Use all those brilliant websites that are out there to test yourself easily: Seneca, pomodoro, bitesize, Dr Frost.
- If you're stuck – ask for help from friends, teachers, your tutor or your head of year.
- Satchel One is your friend – it helps you to keep on top of your work and gives lots of other information on study tips. Use it daily and share it with your parents.
- Get the CPG Guides for your subjects to help you revise.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if you change your mind about your choices?

- You can change your mind up to the first half term in October of Year 10. After that, it will be too late to switch courses. If your choices are not working out as you hoped, talk to your tutor or head of year very quickly!

Who can you ask for help?

- Your tutor, your friends, your subject teacher and also Mrs White, Mrs Timms, Mrs Sturla and Mr Eckersley. Just ask.

How will you know how well you are doing?

- There will be lots of information on Satchel One to show how well you are doing at handing in homework. You will also get reports three times a year as well as assessments at the end of Year 10. All this builds a picture of how well you are getting on. If you are not working hard enough, you will know as we will talk with you after your reports to support you to work smarter.

How many subjects can you choose?

- You can choose four subjects.

Will your choices affect what you can study at A level?

- Some A levels need you to have studied them at GCSE, but lots do not. Ask your subject teachers and they can guide you.

Are some subjects easier?

- That depends on your skills and aptitudes. You may well find some subjects easier than others, but that is about your skills and interests. Other students will find different subjects easier than you too.

How much homework will you get?

- More than in Year 9. You should expect to do around an hour of independent study for each subject across your two-week timetable. You should also get into the habit of consolidating your learning after each lesson with notes or revision cards. It will make your revision for the GCSE exams at the end of Y11 so much easier.

Which four subjects will you choose?

1. _____

2. _____

3 _____

4 _____

What is your Reserve Subject?