



# **Subject Choices Booklet 2023/24**

(For pupils who will be in Year 9 in 2024/25)

# Introduction

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This information pack outlines the curriculum that your child will study next year, (i.e. in 2024/25), along with details of some choices they will have regarding the subjects they will study in Year 9.

The information included aims to help your child make some of the very first decisions they are able to make about what they will study on their educational journey. The current Year 9 curriculum has been designed so that pupils have the maximum amount of time and support to make **wise and informed choices** about the subjects they will go on to study in KS4, whilst also maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum. The model also gives Year 9 pupils an opportunity to have a “taste” of subjects which might be unfamiliar to them to help guide their future choices. Whilst the choices that they make now will determine what they study in Year 9 – they will also go on to help inform their final curriculum choices about the subjects they will then take forward to the end of Year 11.

At the **end of Year 9**, your child will make their **final curriculum choices** to determine the subjects they will take forward in Years 10 and 11, through to certification. These are likely to be drawn from those they have chosen to study in Year 9 but are not necessarily restricted to those.

The Year 9 curriculum is made up of nine core subjects and four subject choices...

## Year 9 Core Curriculum 2024/25

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All pupils in Year 9, in 2024/25, will study the following core subjects:

| Subject | Hours per fortnight | Areas of Study  |
|---------|---------------------|---|
| English | 7                   | English explores how to structure and sustain speaking and writing effectively, adapting to different situations and audiences. It also explores reading and how to evaluate the different ways writers express meaning across a range of challenging Literature.   |
| Maths   | 6                   | Maths equips pupils with a dynamic set of tools to help them understand and change the world. Pupils will develop an ability to think and reason mathematically and to solve problems by applying Mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication.  |
| Science | 9                   | Science is concerned with discovering and describing the world around us by observing and experimenting. Those observations and experimental results allow us to understand natural phenomena and make predictions about how things behave, whether they're living things, chemical reactions or physical events.<br>Pupils in sets 1 and 2 will study three separate sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils in sets 3 and 4 will study combined science, worth two GCSEs. |

# Core Curriculum 2024/25 continued

| Subject                   | Hours per fortnight | Areas of Study   |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Religious Studies         | 4                   | Religious Studies enable pupils to investigate and respond to fundamental questions of life and living and be able to express and justify their own opinions. It helps pupils develop knowledge, understanding and skills when considering Christian and other responses to moral, ethical and philosophical issues.   |
| Geography                 | 4                   | The Geography curriculum will enable learners to be confident in understanding and asking questions about the world around them. Geography is, by nature an investigative subject, which develops an understanding of concepts, knowledge and skills.  |
| History                   | 4                   | In History, pupils will gain a broad understanding of content and skills covering the modern world and key events that have shaped the world. It will help pupils to understand and analyse the causes of some of the major historical events and changes of the past.   |
| Spanish                   | 4                   | Spanish helps broaden horizons, develop cultural knowledge and understanding and fosters transferable skills such as confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity. Learning Spanish will enable pupils to understand and communicate ideas, facts and feelings in speech and writing, focused on familiar and routine matters, using their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structures and vocabulary.   |
| Physical Education (Core) | 2                   | Physical Education allows pupils to participate in a variety of different sporting activities. These can be team or individual activities, which allow pupils to develop skills in isolation then transfer them to competitive situations. Other qualities that are developed during lessons are self-esteem/confidence, social interaction through teamwork, discipline and respect.  |
| Personal Development      | 2                   | <p>The PD Curriculum is designed to address the specific Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) needs of our pupils and to incorporate learning about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RSE (Relationships and sex education)</li> <li>▪ PSHE (Personal, social, health and economic education)</li> <li>▪ Citizenship</li> <li>▪ British Values (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for people of faith and no faith)</li> <li>▪ Careers, Further Education and Training</li> <li>▪ Our Christian Ethos</li> </ul> |

# Year 9 Subject Choices 2024/25

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There is a certain amount of flexibility within the Year 9 curriculum which enables our pupils to have some freedom to choose other subjects that are of interest to them and to further broaden their areas of study.

Your child will need to **select four subjects** to complement their core curriculum as they move into Year 9 – this will need to include **at least one technology** subject and **at least one creative** subject.

| Subject               | Hours per fortnight                                       |
|-----------------------|---|
| Technology Subject(s) | <b>FOUR subjects in total</b><br>8 hours over the 2 weeks |
| Creative Subject(s)   |   |
| Taster Subject(s)     |   |

## 2024/25 Subject Choice Information

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Pupils in Year 9, in 2024/25, will choose and study **four** of the following subjects:

| Subject              | Areas of Study   |
|----------------------|--|
| Art                  | Pupils will explore a range of techniques and media required for the confident use of visual language. They will then develop both creative and technical skills and techniques to produce work in two and three dimensions. Pupils will gain the skills needed to produce a creative sketch book which will support practical work.   |
| Business Studies     | Enterprise is a practical introduction to life and work as an entrepreneur. Pupils will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develop an aptitude in planning and carrying out an enterprise activity.</li><li>▪ Develop the knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills that can affect the performance of an enterprise.</li><li>▪ Develop attitudes and ways of working that are important for enterprise.</li></ul>  |
| Food                 | Pupils will develop new ideas, develop food production skills and learn how new products are developed in the food industry. Pupils will also learn about many different ingredients and how these ingredients function in recipes to give the required outcome. Pupils will modify recipes to meet the need of dietary requirements of individual consumers.  |
| Health & Social Care | This course focuses on the fundamental principles of 'Health and Social Care', giving learners the opportunity to engage in subject content that is relevant to the working world of Health and Social Care. Pupils will learn about the key stages of physical, intellectual, social and emotional development and begin to understand the profound influence relationships and life events can have on an individual's health and development. Pupils also examine the factors that influence a person's self-concept and how people react to change in their lives. |

# 2024/25 Subject Choice Information continued

| Subject             | Areas of Study   |
|---------------------|--|
| ICT                 | <p>Digital Information Technology is designed to engage and enthuse pupils with an interest in digital graphics, animations and interactive multimedia products. The course gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data.</li> <li>▪ the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.</li> <li>▪ how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.</li> </ul> |
| Media Studies       | <p>This course gives pupils the opportunity to study a range of different media including websites, films, television, magazines and newspapers. Pupils will analyse texts and communicate findings while being imaginative and creative. Pupils will benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extensive and meaningful coverage of media theory and practice</li> <li>▪ Practical work which integrates theories and concepts</li> <li>▪ The chance to study across a range of different media</li> <li>▪ Opportunities to learn about real media products and industries</li> </ul>  |
| Music               | <p>In music, pupils learn to perform, compose and critically appraise music from various cultures and styles, including their own. They study music from the western classical tradition through to current dance and popular music styles. Pupils will study a variety of topics including the musical elements, basic notation, keyboard skills, singing, remix, popular music, ternary form and many more.</p>  |
| Physical Education  | <p>This course consists of both practical activities and theoretical aspects of physical activity. Pupils will develop a keen interest in achieving outstanding performances in a range of PE activities and wish to develop an in-depth knowledge of sport, performance and how the body works.</p>   |
| Resistant Materials | <p>This course prepares pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Pupils will gain an awareness and learn from wider influences of Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Pupils will get the opportunity to work creatively - designing, making and applying technical and practical expertise.</p>   |
| Textiles/Fashion    | <p>Pupils will investigate a range of textile design processes and develop both creative and technical skills and techniques to produce work in two and three dimensions. Pupils will gain the skills needed to produce a creative sketch book which will support practical work.</p>  |
| Travel & Tourism    | <p>Travel and Tourism is for Pupils who want to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring the aims of different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer requirements, and the influences on global travel and tourism.</p>   |

# What do we need to do now?

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It is really important that your child makes their subject choices wisely and after thought and consultation with you and with subject teachers at the forthcoming Y8 Parents Evening.

Read through this booklet carefully together - it has been designed to inform you of what each course involves. However, this is not the only source of information to help you with your decision – a wealth of information can be found in the curriculum section of our school website:

<https://www.venerablebede.co.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overview/>

As well as parents/carers, pupils can also chat through their thoughts with their subject teachers in lessons, form tutors, older pupils and their Head of Year, Mrs Atwater.

Ideally the subject choices pupils make will be:

- **Enjoyable...** pupils are more likely to succeed at a course that they enjoy doing!
- **Relevant...** the course should help pupils along their future educational or career pathway.
- **Achievable...** it's good for pupils to stretch themselves, but they should always try and make sure that their goals are realistic and that they think they will do well in a chosen subject.

It is also vital to choose **reserve choices** wisely. Every effort will be made to ensure as many pupils as possible get their first choices but there are many reasons why a reserve choice may be needed. For example, too few or too many pupils opting for a particular subject or the combination of subjects chosen will not allow for them to be timetabled. We would always discuss the need to use a reserve subject with you and your child before implementing it as a curriculum choice.

## Some GOOD reasons for choosing a subject...

- It helps you towards what you want to do for a career
- You enjoy it and you think you will do well
- It will give you useful transferable skills
- You're thinking of studying the course in Years 10 and 11



## Some NOT SO GOOD reasons for choosing a subject...

- You think it sounds easy
- Your friends have all picked it
- You like the teacher you have now
- You have just picked anything because you have run out of time



'2024/25 Subject Choices' forms will be issued over the next few weeks - the following page shows an example of a completed form...

**Please note, we will send further information out about the timeline for subject choices after the Year 8 Parents Evening.**



# 2024/25 Subject Choices - Addition!

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Due to pupil, parent and carer requests at our Year 8 Parents evening, we have also added 'Graphic Design' as a subject choice for Year 8 pupils as they move into Year 9. Please find below some information about this subject:

| Subject        | Areas of Study  |
|----------------|---|
| Graphic Design | Graphic Design allows pupils to communicate and work in a team, as well as independently, to develop an awareness of the world of graphical communication. On this course, pupils will gain practical skills in design including: drawing, using digital media, using CAD/CAM, processing materials and manufacturing (mainly using cards and plastics) to complete working prototypes. |