



Dear Parent / Carer,

I write to you as we approach one of the most exciting and important milestones in your child's educational journey at Chilmington Green from Year 7 to Year 13. In September, your child will be starting their GCSE courses and will be moving from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. All students at Chilmington Green School have the opportunity to engage with a broad and balanced curriculum which is underpinned by the National Curriculum and as part of this, they will have some choices in the subjects that they would like to explore in further detail.

At Chilmington Green, we firmly believe that quality is by far the most important consideration. Eight excellent GCSEs can get you anywhere – from the best apprenticeships to top universities. All students will study some compulsory subjects alongside three other subjects that they will be able to select.

The following subjects are compulsory:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE (this is not a GCSE)
- PSHE (this is not a GCSE)

Students will be able to select three options from the following list: History, Geography, Design & Technology, Food & Nutrition, Drama, Music, Physical Education, Health & Fitness, Religious Studies, Media Studies, French, Spanish and Art. One of their three options must be either History or Geography.

Options Evening

To assist with this, we are pleased to invite you to our GCSE Options Evening on Wednesday, 22nd April 2026 from 17:00 - 18:30. This event will provide valuable insights into the options available, the selection process, and the various subjects your child can choose from. There will be two elements to the evening. You will have the opportunity to walk around classrooms to speak directly with subject teachers and learn more about what each course entails. There will also be a talk offered to parents at 17:00.



Principal: Mr Jon Rutland



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For parents unable to make the event, we will also send out further information on the day which explains the process as well as a form to complete for your child.

Options Assembly

Earlier this term, your child attended an assembly introducing the options process. We emphasized the importance of making well-informed decisions by researching the options available to them post-16. This will help them choose subjects that align with their interests and future aspirations. We also spoke about how to make decisions about GCSE options.

Things to consider included: considering your child's interests; considering future career ideas and researching what is needed for these; consider subjects or courses that your child wants to study Post-16; as well as keeping the subject choices broad to keep future options open. Students were encouraged not to consider subjects just because their friends have chosen it or they particularly like a specific teacher they have now.

Useful Resources and Guidance

Additionally, we strongly recommend visiting the following link, [Year 9 Options 2026 - CXK](#), to a blog by our independent careers advisor CXK. This guide offers valuable information on the different factors to consider when choosing GCSE subjects, including career planning, decision-making strategies and ways to support your child's mental health in this process. It is a helpful resource for both students and parents to explore the various pathways available and make informed choices.

I have included a list of the key dates that will be useful to take note of for this process but we will also be regularly communicating at each stage so that you are kept well-informed.

Key dates for the Year 9 Options Process 2025 – 2026

- Tuesday 17th March – Year 9 Options assembly led by an External Careers Advisor (CXK)
- Wednesday 22nd April – Year 9 Options Evening (17:00 – 18:30)



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- Wednesday 29th April – Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening to speak about your child's current progress and next steps with individual teachers.
- Friday 1st May – Deadline of first submission of initial GCSE Subject Preferences (Form 1). Information shared on Options Evening and School Website.
- Wednesday 13th May – Final submission date of GCSE options (Form 2).

Our school website will also contain this information and these dates. We look forward to seeing you at the Options Evening after the Easter holiday where we will be able to discuss the Options Process in further detail.

Kind Regards,

Kirsty Wigg

Head of Year 9

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w: <https://chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk>



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