

Hartismere School

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CJO/GC

Dear parents and carers

YEAR 9: OPTION CHOICES

We are entering into an exciting time for year 9! Following the options survey, they now get the opportunity to choose their actual options subjects for GCSE.

This is probably the first time in their education that pupils have had a choice over which subjects to study. It is important that they make informed decisions by talking to parents and carers, teachers and their form tutor. Key stage 3 is carefully designed to offer as broad, balanced and relevant a curriculum as possible. This breadth continues at key stage 4 with some new subjects.

In order to facilitate your conversations with your son or daughter at home, there are a range of subject videos made by teachers available on our website. Please search "options" and select 'Year 9 Options 2026'.

You are invited to attend an Options Evening on **Thursday 21 May 2026 7-8:30pm** in the Lines Hall. The evening will involve a presentation on the options process. Then our prefects will accompany you over to the Dance Studio where you will have the opportunity to speak to subject staff and find out more about the subjects on offer. You will also receive the options booklet to take home. This event is for **parents**. The pupils have already had assemblies on the option subjects and will receive the information in assembly that morning. They will also receive a copy of the options booklet to take home.

Pupils can complete their option choices on the school website from **Thursday 21 May 2026**. In order to do this, pupils will need to:

- Login to the school website, using their usual username and password
- Click on the large "Year 9 Options 2026" banner on the home page
- This will take them to an options page with subject videos made by their teachers and an electronic copy of the options booklet.
- When ready to make choices, click on the "Subject Options" button.
- This will take them to an electronic form where subject choices can be ranked (first, second, etc) in three easy steps.



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Changes can be made to the form as many times as they like up until the deadline of **Friday 5 June 2026 at 5pm**. The form automatically saves the choices made.

From Friday 5 June 2026 onwards, we will use the information to match pupil choices with what the school can offer based on curriculum requirements and staffing. Pupils have been asked to rank five subjects in the “open choice” section. They will need to rank these carefully as they will not study all five. We cannot guarantee that every subject offered will run.

If pupils are unsure about any aspect of the process, please encourage them to talk to their form tutor, head of year or Mrs C Jones (Head of Key Stage 4). You can also contact me by email cjo@hartismere.com.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Jones', written over a faint dotted grid background.

Mrs C Jones
Assistant Headteacher (KS4)