

Year 9 Options - Frequently asked questions from students

Why can't I take more subjects as GCSE courses?

Each subject has a considerable workload in terms of learning and assessment. Students need at least 5 passes to progress in education but the priority should be to achieve the best possible grades rather than a lot of subjects.

What subjects should I choose?

Choose the ones that you enjoy, do well in, that interest you or may be useful to you in a future career or further study, if you have already begun to think that far ahead. Remember that even if you think you know what you would like to do in the future you may change your mind! By making some subjects compulsory we ensure that you have a balanced curriculum.

What if I change my mind?

We will always try to reconsider the choices you make if we feel they are not in your best interest or if you change your mind. However, the timetable is planned well ahead and sometimes it is impossible to make changes once other courses are full, so it is very important that you make your choices carefully.

What will the future be like?

I don't know what I want to do yet. Not many people of your age know exactly what they want to do beyond 16, so don't worry. You will change, society will, and technology will advance, so keeping an open mind is a good thing!

Are some courses more valuable than others?

The courses on offer, without question, provide all the necessary skills and training to allow you to choose a successful career. However, most employers, colleges and universities believe that all students should have good skills in English and Maths and as such, we think that you should make these a top priority. Some university courses require students to have particular GCSEs, so, if you are planning to apply for a specific course, it is a good idea to use the UCAS website to check <http://www.ucas.com/>

What about spare time activities?

Years 10 and 11 should be a time for learning and a time for experiencing new things. Time management will be very important in the next few years to make sure you can manage other activities and cope with your workload.

Does the College offer subjects at A Level which can be studied without a previous qualification in the subject?

Yes. Many subjects which we offer at A Level do not require you to have a GCSE or equivalent, for example Economics, Sociology, Media Studies, Physical Education and others. To progress onto A level courses, you will need at least 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9.

If in doubt check with your teachers or look on the Sixth Form section at www.collingwoodcollege.com - Sixth Form/Admissions/Prospectus and Subject Information Booklet, and in particular, the Subject Information Booklet.

Can parents/carers help?

These are the people that know you best and therefore have a key role to play in the decision-making process. Take time to go through the information booklets and the websites recommended together.