

Year 9 Options

Information for Parents/Carers





GCSE COURSES

In September this year your young person will be embarking on their GCSE courses.

It is important that the students consider their choices carefully as they will impact on their future academic career.

Students will be studying 9 GCSE courses.

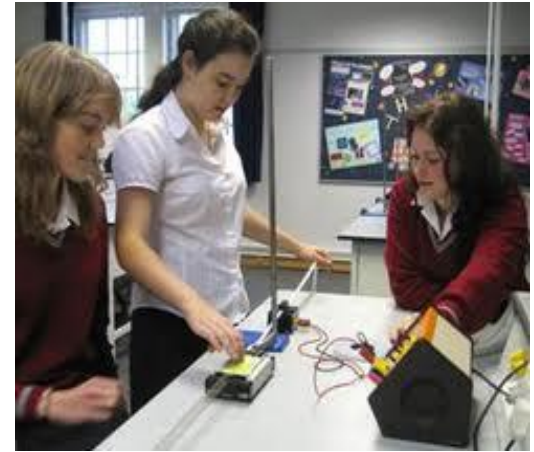


Compulsory Core Subjects

The subjects that all students will follow are:



English Language &
English Literature
(2 GCSEs)

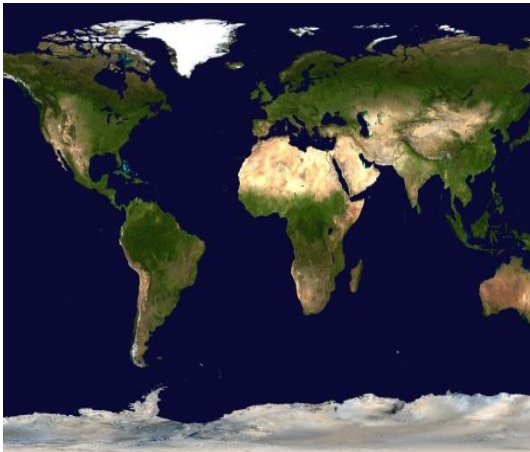


3 Separate sciences.
Biology, Physics &
Chemistry (worth 3
GCSEs)
OR
Combined Science
(Trilogy) (worth 2 GCSEs)



Compulsory Examination Course

You must study at least one humanity subject and choose from...



Geography



History

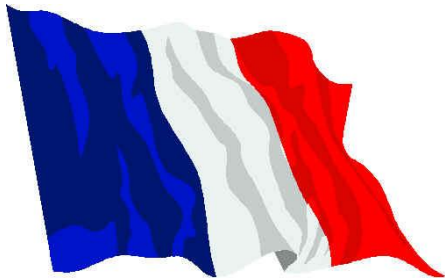


Religious Studies



We strongly advise ...

...that students take one language to keep their curriculum broad and balanced.



French



German



Spanish



Their choices

Students then choose a prescribed number of further subjects from this list:

- Art and Design – Fine Art
- Art and Design – Textiles
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish



Pathways

Path A

- **Path A – Science choices**
- **Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 Separate Sciences)**

- **Path A – 1 Humanity**
- Geography, History or Religious Studies

- **Path A – 2 more subject choices**
- All students are strongly recommended to study **at least one language from French, German or Spanish**
- If you do not wish to study a language you must discuss this with Miss Renold.



Pathways – Path A

Finally, if students choose a Language they will choose to study one further subject from the list below. If students haven't chosen a language, they will choose two subjects from the list below.

- Art and Design – Fine Art
- Art and Design – Textiles Design
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish



Pathways

Path B

- **Path B – Science choices**
- **Combined Science (Trilogy) which is worth 2 GCSEs and where you still study each of the Sciences.**

- **Path B – 1 Humanity**
- Geography, History or Religious Studies

- **Path B – 3 more subject choices**
- All students are strongly recommended to study **at least one language French, German or Spanish**
- If you do not wish to study a language you must discuss this with Miss Renold.



Pathways – Path B

Finally, if students choose a Language they will choose to study two further subjects from the list below. If students haven't chosen a language, they will choose three subjects from the list below.

- Art and Design – Fine Art
- Art and Design – Textiles Design
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish

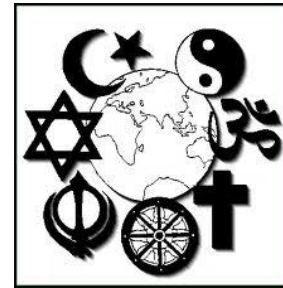


Limitations

- **Students cannot choose both: Art and Design – Fine Art and Art and Design - Textiles**



Compulsory Non-Examination Subjects



RE

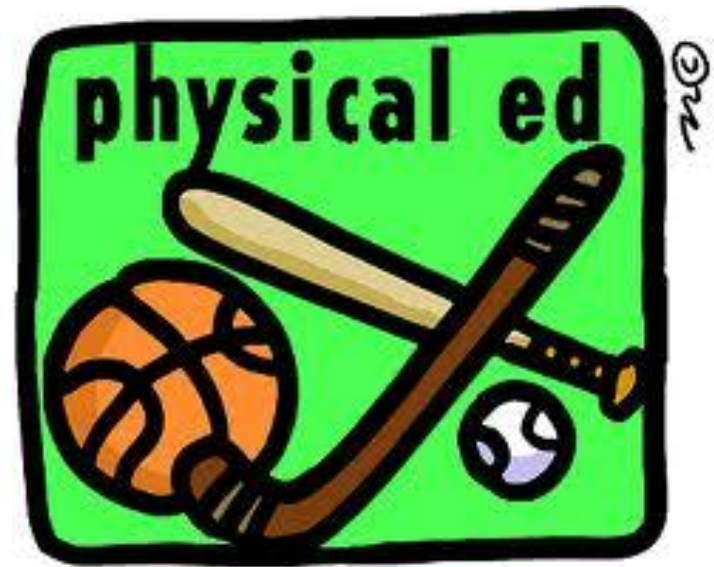
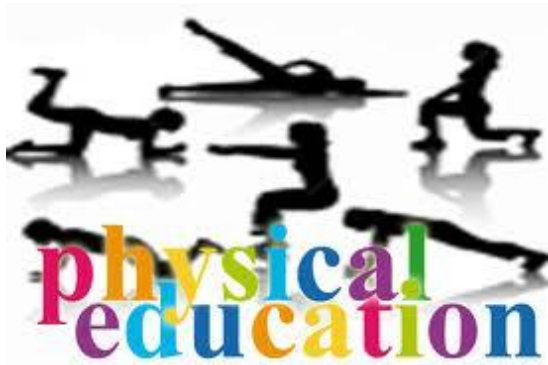


Personal Development



Compulsory Non-Examination Subjects

Physical Education (Core PE)





Questions students should consider



- **Are they good at the subject?**

Achieving the best possible GCSE result is important as these will be the public exams they do before they apply to Sixth Form and then they will have these results when they are thinking forwards to university or apprenticeship applications.

- **Do they enjoy the subject?**

Students are more likely to be successful.

- **Do they need the subject?**

A few subjects are essential for certain careers.

- **Have they researched the subject content of their chosen option?**

Especially for those subjects they haven't done before.



Students should not...

- Base their decision on what their friends are choosing – each of our students are different to each other and have different abilities.
- Base your decision on their current teacher – this may all change next year when there will be new teaching groups. The teaching of GCSE subjects is often approached differently to Key Stage 3 and class sizes are often smaller.



FAQ's 1

Will I get all my choices?

- We cannot guarantee this due to timetabling and staffing constraints.
- There may be some students who may have to study their reserve choice.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team will discuss this with you and your parents / carers.
- However, we will do our best to accommodate your choices.

Will I be able to change options after the final deadline?

- It will be more difficult to change your options as the timetable will be under construction.



FAQ's 2

Will I be able to change subjects in Year 10?

- Only in exceptional circumstances after detailed discussions with your teachers, parents / carers and senior members of staff.
- After the end of September there will be no changes allowed for any reason.

Will students be able to drop a subject?

- We expect all students to complete all the courses they are studying as every student at CRGS has the ability to do this.



Timeline

Tuesday 3rd February



Options booklets sent out

Tuesday 3rd February



Options Assembly for Year 9

w/c 9th February



Individual interview for every pupil with Senior member of staff

Tuesday 3rd March



Year 9 Consultation Evening

Friday 13th March



Deadline for handing in provisional statement of choices (electronic form)

End of June



Final choice confirmed



ADVICE

Who can a student or parent / carer ask for advice?

- Subject teachers
- Form teachers
- Head of Year (Mr Carson)
- Any member of the SLT
- Mrs Howard, (Careers advisor)
- Students in Year 10 and 11 (e.g. older siblings / friends)

The Year 9 Parents Evening on Tuesday 3rd March is a great opportunity for students and their parents to find out more.



Further Questions

If you have any further questions, please stay behind to speak to myself (Miss Ashton, Senior Assistant Headteacher) or please speak to Miss Renold (Deputy Headteacher - who is based in the Sports Hall tonight)

Please email mainschool@crgs.org.uk if you don't get an opportunity to ask your question tonight.

Thank you for listening.