

25 January 2011

Dear Parents

The time is now approaching when the choice of subjects for the two-year course to GCSE must be made. A booklet entitled *Curriculum and Options*, which describes the options available next year, is available to view [online](#) on the Senior School section of the website under Year 9-11 information.

Next year, all pupils will take English (Language and Literature), Mathematics (some pupils will also be aiming at Additional Mathematics), Biology, Chemistry and Physics (please see the booklet for further details about GCSE entry for Science) and **four** other option subjects. PE and Games are compulsory for all pupils and are non-examination courses. All pupils also study one period a week of Cogito, a non-examined course designed by PGS which explores ethical, philosophical and religious issues.

We ask pupils to select **four** subjects from the following list (one of which must be a Modern Foreign Language):

Art and Design, Business Studies, Classical Civilization, Design and Technology, Drama and Theatre Arts, Food and Nutrition, French, Geography, German, History*, Latin, Latin/Greek+, Music, Philosophy and Religious Studies (PRS), Spanish.

* The History Department offers two separate courses – The Schools History Project and Modern World History. Please indicate on the return slip which course you would like your son or daughter to follow or add “No Preference”.

+ The Classics Department offers Latin/Greek as a single option on the timetable leading to two GCSEs, for those that have studied Latin and Greek in Year 9. Please indicate on the return slip which course you would like your son or daughter to follow (please see the booklet for further details).

Every attempt will be made to satisfy all option requests but some combinations of subjects may not be possible. It is important that serious consideration is given to these option choices. Timetable and staffing arrangements will be based on them and, whilst any request for a change of option at a later date will be considered, it may not be possible to add to an already full option set. I should also emphasise that, if a subject is not in sufficient demand, a course may not necessarily be provided. A reserve choice should be indicated in case of timetable difficulties.

Please contact your child’s tutor in the first instance if you have any queries about options. I would be most grateful if you would kindly complete the reply-slip and return it to your child’s tutor, no later than **Monday 14 February 2011**. The form will then be forwarded to the timetabler, Mr Alec Harrison.

Yours sincerely

L J Wilson
Deputy Head (Academic)

continued overleaf.....

To: **Mr Alec Harrison c/o Year 9 tutor**

The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth. PO1 2LN.

Options for Year 10

Name of Pupil _____ House: _____ Tutor: _____

Options 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
Reserve _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Notes:

- Pupils **must** study one or two Modern Foreign Languages. They will not normally be allowed to take up a language not previously studied.
- Pupils may **not** combine Greek with Classical Civilisation.
- Pupils who opt for History should indicate whether they wish to study The Modern World, School History Project or add “No Preference”.
- Pupils who opt for Latin should indicate whether they wish to study Latin only or the combined Latin/Greek option leading to two GCSEs. This is available only to pupils who have studied both Latin and Greek in Year 9.
- Please return this form to your child’s tutor by **Monday 14 February 2011**.