

19 January 2012

Dear Parents

I hope that Parents' Evening was a useful time to review your son or daughter's progress, identify some areas of focus and explore GCSE options. A booklet entitled *The Curriculum for Years 9-11*, 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.

In Year 10, all pupils take English (Language and Literature), Mathematics (some pupils will also be aiming at Additional Mathematics) and 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.

Pupils select **four** subjects from the following list (one of which must be a Modern Foreign Language that they have studied in Year 9):

Art and Design, Business Studies, Classical Civilisation, Design and Technology, Drama and Theatre Arts, Food and Nutrition, French, Geography, German, History¹, Latin, Latin/Greek², Music, Philosophy and Religious Studies (PRS), Spanish.

Every attempt will be made to satisfy all option requests but there are several reasons why this may not always be feasible; it may not be possible to timetable some combinations or there may be insufficient demand for a subject. A reserve choice should be indicated in case of timetable difficulties. It is important that serious consideration is given to these option choices as 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 accommodate this.

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 complete the reply-slip and return it to your child's tutor no later than **Monday 6 February 2012**. Option requests will be processed in order of receipt.

Yours sincerely

L J Wilson
Deputy Head (Academic)

cont

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:

1 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”.

2 The Classics Department offers Latin/Greek as a single option on the timetable leading to two GCSEs, for those who 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).

3 Pupils **must** study one or two Modern Foreign Languages. They will not normally be allowed to take up a language not previously studied.

4 Pupils may **not** combine Latin/Greek with Classical Civilisation but may do Latin and Classical Civilisation.

Requests will be processed in order of receipt but please return the form to your child’s tutor by **Monday 6 February 2012.**