



YEAR 9 APPLIED LEARNING SUBJECT SPECIALISM – CHOICES PROCESS 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

An underpinning principle of the curriculum at Crawshaw is that it will develop confident, self-motivated and determined young people with the knowledge, skills and qualities needed for successful lives. Experiencing success and developing independent learning skills and resilience, to equip our students for further/higher education and employment, is a key element of our STRIVE philosophy.

As your child moves into Year 9, they will specialise further in a chosen applied learning subject area. This means that, in addition to maintaining a wide breadth of subjects (core and non-core) with a balance of academic and creative, they will have **4 hours a fortnight in an applied learning subject**. The following subjects will not be part of the core curriculum in Year 9 (unless chosen as an Applied Specialism) – Design, Music, Food.

Included are the list of subject areas that your child can express a preference to study in Year 9. **All courses will run through until Year 11** and will result in a recognised and valid qualification – either a GCSE or equivalent.

There will still be an options process for Year 9 into 10 next year where there will be an opportunity to opt for many of these subjects (and others) in addition to the allocated subject specialism started in Year 9. There are some notes with some courses, please take particular attention to these.

The process will run remotely with the following items to support:

- A narrated powerpoint to help explain the process to parents and students. It will reinforce the key messages from this letter and the booklet.
- Applied Learning Specialism booklet - which gives information about the courses that are on offer.
- Subject areas will be able to explain their courses in more detail to students in lesson time.

Your child should indicate an ORDER OF PREFERENCE (1 = FIRST PREFERENCE) for the subjects that they would most like to specialise in. This will be done by completing the Microsoft Form. The form also asks which Parent / Carer has helped them in this process. **The link is included in the email and below.** Please only submit **ONE FORM per child**. However, if you make a mistake and have already submitted, just resubmit another form. We will only take the LAST form submission for each child. **The form does not open until Monday 28th June** to allow students and parents time to read the information. Do not rush to complete, there is no advantage to be gained through early submission. **The deadline for completed returns will be Monday 5th July (11.45 pm).**

[Year 8 into 9: Applied Learning Specialism Qualification - Preferences submission.](#)

Once all preferences are submitted, we will match students to subject areas. The focus will be on supporting as many students as possible to get their first, second or third preference; however, it should be noted that this may not always be possible due to curriculum constraints which include specialist staffing and therefore the number of classes available in each subject or the number of student choices for a subject. If required, we shall move to later preferences. **It is important that all 5 preferences are complete.** The final allocation will be indicated on your child's timetable in September. A reminder that there will still be an options process for Year 9 into 10 next year where there will be an opportunity to opt for a number of these subjects.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact school via the info@ca.rkt.co.uk email address or via Mel Dwight, Year 8 Manager.

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Principal: Mr A Daly

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SUBJECT	QUALIFICATION	NOTES
Qualifications that will <u>not</u> be part of the Year 9 into 10 Options process next year		
Hospitality & Catering (Food)	Level 1 / 2 Qualification	Please place this as first preference should you wish to gain a qualification in Food at the end of Year 11. Speak to your Food teacher for details.
Music	GCSE	Please place this as first preference should you wish to gain a qualification in Music at the end of Year 11. Speak to your Music teacher for details.
Spanish	GCSE	Please place this as first preference should you wish to gain a qualification in Spanish at the end of Year 11. Students who have indicated Spanish on their form will be subject to agreement from the MFL department. Speak to your MFL teacher for details.
Qualifications that have <u>implications</u> for the Year 9 into 10 Options process next year (but will appear in the process)		
Art & Design: 3D Design / Graphics	GCSE	<p>If you indicate a preference for Art & Design, you will then be asked to indicate a further preference for either the 3D pathway or the Graphics pathway.</p> <p>This subject means that you will not be able to study Fine Art, Graphics, 3D or Textiles GCSE in the KS4 Options process. Speak to your Art or Design teacher.</p>
Business / Enterprise	GCSE / BTEC Tech	<p>If you indicate a preference for Business / Enterprise, you will then be asked to indicate a further preference for either the BTEC Tech Enterprise pathway or the GCSE Business pathway. (NB GCSE is not a suitable course for all students due to its assessment methods - Speak to your Enterprise teacher for details). Decisions on whether both pathways can run will be made AFTER the process. If only one pathway can run, which one will be determined by student preferences and appropriacy.</p> <p>If you are allocated this subject, it means that you will not be allowed to opt for a Business/Enterprise course in the KS4 options process.</p>
Other Qualifications that will also appear in the Year 9 and 10 Options process		
ICT: Digital Info Technology	BTEC Tech	
Sports Science	Cambridge National	
Media Studies	GCSE	
<i>Please remember ALL qualification types are equivalents – they only differ in their style of delivery and assessment.</i>		

Yours sincerely
Mel Dwight
 Year 8 Manager

Robin Ghosal
 Vice Principal