



MARTIN
HIGH SCHOOL
Lionheart Educational Trust

Year 9 Options Evening

For parents/carers and learners

November 2025



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Aims of this evening

This evening is designed to provide information about:

- The curriculum available to learners in Year 9 at Martin High School
- What GCSE, BTEC and CNAT subject options are available to study in Year 10 and Year 11
- How to find the relevant information about the subjects and making informed choices
- How to complete the online options form to ensure you meet the deadline of Friday 13th February.

ARE YOU MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT MHS?





Available option subjects

All learners will take a minimum of 8 GCSEs (or CNATs and BTECs)

Every learner will take Maths, Science (minimum x2 GCSE), English Literature and English Language.

Some learners will take Triple Science (x3 GCSE), giving them 9 GCSEs. Further Maths is also available to high ability mathematicians, which is also an additional GCSE.

Learners will make up the 8 GCSEs by choosing from:

Art	iMedia	BTEC ICT	Religious Studies
Drama	Design Technology	Food	Further Maths*
French	Geography	History	
Media Studies	BTEC Music	Textiles (Art)	
Sport and Fitness CNAT	Health and Social Care CNAT	Statistics	



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Curriculum depth

At KS3, we offer the broadest possible curriculum. At KS4, the curriculum is much more specialised with more teaching time in each subject leading to a greater depth of study.

We continue to have unapologetically high expectations of all our learners, with a high quality and inclusive curriculum.

Futures

At Martin High School, learners take 8 GCSEs. Colleges, universities and employers do not require more than 8 GCSEs.

- For university entrance in the UK, most universities typically require at least **five GCSEs at grades 9-4**, including **English and Maths**.
- For local colleges, such as WQE and BCSF, generally you need at least five GCSEs at grades 9-4 (A*-C), including English Language and Maths.
- Apprenticeship providers also require at least grade 9-4 in English and Maths

You have been invited to a Careers Fayre on Monday 1st December. Lots of universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers will be there.



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Important advice and information (Also located on FAQs email)

- Subjects can only operate subject to sufficient numbers picking them
- The system is not run on a “first-come-first-served” basis, it will depend on the combination of subjects chosen
- If a learner does not complete their online form by the deadline we cannot guarantee any of their choices
- In cases where learners are not successful getting their first choice, we will always look to give them their reserve choices where possible

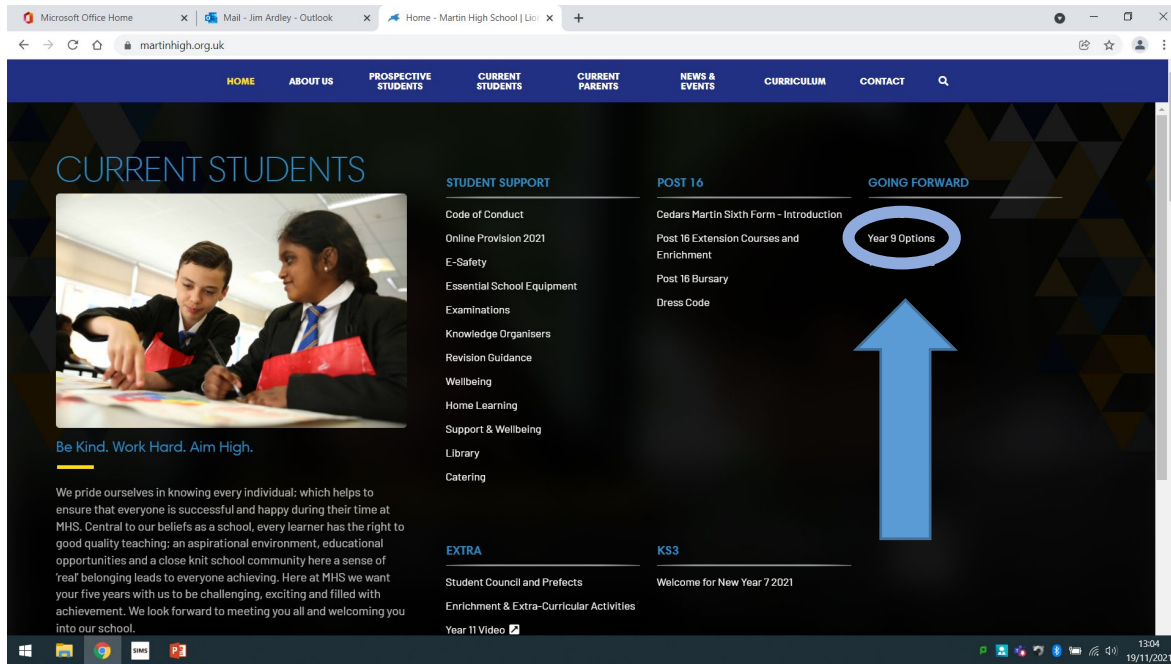


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Key subject information

All option subjects have created videos that can be found on our website.

Go to MHS homepage, click 'Curriculum' then under moving forward, click the 'Year 9 Options' link.



Be Kind. Work Hard. Aim High.



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Tips on making your decisions

- ✓ Think carefully about which subjects you have enjoyed and been successful in so far.
- ✓ Use the online videos, the options booklet and conversations with parents and teachers.
- ✓ Think about your plans Post-16. Certain subjects may complement your A-Level, vocational choices, apprenticeship or job you may be considering in the future.

X Don't just go with what your friends think.

X Don't look for an "easy option", it is a myth to think some subjects are easier.



Online process

Learners will be sent an invitation email. Access using school network username and password.

- Email access can be found at the bottom of the MHS homepage.
- Alternatively you can follow the link on the Year 9 options page on the website.

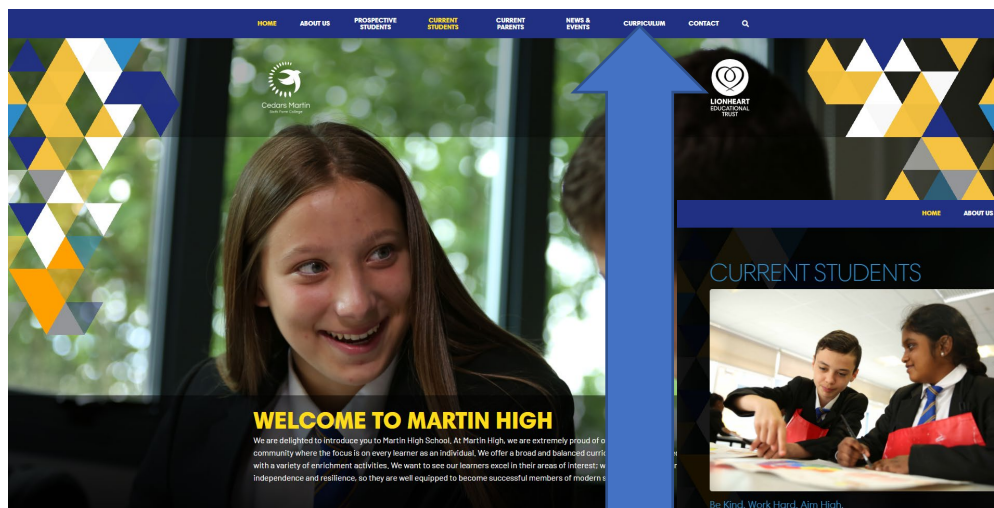
Learners will need to follow link and confirm their DOB to access their SIMS online option page

- From the options page they can then make their choices, click save once complete.



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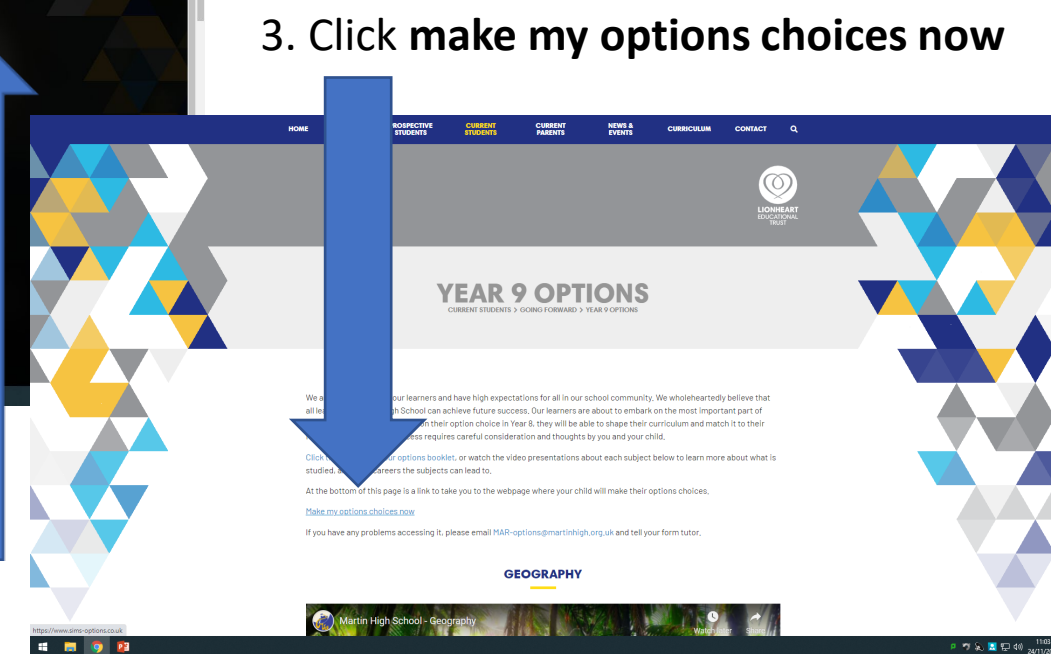
Online process – through website



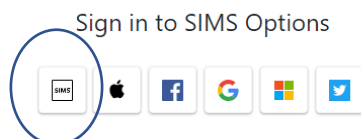
1. Click **current students** link



2. Click **Year 9 options** link



3. Click **make my options choices now**



4. Use **SIMS** to sign in with MHS email and password



Be Kind. Work Hard. Aim High.



Picking option subjects

By clicking the appropriate subject the subject will turn blue if selected as a choice and orange if selected as a reserve choice

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Design Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>	Reserve
Health & Social Care <small>Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2</small>	Reserve	Creative iMedia <small>Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2</small>	Reserve	It BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Music BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Re GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Sport and fitness <small>Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2</small>	Reserve	Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

To confirm your choice please the save button at the top left of the page

Save

Please note you do not need to click the Parent/carer approval button



Completed options form

You have chosen **2 of 2** courses and **2 of 2** reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input checked="" type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Design Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input checked="" type="button" value="Reserve"/>	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small>i This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>
History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small>i This course is also available in MHS Humanities Option</small>	Health & Social Care Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Creative iMedia Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
It BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input checked="" type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Music BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input checked="" type="button" value="Reserve"/>
Re GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Sport and fitness Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>		

This is a completed options form for a learner.

Choices:

- BTEC ICT
- Music

Reserves:

- Drama
- Food



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Next steps

- The week beginning 17th November, learners will have an intensive week of tutor time sessions where they explore the range of options we offer in more depth.
- Wednesday 19th November is the Year 9 APE, where options can be discussed with subject teachers. During this half term there will also be options taster sessions for learners to experience options they may be interested in.
- Careers meetings are also available for learners to discuss option choices and we do have our Careers Fayre on 1st December.

**WE ARE PROVIDING YOU WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO MAKE
THE RIGHT CHOICES FOR YOU!**

Next steps

- Your child will receive their invitation email on 16th February. If this doesn't arrive or you are "timed out" please email the MAR-options email address below.
- All the relevant information will be available on the MHS Year 9 Options page from tomorrow morning. This includes the options booklet, FAQs, technical guidance and the videos that explain each option subject. The link to the options portal is also here but will not be available until 16th February.
- Ensure you have completed the form by Friday 13th February
- Any problems email MAR-options@martinhigh.org.uk or alternatively come to see Mr. Hackett in his office during a tutor time.



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