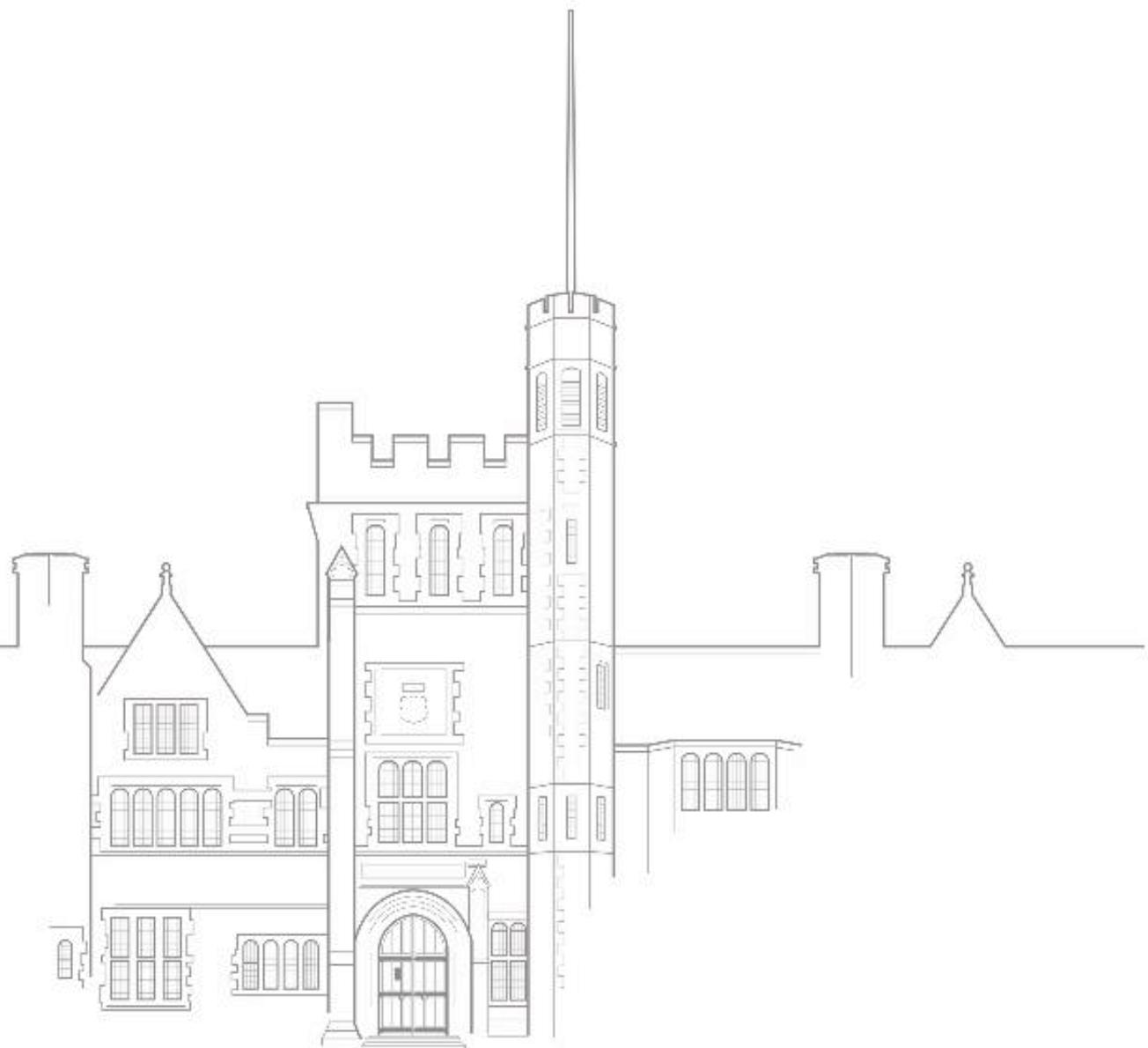


# Year 8 to 9 Options

2022-2023



BABLAKE &  
KING HENRY VIII  
SCHOOL

## Y8 to Y9 Option Choices

In Year 9 pupils will follow two language subjects and two creative subjects from the below.

### Language Subjects Available

- Latin
- French
- German
- Spanish

### Creative Subjects Available

- Art
- Design and Technology
- Music

*Pupils can only choose 2 languages and 2 creative subjects.*

Whatever you choose the golden rule on choices is:

- **INTEREST** - which subjects interest you most? Which do you enjoy?
- **ABILITY** - do you have a particular talent in this subject? At this stage this should not be an issue for most of you.
- **FUTURE AIMS** - are you keeping your options open for GCSE and beyond?

Also, you should use the expertise available. Talk to subject staff and your tutors. Head of Year 8, Miss Ayres or Mrs Pike in the Careers Department, and Mr Sewell are also useful people to contact.

### Language Group: Latin, French, German, and Spanish

Things to consider in your choices

- One of French, German or Spanish **has** to be studied at GCSE. Hence if you opt for Latin + one of French, German or Spanish, then you are already making one of your GCSE choices.
- You have only done Spanish for just over a term, hence it **may** seem easier than French or German at the moment. This **may** be a false impression.
- Some students will wish to carry on three languages and indeed go on to GCSE and A Level. Hence there is an arrangement for this by studying a language in twilight sessions - one lunchtime and one afterschool session per week.

All languages, modern or classical, require similar skills: dedication to learning vocabulary, the tenses of verbs and how to structure sentences. Below is some detail of what is involved in each subject

## **Latin**

The most important thing in choosing Latin is that you enjoy the subject and have an interest in the classical world. Students continue to develop their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary and will need to revise these areas regularly. Students will develop an excellent understanding of the structure of the Latin language. If they continue to GCSE, they will learn to read passages of Latin literature critically and evaluate the use of literary techniques.

Latin is highly regarded by the top universities and is considered as a rigorous and challenging subject. Students of Latin are believed to be academic and able to think in a logical and systematic way. The study of literature also develops extended writing, evaluative and analytical skills, which are vital for many subjects at A level and beyond. Latin is a good choice for anyone considering Law, Medicine, Modern Languages, History, English Language and Literature. Many students also take it if they are studying Sciences as it sets them apart when applying to university and develops their writing skills.

You **do not** have to study Latin to do Classical Civilisation at GCSE.

## **French, German and Spanish**

The study of any foreign language in today's world is an invaluable skill, and increasingly so given the global nature of society. As languages are predominantly a communication skill the ability to converse in another language, indeed, to have the confidence to speak in another language, will provide students with the important skills of communication in any given field. Further on down the line it is worth noting that languages can be combined with a multitude of other disciplines and language students fare extremely well in the job market. Over 60% of British trade is with non-English speaking countries and 75% of the world's population does not speak English.

All of the courses continue the skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening. In Year 9 lessons continue to focus on these, with writing and speaking becoming increasingly important.

## **Spanish**

There are over 300 million people in the world speaking Spanish, making the learning of this language an immeasurable skill to possess, it covers not only Europe but South America. It is closer to French than German in its structure. Its origins have more in common with French.

## **German**

The ability to speak German is an especially valuable asset in the engineering and business world. Jaguar Land Rover, Hugo Boss, Siemens, Bloomberg, Adidas, among others, have recently shown particular interest in German speakers.

## **French**

Our nearest neighbours, still a global language, the chosen language of diplomacy and thus one of the most important languages in world politics. France is also a world leader in the engineering world – particularly with regards civil engineering.

## Creative Group Art, Design Technology & Music

In this group it is very much about applying the principles at the start of this leaflet. Which subject interests you? which are you best at? are you considering studying them for GCSEs?

No one in recent years has ever wanted to study all 3 of these subjects at GCSE - although that may be a possibility. Should you be in this position, please talk to Mr Sewell about how we can manage to keep options open. This is usually through a switch between Music and DT during the year.

### Art

The course is primarily concerned with self-expression and involves communicating ideas in a visual form in response to teacher led starting points. You will develop your abilities in the areas of oil painting, drawing, photography, mixed-media and build on your existing skills in Adobe Photoshop.

### Music

The course starts with a major group composition task set around the emotive themes of War. Famous film music from acclaimed War movies are looked at in detail to gain inspiration for your own group piece. This is followed by a project on Irregular Time Signatures. The Spring Term is devoted entirely to Pop Music. There are two projects. One involves a pop song (chosen by the student, not the teacher!) and learning how to perform it in a group. The second project is a genuine attempt to compose some of your own pop music using a set of chords provided as a starting point alongside a given set of lyrics. Composition skills are developed further in the final term.

### Design Technology

This continues the cycle of Food Preparation and Nutrition, and Product Design, building on the skills learnt through Years 7 and 8. We will teach you advanced techniques and provide you with more freedom within the workshops to apply what you learn within a more creative framework. There are also a greater range of extracurricular projects open to students in Year 9 to enhance your experiences.

**Submission of Options:** Use the following to submit options: [Y9 Options Submissions](#)

<https://forms.office.com/r/hRhNjxFYVv>

## FORM GROUPS IN YEAR 9

Once the choices are received and the teaching timetable for next year has been set, we will begin to draw up the form groups for Year 9. This is a complex process which involves sub-dividing the year group into several sections in order to fit the various timetable issues. A balance of gender, academic ability and subject choices has to be achieved. Your Head of Year, in consultation with tutors, will then draw up the new Forms. Please be assured that they will do this very carefully and sensitively. We are unable to offer students a choice of friends for their new Year 9 Forms as there are too many other restrictions in place already. If you have any concerns, please email your Head of Year before the end of this term.

Mr Parker (Head of Year 8): [GTP@bkhs.org.uk](mailto:GTP@bkhs.org.uk)

Miss Ayres (Careers Advisor): [nayres@bkhs.org.uk](mailto:nayres@bkhs.org.uk)

Mr R G Sewell (Deputy Head): [RGS@bkhs.org.uk](mailto:RGS@bkhs.org.uk)



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