

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Year 9 options and Parent Consultation

Following the Year 9 options and parents evening survey exploring parent and carer questions, we promised to support with suitable resources and calls where required. This document covers the frequently asked questions (FAQs) that would otherwise have been asked. Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Following the reports being issued, we have opted to re-open the survey for any parent or carer, who may now have questions that are derived from the Y9 reports.

If you have already accessed the survey, this will have recorded your request previously and it is currently being processed by the school.

The survey is now open on this link: <https://bit.ly/Y9consultation21>

The survey will shut again at **11pm Sunday 24th January** to allow us to process requests from the following week.

FAQs

How do you decide who stays on oversubscribed courses?

The first part of this process is to expand the number of groups put on offer, this happens naturally as part of the process of managing the school and often resolves almost all these situations. In the extreme event that a class is too large to run and alternative groups cannot operate, students may be contacted to explore the process of their thinking and identify any who are changing minds, or further exploration of their career plans provides alternative perspectives. Over the last five years there hasn't been any oversubscribed course in the school resulting in this issue.

What happens with subject clashes?

The subjects are set up not to clash for as many students as we can, this is not the same as Sixth Form applications where subjects are blocked in a much tighter way. The schools experience of this has enabled maximum success however, it is possible that a small of students may find this issue and we would look at the combinations, career plans, options Post 16 and look to explore the best way forward for them.

What happens if I don't get my first choice?

The introductory film explains this further however, should a subject that the student has identified as one of their 'first four subjects' not be possible, we would look for reserve choice 1 to be used (first choice reserve) and if that is still not possible we would look through the reserve subjects in the order specified by the student, reserve 1 then 2 and finally 3.

How are reserve choices allocated?

They will depend upon the specific circumstances of a student's set of choices, we will always look to allocate reserve choice 1 before 2 and then finally 3. However, we have to be as clear as we are in the short films, we may have to ask students to sit their reserve choices. Please ensure that reserve choice subjects are subjects that are prepared to be studied in the event they need to be.

When do students find out?

This will usually be after the Easter holidays and are subject to the time it takes to maximise every student's primary requests.

What does each qualification offer - I'm trying to balance workload?

All the information about the general course is covered in the Y9 options booklet. Further details at each key stage and subject set up, is explained on the curriculum pages: [Netherthorpe School - Curriculum](#)

What is the maximum and minimum class size for running?

The school works on an average of 26/27 per class and therefore there is some deviation from this as rooms have a maximum capacity in some subject areas and locations.

Why have I not seen any teachers in 18 months?

It is possible that the reports home may well have been your only communication home during this time. Meeting opportunities with school during the pandemic have hampered our usual processes (the time and nature of the first lockdown did severely limit our options for Year 8 parents evening) and we have sought to resolve this with the approach communicated in our letter last week, whilst still working within the guidance of the third national lockdown.

What if my son/daughter needs subjects they can't take for their career choice?

This is rare. Clearly Maths and English are the foundation stone of all recruitment beyond school and every student will be sitting these qualifications. Subject options at post 16 are flexible enough to provide options for students and our Post 16 prospectus is worth a look for reassurances.

Where do students find the electronic form again?

It is located as a link at the very bottom of the web page for Y9 options: [Netherthorpe School - Year 9 Options 2021](#) or it can be located inside the options booklet as a link and QR code to scan with a mobile phone.