



20th May 2020

Dear Year 8 Parent/Carer

The Year 9 Curriculum

During this time of school lockdown we have been working hard to plan the timetable for September. As Year 8 students move into Year 9 they will be asked to select 3 personalised options. This was introduced for the first time last year, being well received by parents and students alike. The personalised options allow students to select those Creative Arts and Technology subjects of greatest interest to them, providing a strong grounding towards their GCSEs.

The Year 9 Timetable:

For the most part, the Year 9 timetable will be the same as that in Year 8 with students continuing to further their knowledge, skills and understanding in Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, French, Spanish, PE and RE.

In addition to these core subjects, students will take three 'personalised options' selected from: Art, DT (Graphics and Resistant Materials Focus), DT (Textiles Focus), Drama, Food & Nutrition, ICT & Computing, and Music. The students will have three lessons a fortnight of each option for the duration of Year 9, giving them more time than previously to deepen their knowledge, understanding and skills in their chosen subjects before deciding on GCSEs.

The subjects involved in the Year 9 options do not begin their GCSE teaching until Year 10. Instead, the year is spent studying key stage 3 in greater depth. This means that selecting the three options in Year 9 does not mean that a student then has to pick this in their main GCSE options for Year 10/11. Nor would it prevent a student choosing a completely different option for their Year 10/11 courses, even if they had not picked this subject in Year 9.

In order for us to take your son/daughter's personalised option preferences into account in our planning of next year's timetable, please complete the options process on the "SIMS Student App" **no later than Monday 8th June 2020**. Further information about this system is attached to this letter.

Please note that the number of places on some options is fixed so whilst we will try our best to accommodate students' options we cannot guarantee this in every case. All applications received by the deadline will be treated equally taking into account-expressed preferences. All applications received after the deadline will have subjects allocated according to spaces available.

If you would like to discuss the Year 8 into 9 options further or you have any concerns please email myself at wilkinson.a@northallertonschool.org.uk . If you would like any advice with regards to accessing the SIMS app or completing the options form then please contact Mr lent at ient.g@northallertonschool.org.uk .

Students are asked to select three subjects from the following list:

Art

In Year 9 emphasis is given to developing the exploration of different media techniques, including drawing, graphic techniques, painting, printing processes, sculpture and 3D construction. Students will look at different art movements and investigate the work of different contemporary and historical artists to inform the development of their work. Projects are structured to encourage experimentation and exploration of ideas and processes providing students with the opportunity to express themselves freely, giving a personal response.

Design Technology (Graphics and Resistant Materials Focus)

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to explore in greater depth a wide range of materials, manufacturing processes and creative design based activities. Students will develop a range of technical drawing skills and build on their prior knowledge of CAD/CAM. Students will focus on creating a real life quality product using materials and technologies that are best suited to the job.

Design Technology (Textiles Focus)

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to explore in greater depth a wide range of materials, manufacturing processes and creative design based activities. Students will develop a range of research, analytical, practical and creative skills with the main focus being textiles. Students will be creating a range of samples and later in the year focus on one real life product using the new skills and knowledge they have developed throughout the year.

Food Technology

This course aims to equip learners with a greater depth of knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. This course is designed to encourage learners to cook and make informed decisions in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

We will look in greater depth at the factors that affect food choice, the food provenance of staple ingredients and further develop planning and evaluation skills. The course is a mix between practical cooking opportunities and theory based lessons. Students are required to provide their own ingredients, an apron and suitable storage for the products they make.

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Drama

In Year 9, students develop their understanding of drama and extend their performance skills through practical work. Students are introduced to a wide range of drama stimuli as starting points for their performance work, developing their existing practical skills and introducing new ones. Together we study a complete play text which is interpreted through exploration and performance work. Students also apply the skills and techniques they have learnt through the year to create their own original devised performance work.

ICT and Computing

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to develop their IT and Computing skills through projects that will promote digital literacy and digital citizenship as well as looking in more detail about how computers work and learning programming skills. Alongside this, students will experience what it is like working for a "client" in the design and development of IT products such as websites, animations and interactive media.

Music

Throughout Year 9, students continue to develop their understanding of Music and extend their performance and composition skills through regular practical work. Students are introduced to a wide range of genres as starting points for their learning. We also focus further on developing the key words that are used within the GCSE course. An exciting opportunity with Applegarth Primary School will see students develop skills in teaching music, as they work with Years 1 and 2 in the summer term. All aspects of Year 9 Music work towards the skills and understanding that feed into the GCSE Music course, whilst also preparing our young musicians to go on and create music independently outside of school.

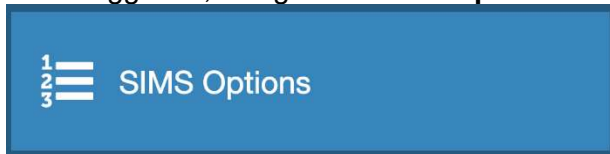
ONLINE OPTIONS USING THE STUDENT/PARENT APP

QUICK LINKS ▾	
Staff	Students
GMail (Webmail) ..	gcsepod ..
Home Access Plus+ ..	Google Classroom ..
IT Helpdesk ..	Home Access Plus+ ..
Realsmart ..	IT Helpdesk ..
SIMS (Preferred) ..	SIMS ..
SIMS (Alternative) ..	Realsmart ..
	Webmail ..

Login to SIMS online using a Mobile Device or Computer system using your existing SIMS login details. The SIMS platform can be accessed through the website 'Quick Links' section on the top of the screen. <https://northallertonschool.org.uk/>

Students need to complete the below process first, students can access the app using their school **GMAIL** accounts. Parents/Carers then can approve the choices made by logging in the same way. Students can edit choices where parents have a read only access.

Once logged in, navigate to **SIMS Options**. You may be asked to login again



Once on SIMS Options you will be presented with a choice to select 3 options.

Please select 3 options by clicking on the subject name, and also one reserve by clicking next to the subject

Below (on a mobile device) or to the side (on a larger device), your choices will be ranked in the order you have selected. If you wish to change your preference order you can do so. Once you are happy please ensure you complete any comments and click save.

Parents/Carers can now log in to approve the options made. Parents need to follow the same steps as outlined above. Parents/Carers cannot change options. They can only approve the options that the students have completed. Comments can also be left if appropriate.