

Hulme Hall Grammar School

Hulme Hall Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 6LA

Accredited by the Independent Schools Council



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February 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

*Year 9 Curriculum and Careers Evening for Parents and Pupils
Wednesday 10th March 2010 : 7pm in the School Theatre*

The booklet accompanying this letter has been prepared by Heads of Department in order to provide details of GCSE and other external examination courses. For each subject, the format of the final assessment and, where applicable, level (tier) of entry has been included.

Making the Right Choice

- The compulsory, core curriculum, consists of Mathematics, English and Core Science.
- The remaining subjects are chosen from the option lines (R-Z) as detailed in page 3 of the booklet. Please note that, at present, Psychology is a provisional option choice and therefore could be subject to change.
- It is very important that each child, in consultation with their parents and teachers, makes the right choice of subject. Criteria that should be borne in mind when choices are being made, should include:-
 - ability in the chosen subject
 - interest and involvement in the chosen subject
 - providing a 'balanced' curriculum
 - relevance to future career (if known)
- A criterion that must never be used, is that of choosing a subject because, "My best friends are going to do it."
- When each pupil's programme is being planned, the **load factor** associated with formally assessed coursework must be carefully considered. There are significant variations from one subject to another. In some subjects, coursework can be worth up to 60% of the total marks at GCSE. The style of coursework can also vary in relation to its demands on pupils. In some subjects such as Science, it may be based on work carried out in the laboratory during school time. In many other subjects, written assignments will have to be completed, usually as homework, with deadlines set for the handing in of both drafts and completions.

Continued overleaf

No final decisions will need to be made until the results of the Year 9 internal examinations are known. At that time, pupils will be expected to have identified a number of issues for discussion with teaching staff. Subjects on offer which have not been studied in Years 7 - 9 will be discussed as well as those for which exam results are available. In no sense will staff be unduly prescriptive, but experience suggests that professional advice provided for **each** pupil by individual interview is the key to an optimum outcome.

At the Curriculum and Careers Evening on 10th March, discussion will centre on the principal features of the work facing the children in the forthcoming two year GCSE course. There will be opportunity for you to consult the departments for detailed information about content, style and examining modes. As you will see from your calendar, there is a later meeting to discuss both Year 9 examination results and the options, so at the first meeting, you are asked to keep the emphasis upon fact-finding.

This year, we have invited representatives of local colleges, trainers and a member of the ‘Connexions’ team – our specialist careers advisor, to help answer any questions regarding courses, careers and entry requirements at 16+.

Naturally, it is hoped that all parents will be able to attend these important meetings which form part of the calendar of events outlined below.

Yours sincerely

Philip Marland
Headmaster

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2010: YEAR 9 – GCSE OPTION CHOICES

Friday 12th February	Option choice information issued to Year 9
Monday 1st March	Year 9 examinations commence (for approx 1 week)
Wednesday 10th March	Curriculum & Careers Evening
Friday 19th March	Pupils return provisional Options forms
Wednesday 31st March	Reports issued to parents
Wednesday 21st April	Year 9 Parents’ Evening
Wednesday 28th April	Pupils return ‘final’ Options forms

S88

REPLY SLIP

To: Miss Allen

*Year 9 Curriculum and Careers Evening for Parents and Pupils
Wednesday 10th March 2010: 7pm in the School Theatre*

I have received your information pack regarding the above and note its contents.

Signed

Parent/Guardian of Form

Hulme Hall Grammar School

Preliminary Option Choices

(for external examination courses)

Name _____

Form _____

Please complete your preliminary option choices below and return the form to Mr Bradford, Head of Year 9, by **Friday 19th March 2010**.

Choose one subject from each of the options lines R-Z. (Please highlight your choices)

R	French	Child Development	Art	History	DT
W	PE	Art	Geography	Statistics	
X	ICT (GCSE)	Drama	History	Music	Psychology
Y	ICT (CLAIT)	Spanish		Geography	Music
Z	Additional Science	Drama	DT	HE (Food)	

Please be advised, we are asking for preliminary choices at this stage to assist in the planning process, to provide an early indication of the level of interest in each subject. Your final decision is not required until 28th April 2010, following the Year 9 exams and Parents' Evening.

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian

Miss R Allen
Assistant Head (Curriculum)

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Curriculum and Careers Evening - Wednesday 10th March 2010: 7pm -9pm

Parents and pupils are asked to be in the Theatre by 7pm for a brief introductory talk. Afterwards, there will be time to discuss GCSE courses with Department Heads, who will be available in the rooms listed below. Representatives from local colleges, trainers and a careers advisor, will be in the Gymnasium to help answer questions regarding courses, careers and entry requirements at 16+.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Head of Department</u>	<u>Location</u>
Physical Education Music Drama	Mr P Bradford Mrs A Bevan Mrs Ahsan-Hunt	G1
Mathematics and Statistics Learning Support	Mr M Murray Mrs K Buckland	G2
Modern Foreign Languages Home Economics (Food) Home Economics (Child Development)	Mrs K Browne / Mrs S Hughes Mrs C Sim Mrs S Patterson	G3
History Art Design & Technology	Ms J Wornell Mrs L Wing Mr G Swanton	G4
English Science Geography Information Technology and CLAIT	Mrs S Gilbert Mr N Patterson Mrs J Lockley Mr C Wood	Dining Room

Yours sincerely

Mr P Bradford
Head of Year 9