



Options Booklet

Year 9



**Resilience
Multi Academy
Trust**

February 2025

Dear parent/carer

RE: Options Process

During year 9, students at BBG continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. They will further their studies of the core subjects, English, maths, science, geography, history and French, and also study towards optional subjects of their choice.

These optional choices are called pre-options; they allow students to 'model' the process of selecting GCSEs whilst still being able to make a change at the end of the year. Throughout year 9, subject teachers will build interest of the subject in preparation for GCSE, whilst continuing to deliver the building blocks of the KS3 national curriculum. Pre-options give students a year long 'taster' of the subject at GCSE, thereby allowing them to make the most informed choice when they decide on their optional subjects to study in years 10 and 11.

After Year 9, students will move into their GCSE years. With the increased content and rigour of current GCSE qualifications, students will complete one optional subject qualification by the end of year 10. This reduces the number of terminal examinations completed in the summer of Year 11 but also provides a vital 'modelling' experience through the GCSE process. Students who sit a GCSE at the end of year 10 begin year 11 with an approach built on experience; alleviating the anxiety created by not 'knowing' what it will be like. Students will complete their second optional GCSE subject at the end of year 11 along with their other qualifications: English language, English literature, maths, the sciences, French and either history or geography.

Choices should be made on the online SIMS options website. An activation email from noreply@sims.co.uk has been sent to your child's SCHOOL email account. Instructions on how to activate the options account can be found on the next page. Once activated your child can make their choices. After the initial activation, the options website can be revisited by going to www.sims-options.co.uk If your child have problems logging on to the options website please contact me on the email below. **These choices should be completed by Monday 10 March 2025.** Please note the Parental Approval button has been deactivated for this process.

If you have any queries, or any problems making the choices, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or e-mail: iaindow@bbgacademy.com

Kind regards

Ian Aindow


Assistant Principal

Registering on SIMS options system

The method below **ONLY WORKS ONCE**. Once you have followed this process, if you want to return to the options system to change your options you can go to www.sims-options.co.uk/

1. Look for the email from noreply@sims.co.uk

BBG Academy invites you to SIMS Online Services

 noreply@sims.co.uk
To I Aindow

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.
Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Reply Reply All Forward
Tue 08/03/2023

Hi Ian,

You're invited to start using SIMS Online Services, an online portal providing access to a range of services including SIMS Admin, SIMS Engagement, SIMS Activities and SIMS Options.

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

Accept Invitation

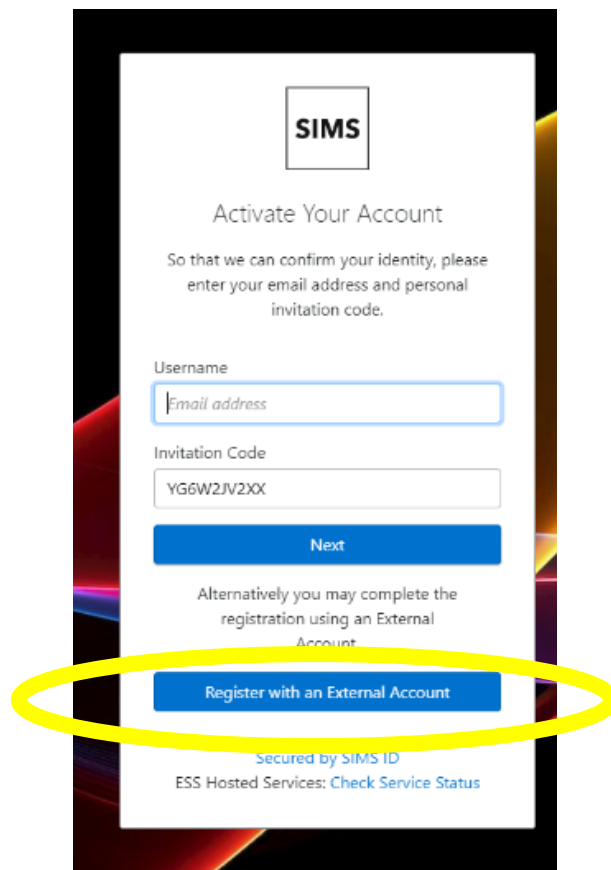
If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<https://registration.sims.co.uk>

Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is: P7RKK

2. Click on the accept invitation box in green

3. Click on the bottom blue box "register with external account" circled in Yellow



SIMS

Activate Your Account

So that we can confirm your identity, please enter your email address and personal invitation code.

Username

Invitation Code

Next

Alternatively you may complete the registration using an External Account

Register with an External Account

Secured by SIMS ID
ESS Hosted Services: [Check Service Status](#)

4. Select the Microsoft logon icon highlighted below circled in yellow

Register your account for SIMS products

Username
This is usually an email address

Password
Password

Show Password [Forgot Password?](#)

Sign in

OR

Apple Facebook Google **Microsoft** LinkedIn

ESS | SIMS

ESS: Check Service Status

Secured by SIMS ID

5. Use the personal invite number in the **original email** in the invitation code box circled in yellow below and click on register.

Registration

You will have received a new service invite code from either SIMS or from your school administrator.
Please enter the code below and tap or click Register.

Name O Blackburn (not you?)

Signed in with

Invitation code Please enter your Invite code

Register

6. Add your date of birth and then the system will make register your account.

If you need to log on to the system again once registered then go to www.sims-options.co.uk and select the Microsoft icon to log on.

Curriculum Structure

Core Curriculum

Students will study towards the following subjects:

English Language

English Literature

French

Maths

Science

Geography

History

Physical Education

Applied Resilience

PSHCE

Pre - Optional Subjects

Students will study **two** of the following:

Art and Design

Business

Computer Science

Creative iMedia

Design

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Performing Arts

Photography

Physical Education & Sports Science

Psychology

Religious Studies

Sociology

Textiles



Art and Design

The Art and Design course enables students to work in a variety of media, and from a variety of starting points. Students will have the opportunity to study a variety of artists' work to inspire and develop their responses, usually from a given theme. Students will learn how to develop ideas into an individual outcome by using a variety of techniques and materials. Being able to independently work through the creative process over a period of time is key in this subject.

What will be studied?

Students will:

- Study how to study artists' work,
- Develop ideas and samples using appropriate media
- Learn skilful recording of ideas through drawing, 'making' and photography.
- Experiment with developing a personal response



Progression beyond Y9

Students can progress to GCSE Art and Design and in future to study a more advanced course, for example A level Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Photography at college or sixth form. Alternatively students could progress to art college and study a Level 3 BTEC course in order to access degree level qualification.

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Business

This is a business studies course focusing on both the theoretical and practical aspects of establishing and running a business. Pre-option Business allows students to understand the external influences that dictate whether a business succeeds or fails; such as political, economic, financial or environmental issues. Students are encouraged to look beyond the classroom by putting themselves in the shoes of an entrepreneur looking for the next big business opportunity.

What will be studied?

- enterprise and entrepreneurship
- spotting a business opportunity
- putting a business idea into practice
- making the business effective
- understanding external influences on business
- marketing
- operational decisions
- financial decisions
- human resource decisions.



Progression beyond Y9

Business could lead to work in a Business related profession such as Accountancy, Law, Marketing or the Leisure and Tourism industry. Further qualifications in Business can open many doors and you can go on to study Business or Economics at A-Level.



Computer Science

This is a technical course which requires logical thinking and problem solving skills to be developed and enhanced; and will give students knowledge in how software works, as well as how it is created. As a subject, Computer Science values computational thinking and helps learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do the same.

What will be studied?

Students will:

- develop an understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work.
- understand the use of algorithms in computer programs.
- acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts.
- develop computer programs to solve problems.
- evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs.



Progression beyond Y9

Computer Science is designed to give students the opportunity to develop highly sought-after knowledge and skills, whether they're for the workplace or for everyday life. It gives students a stepping-stone onto Further and Higher Education courses such as Software Development, Games Programming, Website Development, System Analysis, Network Management and more.



Creative iMedia

Creative iMedia will equip learners with a range of creative media skills. It will provide opportunities to develop desirable, transferable skills; such as research, planning, review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Through the use of these skills, learners will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products.

What will be studied?

- Pre-production of a creative digital media product to a client brief, and will understand how to review pre-production documents.
- Creation of digital graphics, create new digital graphics and review a completed graphic against a specific brief.
- Create a multipage website and review the final website against a specific brief.
- Plan, create and edit a digital game and test the game with client or focus group, identifying any areas for improvement.



Progression beyond Y9

Creative iMedia is designed to give students the opportunity to develop highly sought-after knowledge and skills, whether they are for the workplace or for everyday life. It gives students a stepping-stone onto Further and Higher Education courses such as Software Development, Games Programming, Website Development, and more.

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Design

This course will enable students to specialise in either Graphics, 3D or Design.

Students will engage in independent project work. Skills and knowledge will be delivered at strategic points along the way. This subject will challenge their creativity and resilience. Students must demonstrate that they can maintain a sustained approach over time.

What will be studied?

Students will:

- Study the work of others
- encouraged to see others' work as inspiration
- Learn theory
- Learn designing, making and technical principles
- Learn how to use a variety of media and techniques that support creative endeavour in their chosen specialism.



Progression beyond Y9

Opportunities to embark on a diverse array of careers include engineering, architecture, product design, furniture design, interior design, graphic design, fashion and textile design, media. Apprenticeships within these industries are also a possibility. This course will support you in post-16 study of any form of design or engineering.



Food Preparation and Nutrition

This course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to plan and prepare food. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition, traditions and safety.

Students should be prepared for the challenge of theory lessons to support them in being able to cook creatively and with confidence.

What will be studied?

The areas covered are nutrition, food provenance and choice, and food preparation and cooking techniques.

Students will:

- complete investigations into the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.
- cook a variety of dishes that are well planned to enable them to further understand theory aspects of the subject.



Progression beyond Y9

Food preparation and nutrition is valuable in any career that involves food, food retail and the hospitality industry. In addition, it will be relevant to careers in social care. For example caring for people with special dietary requirements. Further study may include Health Studies, Catering and Hospitality or Leisure and Tourism. There are many related courses at post 16, as well as apprenticeships.



Performing Arts

In the Performing Arts course, you'll learn about music and drama. You'll get to act and play music, both from written pieces and your own ideas. You'll work with other students to create performances and learn to express yourself creatively. This course is for anyone interested in the arts, whether you want to be a performer or just explore your creativity.

What will be studied?

Topic areas of study include:

- Performing - setting targets and working towards improving your performance skills.
- Creating- Making your own music and drama pieces to fit a brief
- Learning about roles in the performing arts industry.



Progression beyond Y9

The course would be useful if you were considering a career in performing arts or cultural industries, or if you want to build your confidence, team work or artistic expression.

This course will support you studying Music, Drama, Dance, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts post-16.



Photography

This is a course where students will explore photography through a creative approach. They will have the opportunity to study a variety of historical and contemporary artists' and photographers' work. This will inspire and develop their responses into individual outcomes.

Students will be required to make their research personal, completing photoshoots in their own time and demonstrating independence.

What will be studied?

Students will be taught how to use Adobe Photoshop and more traditional art media alongside use of the camera. With many components, the course provides students with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to develop and explore their personal interests in creative photography.



Progression beyond Y9

Students can progress to GCSE and in future to study a more advanced course, for example A level Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Photography at college or sixth form. Alternatively students could progress to art college and study a Level 3 BTEC course in order to access degree level qualification.



Physical Education

This course aims to give students the knowledge to improve their understanding of some of the key factors that underpin sport and physical activity and prepare them for a lifelong involvement. The course will educate students further on the different systems of the body, how to live a healthy active lifestyle, how to optimise performance, the benefits of participating in sport and physical activity and how to do this safely to minimise the risks of injury. Students will learn through a range of methods that will help them to apply their knowledge to real life examples.

What will be studied?

Topic areas of study include:

- The structure and function of the skeletal system and muscular system
- The structure and function of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems
- Aerobic and anaerobic exercise
- The short and long term effects of exercise
- Components of fitness
- The principles of training and methods of training
- The benefits of a warm up and cool down
- Understanding the factors that can risk injury
- Goal setting and mental preparation
- Diet and Nutrition



Progression beyond Y9

This course would provide a strong knowledge base for those that wish to progress towards the GCSE in Physical Education. It will also prepare students for life long involvement in sport and physical activity, by giving them the understanding of how to do this safely and effectively. Those that do go on to complete the GCSE, may go on to study A-level or BTEC at sixth form college. This could then lead to University to study Physical Education, Sports Science or pursue a career in the sport industry. Examples of careers in the sport industry are: P E teacher, sports coach, sports scientist, physiotherapist, sports psychologist, sports nutritionist, sports analyst or fitness instructor. There are also careers in sports business and sports media.

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Psychology

This Psychology course provides a solid foundation in psychology, helping students develop critical thinking and analytical skills. It focuses on applying and evaluating psychological theories in real-world situations, setting students up for success in GCSE-level studies.

What will be studied?

Students will explore the basics of psychology, including personality theories, stereotyping, and how we communicate and perceive the world. They'll look at how learning theories like classical and operant conditioning shape behaviour and examine the impact of sex and gender on identity. Throughout, they'll practice applying theories to everyday life and evaluate key studies.



Progression beyond Y9

This course helps students build their knowledge of psychology while developing key skills in critical thinking and application. By the end, they'll be ready for more advanced study in GCSE Psychology and will be able to evaluate and apply psychological theories in real-world contexts.

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Religious Studies

This course encourages candidates to develop their understanding of different religions – with a focus on Hinduism and Christianity predominantly – and the impact religious belief has had on modern day issues in the world, whilst questioning the need for religion in the 21st Century. Religious Studies ultimately allows students to develop transferable empathetic and analytical skills that are favoured by most Colleges and employers.

What will be studied?

Topic areas include:

- Morality and decision making
- Religious extremism and personal conviction
- Religion and film
- Religion and sport
- Religious expression



Progression beyond Y9

If you are considering a career in the following professions then Religious Studies is highly valued: Media work, Law, Politics, Health Service, Army, Social Care, Journalism, Education, Police, Business, Air Steward/Pilot or Sport. Colleges and Universities also look favourably on a qualification in Religious Studies as it shows you have tolerance and understanding of human nature, can argue your opinion and make educated responses to the opinions of others.



Sociology

In Sociology students follow the AQA specification, looking at the world around them and how it is influenced by society. Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organisations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts.

What will be studied?

Students will be taught both how to critically evaluate the world, and how to research within the field of human development and behaviours, as well as studying the ways in which humans interact with others.

Key units pupils will study include:

- Socialisation
- Social Influences
- Crime and deviancy



Progression beyond Y9

Sociology combine well with a number of other subjects at both GCSE and A-Level, for example: History, Religious Education, Media Studies, English, Politics, Law, Psychology, Health and Social Care, Child development. Sociology will help with careers working with others or the public sector, for example: Teaching, Social Work, Police, Law, Educational Psychology, Human Resources, Media, Probation Officer, Researcher, Nursing and other Health professions



Textiles

This course will enable students to specialise in Textiles.

Students will engage in independent project work. Skills and knowledge will be delivered at strategic points along the way. This subject will challenge their creativity and resilience. Students must demonstrate that they can maintain a sustained approach over time.

What will be studied?

Students will:

- Study the work of others
- encouraged to see others' work as inspiration
- Learn theory
- Learn designing, making and technical principles
- Learn how to use a variety of media and techniques that support creative endeavour in their chosen specialism.



Progression beyond Y9

Opportunities to embark on a diverse array of careers include engineering, architecture, product design, furniture design, interior design, graphic design, fashion and textile design, media. Apprenticeships within these industries are also a possibility. This course will support you in post-16 study of any form of design or engineering.

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BBG Academy,
Bradford Road,
Birkenshaw
BD19 4BE
01274 871225

office@bbgacademy.com