YR 9 - SUPPORTING YOUR YOUNG PERSON TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR GCSES

Schools will group subjects into different blocks – such as compulsory, elective, or optional subjects. Make sure you understand what your young person's options are.

Often schools will hold GCSE options or preference events. This is a great opportunity for you and your young person to talk to teachers and discuss their options.

Encourage your young person to talk to their teachers about what they will learn through a subject and how the subject will be taught. Talking to the right people will help them gather all the information they need before making their decision.



Each school will set a deadline date for GCSE choices – make sure you have this date in your calendar!



Having conversations about skills and strengths can help young people identify and understand what they're good at. This could help boost their confidence! It could also help them reflect on what they'd like to get better at in the future, and which subjects would them get there.

Understanding what's important to them can help them ask teachers the right questions and make decisions that feel good for them





To help them reflect on their options, talk to your young person about what's important to them.

Do they care about:

- Being with their friends?
- Getting good grades?
- Studying something new?
- Knowing where the subject could take them?



It's very unlikely your young person will limit their future options by picking the 'wrong' GCSEs. Encourage them to use this opportunity to find their passions, interests, and discover what they might like to study in the future.



To help narrow down choices, you could start by asking your young person what subjects they don't like! Starting with dislikes can help rule out options and narrow down choices to make decisions easier.

Have regular conversations with your young person to find out how they are feeling at each step of the way.



For more tips on starting conversations around GCSEs, check out the Take Your Place GCSE Options – a guide for parents and carers resource on our website.

takeyourplace.ac.uk/ parents-carers/year-7-11ages-11-16

TAKE YOUR PLACE



It's your young person's choice, and they need to feel confident in the decisions they make. Support them to take responsibility for the GCSE subjects they choose.



As a parent or carer, it is important that you ensure the right support is available to your young person before they start their GCSEs. Chat to the school about help available or adjustments that can be made, as this will help set your young person up with the right support for GCSEs and beyond.