

Year 9 Commentary

203 Year 9 students completed the questionnaire. I then interviewed 34 students to add detail to the trends shown by analysing the data from the questionnaires. Please remember that the Pupil Voice work provides a “snapshot” of opinions at this time.

- The students do seem to have a clear idea of the reasons they will use to choose or not choose certain subjects. Surprisingly, many students think about jobs or college/university course requirements (or their perception of requirements) more than the subjects that they may wish to study in the 6th Form. Of the 34 students I interviewed all could clearly articulate the reason they think they will use as their rationale in the options process. 18 were already talking about college/university courses whereas only 11 were thinking about what they wanted to do in the 6th Form.
- Of the students spoken to, if they were given a choice, 14 would want to drop languages, 4 would want to drop technology and 5 would want to drop humanities subjects.
- Of the students interviewed, if they were given the choice, 4 would want to study 2 languages, 7 would want to study Geography and History and 5 would want to study more than one Art option.
- All 34 of the students admitted that they do not try as hard in subjects that they are less keen on. The more able students interviewed all felt that their behaviour would not be any different from other subjects, whereas the slightly academically weaker students admitted that their behaviour and concentration would probably be worse.
- Of the 34 students interviewed, 21 felt that the topics covered in PHSE were important. 8 students felt work became repetitive and thus became boring. 7 students commented that they did not consider PHSE a “proper” lesson and therefore did not take it seriously.
- 28 students commented that they would like to have as much freedom in the choice of subjects as possible. We discussed the possible problems that could be caused by too much choice. They all felt that with explanation and guidance that this would not be a problem.
- Of the 34 students interviewed, 4 wanted to do 10 GCSE’s. 6 students were not sure of how many they wanted to study and the rest thought that 8 were enough. They (15 students) commented that they would prefer more time on a subject rather than lots of subjects. This was the very strongly held opinion of the slightly less academic students.