



February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Options Guidance Evening Thursday 9 March 2023 4.30pm – 6.30pm

This letter marks the beginning of the options process for our year 9 students which, as you are no doubt aware is an exceptionally important and crucial juncture in their academic journey. It represents the first time they are able to express a degree of autonomy over their curriculum which will help them on their individual path toward the future of their choosing.

We will be holding an Option Guidance Evening for Year 9 parents/carers and students on Thursday 9th March 2023. Prior to this, to make the evening more beneficial for students, we will share information about the options process to students in an assembly so they are already able to think about potential options and come prepared with any questions they may have.

Our Option Guidance Evening will run between 4.30pm to 6.30pm at school. There will be a formal presentation in the school hall and the opportunity for students and parents/carers to discuss the different options available with subject teachers. Teachers will be able to discuss in more detail the content of the different courses and answer any questions you may have about a specific course. You will receive an information booklet on the evening with details for each subject and we encourage students and parents/carers to also visit our new school website.

As students are making these significant decisions about their next two years of study it is important to consider these within a wider picture of future studies and/or careers. We offer a wide variety of option choices to meet the needs of our students. To help students and parents/carers to identify choices which will both be enjoyable and valuable for students as they progress through, we have developed three pathways; English Baccalaureate, General and Flexible. On the options evening you will receive alongside your booklet an information sheet with your child's recommended pathway. To further help students with their options decisions. We will have available on the evening our independent careers advisor, our sixth form team and our SEND department.

We are offering three presentations throughout the evening at 4.30pm, 5.10pm and 5.50pm. To book your place for one of the presentations please follow the link [here](#). Depending on the time of your presentation you may choose to look around the subject areas before or after the presentation. There are enough spaces available for every student's parent/carer to attend a presentation. However, as the times are on a first-come-first served basis, if you are unable to attend a presentation you are still able to visit the school on options evening to look around the subject areas.

Students will need to make their option choices by completing an online form. You, and your child will receive an email from **Noreply@SIMS.co.uk** inviting you to sign up for options online. This form will be available from Thursday 9th March 2023. If students have difficulty with accessing the form please contact their Head of Year Mr Drouet in the first instance who will be able to assist them with its completion. drouet@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

Address:

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Principal:

Mr S Frazer
B.Sc. (Hons)

Email:

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As the time for decision making draws nearer, I should like to suggest that careful thought is given to the choices, including reserve choices. Last year very few students were disappointed, and we will try to achieve the same level of satisfaction again this year, but we cannot guarantee every student their first choices.

It will be very helpful if your child can complete the online choices form by the requested date of Sunday 16 April 2023, as a late return may reduce the chance of your child following the courses they have chosen.

Yours faithfully

Mr Harrison
Assistant Principal

Year 9 Options Programme for 2023

Wednesday 1 March 2023

Year 9 assembly to introduce the options process

Thursday 9 March 2023

Our Options Guidance Evening takes place between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. You will have the opportunity to book to attend one of the presentations at 4.30pm, 5.10pm or 5.50pm and to speak to subject teachers in more detail about their subject options.

Friday 10 March 2023

Online choice form will be available for completion online.

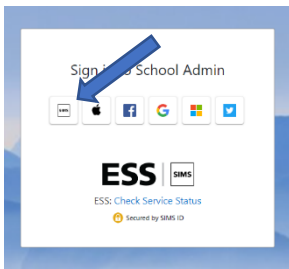
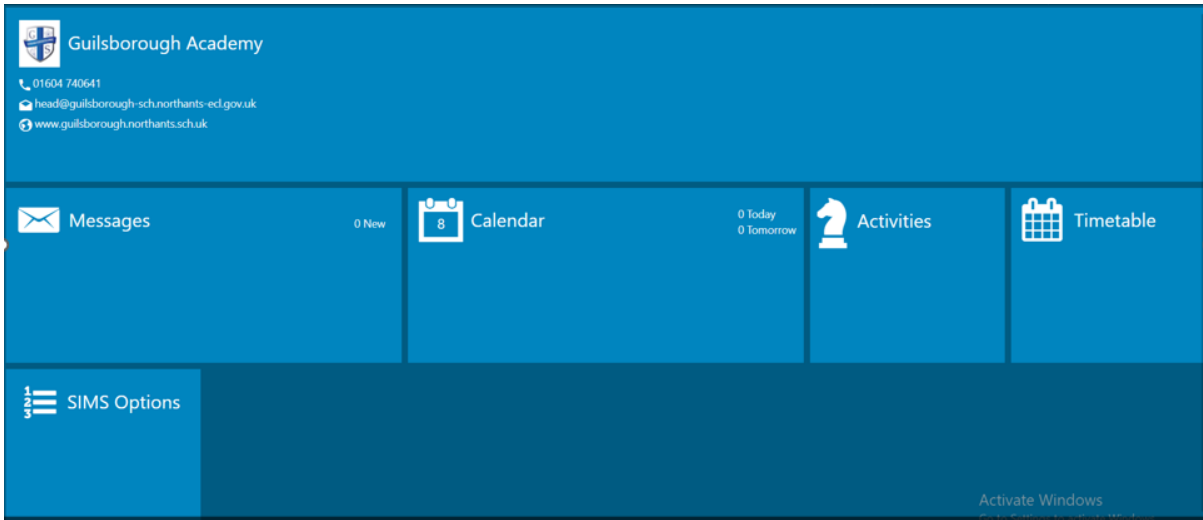
It is important your child completes it in priority order with the subject they want to study most as their first choice. They must also complete define a reserve choice. You will receive an email from SIMS inviting you to sign up for options online. A how to guide is available at the bottom of this letter You can access options online anytime through <https://www.sims-options.co.uk> Please do not use the link sent through to you after your initial log on as it will no longer be active.

Sunday 16 April 2023

The online options form will need be completed by midnight. The information is then collated and the option blocks will be created from these preferences. Any late admissions or changes will need to be put in writing or emailed directly to Mr Harrison. mharrison@guilborough.northants.sch.uk

Options online – How to guide

To log in you will need the link sent to your school email (students) or personal email (parents). Once you have completed the first sign in procedure you will be taken to the following screen. Click on SIMS options

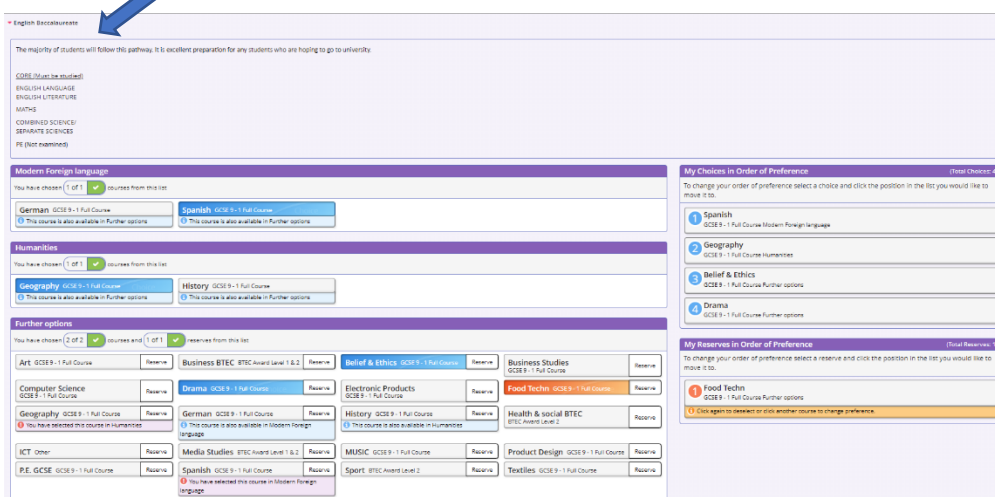


Student will be able to Sign in using the SIMS authenticator with their school password and username

Once you click on the link (you can also use <https://www.sims-options.co.uk/>) you will need to use one of the authenticators below to sign in

This will take you to the screen below

Your pathway will be displayed here



Once you have completed your choices the screen should look like the example above

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Spanish
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Modern Foreign language
- 2 Geography
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Humanities
- 3 Belief & Ethics
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Further options
- 4 Drama
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Further options

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 Food Techn
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Further options

Click again to deselect or click another course to change preference.

The order of preferences is important. They will appear in the order they are chosen and indicate preference

Parents will need to review and approve their child's choices.

Please save your choices once made

