

EVERYONE MATTERS
EVERYONE HELPS
EVERYONE SUCCEEDS



RAINFORD
HIGH

YEAR 9 OPTIONS
THE STUDENT VOICE



WELCOME FROM STUDENT VOICE!

As being a group of Year 10 students currently in the first year of our GCSE's, we are all too familiar of the stress that goes with having to choose just four subjects from the wide and diverse range that is available. Having very vivid recollections of the process that goes with choosing GCSE subjects, we felt that it would be helpful for students in the future to have a booklet to refer back to with personal experiences of students who are currently studying those subjects and their opinions.

Whilst in Year 9, you are given a lot of support from both teaching and year staff. However, we all felt that some information and personal experience from students would have gone a long way towards helping us make an informed choice on which subjects would be best for us.

Throughout the booklet you will find some detailed points on strengths and weaknesses of each subject, along with a list of some skills that will be necessary for you to have in order to achieve highly in the chosen subject.

We hope that this booklet will be a useful tool for you when making these decisions towards your GCSE options, and that the advice given will be valuable to you.

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ART 3D

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Improves your art and creativity skills
- You get to do a lot of practical
- Being able to make stuff

Negatives of this subject:

- Learning about different artists
- It can be difficult to model what you have drawn

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Creativity and good imagination
- Concentration

ART FINE ART

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Being able to make your work your own and original
- Independent working
- Easy access to teacher feedback

Negatives of this subject:

- Can be frustrating when having to re-do drawings due to mistakes
- Have to do a lot of work outside the classroom (At home)
- Important deadlines
- Very different from Year 9

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Be creative and have a good imagination
- Be original

ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Shows off your creative side
- A chance to learn and develop your skills
- Atmosphere in class is always calm and enjoyable so lessons are fun

Negatives of this subject:

- Can be a bit repetitive
- Theory can be challenging

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Creativity
- Good background knowledge on computers as you use the apple mac a lot

DRAMA

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- You don't have to just act you can do- makeup, mask work, stage management etc
- The teachers are really great
- Learning and trying different types of acting

Negatives of this subject:

- The theory paper is difficult to grasp
- Tight deadlines for plays to be completed to your highest ability
- It is not a sit off lesson

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- A lot of confidence and willingness to perform in front of an audience
- Enthusiastic and energetic
- Confidence

GEOGRAPHY

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Teachers give you past exam questions to help with your understanding
- Geography related trips so you can see what you're learning about
- Easy to access revision resources
- Always know what level your at

Negatives of this subject:

- Lots of geographical terms to learn, understand and remember
- Learning all the case studies and their facts and figures

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Already have a good background knowledge
- Have an interest in the subject and really enjoy it
- Aware of progress
- Variety of interesting subject topics

HISTORY

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- It is fascinating to learn about History
- Good mixture of group work and individual work
- The teachers help you achieve your maximum potential for a better qualification

Negatives of this subject:

- A lot of writing involved
- A lot of information and specific dates to remember
- Very different from Year 9 History

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- English skills- mainly essay based.
- Good memory

ICT

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Very good for real life work and jobs as you use computers a lot in most jobs
- 60% coursework so takes away some of the stress of the exam
- Being able to work independently

Negatives of this subject:

- Theory lessons can be difficult
- Controlled assessments can be hard at times

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Know the basics around computers
- Be able to analyse and write about your work in great detail

MUSIC

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- The exam is only worth 20%
- Multiple areas you can study
- Teachers are always helping and making lessons enjoyable

Negatives of this subject:

- The listening exam is quite difficult
- Composing songs can sometimes be a struggle

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Be able to read music to a high standard
- Be able to play an instrument or sing to a high ability

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- The topics you learn about are very interesting and useful
- You do a lot of exam practice to prepare you for the exam
- Enjoyable practical work

Negatives of this subject:

- The theory can be very difficult
- Remembering exact definitions can be a struggle

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Enjoy doing a range of sport and be generally fit
- Good memory and work ethic to help with revision
- Need to have a secure base of 4 sports

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- All the topics are interesting
- Small classes
- Related to modern day topics

Negatives of this subject:

- All exam and no coursework
- Quite essay based

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Open minded and not judgemental
- Confident to contribute to class debates

SPANISH

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- The qualification of speaking another language looks good on a CV
- Opens doors for the future
- Great support off the teachers if needed

Negatives of this subject:

- Learning and memorising your speaking piece
- A lot of essays

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Good memory
- Confidence and concentration to complete the speaking assessment

TECHNOLOGY: ELECTRONICS

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Allowed to work independently
- Chances to come back after school if you need extra help or more time to complete your project
- It is very enjoyable and fun in lessons

Negatives of this subject:

- Quite hard and complicated when working with wires etc
- A lot of portfolio work

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Good attitude towards working and concentration
- A lot of patience as things don't always go according to plan

TECHNOLOGY: FOOD

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- More cooking than theory so it makes the lessons more interesting
- You can decide yourself what you're cooking
- All the teachers are very supportive and help you a lot

Negatives of this subject:

- In year 11 the coursework does take a long time
- It cost money to buy the ingredients every week
- Not as much cooking as in Key Stage 3

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Organisation skills must be good
- Enjoy cooking and have a good background knowledge about cooking

TECHNOLOGY: GRAPHIC PRODUCTS

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Being able to choose you want to do for coursework and projects and make it your own
- Working with computers
- Teachers always provide you with help even outside the classroom

Negatives of this subject:

- Classes can be very big
- The theory can be difficult

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- 3D Drawing skills
- A lot of patience as things don't always go according to plan
- IT skills

TECHNOLOGY: RESISTANT MATERIALS

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Very rewarding seeing your finished project once completed
- Good if you are creative and enjoy doing a lot of practical work
- Lessons are fun and enjoyable

Negatives of this subject:

- A lot of coursework
- Can be very technical

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Good work ethic
- Creativity

TECHNOLOGY: TEXTILES

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- A lot of practical work
- Allows you to be creative and express yourself
- Learn to make your own clothes

Negatives of this subject:

- A lot of coursework and you can struggle with it sometimes
- Not enough time to finish your final product

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Good at sewing
- Creativity
- Art skills
- IT skills

BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- Graded off coursework not just all exams based.
- Interesting and different
- Easy to get a good grade in if you work hard

Negatives of this subject:

- Difficult to understand at first
- Challenging

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- Being able to dedicate time to revise a lot outside of school
- Always be willing to contribute to class discussions

BTEC ICT

Pupil Option Feedback

Positives of this subject:

- It is better if you prefer smaller class sizes
- Using Cameras
- It's a very fun lesson

Negatives of this subject:

- Creating and doing your own individual projects
- The exam

Strengths needed to do this subject:

- A background knowledge on computers already
- Be able to write about your work in good detail

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