

STARTING YEAR 9:

- During previous years of secondary education, pressure of GCSEs and other important times in education hasn't been as intense as now. Although in year 10 and 11 is when you complete your exams and mock trials is just as if not more important; this is because in some subjects such as science and EPR we have already began our preparation for our GCSE exams. In the September term of year 9 we felt that, although we were informed about starting our GCSE course, and what the year would consist of, we didn't take it as seriously as we could of. We have received many talks and activities from tutors and PSHE teachers about the preparation for this year (choosing our options etc.), however we still don't feel that this lives up to what it is really like.

What do other year 9 students think?

- We asked some fellow year 9 students some questions about this year and the challenges that come with it?



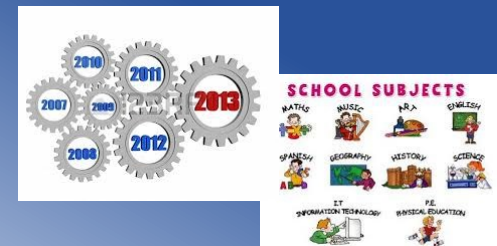
How would you compare this year to previous years?

- More homework
- You feel more mature
- More pressure on us because we are choosing our options
- Harder because of GCSEs
- Harder because of options



Have you found some subjects harder than others this year?

- Not really because we aren't all the way through the year
- Sort of because we have started our GCSE courses in some subjects
- Yes, science and history
- Some, science
- Yes, art and maths



Have you found the advice you have been give (in form time etc...) helpful?

- Not at all because the advice given doesn't seem to be realistic
- Yes because it informed me for what was coming
- Not exactly
- Yes because I told me what was coming



Are you looking forward to year 10 where you can study the options of your choice?

- Yes because I enjoy the options I chose
- Sort off because I had to drop some subjects that I enjoyed
- definitely



Do you like the way the options process was set up?

- Yes, however it was very stressful
- Sort off, I didn't really know what to take and no one helped me decide
- Yes but I think we should have one to one talks with teachers about it
- Yes because its easy



Do you think the options process was to fast?

- No, it was good to get it over with
- A bit because I didn't really think about it when it wasn't being mentioned
- No
- yes



Is there any advice that you would give to future year 9 students?

- Start thinking about your options earlier
- Behave so that you can listen and understand everything
- Have back up plans in case you have to change your options

