

# Year 9 Curriculum and Options Evening

Friday, 30 January 2026

# Exciting Opportunities Await in Year 10



**Study for  
Your Future:**

- Work towards qualifications like GCSEs, BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, or Vocational Awards.

**Discover New  
Subjects:**

- Get the chance to explore exciting areas you've never studied before!

**Shape Your  
Path:**

- Have some say in which courses you want to take. It's your choice, your future!

# Options – A Timeline



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January

- Options Process Launch – letter to parents

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

- Students receive Key Stage 4 Curriculum and Courses booklet

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January

- **Options Evening for students and parents 4:30pm – 7:30pm**
- Online Options Form available to students Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Week of 2<sup>nd</sup> February

- Key Stage 4 course taster lessons in Year 9 lessons

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

- Year 9 Subject Consultation Evenings

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

- FINAL DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OPTIONS FORM – FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH – 5pm

# Key Stage 4 Courses



GCSEs	BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, WJEC Vocational Awards
Often more 'traditional' school subjects. Some qualifications are mandatory.	Vocational subjects: more practical and specialist knowledge for work in certain sectors.
Mainly assessed by examination at the end of Year 11 and graded between 9 (highest) and 1 (lowest). Some subjects include non-exam assessment (NEA) (Coursework)	Mainly assessed by assignments that are marked in school and moderated externally. Some examination. Graded Pass/Merit/Distinction
English, Maths, Spanish, Geography, Art, Computing, Sociology	Sports Studies, Health and Social Care, Design Engineering, Enterprise and Marketing, ICT, Construction

# Key Stage 4 Courses - Grading



## GCSE 9-1 Grading

Grade

9

8

7

6

5 →

STRONG PASS

4

3

2

1

U

## Vocational Course Grading

Level / Qualification Grade	Grade Equivalent
Level 2 / Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 / Distinction	7
Level 2 / Merit	5.5
Level 2 / Pass	4
Level 1 / Distinction	3
Level 1 / Merit	2
Level 1 / Pass	1.25

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum



Subject	Lesson Allocation per week
English (Language and Literature)	4.5
Mathematics	3.5
Combined Science	5
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language	2.5
EBacc 2 – History or Geography	2.5
Option 1 – Student Preference	2.5
Option 2 – Student Preference	2.5
Physical Education	1
Wellbeing	1
Tutorial	5 x 30-minute sessions

**Core Subjects** – Students will all study GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Combined Science (unless they opt for Triple Science).

**EBacc Subjects** – Students will be expected to continue to study a language, GCSE Spanish or GCSE Mandarin and at least one from GCSE Geography or GCSE History.

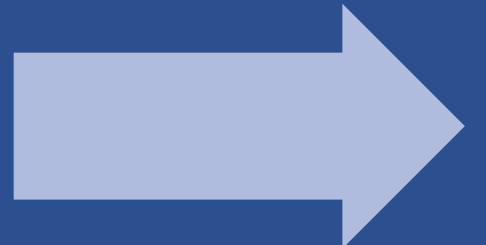
**Option Subjects** – Students will be able to rank their top four preferences to complete their choice of courses. There is a wide range of GCSE and vocational courses available and students can select from any of these, with some restrictions around combinations.

**Other Subjects** – Students will continue to have Physical Education lessons, Wellbeing lessons and Tutorial sessions to support their wider development.

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Core Subjects

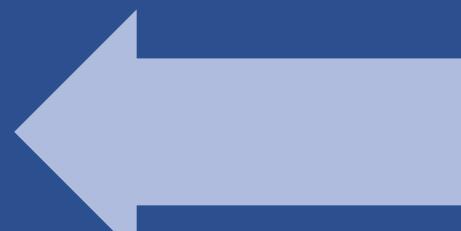


All students must study the core subjects at GCSE level. They form the basis of the Key Stage Four curriculum.



The core subjects account for five GCSE qualifications:

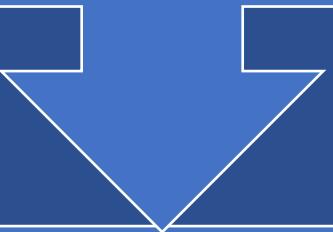
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science (equivalent to 2 GCSEs)



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: EBacc Subjects



Students will be expected to have the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as the foundation of their Key Stage Four curriculum. The Ebacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. It is an expectation that the Ebacc forms the basis of a broad and balanced curriculum.



## The EBacc is:

GCSE English Language and Literature

GCSE Mathematics

The sciences – at least 2 science GCSEs – this could be via Combined Science or Triple Science

GCSE Geography or GCSE History

A modern foreign language – GCSE Spanish or GCSE Mandarin

# The importance of EBacc



**A Well-Rounded Education**  
The Ebacc ensures students gain essential knowledge across key academic subjects, preparing them for further study and the wider world.

**Pathway to Higher Education**  
Universities value the Ebacc as it demonstrates a strong academic foundation and keeps options open for a wide range of courses.

**Career Flexibility**  
Many employers look for the skills developed in Ebacc subjects, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and cultural awareness.

**Future-Proof Skills**  
Subjects like languages and science equip students with skills for global opportunities and careers in high-demand sectors like STEM, business, and law.

**Earning Potential**  
Studies show that students with a qualification in a modern foreign language often have higher earning potential in their careers.

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Preferences

The Options Preferences form will require students to decide the following:

- EBacc Humanities subject – History or Geography?
- Options preferences – Choose your top 4 subjects and rank them in order of priority.
- Would you like to be considered to study Further Mathematics as an additional qualification?



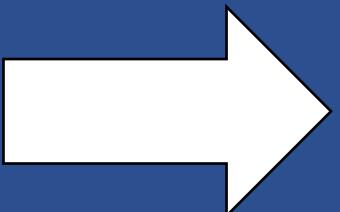
# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



Points to note: Triple Science

Triple Science takes up one of the Option slots, and also replaces Combined Science.

Subject
English (Language and Literature)
Mathematics
Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language
EBacc 2 – History or Geography
Option 1 – Student Preference
Option 2 – Student Preference



Subject
English (Language and Literature)
Mathematics
Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs)
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language
EBacc 2 – History or Geography
Option 1 – Student Preference

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



Points to note: History and Geography

Students can study both History and Geography. Choose one in the EBacc Humanities slot, and make sure you put the other in your preferences.

Choose Geography here →  
History can go here →

Subject
English (Language and Literature)
Mathematics
Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
EBacc 1 – Modern Foreign Language
EBacc 2 – History or Geography
Option 1 – Student Preference
Option 2 – Student Preference



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, students are strongly advised not to select the following subject combinations as preferences 1 & 2:

GCSE Design Technology and Cambridge National Engineering Design

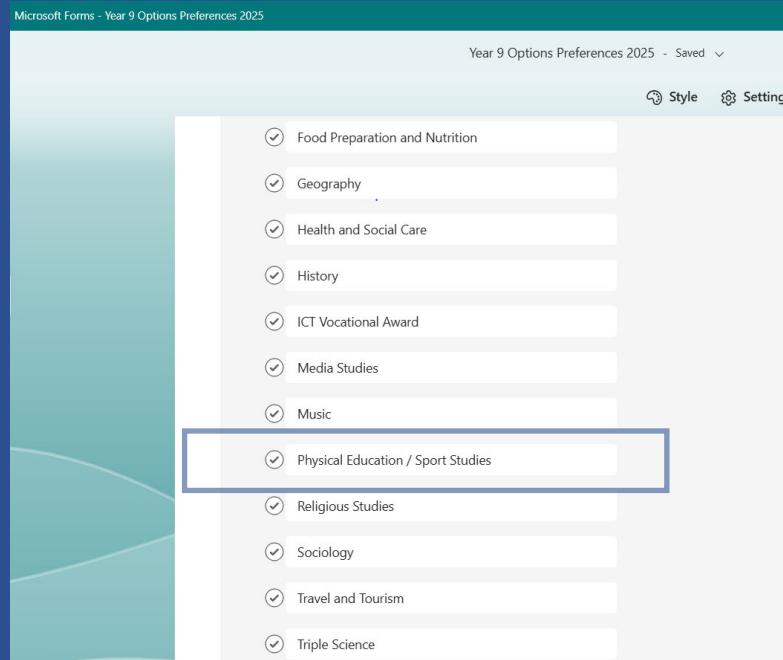
GCSE Business Studies and Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing

If students wish to select these combinations as preferences 1 & 2, or they wish to study both GCSE Computer Science and ICT Vocational Award, they must discuss this with Mr Brown before submitting their option preferences form.

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects

If you would like to pursue either GCSE PE or Sports Studies, please select the option on the online form shown in the image.

The PE department will determine the most appropriate qualification for each learner.



Microsoft Forms - Year 9 Options Preferences 2025

Year 9 Options Preferences 2025 - Saved

Style Settings

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Geography

Health and Social Care

History

ICT Vocational Award

Media Studies

Music

Physical Education / Sport Studies

Religious Studies

Sociology

Travel and Tourism

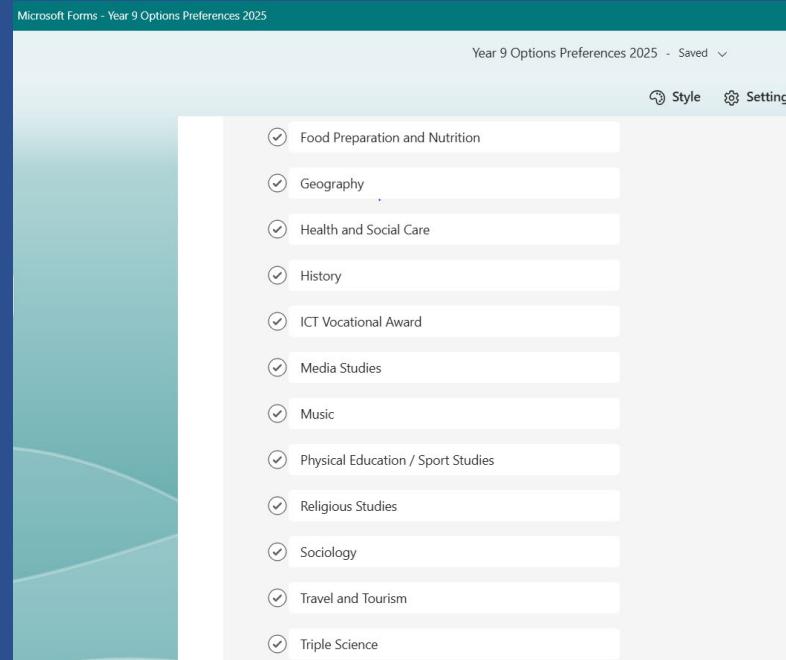
Triple Science



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects

There are 2 Art and Design pathways – Fine Art and Fashion Textiles

If you select Art and Design, you must then indicate your preferred pathway.



Microsoft Forms - Year 9 Options Preferences 2025

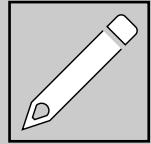
Year 9 Options Preferences 2025 - Saved

Style Settings

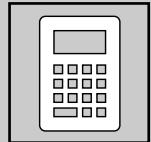
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food Preparation and Nutrition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geography
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Health and Social Care
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ICT Vocational Award
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Media Studies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Physical Education / Sport Studies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religious Studies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sociology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Travel and Tourism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Triple Science



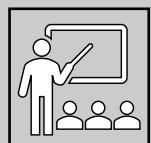
# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



Points to note: Further Mathematics



Suitability to study Further Mathematics will be discussed with the Maths Department.



Further Mathematics is an additional qualification which does not take up an option slot. It will require a commitment to additional after-school twilight lessons every week.

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum: Option Subjects



Every effort will be made to ensure students can study their top preferences.

We cannot guarantee that all students will do so – courses with low uptake may not run.

It is important students are prepared to study any of their 4 preferences.

Take time to make the right choices – no rush, NOT first come, first served

# What Next?



**Understand the Options:**  
Carefully read the booklet and familiarise yourself with the subjects and pathways available.

**Review Your Strengths:** Use your progress report to identify the subjects where you excel.

**Discuss with Parents/Carers:**  
Share your thoughts and explore which courses suit you best.

**Ask Your Teachers:** Find out what each course involves and how it aligns with your goals.

**Get Your Questions Answered:** Ask anything that will help you feel confident in your decisions.

**Think About the Future:**  
Consider how your choices impact opportunities after Year 11, including further education and career pathways.

**Speak to a Careers Advisor:**  
If you're unsure, our careers advisor can provide valuable guidance.

Take your time, explore all options, and make decisions that are right for you.

# Thank You

