

Year 9 Options

January 2026

***To set no limits on what we
can achieve***



Types of qualifications



- **GCSEs** – most of our qualifications are GCSE subjects
- **Level 2 BTECs** – BTECs are more specialist, work-related qualifications available in different sectors
- **Level 2 Cambridge Nationals** – these are similar to BTECs and have a strong vocational element



Legacy GCSE Grades	New GCSE Grades (from 2017)	Vocational Qualifications	Level Equivalent	
A*	9	L2 Distinction* (8.5)	Level 2	
	8			
	7			
A		L2 Distinction (7)		
B	6			L2 Merit (5.5)
	5			
	4			
C		L2 Pass (4)		
D	3	L1 Distinction (3)		Level 1
E	2			
F	1			
G		L1 Merit (2)		
		L1 Pass (1.25)		
U	U	Not Yet Achieved (NYA)		

Triple Science



Some students will be invited to study Triple Science based on your assessment levels.

This will lead to three separate GCSEs being awarded, in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students offered this opportunity do not have to choose the Triple Science route.

Double Science



The Trilogy Science (Double Award) is the most suitable course for the majority of students.

Studying Trilogy does not preclude any future A-Levels in Science subjects.

This is equivalent to two GCSEs and you will be awarded a double grade.

KINDNESS

CURIOSITY

DETERMINATION

Vocational Studies



Some students will be invited to study Vocational Studies.

This is an ASDAN Personal Development programme and leads to a national recognised Level 1 qualification that assesses personal qualities, abilities, achievements and work related skills.

KINDNESS

CURIOSITY

DETERMINATION

Prohibited Combinations



There are some combinations of subjects that you cannot choose, either because these are the same qualification or because they are taught at the same time as one another.

- Art and Textiles
- PE and Sports Science

Core Curriculum



CORE CURRICULUM: Compulsory subjects

All students will study these subjects

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Science
PHRE
Physical Education (Core PE)

CORE CURRICULUM: Optional subjects

You must choose two of these subjects

Computer Science
Ethics and Philosophy: Full Course
French
Geography
History
Spanish
Vocational Studies / Triple Science*

** by invitation only*

KINDNESS

CURIOSITY

DETERMINATION

Personalised Curriculum



Art

Business Studies

Computer Science

Dance

Design & Technology

Drama

Ethics & Philosophy

Food & Nutrition

French

Geography

Health & Social Care

History

ICT - Creative iMedia

Music

Music Technology

Physical Education

Spanish

Sport Science

Textiles

Triple Science*

Vocational Studies*

13th January – Curriculum to Careers Day / Year 9 Options Assembly



Mid-January – Year 9 Reports published



29th January – Year 9 Options Evening (including Parents' evening)



30th January – Options form available by email



9th February – Deadline for Options Choices



Reserve Choice



You will be asked to pick a reserve choice in ***each section***.

There are occasionally problems with your chosen options, in which case, you will be contacted as soon as possible to discuss alternatives.

KINDNESS

CURIOSITY

DETERMINATION

Making your choices



It is important that you choose a range of subjects that will match your **interests** and **abilities** and are suited to what you hope to do in the **future**.

When making your choices you will need to consider whether they are giving you **as many options as possible** for the future.

When you have made your choices, they will be reviewed to ensure that you have a **suitable balance**.

KINDNESS

CURIOSITY

DETERMINATION

Choosing a subject



Good reasons

- You're good at it
- You think you will enjoy it
- It fits your career ideas and plans
- It goes well with your other choices
- You're interested in the knowledge and skills it develops
- It will give you plenty of choice in the future

Flawed reasons

- Your friends are doing it
- People say it is easy / easier than x subject
- Someone else thinks it is a good idea
- You like the teacher you have now
- You didn't have time to research your options properly

Advice from students ...



Don't feel pressured to pick subjects by your friends ... be your own person

Take subjects you will still enjoy studying in 2 years

Ask teachers and older students for advice about the subject

Find out if a subject is all exams or has coursework - think about balance

Look at what you will learn and think about whether it will interest you