

Introducing the Year 9 Options Process

Aspirations and Options Assembly

Year 9 Progress Evening and Aspirations Day
Thursday 5th March 2026

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Introducing the Year 9 Options Process

- What is the options process?
- What choices are available?
- What are the timescales?
- Who can help me?



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Options Timeline

- Assembly - Mrs Roberts/Mr Stamper
- Careers Fair - showcasing employers and educational establishments
- Options/Aspirations Progress Evening (with parents)
- Subject videos released- offering course information

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The Education Ladder

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What does GCSE stand for?

A. General Certificate of Secondary Education

B. Graded Certificate of School Exams

C. General Certification of Secondary Exams

GCSEs stand for General Certificate of Secondary Education and were first taught in 1986!

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What is the highest grade in a GCSE Exam?

A. A*

B. 9

C. 1

In the past GCSE students were given marks between A* (the highest) and G (the lowest) however things have changed! Grades now range from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

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What does BTEC stand for?

A. Business and Technology Education Council

B. British Technical and Engineering Certification

C. Basic Training and Education Curriculum

Based on your overall score, you'll be awarded a Pass (P), Merit (M),
Distinction (D) or Starred Distinction (D*)

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What does NCFE stand for?

A. National Certificate for Further Education

B. Northern Council for Further Education

C. National Centre for Further Education

The qualification is graded at level 1 pass, merit, distinction and level 2 pass, merit, distinction and distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades)

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How will you be assessed?

A. Just exams

B. Exams and Course Assessments

C. It depends on the subject

Not all subjects are assessed in the same way. Some subjects may just be exam based whilst others will have a mixture of exams and coursework!

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How do you find out what you may want to do?

Year 9 activities:

- Tutor/teacher support
- Family support
- Careers Fair and Options Evening
- 1:1 guidance interviews
- SLT report meetings
- Your own research
- University Visit
- 6th form/college tasters
- Google Classroom
- Other subject based activities

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After year 11... what's next?

You must stay in education or training until you are 18 years old.

Sixth Form



College



Apprenticeship



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Sixth Form Vs College

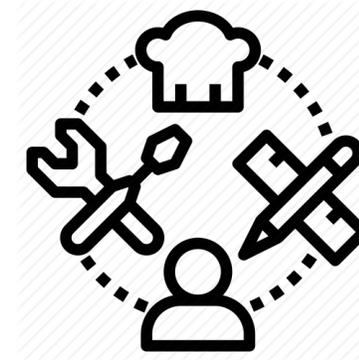
Sixth Form

- Focuses on academic qualifications in a specific subject area
- Normally pick three separate subjects to study
- Similar learning style to school



College

- Focuses on vocational qualifications
- Offers more of practical learning opportunity
- Qualifications may be linked with a specific job or career



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Apprenticeships

A way for young people and adults to learn and earn in a real job, gaining a recognised qualification

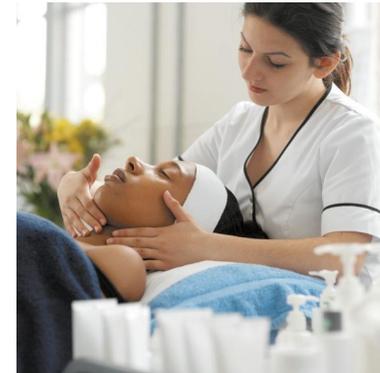
An apprentice will

- Earn a wage
- Work alongside experienced staff
- Gain job-specific skills
- Get time for training and study related to your role



Apprenticeships are good if you

- If you want to get into employment
- If you don't want to continue with full time study
- Have a focused career path in mind



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Post 18 Options, what's available?

You must stay in education or training until you are 18 years old.

University



Apprenticeship



Work



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A typical week in Year 10!

| Lesson | X Per week |
|-----------|------------|
| English | x5 |
| Maths | X4 |
| Science | X5 |
| French | X3 |
| Drama | X3 |
| Geography | X3 |
| Core PE | X1.5 |
| Ethics | X0.5 |

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Core subjects (compulsory)

Examined courses:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Science (at least 2 GCSEs) some students will study Separate Sciences - 3 GCSEs

Non Examined courses:

- Core PE
- Ethics
- PSHE

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Option choices

Along with the compulsory subjects you will choose 3 option choices

Choice 1

- French
- Geography
- History

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Option choices - Choice 2 & 3

Choices 2 & 3 GCSEs

- Geography
- French
- History
- Photography
- Fine Art
- 3D Design
- Fashion & Textiles
- Food & Nutrition
- Psychology
- Film Studies
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Sociology
- Religious Studies
- Separate Science

Choices 2 & 3 Vocational

- Health and Social Care
- Engineering
- Enterprise & Marketing
- Digital Information Technology
- Health & Fitness

You can select one subject from the Arts:

- Fine Art
- 3D Design
- Fashion & Textiles

These subjects have special requirements:

- Psychology
- Music (audition)

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The Google Form

Option choices



Please choose your top 5 preferences below:

You can only study one subject from each of the following subject groups:

Creative Arts - 3D Design, Fashion & Textiles & Art

Therefore we will pick your highest preference from each subject group if you choose any of the subjects above.

Courses will only run if there are sufficient numbers to justify them.

Option Choice 1 *

Geography

History

French

1st Preference

For your 2nd and 3rd Option Choices - please scroll across to view all subjects and select in order of preference. *

Geog... History French Fine ... 3D D... Phot... Fashi... Drama Dance Digita... Separ... Mus

2nd P...

3rd P...

4th P...

5th P...

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_ssJV_XfjQ



HEADLANDS
SCHOOL

Dos and Don'ts

| Good reasons to choose a subject | | Bad reasons to choose a subject | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ | You're good at the subject | ✗ | Your friends are doing it |
| ✓ | The subject is linked to a career you're interested in | ✗ | You like the teacher you have for the subject now |
| ✓ | The subject is linked to a course you want to study after GCSE | ✗ | You think the subject is easy |
| ✓ | You like the subject | ✗ | You don't know what else to pick |

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Options Process

Choose a subject that you enjoy - you're going to be studying these subjects for the next 2 years (at least) - and if you enjoy it, you're more likely to do well.

Choose a subject that you're good at - if you're good at something, you're more likely to enjoy it, and keep yourself motivated as well as achieving a good grade at the end of it!

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Ask for Advice

Choosing your options is a big decision but you don't have to make it alone. Talk to a range of people to get different views.

- Ask your **subject teachers, tutors, Mrs Mainprize, Mr Stamper (careers) and myself, Mrs Roberts** for advice. We know the requirements of the courses really well.
- Speak to your **parents, carers or relatives**. They want the best for you and know you better than anyone.
- **Do you know someone who has studied the course before?** They know exactly what the course required of them and what they found interesting and challenging.

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Options Timeline

- Thurs 5th March - Options form sent to parents
- Thurs 26th March - Options form should be completed and submitted
- Summer Term - Allocated option subjects will be shared with students/parents
- October Half term - Students will have until this date to change their mind and swap option subjects (if there are places left)

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What students need to do next....

- Read all the information that school gives me - options booklet and watch the subject videos, Parents Evening
- Look up careers which interest me and find out which subjects I will need for them
- Research which topics and assessments I will do in each course
- Think about what interests me in each subject and what I am good at!
- Maintain a good work ethic and great attendance
- Set yourself high aspirations and expectations

Ask for advice!

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Any Questions?

**Please contact Mrs Roberts,
Mr Stamper or Mrs Mainprize**

Best of Luck!

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