

Year 9 Options Evening 2026

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Assistant Principal

What subjects do you enjoy?

What are your interests outside of school?

What are you good at?

What might you want to do in the future?

Timeline

Thursday 15th January

Options Evening

Options Booklet



KS4 Curriculum 2026: Choosing Your Options

Now available from the school website, containing:

- Frequently asked questions
 - Explanations about the process
 - Information about each subject

What will I study at KS4?

Examined Core Subjects

English Language
English Literature
Maths
Science

Non-Examined Core Subjects

PE
PSHE
Core RE

Option Subjects

4 of your choice

You will initially choose 6 subjects that you would be happy to study.

You will enter these in order of preference.

Options Subjects

Pink: previously studied

Green: brand new

Art

Computer Science

Dance

Design and Technology

Drama

Food Technology / Home Cooking

French

Geography

German

History

Music

Religious Studies

Separate Sciences

Spanish

Ancient History

Business Studies

Child Development

Engineering

Film Studies

Geology

Information Technology

Media Studies

Music Practice

PE / Sport

Photography

Psychology

Statistics

Changes to After-School GCSE Option Subjects

- **From now on, all GCSE option subjects will be offered within the mainstream school timetable, not as after-school courses.**
- Equity over availability and affordability
- Supports staff and student wellbeing
- Anyone who has already started will finish

Questions from Students

- Before the holidays we asked students what they thought they *might* take, and whether they had any questions.
- We've gone through all of these and pulled out the most common themes.

‘I know what I want to pick, but how do I know if my subjects are going to clash?’

- Ultimately, we don’t know what will clash.
- We create the option blocks **after** choices are made.
- We also have to factor in staffing and capacity, which are clearer later in the year.
- This approach gives the best overall fit; **every year, most students get their top 4 choices.**

'Why do I have to pick 6 options subjects when I'm only going to be studying 4 of them?'

- Picking 6 gives us flexibility to build option blocks and give as many students the subjects they want as possible.
- This also allows us to respond if a subject is oversubscribed or unable to run.
- The final 4 subjects will be confirmed later, once all choices and constraints are considered.
- **The order of preference matters.**

'I speak another language at home and would like to do an exam in it. Can I pick it as an option?'

- We offer **French, German and Spanish** as timetabled option subjects.
- If you speak one of these languages at home, you **can** choose it as an option.
- Many students also speak other **home languages** not taught in lessons.
- We are happy to support entry for an exam in a home language, but **preparation is done independently at home**.
- Even if you take a home language exam, you must still choose 6 subjects from the options booklet.

‘Why can I only pick from this subject list? What if I want to study a subject that's not in the options booklet?’

- We offer a wide and well-balanced **range of subjects**, comparable to (and often broader than) many schools.
- The subjects available depend on **staff expertise and capacity**: we focus on offering courses where students can receive **high-quality teaching and support**.
- We’re always keen to hear ideas, but the curriculum offer is set by teachers.

‘Where can I access support to help me choose my GCSE options?’

- The **Options Booklet** is available on the school website and includes detailed information about every course you can choose from.
- The ***Choosing Your Options*** presentation delivered by Mrs McLean in assembly is available for you to view on SatchelOne.
- Your **subject teachers** are the best people to speak to if you have questions about specific subjects.
- Your **form tutor** can discuss your ideas and interests with you during morning registration and help guide you towards the most appropriate support.

Some last advice

DO choose subjects that you enjoy.

DON'T choose a subject just because your friends are.

DO talk to teachers, family and friends about your options.

DON'T choose a subject just because you like your teacher.

DO ask questions and be confident in your decisions.

GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

Blue Wing	Art: Art04
Pink Wing & English Block	Maths & Statistics: P03 English, Film & Media: Library
Green Wing & Food/Science Block	Business Studies: G01 Child Development: Green-IT DT & Engineering: DT05 Food & Nutrition: Food 01
Gym	PE & Sport: Gym
Performing Arts Block	Music: MU01 Music Tech: MU04 Drama: DRAMA 02
Orange Wing	Computer Science & IT: COMP02
Sixth Form	Photography: Photo Studio

Blue Wing	History & Ancient History: B11 Psychology: B13
Pink Wing	Religious Studies: P12 Geography & Geology: P13 & P14
Green Wing	Science: Sc11
Main Corridor	Dance: Dance Studio
Orange Wing	Spanish, French & German: O12

Talks will be in the Performance Hall 5:15pm C, A, M, B, O 6pm U, R, N, E, V General queries drop-in session: P01
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