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Welcome to Year 9 Options Evening

Mr Oakes - Head of School
26th February 2026



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Where can you get help and advice?

Mr Nevin - Head of Year

Mr Sutton - Assistant Head of Year

Ms Lewis-Tuxford - SENDCo

Ms Gill - Deputy SENDCo

Miss Duncan - Careers Advisor

Tutors

Teachers

- Parents' evening tonight
- Subject videos and subject leaflets (on our website)

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Higher paper grades sit within Grade 9 to 4. Scoring less than a 4 = 'U'

Foundation paper grades sit within Grade 5 to 'U'

New GCSE grading structure

| New grading structure | Current grading structure |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 9 | A* |
| 8 | |
| 7 | A |
| 6 | B |
| 5 | |
| 4 | C |
| 3 | D |
| 2 | E |
| 1 | F |
| | G |
| U | U |

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Compulsory subjects

| Compulsory | Compulsory (your teacher will recommend which course you should follow) | Compulsory (non-examined) |
|---|--|--|
| English Literature English Language Maths Statistics | Combined Science <u>Or</u> Triple Science (counts as one of your Column C options) | RSHE (Religious, Social, Health Education) Games (PE) |



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Core subjects

Maths – a single GCSE. Higher and Foundation tiers. *Students at the end of year 11 also sit an additional GCSE in Statistics.*

English – two GCSEs. A single tier.

Combined Science - two GCSEs. Higher and Foundation tiers.

Or

Triple Science – three GCSEs. Higher tier. (option choice)

RSHE - Combines Religious Education (Modern Britain) and PSHE (non-examined)



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The English Baccalaureate?

This is a set of individual qualifications and not a qualification in its own right.

English

Math

Science

Geography or History

A Modern Foreign Language

Academic Breadth

Qualification types

GCSE

- Suitable for progression to A level, BTEC, Apprenticeships
- Graded 9 – 1
- Examination based
- Exam is usually 100% (not in every case)
- Greater written content

Vocational

- Suitable for progression to A level, BTEC, Apprenticeships
- Graded D, M, P
- Set briefs by exam board
- Greater practical content.
- Exam is typically 40%
- Less written content but excellent organisation and consistency is essential.

How do I choose?



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Good reasons

- Already study it/have an interest in it and I enjoy it
- I'm already doing well in it
- It helps with my future plans
- I've not studied it before but I've spoken with the teacher and it interests me.

Poor reasons

- My friend is choosing it
- I don't like the other subjects
- I get on well with the teacher this year



Your options:

| <u>Column A</u> - choose 1 | <u>Column B</u> - choose one or two | <u>Column C</u> - choose one (if you have only chosen one option in Column B) |
|---|---|--|
| History Geography Computer Science (set 1 and 2 maths) French (set 1 and 2 English) Spanish (set 1 and 2 English) | Sport Music Drama Art* Textiles* Media** Film Studies** Photography ICT Hospitality & Catering Health and Social Care Travel and Tourism | History Geography Religious Studies (Modern Britain) ICT Computer Science (set 1 and 2 maths) Business Studies (set 1 and 2 English) French (set 1 and 2 English) Spanish (set 1 and 2 English) (Triple Science - if chosen above) |

* can't be chosen together

** can't be chosen together

Students study 6 hours per fortnight of their chosen subjects



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Specific subject guidance

- Computer Science is **suitable for strong Mathematicians** (Sets 1-2)
- Business Studies, French and Spanish is recommended for those in Sets 1-2 English.
- Triple Science (Single sciences) is suitable for very **strong scientists.**
- Your child **cannot study both;**
Art and Textiles
Media and Film



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Frequently asked questions

Who will be the teacher for each option subject? We cannot guarantee any students a specific teacher and this should not form your decision making process.

Am I guaranteed to get my option choices? Unfortunately not - for a few reasons. Eg if only one student picks a subject, the subject will not run. We will do our best but it is important that you **select a reserve subject.**

Will I be able to change my mind in September? This is usually possible but choices are limited at that point as the timetable has been set. It is better to take your time and get it right now. Within a matter of weeks, it will no longer be possible to change your options.

Do I have to put reserve choices on my options form? Yes. For reasons explained above.

What is 'Twilight'? In Year 10, students have two lessons a week from 3-4pm.

I need some help.

- a) Read through this presentation
- b) Read the options leaflets on the website
- c) Contact Mr Nevin via email to arrange an appointment



Next steps:

Link to an online Options Form, will be sent to you tomorrow

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This must be completed by:

Monday 16th March