

Choosing your Key Stage 4 options

**For
September 2026**

What is Key Stage 4?

- Years 10 and 11
- Final years of compulsory school education
- Leads to national qualifications
- Some choice of subjects
- Core subjects and option subjects



Post-16 education



Pathways

Sixth form
College
Apprenticeship

- During Year 11, you will apply to follow your chosen pathway.
- GCSE grades determine which pathway(s) can be followed.
- GCSE English and maths grades will be vitally important.

All pathways will have entry requirements.



The Curriculum

Core subjects

60% of your timetable

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Maths
GCSE Science

PHSE
PE

Option subjects

40% of your timetable

A range of GCSE/BTEC
choices

How many choices can I
make?
What subjects are there to
choose from?

What are the option subjects?



Art and Design

Business Enterprise

Computer Science

Creative iMedia

Digital Information Technology

Design Technology

Drama

Geography

Health & Social Care

History

Hospitality & Catering

Music

Religious Studies

Spanish

Sport Studies

Triple Science

You will study 4 of these subjects

Option Subjects: List A



Computer Science

Geography

History

Spanish

Triple Science

**You must choose
at least one of these
subjects.**

Option Subjects: List B



Art and Design

Business Enterprise

Creative iMedia

Design Technology

Digital Information Technology

Drama

Health & Social Care

Hospitality & Catering

Music

Religious Studies

Sport Studies

Your other subject choices must come from this list.

Vocational courses

Vocational courses

- Business Enterprise (BTEC)
- Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)
- Digital Information technology (BTEC)
- Health & Social Care (BTEC)
- Hospitality and Catering (Eduqas certificate)
- Music (BTEC)
- Sport Studies (Cambridge National)

	Term	Content
Year 10	Autumn	Core subject knowledge teaching
	Spring	First Examinable unit coursework worth 30%
	Summer	
Year 11	Autumn	Second Examinable unit coursework worth 30%
	Spring	Final written unit preparation worth 40%
	Summer	Final written unit preparation worth 40%

Practical elements

Vocational subjects

- Music - 5 hour practical exams
- Sport studies - Demonstrate sport skills and coaching
- Hospitality - 4 hours cooking exam
- Design and Technology- Producing a product

GCSE Subjects

- Art - 10 hour practical exam
- Drama - Performance exam
- Spanish - speaking exam

Selecting subjects

- ❑ You must select 6 subject choices .
- ❑ You must decide on an order of preference from choice 1 to choice 6.
- ❑ You will be allocated 4 of your subject choices.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Choosing subjects

Ask yourself:



- What do I enjoy?
- What am I good at?
- What are my future career plans?



How do I get the information I need?



- Subject teachers/ form tutors
- Options booklet :
 - sent home to parents today
 - copy given out in form time on Monday
- School website – options page
- 1-1 Options Interview
- Internet: U-EXPLORE

Options process: Timeline



Date	Action
12th January	Year 9 options assembly Options booklet sent to parents Subject videos on the school website
Week of 12th January	Form time activities
19th January - 12th February	Individual Options interviews
25th February	Deadline for any amendments to the subjects selected
July 2026	Option subject allocation confirmed

What happens next?



In preparation for your Options interview:

- Read the options booklet carefully
- Look at the options page on the school website
- Discuss the options booklet with your parents
- Ask for help if you need it!