

# Year 9 - Options Evening

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026



**Respectful**



**Ambitious**



**Resilient**

# CORE CURRICULUM

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Science (Double Award)

Physical Education

PSHE / Religious Education



# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Optional subjects - GCSE	Optional subjects - Vocational
Triple Science	Music
Spanish	Sport
History	Dance
Geography	Health & Social
Computer Science	Creative iMedia
Business	Enterprise & Marketing
Drama	Engineering in Design
Art & Design - Fine Art	Hospitality and Catering
Art & Design - Photography	
Art and Design: 3D design	



GCSEs	Vocational Courses
Traditional qualifications	BTEC or Cambridge National
Feature compulsory core subjects Maths, English and Science	Specialist work-related qualifications which aim to help you learn about a specific industry or area of work
Build on existing knowledge which has been learned in earlier Key Stages	They are divided into units, which cover specific areas of knowledge, skills, and understanding
They are assessed mainly through written exams which take place during May/June of Y11. Some subjects may have practical exams and/or coursework	They are assessed by both exams, coursework and/or practical assessments
Level 2 qualifications - Grade 9-1	They are level 2 qualifications and are equivalent to GCSEs although have a different grading system Level 2 Distinction* - Level 1 Pass
College courses often have an entry requirement of 4 or 5 qualifications at grade 4 or higher, including English & Maths	



# Grades

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 Strong Pass 4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

Vocational courses	
Grade	Points
L2 Distinction*	8.5
L2 Distinction	7
L2 Merit	5.5
L2 Pass	4
L1 Distinction	3
L1 Merit	2
L1 Pass	1.25



# Guided Pathways

Guided Pathways have been allocated using:

- Y8/9 Assessments
- Additional teacher assessments and in-year tracking
- Feedback from Subject Leaders

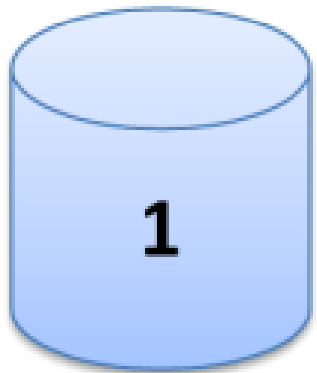


# Guided Pathways

Pathway	Subject combinations
Pathway A	English, Maths, Triple Science, Spanish, 1 option
Pathway B	English, Maths, Triple Science, 2 options
Pathway C	English, Maths, Science, Spanish, 2 options
Pathway D	English, Maths, Science, History or Geography & 2 options

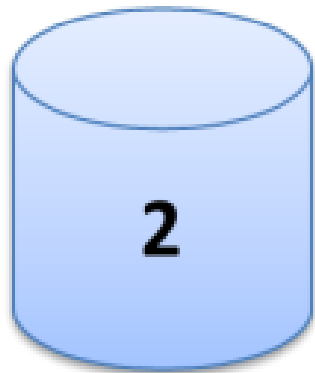


# Selecting Subjects



**English**

Double-weighted\*



**Maths**

Double-weighted



**3**



**4**



**5**

**EBacc qualifications**

(sciences, computer science, geography,  
history and languages)



**6**



**7**



**8**

**'Open group'**

**Remaining EBacc qualifications and  
other approved qualifications**



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# What is the English Baccalaureate?

The EBacc is:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- Double Science / Triple Science
- Modern Foreign Language (Spanish)
- Geography or History

The EBacc is a suite of qualifications that the Government see as enabling successful candidates to have the opportunity to enter the best universities/apprenticeships.



# Advice for selecting your subjects

## DO

- Look at which qualifications you need to apply to college or an apprenticeship
- Consider which courses you will need for a future career
- Think about how you prefer to be assessed – Exams, coursework, practical assessments
- Select subjects which you are interested in and will be motivated to work hard in
- Speak to lots of people about your options

## DON'T

- Select a subject because your friend is selecting it
- Pick a subject because you think it is easy
- Choose a subject based on your current teacher



# Options Timeline

## Pathways Evening:

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 5.00 - 7.00pm

## Subject videos:

To be shown in tutor time week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March

## Student conversations:

Individual 10 minute conversation with a member of the Senior Leadership Team

## Options Deadline:

Draft - Thursday 26th March

Final – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April



# Options Timeline

Students will receive a personalised letter on 27/2/26 which explains which Guided Pathway they are on.

Parents/Carers will be sent a Microsoft form via MCAS on 15/4/26.

The form will ask you for your child's option choices. It will also ask for reserve choices. The deadline for completing this form is 22/4/26.

Students, Parents/Carers will receive confirmation of their options during the summer term.



# Key Contacts

Miss Cliff – Y9 Achievement Leader

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Mr Friswell – Vice Principal

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Subject Videos

[Smith's Wood - YouTube](#)

