

# Year 9 Options

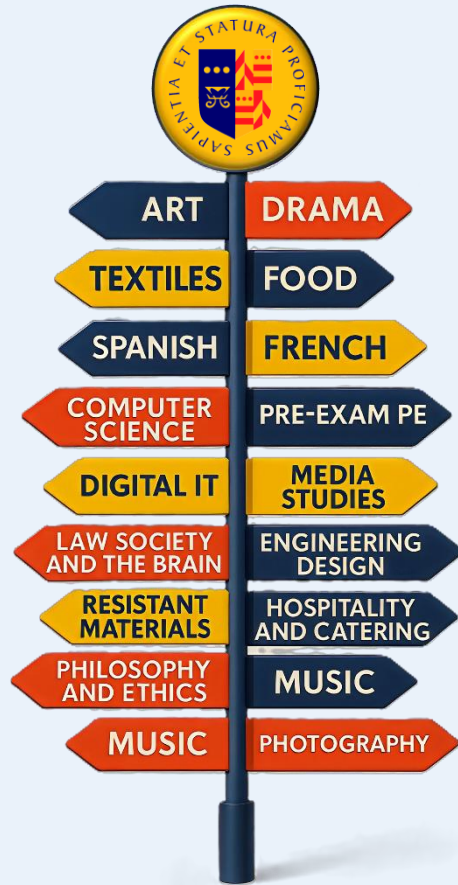
## 2026







# Year 9 Options



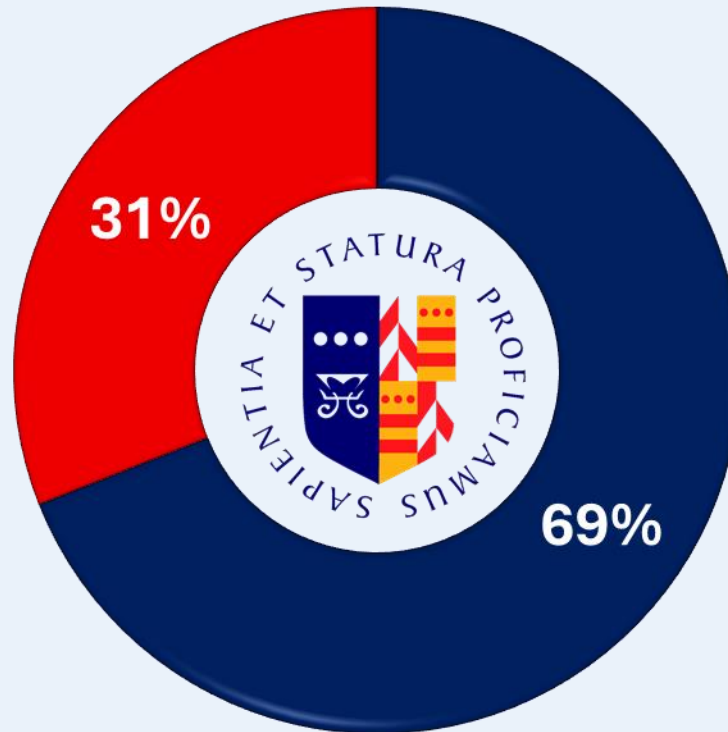
- How your Curriculum is Changing
- KS4 Pathways
- The Options Process
- Guidance and Advice



# The Year 9 Curriculum

## THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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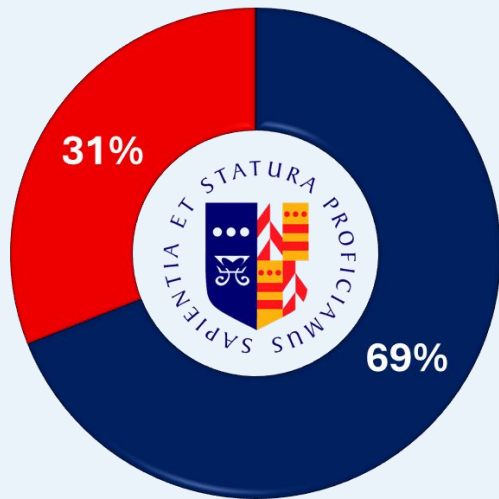


RESILIENCE

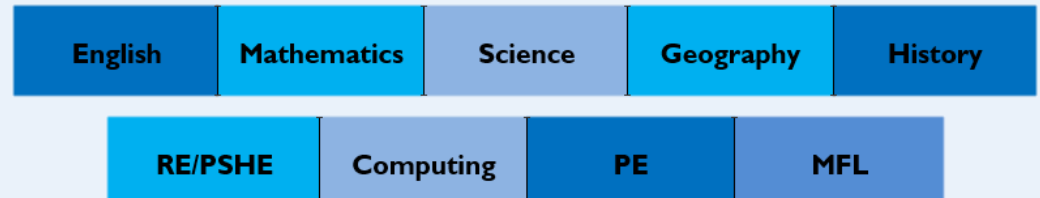
# The Year 9 Curriculum

## THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



## The Year 9 Core Curriculum



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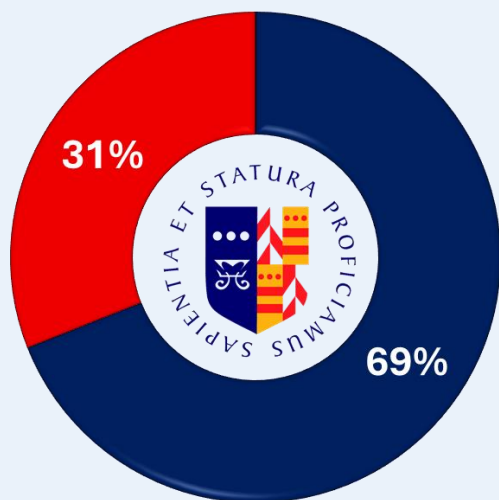
# The Year 9 Curriculum

## The Year 9 Core Curriculum

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
RE/PSHE	Computing	PE	MFL	

### THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



## The Year 9 Options

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Technology	Creative Arts		Free Choice A	Free Choice B	Free Choice C
Electronics Food Resistant Materials Textiles Hospitality & Catering Engineering Design	Art* Drama Music Photography* Media Studies*		3 choices from: A 2 <sup>nd</sup> language** (NB: this takes up 2 free options) A 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> specialist technology A 3 <sup>rd</sup> creative art Computer Science Health and Social Care Introduction to Business Studies Introduction to Law, Society, and the Brain Philosophy and Ethics Pre-exam PE (PEP) Digital IT Preparation for Adulthood*** (guided option) Accelerated Literacy (AL)*** (guided option)		



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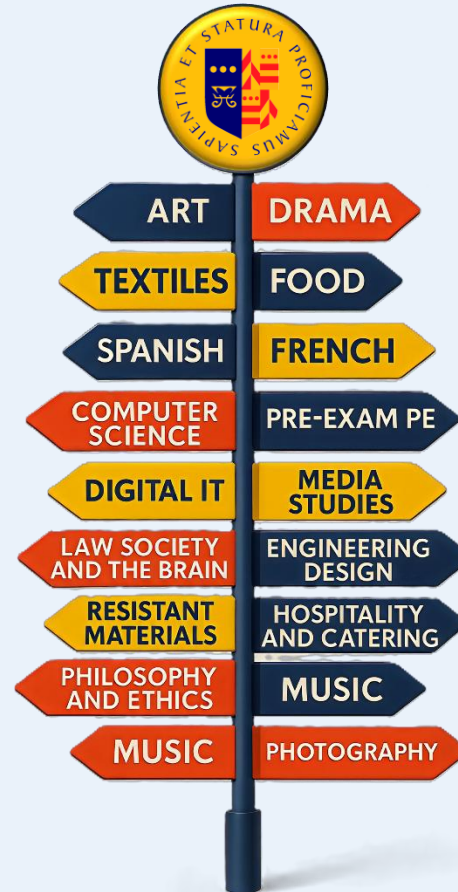


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# The Options Process last year



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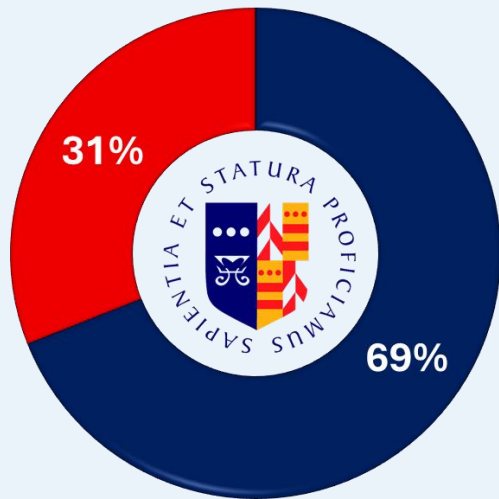


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# The Year 10 Curriculum

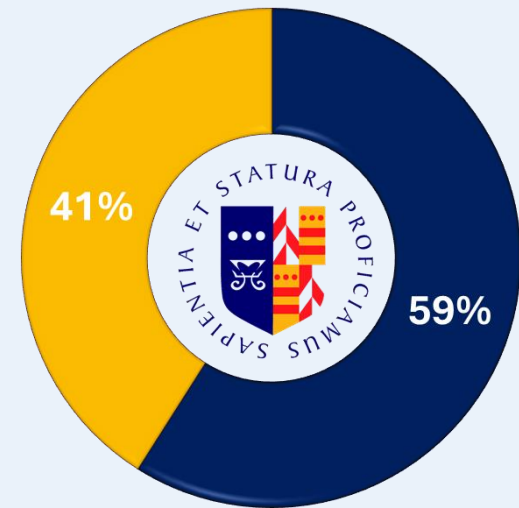
THE YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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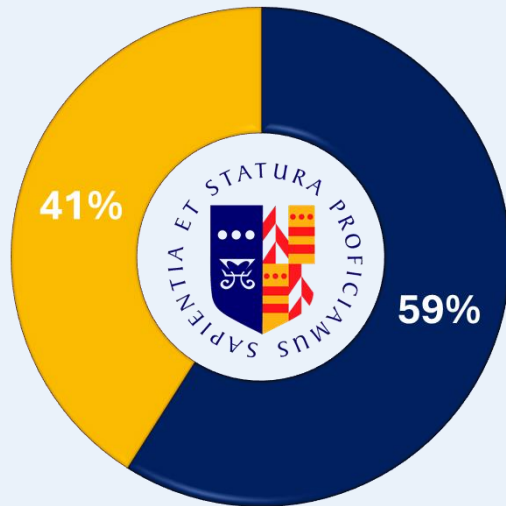
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# The Year 10 Curriculum

## THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



### Year 10/11 Curriculum

#### 6 core subjects

#### CORE

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Combined Science

RE, PSHE,  
Citizenship

Core PE

#### 4 option choices



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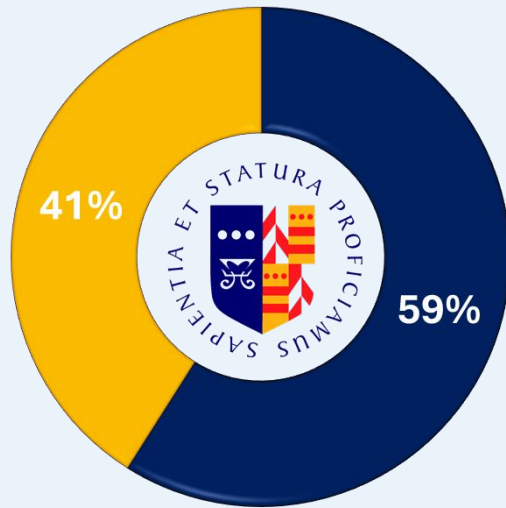


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# The Year 10 Curriculum

## THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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# The Year 10 Core Curriculum

All students will spend nearly **60%** of their timetable on the core curriculum. This will lead to **five GCSE qualifications** in:



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# The Year 10 Core Curriculum

All students will spend nearly **60%** of their timetable on the core curriculum. This will lead to **five GCSE qualifications** in:

## English Language



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# The Year 10 Core Curriculum

All students will spend nearly **60%** of their timetable on the core curriculum. This will lead to **five GCSE qualifications** in:



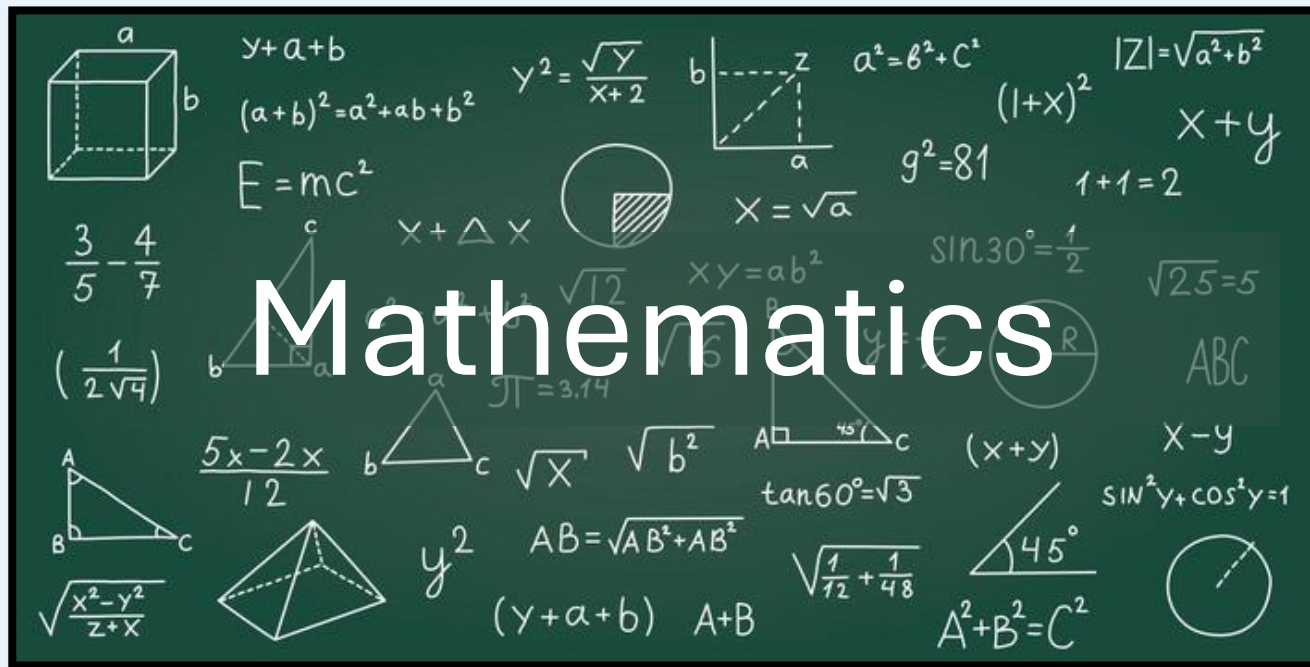
## English Literature





# The Year 10 Core Curriculum

All students will spend nearly **60%** of their timetable on the core curriculum. This will lead to **five GCSE qualifications** in:



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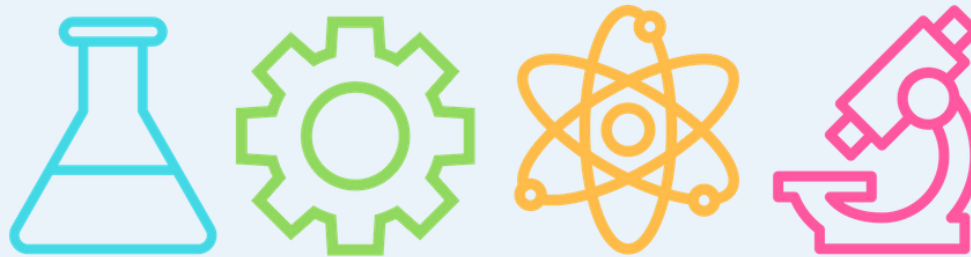
KINDNESS



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# The Year 10 Core Curriculum

All students will spend nearly **60%** of their timetable on the core curriculum. This will lead to **five GCSE qualifications** in:



## Combined Science: Trilogy (Two GCSEs)



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# The Year 10 Core Curriculum

In the rest of your core curriculum, you will study

Core PE

RE

PSHE

Citizenship



*“Growing in wisdom  
and stature”*



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# Year 9 Options



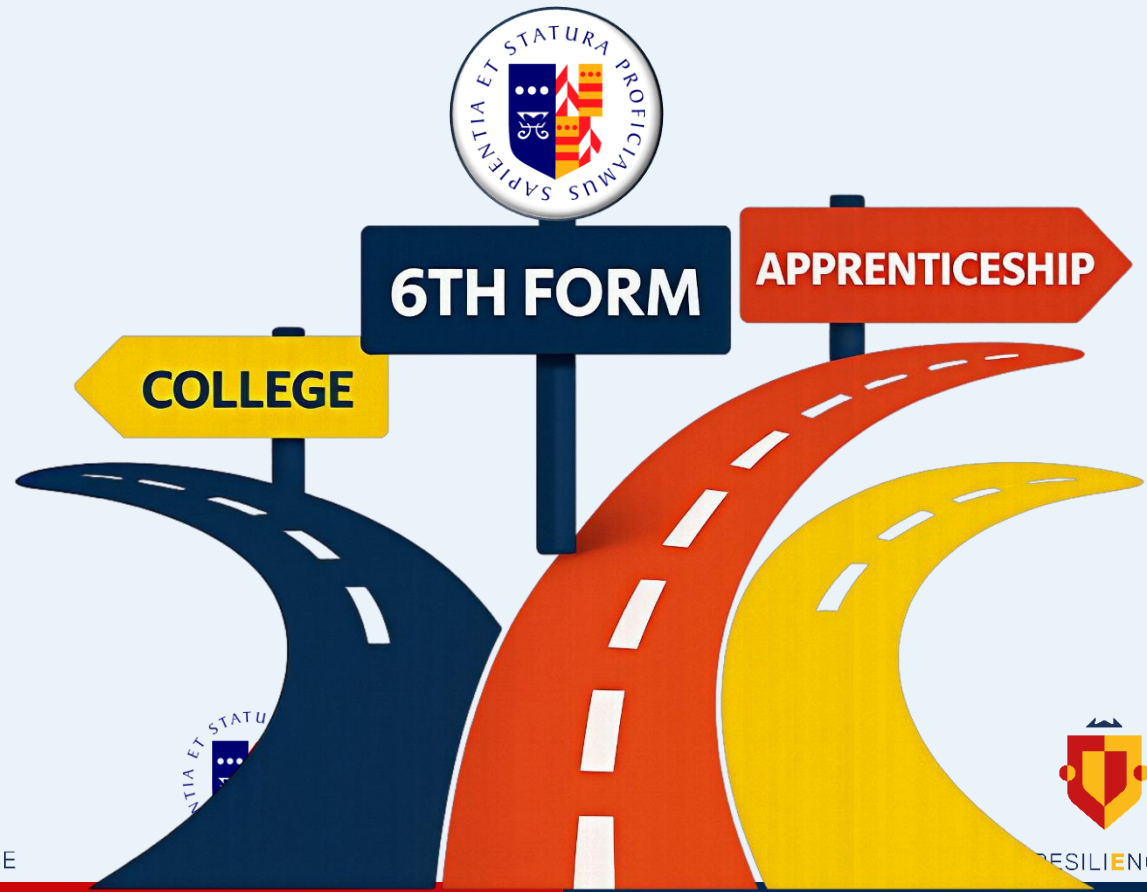
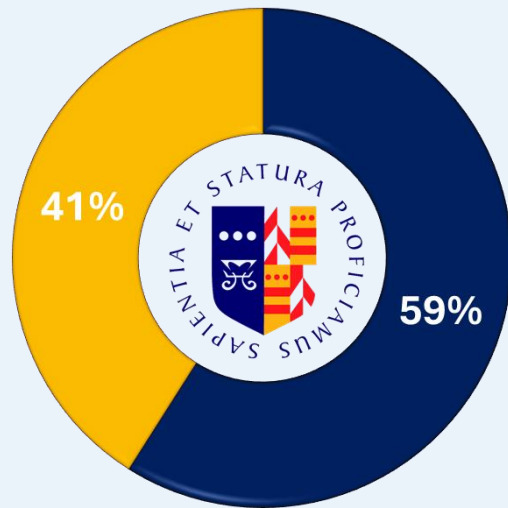
- How your Curriculum is Changing
- **KS4 Pathways**
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# The Year 10 Options Curriculum

## THE YEAR 10 CURRICULUM

■ Core ■ Options



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Ebacc stands for **English Baccalaureate** and is a combination of GCSE subjects recommended by the Government.



Department  
for Education



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

### Why is this combination recommended?



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for Education



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Why is this combination recommended?

“Gives you access to a full range of employment options when you leave secondary school”



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Why is this combination recommended?

“Gives you the broad knowledge that employers are looking for”



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Why is this combination recommended?

“Recommended by Britain’s most prestigious universities”



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Why is this combination recommended?

Includes a language GCSE: “Languages give young people a competitive edge”



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Which subjects are included?

**Option 1:**

**History** OR **Geography**



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Which subjects are included?

**Option 2:**

**French OR Spanish**



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

Which subjects are included?

**Option 3 and 4:**

**Two further choices** from a range of options. We recommend one of these choices should be a **practical** or **creative** subject.



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## I. The EBacc Pathway

### I: EBacc Pathway

**Guided Option I: EBacc Humanities**  
History or Geography

**Guided Option 2: EBacc MFL**  
French or Spanish

**Open Options 3 and 4**  
2 further choices from a range of options. To ensure you follow a broad and balanced curriculum we recommend one of your choices should be a practical/creative subject.



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## 2. The Comprehensive Pathway

### 2: Comprehensive Pathway

#### Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography  
History

French  
Spanish

Computer Science  
Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

#### Open Options 2, 3 and 4

3 further choices including any EBacc subject not selected as Option 1 or from the range of options choices.



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## 3. The Technical GCSE Pathway

### 3: Technical GCSE Pathway

#### Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography  
History

French  
Spanish

Computer Science  
Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

#### Guided Options 2 and 3

2 choices from:

Technical or BTEC courses/  
practical/creative subjects.

#### Open Option 4

Open choices from a range of subjects including any  
EBacc subjects not selected as Option 1.



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## Why is an EBacc subject compulsory?

### 2: Comprehensive Pathway

#### Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography      French      Computer Science  
History      Spanish      Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

#### Open Options 2, 3 and 4

3 further choices including any EBacc subject not selected as Option 1 or from the range of options choices.

### 3: Technical GCSE Pathway

#### Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography      French      Computer Science  
History      Spanish      Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

#### Guided Options 2 and 3

2 choices from:

Technical or BTEC courses/  
practical/creative subjects.

#### Open Option 4

Open choices from a range of subjects including any EBacc subjects not selected as Option 1.



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## Why is an EBacc subject compulsory?

### Option 1: EBACC CHOICE

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science
- Separate Science

### 2: Comprehensive Pathway

#### Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography	French	Computer Science
History	Spanish	Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.

### 3: Technical GCSE Pathway

#### Guided Option 1: EBacc Option

Geography	French	Computer Science
History	Spanish	Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects.



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## 4. Supported Pathway

### 4: Supported Pathway

#### Guided Option 1: Functional Skills English

This course is designed to develop written and verbal communication, and students can have the opportunity to gain additional qualifications such as Functional Skills English as part of this option. More generally, this option works in parallel with GCSE English and provides students with additional practice and literacy support. Students taking the Functional Skills option continue to work towards their GCSE English and English literature in their core English lessons. Students are assessed through an ongoing process for Functional Skills. It is delivered in a small group environment through the Inclusive Learning Department. There is opportunity for careers guidance as part of this course.

#### Guided Options 2 and 3

2 choices from BTEC/technical qualifications, and a range of practical/creative subjects.

#### Open Option 4

Open choice from a range of subjects.



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# Which Pathway is right for you?

## 1: EBacc Pathway

**Guided Option 1: EBacc Humanities**  
History or Geography

## 2: Comprehensive Pathway

**Guided Option 1:**  
Geography      French  
History          Spanish

1 choice from the above

**Open Option 2:**  
3 further choices including  
as Option 1 or from the above

## 3: Technical GCSE Pathway

**Guided Option 1: EBacc Option**  
Geography      French      Computer Science  
History          Spanish      Separate Science

1 choice from the above EBacc subjects

**Guided Options 2 and 3:**  
2 choices from:  
Technical or BTEC course  
practical/creative subjects

**Open Option 4**  
Open choices from a range of subjects  
EBacc subjects not selected as Option 1

## 4: Supported Pathway

**Guided Option 1: Functional Skills English**  
This course is designed to develop written and verbal communication, and students can have the opportunity to gain additional qualifications such as Functional Skills English as part of this option. More generally, this option works in parallel with GCSE English and provides students with additional practice and literacy support. Students taking the Functional Skills option continue to work towards their GCSE English and English literature in their core English lessons. Students are assessed through an ongoing process for Functional Skills. It is delivered in a small group environment through the Inclusive Learning Department. There is opportunity for careers guidance as part of this course.

**Guided Options 2 and 3**  
2 choices from BTEC/technical qualifications, and a range of practical/creative subjects.

**Open Option 4**  
Open choice from a range of subjects.



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# Options Choices

## Humanities subjects:

- GCSE Geography (EBacc subject)
- GCSE History (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Business Studies

## Creative/practical subjects:

- GCSE Art, Craft and Design
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Food & Nutrition
- GCSE Textiles
- GCSE Electronic Products
- GCSE Resistant Materials
- GCSE PE

## MFL subjects:

- GCSE French (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Spanish (EBacc subject)

## Sciences:

- GCSE Computer Science (EBacc subject)
- GCSE Separate Science (EBacc subject)

## Technical/Practical:

- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT
- CNAT Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Sport

## Inclusive Learning Guided Option:

- Functional Skills English



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# A Spotlight on Practical/Technical Qualifications

## Technical/Practical:

- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT
- CNAT Engineering Design Award

## ➤ BTEC Health and Social Care

- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Sport

A BTEC level 2 course worth the equivalent  
to one GCSE (grades 4 - 8.5)

For more information see Miss Ainscow.



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# A Spotlight on Practical/Technical Qualifications

## Technical/Practical:

### ➤ **BTEC Tech Award Digital IT**

- CNAT Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Sport

A level 2 Technical Award equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4 - 8.5). The qualification builds the skills needed for further study at post-16 and beyond.

For more information see Miss Brides.



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# A Spotlight on Practical/Technical Qualifications

## Technical/Practical:

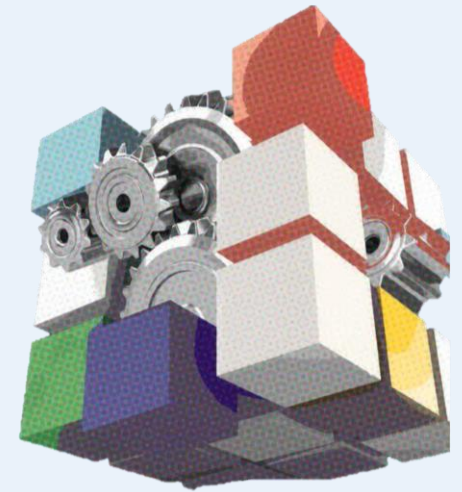
- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT

## ➤ CNAT Engineering Design Award

- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Sport

A level 2 qualification equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4 - 8.5). Understand the design process, and the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD).

For more information see Miss Brides or Mr Ibbertson.



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# A Spotlight on Practical/Technical Qualifications

## Technical/Practical:

- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT
- CNAT Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care

## ➤ BTEC Performing Arts

- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering
- BTEC Level 2 Sport



A level 2 qualification equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4 - 8.5). Develop key skills and gain experience relevant to the sector, potentially leading to further qualifications. For more information see Ms. Ramrattan and Miss Clift.



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# A Spotlight on Practical/Technical Qualifications

## Technical/Practical:

- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT
- CNAT Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts

## ➤ WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering

- BTEC Level 2 Sport

A level 2 qualification equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4 - 8.5). Learn more about the Hospitality industry and develop a range of specialist skills. For more information see Mrs Druett.



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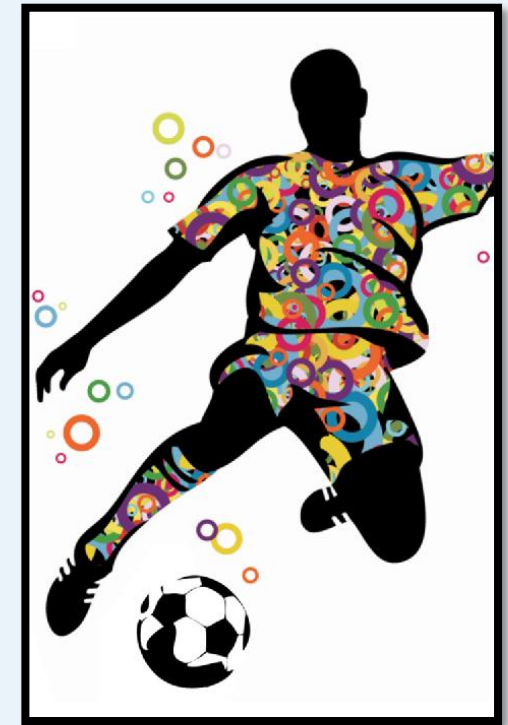
# A Spotlight on Practical/Technical Qualifications

## Technical/Practical:

- BTEC Tech Award Digital IT
- CNAT Engineering Design Award
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Performing Arts
- WJEC Award in Hospitality & Catering

## ➤ BTEC Level 2 Sport

A level 2 qualification equivalent to one GCSE (grades 4 - 8.5). Different from GCSE PE – fewer practical elements but two components of internal assessment.  
For more information see Mr Burton in PE.



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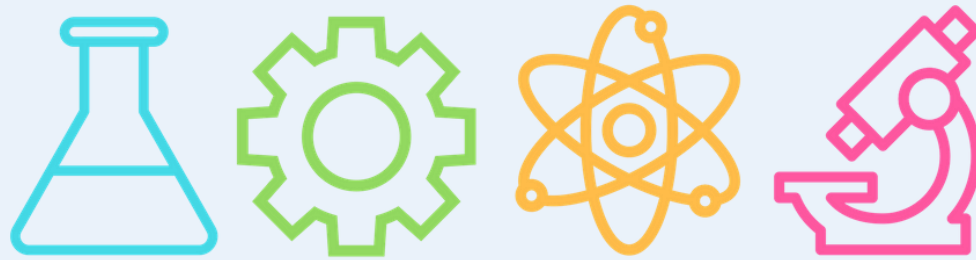
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# Separate Science

All students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 10 and Year 11.



However, choosing separate science results in three GCSE Grades rather than two.



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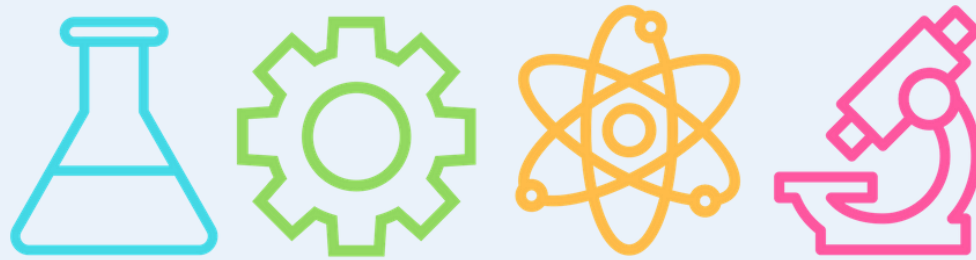
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# Separate Science

All students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 10 and Year 11



Choosing separate science uses an option choice and is best suited for those students with a **strong passion** for science.



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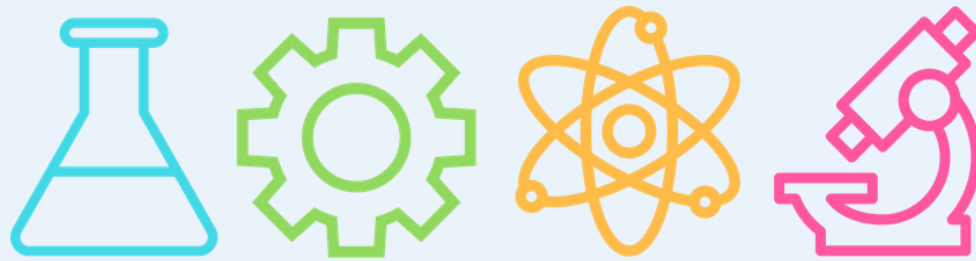
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# Separate Science

Choosing separate science uses an option choice and is best suited for those students with a **strong passion** for science.



By choosing separate science, you will have **15 lessons of science** rather than 9 in Year 10, and **18 lessons of science** in Year 11 rather than 12.



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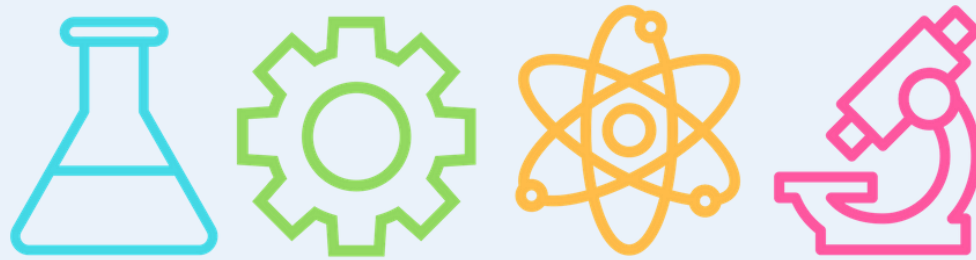


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# Separate Science

By choosing separate science, you will have **15 lessons of science** rather than 9 in Year 10, and **18 lessons of science** in Year 11 rather than 12.



Do you have to choose this option to study A Level science?



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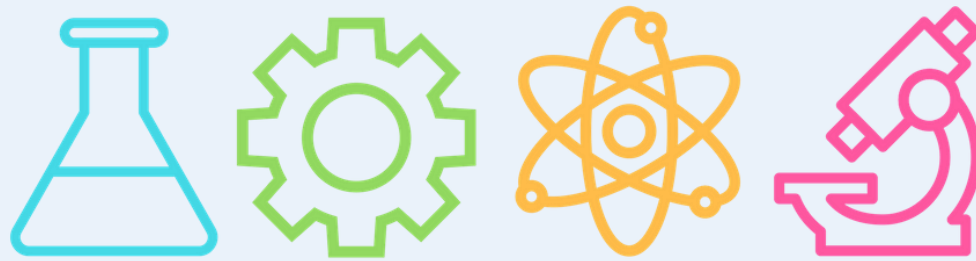
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# Separate Science

Do you have to choose this option to study A Level science?



**NO**



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# Year 9 Options



➤ How your Curriculum is Changing

➤ KS4 Pathways

➤ **The Options Process**

➤ Guidance and Advice



# The Options Process

Year 9	
PROCESS	DATES
Year 9-10 Options PBT Assembly Launch  Distribution of options booklets electronically	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2026
Year 9 Parents' evening	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Options forms available electronically	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
PBT sessions with Leadership Team	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
February Half Term	16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Year 8 and 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Optional drop in meetings with Leadership Team/ Inclusive Learning	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Deadline for submission of electronic options forms	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 8 a.m.



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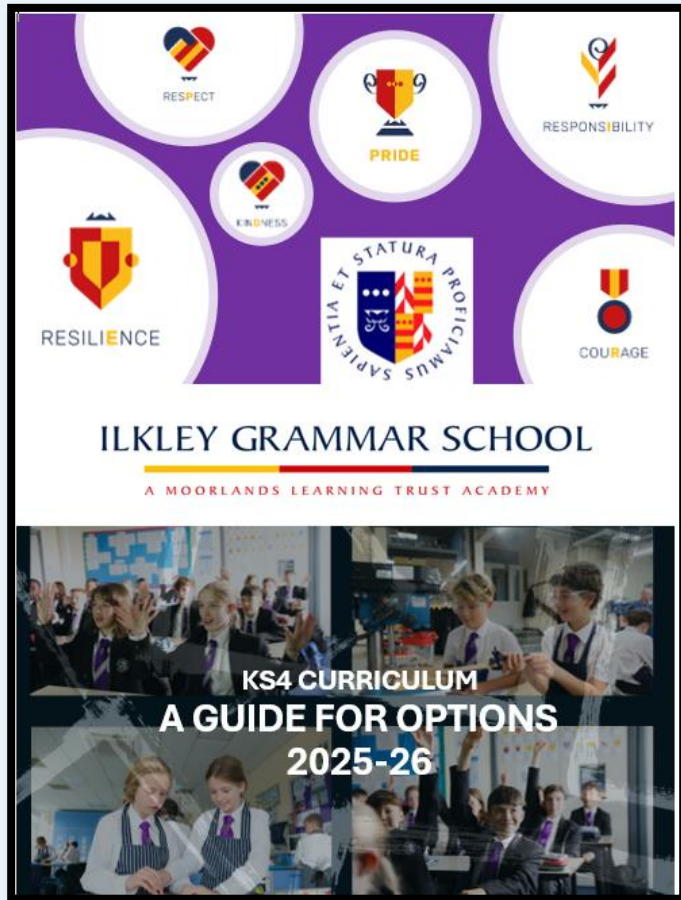
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# Making Informed Choices


## The Options Booklet



**Art and Design: Photography**

**In GCSE Photography you will learn about:**

- how to use a DSLR and control depth of field and shutter speed to achieve creative results
- how to upload, store, share and print files
- using Affinity editing software to enhance and improve your original photos and achieve creative results through adding text or combining images
- how to research an idea, develop it and successfully complete a final piece
- being inspired by other artists and how to use them to drive forward your own learning
- where your strengths and interests lie in photography
- different types of lighting and how to use them to achieve creative results



**You will learn by:**

- completing a number of different projects for your 'Portfolio', each exploring a different genre (toys and games, movement photography and portraits) and using different photography techniques
- completing a practical mock exam in year 11. In this project you will respond independently to one of 7 given themes.
- practically exploring the cameras, working on location, learning techniques, developing skills and being experimental with how you take photos
- Using the computer to edit your photos to improve them, to add text to create graphic products and to use layers to create creative, innovative and unusual outcomes.
- discussing and reflecting on your work and progress individually and in groups
- annotating your work to explain, evaluate your progress and plan your next steps
- researching the work of other artists, discussing and writing analytical notes

**You will be assessed by:**

- Practical portfolio of coursework is worth 60% of your grade. This includes all classwork and homework from the start of year 10 through to January of year 11.
- A 4-month exam starting January in Year 11. This is a practical exam, responding to a theme set by the exam board. You have 4 months to prepare, plan and practise your practical work and then a final 10-hour practical exam (over 2 full days) to make your final piece. This 4-month body of work is 40% of your grade. (It is worth noting that your exam is in April, concluding your course before your other exams begin.)
- You are expected to include writing within your sketchbooks; however, your exam is not a written exam, it is purely practical.

**Tiers of entry:**

N/A for Photography



# Making Informed Choices

Year 9 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**



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# Making Informed Choices

## Options Evening

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**



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# How to Choose...

## Using the Microsoft Form

**Options Forms are available electronically  
on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January.**



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# How to Choose...

## Using the Microsoft Form

Your form tutor will guide you through this process during PBT.



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# How to Choose...

## Using the Microsoft Form

### Ilkley Grammar School Options 2026 Y09 - Y10

Spring 2026

Welcome to Options at Ilkley Grammar School

This form is where you will select your subject choices for years 10-11. Over the next few weeks, you will receive lots of information to help you make your choices...



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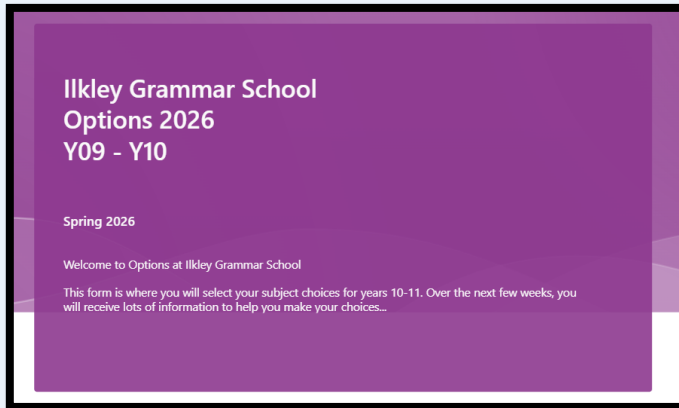
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# How to Choose...

## Using the Microsoft Form



You will use the  
Microsoft Form to make:

- ☐ **Four option choices**
- ☐ **Two reserve choices**



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# How to Choose...

## Using the Microsoft Form

### 1. Choose **FOUR** from: \*

Please remember that you cannot take some combinations of subjects.

- You can only take one Design Technology course from these options: DT Electronics, DT Resistant Materials, DT Textiles)
- You cannot take BTEC Performing Arts and GCSE Drama together
- You cannot take BTEC Sport and GCSE PE together

Please select at most 4 options.

- ☐ GCSE Computer Science (EBacc subject)
- ☐ GCSE Geography (EBacc subject)
- ☐ GCSE History (EBacc subject)
- ☐ GCSE French (EBacc subject)
- ☐ GCSE Spanish (EBacc subject)
- ☐ Separate Science GCSE (EBacc subject)



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# How to Choose...

## Using the Microsoft Form

You can submit the form as **many times as you like.**

Your **last submission** will be taken as your **final choice.**



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# How to Choose...

## Using the Microsoft Form

The deadline for submissions is:

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 8 a.m.**



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# Year 9 Options



- How your Curriculum is Changing
- KS4 Pathways
- The Options Process
- **Guidance and Advice**



# Potential Combinations

History	French	Spanish	Drama
French	History	Computer Science	Philosophy
History	French	Drama	GCSE PE
Separate Science	Computer Science	French	Geography
Music	Spanish	History	Media
Geography	Business	Electronics	BTEC Sport L2
Spanish	Philosophy	Textiles	Art
Geography	Food Prep and Nutrition	GCSE PE	Performing Arts



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# Forbidden Combinations

**Spanish**

**French**

**History**

**Drama**

*\*ab initio*

**French**

**History**

**GCSE Drama**

**BTEC Performing  
Arts**

**Geography**

**GCSE PE**

**BTEC Sport**

**Computer Science**

**Spanish**

**DT Textiles**

**DT Electronic  
Products**

**DT Resistant  
Materials**

*\*Any two of these three*

**Spanish**

**BTEC Sport**

**DT Electronic  
Products**

**Functional Skills  
English**

*\*Must be guided*



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# Exam Management

You will sit **13 exams** for your **Core subjects**.

If you follow the EBacc pathway, you will sit at least **20 exams**



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# Exam Management

You may want to consider subjects which have **other forms of assessment**.

Some subjects are examined **gradually throughout KS4** through **submission tasks or practical tasks**.



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# Making Informed Choices

1. **Don't** make choices based on whether you **like your current teacher**.
2. **Don't** choose a course based on what your **friends are doing**.
3. **Don't** assume some courses will be **easier than others** – all require hard work inside and outside of school.
4. **Don't** make a **final decision** before studying the booklet, gaining more information and attending the Year 9 Options Evening.



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# Making Informed Choices

1. **Do** consider your **future career** but remember most people do change their minds.
2. **Do** aim as high as possible. Don't close doors for yourself!
3. **Do** make sure you understand what each subject involves. Read the booklet.
4. **Do** be realistic and honest with yourself.



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# Questions to ask yourself

1. Will I **enjoy** the subject?
2. Will I be **successful** in the subject?
3. Am I **specialising** too early?
4. Will the **type of assessment** suit my learning style?
5. Will the qualifications I choose **support progression** to education or training beyond 16?
6. Which subjects do I need for my possible **career**?



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# Who to ask for advice

1. Your Form Tutor
  2. Your subject teachers
  3. Your parents / carers
  4. Mr Spivey, Mrs Marshall and Miss Clift
  5. Me or any other member of the leadership team
- Email: [year9options@ilkleygs.co.uk](mailto:year9options@ilkleygs.co.uk)
  - You can also book a drop-in meeting for more advice



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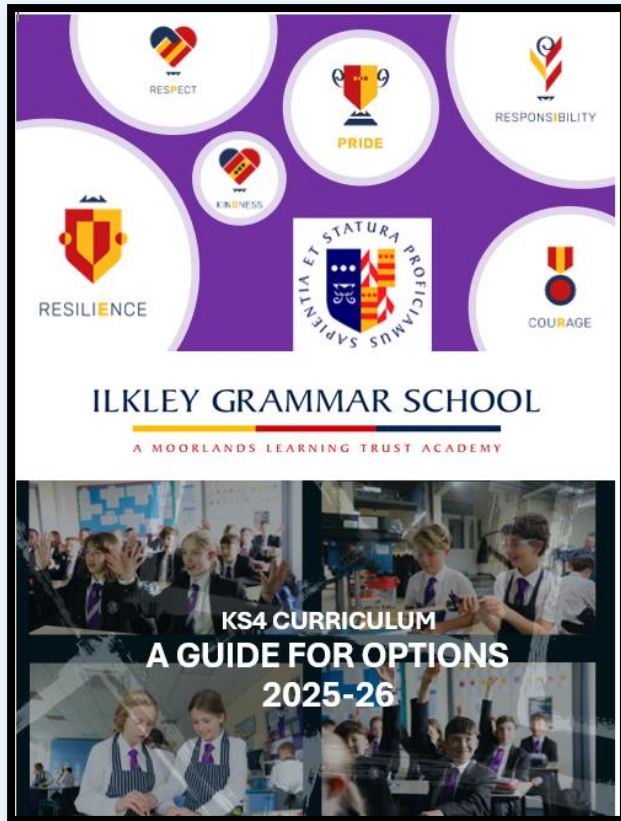
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# Open Evening

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March



Visit curriculum areas,  
attend an information  
presentation, and  
make final decisions.



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# Year 9 Options

## 2026

