

21st January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 9 Options

Thank you for your support so far this year. We are incredibly proud of our Year 9 students and the effort they have shown, alongside your partnership, to arrive at school in the correct uniform, on time, and ready to learn. These routines of punctuality and attendance are vital in helping students achieve, grow, and thrive—setting them up to be happy and successful in the future.

Year 9 is an important milestone. At the end of this year, students will complete Key Stage 3 (KS3) and move into Key Stage 4 (KS4), where they will begin their GCSE courses. This is an exciting stage because students will have some choice over the subjects they study. Our options process is designed to make sure every child continues to access a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the best possible start for life after Year 11.

For many students, this will include a pathway that encourages the study of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects. The EBacc isn't a separate qualification—it's a group of GCSE subjects, including a language, that provide a strong foundation of knowledge and skills. Even if your child hasn't decided on a future career yet, choosing an EBacc pathway helps keep doors open for university, apprenticeships, and a wide range of employment opportunities. It's also highly valued by most universities and employers.

At the same time, we know that every child is unique. It's important that students choose subjects that suit their interests, strengths, and future aspirations. That's why we offer a range of pathways, including both GCSE and vocational courses, to make sure every student can succeed. Pathways will be allocated based on our full understanding of each child and their progress so far, with the aim of giving them the best chance of success beyond Year 11.

If your child's proposed pathway does not feel right for them, please be assured that we are flexible as a school. Our priority is to ensure that every student studies the qualifications that best match their needs and ambitions. We will work with you to make any necessary adjustments so that your child feels confident and supported in their choices.

All of the pathways on offer will cover the core curriculum consisting of:

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Learning for Life (PSHCSE/ Careers)
- Physical Education



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In addition to the core curriculum the pathways will offer students some choice from a selection of subjects. The pathways are as follows:

Pathway	Cohort %	Curriculum studied
Triple	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core curriculum• 3 separate science GCSEs• History or Geography• French or Spanish• 1 open choice
Open+	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core curriculum• Combined science GCSE equivalent to 2 GCSE's• History or Geography• French or Spanish• 2 open choices
Open	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core curriculum• History or Geography or French or Spanish• 3 open choices
Public Services	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core curriculum• Princes Trust• 3 open choices

In order to support the options process, we have the following events running:

Options Information and SIMS Online Registration – Monday 26th January- Friday 13th February

During these three weeks, your child(ren) will be given the pathway they will be studying and will be able to discuss this during a one-to-one interview with the options team. Faculties will share information about the subjects and courses during lessons. Students will also receive information on the courses available to them through a year group assembly.

Wednesday 4th March – Options Evening 6-8pm

Parents and carers will be invited into school to attend an options evening, with your child(ren), which will go through the options process and provide more information on the courses available. There will be computers and support available to use to complete options choices on the evening. In preparation for this, students will receive their login details for the SIMS options software during PD time on this day. Booking information for Options Evening will follow shortly.

The **deadline** for students to complete their option choices online is **Friday 13th March**. Please be aware that if their options are not selected by this date, they may not be able to study their chosen options.

We really look forward to seeing Parents and Carers at the Year 9 Options Evening and supporting you and your child(ren) through this significant milestone as they begin their journey from KS3 to KS4.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Elstub
Assistant Headteacher