

Key Stage 4 Options



What do we mean by 'Options'?

- In year 10 and 11 you choose a narrower range of subjects to study ready for your exams
- You will study **9** examined subjects and **2** non-examined subjects
- Some of these subjects are 'core' which means that you have to study them (according to law)
- Some of the choices are 'pathways' so that you choose from a range of subjects within a pathway
- Some are open choice



What does this mean for my timetable in year 10 and 11?

Year 10

7 x English

6 x Maths

7 x Science

2 x PSHE

2 x Core PE

4 x each
options
subject

Year 11

5 x English

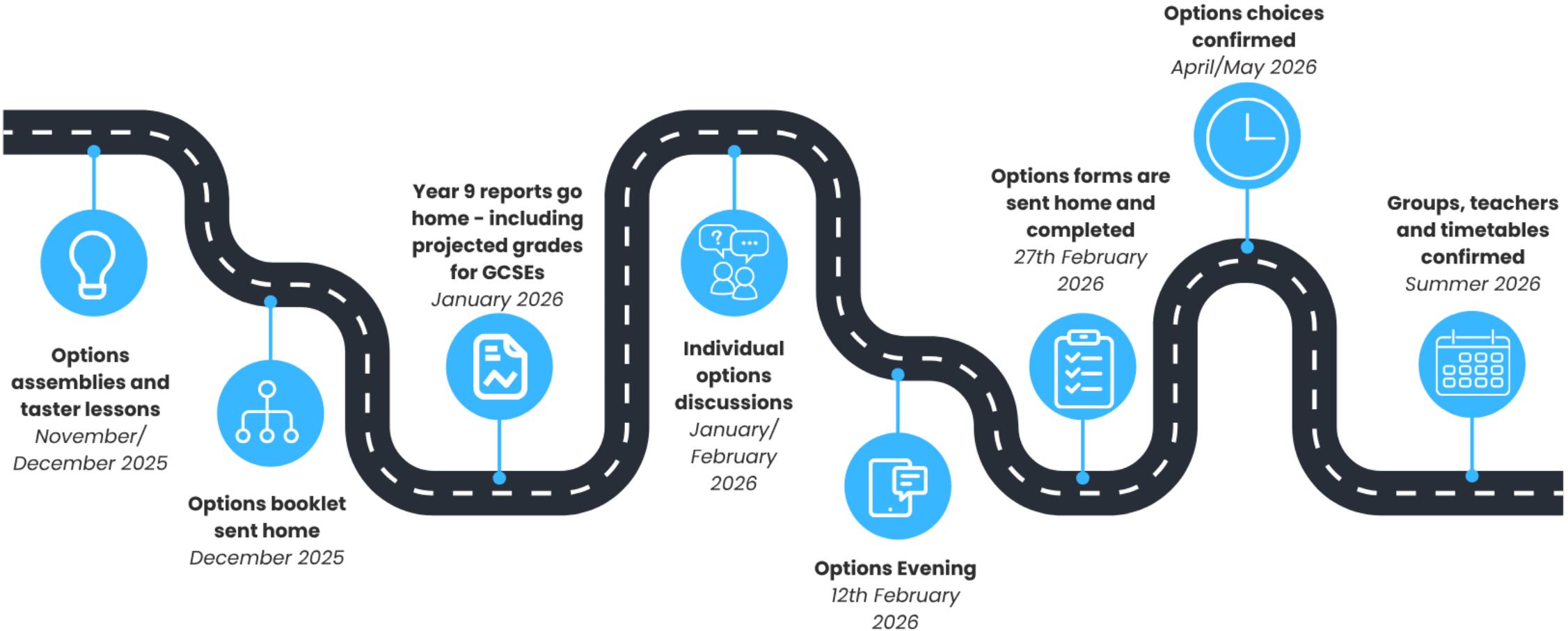
6 x Maths

5 x Science

2 x PSHE

2 x Core PE

5 x each
options
subject



The process

What are my options?

Non-assessed	Core subjects (5 GCSEs)	EBACC choices At least one of:	Pathway choices Up to 3 of:		Additional GCSES
PE (Core)	English Language	Computer Science	Art or Textiles	Music	Further Maths – selected students
PSHE	English Literature	History	Business Studies	PE GCSE or BTEC Sport	Statistics
	Maths	Geography	Design and Technology	Religious Studies	Additional Language GCSEs
	Double Science		Food Preparation and Nutrition	Sociology	
			French*	Triple Science*	
			CNAT Health and Social Care	Drama	

Arabic	Punjabi
Bengali	Persian
Chinese (Mandarin)	Polish
French	Portuguese
German	Russian
Greek	Spanish
Gujarati	Turkish
Italian	Urdu
	Japanese

GCSE Languages that we can support with

- Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening components
- Mock exams in January
- Summer 2026 exams



Options Assemblies



Date and Time	Options assemblies
Tuesday 2 nd December 9.05	Drama GCSE Food GCSE
Thursday 4 th December 9.05	Sociology GCSE Health and Social CNAT
Thursday 4 th December 2.40	French GCSE Design technology GCSE Computer Science GCSE
Monday 8 th December 9.05	PE GCSE BTEC Sport Music GCSE
Tuesday 9 th December 9.05	Art GCSE Business Studies GCSE
Thursday 11 th December 9.05	Geography GCSE History GCSE
Friday 12 th December 9.05	Triple Science GCSE

Individual options discussions

- January to March
- An individual meeting with a senior teacher to discuss your choices
- Talk about careers pathways and how your options choices affect this

Frequently asked questions

- **Why must my child must choose at least one of Geography, History, or Computer Science?**

These subjects form part of the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) group, which is valued by employers and further education providers. To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, every student must take at least one of these subjects as part of their GCSE options.

Students can take more than one of these if they choose.



Frequently asked questions

- **What happens if my child's preferred combination of subjects isn't possible?**

While the school aims to give every student their first choices, some combinations are restricted — for example, students can only take Art or Textiles, not both.

If a subject is full or cannot run, the school will look at your child's reserve choice and Attitude to Learning scores to make a fair decision. Any affected student will be spoken to individually agree on an alternative.



Frequently asked questions

- **How do we sign up for additional GCSEs such as Further Maths, Statistics, or additional languages?**

Some students may be offered the opportunity to take extra GCSEs — for example, Further Maths or Statistics. Students for whom this is encouraged are selected by the Maths department throughout year 10, and will begin their studies in year 11.

We also encourage our multi-lingual students to take GCSEs in their spoken languages. Unlike many schools we support students with practice exams in reading, writing and the spoken elements. You can indicate this on the options form in February and then Mrs Taylor, our exams officer, will contact you about it in year 10.