

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It is promising to see how settled and engaged the Year 9 students have been at the beginning of what is a very important academic year for them. It is their final year of Key Stage 3 and they will shortly begin making choices that will guide their future, narrowing their curriculum offer by selecting options to study in Key Stage 4. All students will study and gain a qualification in; English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science (2 x GCSEs) and Religious Education. On top of this subject offer they will need to choose **three** further subjects.

This letter will outline a timeline for the process, starting with the students attending an assembly, which will explain the option process. The students will be presented with a subject offer, comprising of a list of subjects they can choose. They will be asked to make some initial decisions on their option choices. However, please be aware this does not necessarily mean all these subjects will be offered at the end of the process. They will be carefully considered based on student uptake, staffing and the curriculum design.

Additional information will be available at the Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 12th February, please put this in your diaries but please also engage with the curriculum material available through the school website. This open evening will be the main event for subjects, which will allow yourselves and the students to attend so that more detailed information can be shared to establish suitability of the courses being offered.

In addition to the Options Evening, we also have the Parents Consultation Evening on 8th January, this will allow a focused opportunity to discuss your child's current performance and potential in each subject. It will help make well-informed, aspirational decisions for the options process and identify gaps and if any further support required.

Timeline

- 1st and 5th December; KS4 options assembly
- 5th December; Pre-options Information – subject information shared
- 19th December; Pre-option choices are completed
- 8th January; Parents Consultation Evening
- 12th February; Options Evening
- **27th February; Final Options deadline**

Yours Faithfully



Mr Oliver Keyworth

Assistant Headteacher

Additional Information

Please be mindful that a Curriculum and Assessment Review was published by the Department for Education on 5 November 2025. This review has made recommendations to the Government across the full curriculum, from Key Stage 1 up to Key Stage 5. There are some recommendations that may affect Year 10 students in 2026 and at the time of writing this letter the Government has not confirmed which recommendations it will support.

However, the most significant changes to the statutory curriculum and GCSE qualifications are scheduled for implementation starting in 2028 and 2029, meaning the cohort entering Year 10 in September 2026 (who typically sit their GCSEs in Summer 2028) is not expected to be directly impacted by the new curriculum content or exam reforms.

We do know that The English Baccalaureate ([link](#)) which was an accountability measure that tracked the percentage of students who achieved a Grade 4 or above in a core set of eight academic subjects (English, Maths, two Sciences, a Humanity, and a Language) will be scrapped.

This means we must comply with any changes the Government implement while going through this options process but we are hoping the impact for Year 10 in 2026 is minimal.