



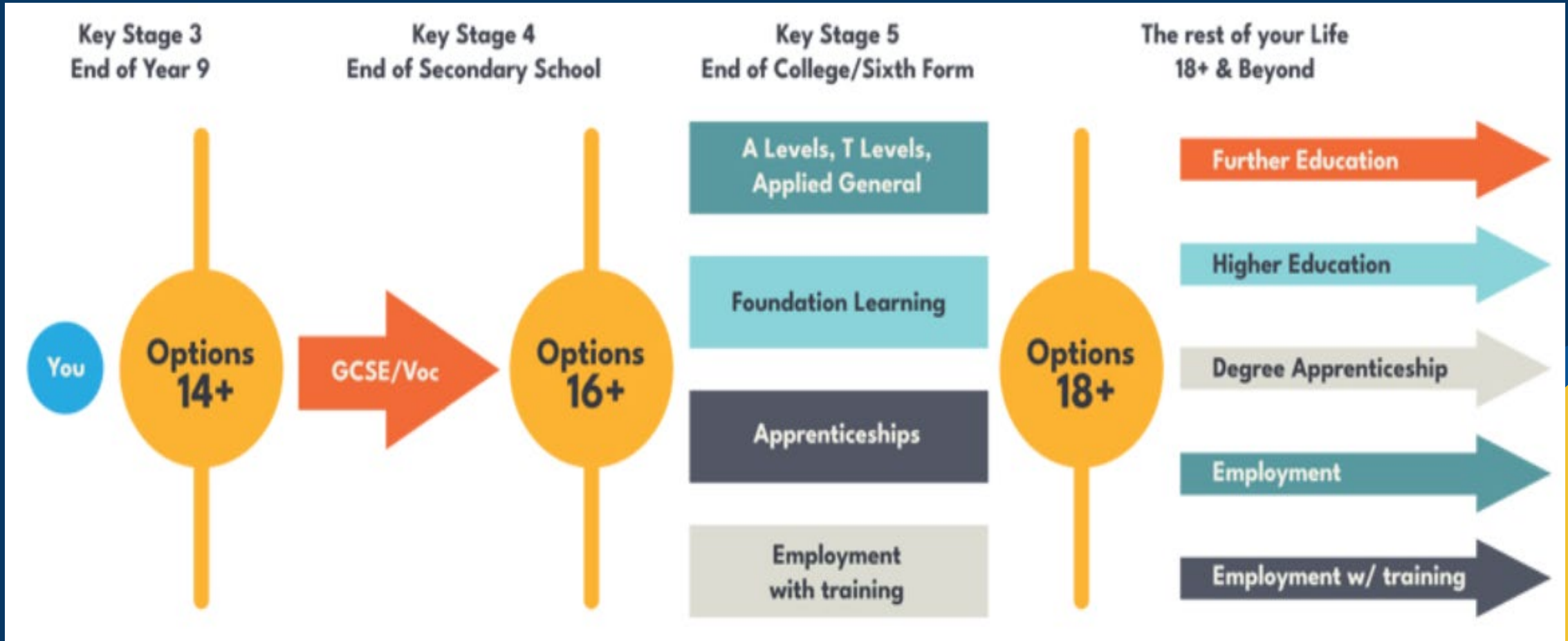
Year 9 – Key Stage 4 Options Information for parents



Welcome

- To understand what options are available at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)
- To understand what the different 'Pathways' are and how they work

14-19 Curriculum



Types of Courses

GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education) are qualifications you take in a variety of subjects in Year 11. They are a stepping stone to lots of other careers and qualifications.

They are **predominantly assessed by exams** at the end of Year 11. *Some* have coursework elements.

Some of our courses are called Vocational Awards, OCR Nationals or BTECs. These are more 'applied' qualifications, each equivalent to one GCSE.

They still have final exams, but coursework completed during Year 10 and 11 counts very significantly to your grade.

The Options Process

The Key Stage 4 programme will be made up of a mixture of “Core” subjects and “Option” subjects.

Core Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science - most do Trilogy (2 GCSEs covering all 3 sciences), some will do 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- *Plus non-examined courses in...*
 - Beliefs, Philosophy & Ethics*
 - Personal Development
 - Citizenship*
 - PE*

as options

**also available*

Options Choices

PLUS four option choices...

Options (GCSEs and **vocational courses**)

- Geography, History, BPE, Citizenship
- French, German, Spanish, Computer Science
- Art & Design, Drama, Graphics, Music
- **Dance**, PE
- Food / **Catering**, Technology, **Construction**
- **Business Studies**, Travel & Tourism
- Media Studies, **Music Technology**
- **Child Development**, Health & Social Care

Key Stage 4 Pathways

There are three 'Pathways' for students at Key Stage 4:

- 1) The English Baccalaureate Pathway (~70% of students)
- 2) The Open Pathway (~25% of students)
- 3) The Supported Pathway (~5% of students)

We have allocated students to the most appropriate pathway based on all the information we have. This pathway will determine how your options are collated...

The English Baccalaureate Pathway

CORE SUBJECTS plus...

This pathway ensures a well balanced curriculum that will **keep your options open.**

The government's target is for 90% of students nationally to be on this pathway. Since we are non-selective, we allocate **around 70% of students** to it.

History OR Geography

You can do both: you can put one in an open choice too...

Open choice

Language

French/German/Spanish
New GCSEs from 2024 to be much more accessible; defined vocabulary and instructions all in English

Open choice

The Open Pathway

CORE SUBJECTS plus...

We allocate **around 25% of our students** to this pathway.

You can choose more than one of History, Geography and French/German/Spanish using your open choices. **You can still complete the English Baccalaureate if you wish!**

**History OR
Geography OR
a Language**
(French/German/Spanish)

**Open
choice**

**Open
choice**

**Open
choice**

The Supported Pathway

CORE SUBJECTS plus...

We allocate **around 5% of our students** to this pathway.

The support curriculum could include IT, English and Maths functional skills qualifications as well as support for other subjects and personal and social education (life skills).

**Open
choice**

**Support
curriculum**
(personal and
social education)

**Open
choice**

Open choice
OR
more support
as agreed
appropriate

Options form and deadline

- We'll email a Google Form personalised to your child
- Their allocated pathway (EBacc, Open or Support) will be built into the form. You return the form online.
- You need to be logged into the student's school Google account to return the form (log into Google Mail first)
- **Deadline to return forms by is Friday 22nd March 2024. (This will give you first priority.)**

Reserve choice and reasons

- We do our best to give everyone their original choices, and this usually works for the vast majority of students
- However, as well as the main pathway choices, the form will also ask for **one additional reserve (backup) choice**
- We collect this reserve choice just in case it's needed, but usually only need it for a small number of students
- Finally, we'll ask for the reasons behind your choices...

General Advice

- Try to get a good breadth & balance of subjects (keep longer term options open)
- Never base a choice on teachers or friends
- Speak to subject teachers and form tutors
- Talk things over at home
- See our Careers Advisor, Post-16 providers and employers in the Sports Hall this evening
- Rule of three - **enjoy, succeed and continue**

This Evening:

- Time for you to visit the array of stalls and speak to staff/students about possible subject choices
- A Careers Fair in the Sports Hall (including Post-16 providers and employers)
- A chance to see **everything** - visit the full range available – you might be surprised!



Enjoy the rest of the evening