



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 our different Options 'Pathways' and how they work

Year 9
Parents' Evening

Thu 28th Nov 2024

Options Assembly

Wed 12th Mar 2025

Taster Day &
Options Fair
Option forms available!

Thu 20th Mar 2025



Think, discuss,
take advice...

Fri 28th Mar 2025

**Options Deadline
Friday 28th March**

Wed 9th Oct 2024

BBC Bitesize
Careers Tour

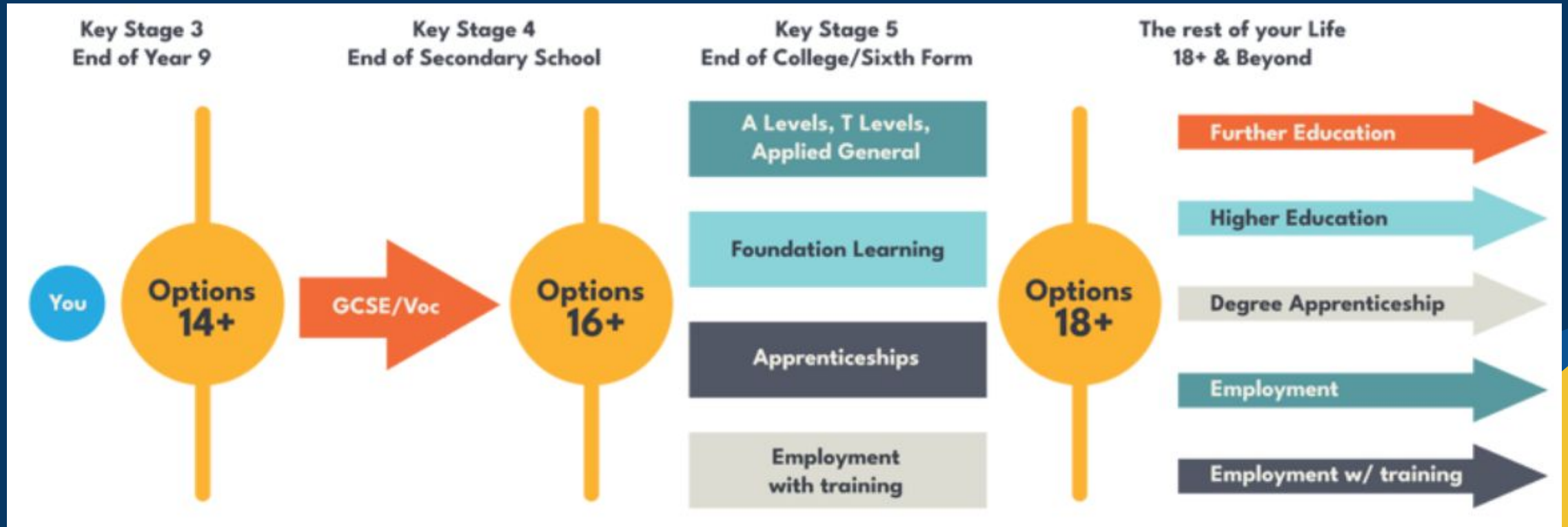
Thu 13th Feb 2025

Careers Fair

Thursday 13th OR
Friday 14th Mar 2025

Submit Options
Taster Preferences

14-19 Curriculum



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* **also available as options*

Options Choices

PLUS four option choices...

Key Stage 4 Pathways

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

- 1) The English Baccalaureate Pathway (*KS2 107+*)
- 2) The Open Pathway
- 3) The Supported Pathway (*by invitation only*)

We have allocated students to the most appropriate pathway. This pathway will determine how they can choose their options.

The English Baccalaureate Pathway

CORE SUBJECTS plus...

This pathway ensures a well balanced curriculum that will **keep your options open**. It's the expected pathway for students with **KS2 Reading or Average scores of 107+** as national data shows they tend to achieve strong grades across the EBacc subjects.

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 are much more accessible; defined vocabulary and instructions all in English

Open choice

The Open Pathway

CORE SUBJECTS plus...

You can choose more than one of History, Geography and French/German/Spanish using your open choices.

On this pathway, you can still complete the full English Baccalaureate if you wish to!

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

**Open
choice**

**Open
choice**

**Open
choice**

The Supported Pathway (by invitation only)

CORE SUBJECTS plus...

The support curriculum could include IT, English and Maths Entry Level qualifications, or Unit Award courses building confidence and supporting personal development, or support for other subjects, or life (personal/social) and workplace skills lessons.

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

**Open
choice**

**Support
curriculum
lessons**

**Open
choice**

Double Support Pathway (invitation only)

CORE SUBJECTS plus...

The support curriculum could include IT, English and Maths Entry Level qualifications, or Unit Award courses building confidence and supporting personal development, or support for other subjects, or life (personal/social) and workplace skills lessons.

**Open
choice**

**Open
choice**

**Support
curriculum
lessons**

**Support
curriculum
lessons**

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, Technical Awards, OCR Cambridge 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.*

Options (GCSEs and **vocational courses**)

- Geography, History, French, German, Spanish
- BPE, Citizenship, Computer Science
- Art, Drama, Graphics, Music, **Music Tech**
- **Dance**, GCSE PE or **NCFE Health and Fitness**
- Food **or Catering**, Technology, **Construction**
- Business Studies GCSE, **Business Studies CNAT**
- Media Studies, **Travel & Tourism**
- **Child Development, Health & Social Care**
- Statistics, Further Mathematics with Statistics

Personalised Google Form

Year 9 – Key Stage 4 Options Form
English Baccalaureate Pathway



Year 9 Options Form: EBacc Pathway

richard.stuart@stanway.school [Switch account](#)

Your email will be recorded when you submit this form

* Indicates required question


Option Choices

Please complete ALL sections

Humanities
Please choose ONE only
(If you want to study both, you will be able to choose the other later on in the form.)

- Geography
- History

Year 9 – Key Stage 4 Options Form
Open Pathway



Year 9 Options Form: Open Pathway

Your email will be recorded when you submit this form

* Indicates required question

Option Choices

Please complete ALL sections

EBacc Option
Please choose ONE only. You can only choose a language you have already been studying.
(If you want to study more than one from this list, you will be able to choose the other(s) later on in the form.)

- Geography
- History
- French
- German
- Spanish

Year 9 – Key Stage 4 Options Form
Supported Pathway



Year 9 Options Form: Support Pathway
(Entry Level Qualifications)

Your email will be recorded when you submit this form

* Indicates required question

Option Choices

Please complete ALL sections

Support Pathway Element *

- Support Curriculum: Entry Level Qualifications

EBacc Option
Please choose ONE only. You can only choose a language you have already been studying.



Year 9 Options Form: EBacc Pathway

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Your email will be recorded when you submit this form

* Indicates required question

Option Choices

Please complete ALL sections

Humanities

Please choose ONE only

(If you want to study both, you will

Geography

History

Languages

Choose the ONE you are already

Options form and deadline

- We'll email a Google Form personalised to the student
- 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.com first)
- **Deadline to return forms by is Friday 28th March 2025. (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 forms ask for **one additional reserve (backup) choice**
- **Just in case:** we ask now so it's carefully considered, not a rushed/panic decision later on if we come to need it
- We also ask for the **reasons** behind all your choices

General Advice

- Rule of three: **enjoy, succeed and continue**
- 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 and Post-16 providers **(available in the canteen this evening)**

This Evening

- Time for you to visit the array of stalls and speak to staff/students/post-16 providers about possible subject choices
- A chance to **see everything** - visit the full range available – you might be surprised!
- And finally – you'll find your pathway on a sticker on the inside cover of your booklet

