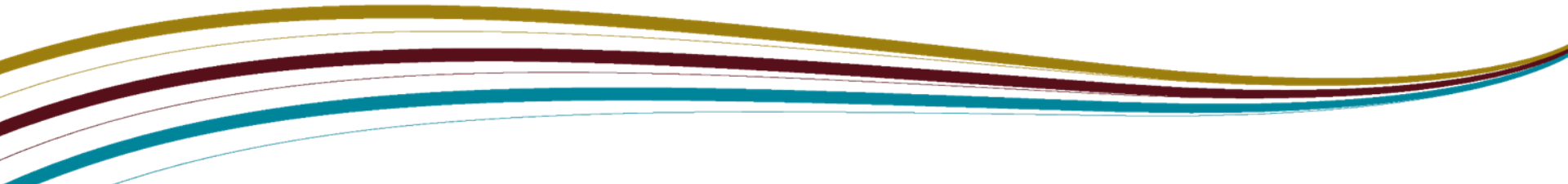


Year 9 Options Choices

4th February 2026



Changing face of the world of work!

- Students are preparing for future careers using yet-to-be-invented technologies to solve unknown problems.
- The UK job market has moved away from lifelong careers, with workers changing roles six times on average, and nearly half retraining after leaving an unsuitable field.





Changing face of education

- Grading for GCSE - 9 to 1
- Grade 4 considered a “Standard Pass”
- Grade 5 is considered a “Strong Pass”
- All exams will be linear – no modules, no early entry, little if any coursework

Old grades	Numerical grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 Strong Pass
	4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

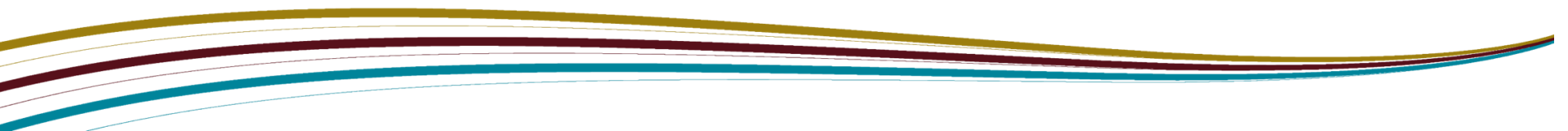
Every
grade
counts!

Core Subjects

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (or Separate Sciences)
- Personal Development (PSHCE)
- Physical Education
- Enrichment

Options Subjects

- Three other subjects

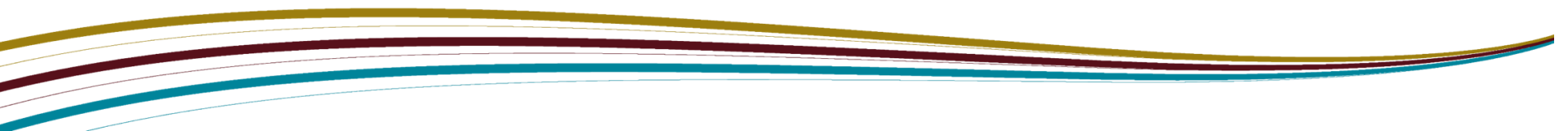


Pathways

Blue – Students on the Blue Pathway have been selected by the Science Department to study Separate Sciences (Triple Science).

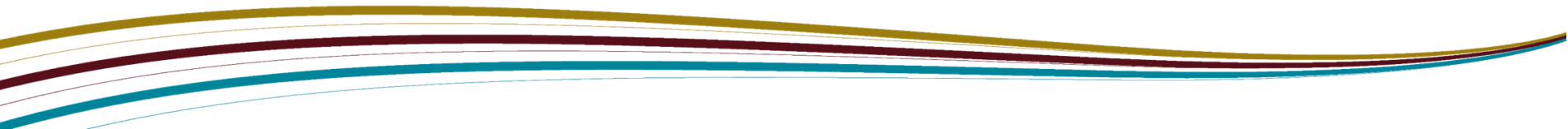
Green – Students on the Green Pathway have been identified to study Combined Science. However, in line with the Government ambition for all students to have the opportunity to study Triple Science (an important foundation for many STEM careers) students on this pathway may request to study Separate Sciences as part of the options process

Purple – Foundation Learning Pathway



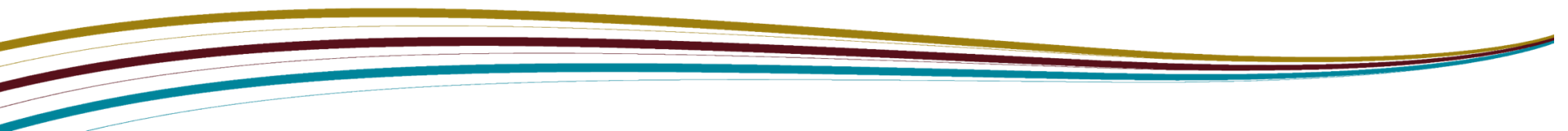
Combined Science vs Separate Sciences

- Both study Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Both have required practicals and exams
- Both have the same number of lessons each week
- Both prepare students for A-level sciences (though Separate Science is often preferred for advanced study).
- Graded using the 9–1 scale.
- Both require strong commitment and revision!



Combined Science vs Separate Sciences

Combined Science	Separate Science
2 GCSEs (combined grade)	3 GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
Covers core content	More detailed, extra topics in each science
Good for students wanting a balanced workload	Ideal for students aiming for science careers or A-level science



Pathways – example

Core

One choice

One choice

One choice

English Language
English Literature
Maths
Separate Science
PE
Enrichment

History
Geography
French
Spanish
Computer Sci

All other
subjects

All other
subjects

Core

One choice

One choice

One choice

English Language
English Literature
Maths
Combined Science
PE
Enrichment

History
Geography
French
Spanish
Computer Sci

All other
subjects

All other
subjects

It is important to pick a variety of subjects, try to pick subjects from different subject areas. This shows colleges, sixth forms, employers that you have a broad range of skills and knowledge.

Humanities	Performing Arts	Social sciences	Languages
History Geography	Art / photography Dance Drama Film studies Music	Sociology Psychology Child Development	Spanish French
PE	DT	Computing / Business	Other
GCSE PE Sports Studies	DT – Timbers DT – Textiles Food & Nutrition Engineering	Computing Creative iMedia Business Studies	Media Studies

Choosing your options - Dos and Don'ts

Do....

Make sure you have up to date information

Talk to your family

Talk to subject teachers

Choose subjects you will enjoy

Consider your future

Don't.....

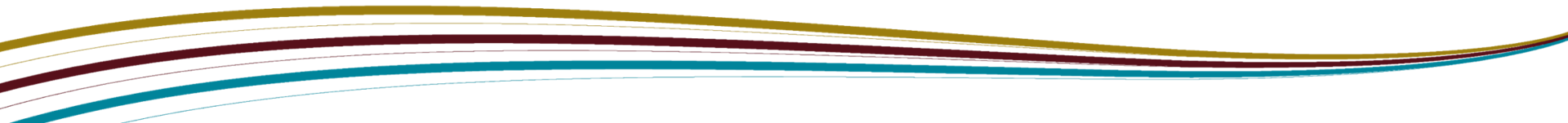
Choose options because your friends are doing them...

Choose options based on teachers

Think certain subjects are just for boys or girls

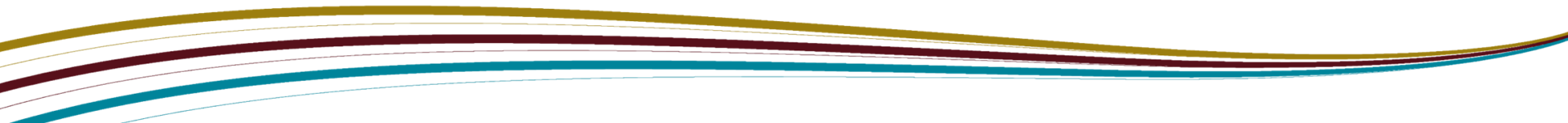
Think any subject will be easy

Limit yourself



Key dates...

- **4th February**– Options Evening
- **6th February** – Options Choices Form Released
 - **Choices** – three preferred choices plus two reserves
- **21st February** – Submission Deadline for Options Forms
- **Spring half term** - 1:1 meetings with SLT
- **End of June/early July** – confirmed options sent to students.



What happens next...

- You do not have to choose your options tonight.
- Find out as much you can, tonight and over the next few weeks, prior to options choices form.
- Careers support is available should you wish to discuss future careers.
- Key information is all available on the website.

