



Year 9 Options process 2026

Parent and carer information

Thursday 26th February



Proposed timeline

2026

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. Monday 23rd February – start of time in lessons exploring different Options
2. Tuesday 24th February - Options assembly and timeline for students
3. Thursday 26th February – Parent and carer information evening and release of the Options subject booklet (6pm start)
4. Thursday 5th March – Year 9 Parents Evening (chance to discuss Options choices with teachers)
5. Monday 9th March – ‘Top 2 Options’ survey released
6. Monday 23rd March onwards – release of Option blocks via online survey for parents and students to make choices (1st and 2nd choice from each Option block).
7. Summer term – confirmation of final Option choices for students



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Curriculum model – compulsory subjects

English Language – 1 GCSE

English Literature – 1 GCSE

Mathematics – 1 GCSE

Science Combined – 2 GCSEs (becomes 3 if you choose Triple Science as an Option)

History OR Geography – 1 GCSE

PE Core (no GCSE awarded)

SPE (no GCSE awarded)



Curriculum model – Options subjects

Art & Design

Business Studies

Design & Technology (Resistant Materials)

Design & Technology (Textiles)

Drama

Film Studies – new this year for this cohort

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Geography

History

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

Photography

Physical Education (GCSE)

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Creative iMedia (Level 2)

Enterprise and Marketing (Level 2) - new this year for this cohort

Health and Social Care (Level 2)

Hospitality and Catering (Level 2)

Music (Level 2)

Sports Studies (Level 2)



Unlocking The Next Stage



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Grade Quality Rather Than Subject!



Ben	Tom
17 Years Old (Lower Sixth Form)	15 Years Old (Year 10)
Lower of the middle ability	Higher ability
GCSE Options Studied Core – Eng, Maths Science Combined GCSE PE (Practical element) DT (Coursework) Art (No exam) Geography (Less essay based than History)	GCSE Options Studying Core – Eng and Maths Triple Science GCSE PE Art History French
Sixth Form – Got the grades to move on to A levels.	Wants to do A levels at sixth form
Chosen to do BTEC and CTEC Business – Coursework with some exams	Maths Physics Chemistry PE Exams
Degree Apprenticeship – with the police	Degree (Uni)
Police or teacher	Whatever earns the most money with the fewest days amount of days at work.



Context Of The Year Group and The School's Approach

Context

- On average it is a lower prior ability year group – when compared to previous year groups
- There is more SEND need in the year group than any other year group
- As you make decisions about Options choices with your child or children, you need to consider whether they are a 'Ben' or a 'Tom'

The School's Approach

- Offer a greater range of subjects than we have before
- Offer smaller groups sizes in the options subjects than we have before
- Offer an adaptive curriculum where there is evidence to indicate that this will impact positively on a student's outcomes



Attitude determines Altitude!

Success for all

Art and Design
Creative iMedia
Enterprise and Marketing
Hospitality and Catering
Photography
Sports Studies

Medium

Design and Technology
Drama
Film Studies
Food and Nutrition
Geography
Health and Social Care
Music
PE
RPE

Most challenging

Business Studies
History
French
Triple Science





Additional information about subjects



Differences between 'GCSE' and 'Level 2' awards:

Although both qualifications carry the same weight, it is important to understand the differences between these types of qualifications.

'Level 2' awards are generally assessed using the 'continuous assessment' approach throughout the course, whereas GCSE courses tend to have end of course exams.

Different courses may appear similar but they focus on different skills. For example, Food and Nutrition has more of a focus on nutrition and the function of nutrition whereas Hospitality and Catering places more emphasis on the business of Hospitality and Catering, the law and working opportunities.

Similarly, GCSE PE places more emphasis on the theory behind scientific elements such as the muscular and skeletal system when compared to the Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies.

Additional information about subjects

Modern Foreign Languages:

We are encouraging students to consider taking a Modern Foreign Language (French). Languages are regarded as 'facilitating' subjects in that they offer opportunities to develop skills that can be transferred both to other subjects and to further study. Languages can open doors in the future. Studying a language is a highly regarded skill for future employers.

Further information will be released in due course recommending whether we think that the study of a Modern Foreign Language is suitable for your child. We look forward to your support in conversations with them about the opportunity to study a Language.



Triple Science details

Triple Science is more challenging and requires a strong work ethic in order to succeed. Currently, around 20-30% of students nationally choose Triple Science. It is expected that we will have 1 set of Triple Science for this year group in Year 10. If your child is in a higher set for Science at the moment then it is likely that this is a better option for them, however being in a higher set currently is not a guarantee that they will be recommended to study Triple Science.

Further details will come out soon indicating whether Triple Science is a suitable Option choice for your child moving forward.



Further information

With the exception of English and maths (both 8 hours) and Science (9 hours across the three subjects), each Option subject has 5 hours of dedicated time per fortnight. This significant proportion of curriculum time is a reflection of how much time is necessary in order to be successful for each of these qualifications.

The process of deciding upon Options is a rigorous one. Once students have committed to their Options choices at the start of Year 10, we expect them to see this course through until the end of Year 11. Changes to a student's Options once the courses have started are rare and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Although it is not an assessed GCSE, we have a statutory requirement to offer PSHE within our curriculum. This is in addition to our 'SPE days' timetabled during the year.



'Top 2 subjects' survey



Following Parents Evening on Thursday 5th March, we will be releasing our 'Top 2 subjects' survey.

This survey is really important, as it helps us to understand which subjects are likely to be popular and we can therefore construct the Option blocks as a result.

Your child's first question will ask which of Geography or History they would prefer to study as one of their compulsory subjects.

Please note that your child's other choices in this survey offer no guarantee that these subjects will be included as it will depend on whether we have enough numbers to make the courses run. They will also not guarantee that they will be allocated these subjects in the final Options survey, however we do try to accommodate these choices where we can.



Keeping your Options open

When the final Options grids are shared with students and parents, these will have been constructed using the information gathered in the 'Top 2 subjects' survey. With 161 students in the cohort we have to create an Options grid which meets the interests of the majority of our students.

Making sure you rank order your preferences in each block for the final survey is vital in order to allow us to try and accommodate as many first choices as possible.

More popular Options subjects will likely appear in multiple blocks to allow for greater freedom of choice, however you always need to be prepared for alternatives.



Adapted curriculum

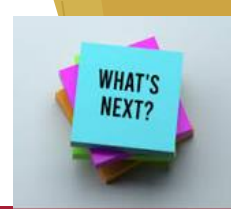
We recognise that for some students, coping with the demands of a full curriculum offer may not be suitable for them in order to achieve the best outcomes for their future.

Following a consultation process within the Senior Leadership Team and working closely with Mrs Monfardini (our SENCO) we are identifying a small number of students for whom this adapted curriculum may be more appropriate.

Further information will be shared with parents and carers of these students as we continue with the selection of Options for the next academic year.



Next steps



- Talk to different family members. They might have experience of the different qualifications and can offer guidance
- Talk to subject staff (especially in subjects where you might be starting a 'new' qualification such as Photography, Film Studies, Business Studies, Enterprise and Marketing or Health and Social Care). Prioritise speaking to staff in these subjects on Parents Evening next week
- Do some research and think ahead to what your child want to do after they leave Studley High School (both in terms of post-16 studies and future careers)
- Think very carefully about the upcoming 'Top 2 subjects' survey as this will impact upon the final Options grids. If uptake in a subject is too low to make it viable then we may not be able to offer it as an Options choice
- Encourage your child to choose the Options that are right for **them**, not just those that their friends might be choosing or those that you may have studied and want them to pursue

