

Year 9 Options



**PAXMAN
ACADEMY**

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES



2024-2026 Cohort



SIGMA TRUST

Aims of the evening

- Provide you with an understanding of the curriculum that is studied in KS4
- To understand what is meant by the ‘core’ and the ‘options’ curriculum
- Provide you with the information on how to select your ‘options’

Our Vision

Encourage ALL pupils to aspire, flourish academically, make good choices and understand how they can access education after Paxman Academy.

We have high expectations for every learner and our curriculum provides both breadth and depth in a wide range of subject areas for our learners.

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The KS4 Curriculum

- **Students will choose the subjects to study for the next two years into Yr 10 & 11**
- **The KS4 curriculum is broken into 2 components;**
- ***Core curriculum* - 28 hours per fortnight**
- ***Options curriculum* - 22 hours per fortnight**

The 'Core' Curriculum - English

English Language and Literature - 2 x GCSEs

English Language (AQA):

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Speaking and Listening Assessment

English Literature (AQA):

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and 19th Century novel

Paper 2 - Modern play and Poetry

Not tiered No coursework

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The 'Core' Curriculum - Maths

Content

A continuation of the work completed in KS3 focusing on 6 areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and proportion
- Geometry and measure
- Probability
- Statistics

Assessment

1 non-calculator exam
2 calculator exams
Each lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes
80 marks each (240 marks in total)

Two tiers of entry.

Foundation tier grades 1 - 5
Higher can grades 4 - 9

Decisions on the tier of entry for students will not be made until the second half of year 11

The 'Core' Curriculum - Science

Combined Science - 2 GCSEs

8 hours per fortnight

6 exams for Combined Science each

1 hour 15 minutes long

Scores from all six papers will be added together.

The total score determines the two grades you are awarded.

For example you could get:

GCSE Combined Science 6/5 or 5/5

Separate Science - 3 GCSEs

13 hours per fortnight

6 exams for Triple Science each

1 hour 45 minutes long

Students get a separate GCSE grade in each of the Sciences.

For example you could get:

GCSE Biology 7

GCSE Chemistry 6

GCSE Physics 7

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Qualification Type

We offer two types of qualifications: GCSE and Vocational

- **GCSE:**

Graded '9-1' instead of the traditional 'A*-G'

- **Vocational (Level 2):**

All equivalent to GCSEs at different levels

Vocational Rough Equivalency	New Grading Structure	Old Grading Structure
	9	A*
Level 2 Distinction *	8	A
Level 2 Distinction	7	B
Level 2 Merit	6	C
Level 2 Pass	5	D
Level 1 Distinction	4	E
Level 1 Merit	3	F
Level 1 Pass	2	G
U	1	U
	U	

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Different Pathways

Students can follow different pathways:

- **EBacc Pathway** For those who wish to take a language and a humanities subject
- **Open Pathway** Guided option must be taken
- **Support Pathway** Few select students who will be in conversations with our SEND department

Different Pathways



EBacc Pathway	Open Pathway
Spanish	Guided Option of either; Spanish / Geography / History / Computer Science / Triple Science*
Geography and / or History	3 Other Choices(This can include the subjects above)
2 Other Choices	

Making the right choice

- Consider your strengths and which subjects really interest you
- Don't choose a subject simply because your friends do
- Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher
- Be selfish!
- Take advice from your subject teachers and your form tutor
- Find out more about subjects from staff
- Read the "Options" booklet
- Make a list
- Ask questions
- Complete the Google Form (link can be found on our website)



Completing the form

- **DEADLINE: 28th March**
- This will be 'live' on our website tomorrow
- You will only actually study 4 option subjects but....we need some flexibility to make it all work (Ranking is vital)
- Guided Option must be selected
- A reserve Guided Option (must be different from above)
- Prescribed blocks of subjects - RANK order for each block
- All online via Google Forms



Guided Option Block 1

History

Geography

Computer Science

Triple Science

Spanish

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Option Block 2

Drama

History

Art

Religious Education

Enterprise & Marketing

Sport Science

Geography

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Option Block 3

Art

Engineering

Child Development

Health and Social Care

Creative Media

Music Practice

Drama

3D Design

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Option Block 4

Child Development

Hospitality & Catering

Creative Media

Sport Science

Geography

Textiles

Health and Social Care

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Common Questions

- **First come first served?**
- **Choosing more than 1 'guided option' subject**
- **'Clash' subjects*?**
- **3D Design / Textiles / Art**
- **What if you change your mind?**
- **When will I know what options I have?**

Information and Questions



Food Plant: Geography / History / RE / Triple Science / Spanish

Room 012: Enterprise and Marketing / Computer Science / Media

Room 010: Hospitality and Catering / Engineering / Textiles / Art /
3D Design

Room 009: Sport Science / Child Development / Health and Social
Care

Room 008: Music

Room 001: Drama

Room 002: SEND

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