

‘Options’ 2026-2028

January 2026



WELCOME - Mrs Kershaw

- A key theme of 'Free Choice' this evening
- We build our curriculum model on your choices

WHY?

- Passion drives performance - ASPIRE
- Develop independence
- This is your personalised roadmap for Yr 10 and 11

"Our lives are a sum total of the choices we have made." — **Wayne Dyer**

AIM OF THIS PRESENTATION

- 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 GOAL

Encourage **all** students to aspire, flourish academically, make good choices and understand what they need to do to succeed in their future.

- This is the process where students choose the subjects to study for the next two years into Yr 10 & 11
- The KS4 curriculum is broken into 2 components;
 - **Core curriculum** - 30 hours per fortnight
 - **Options curriculum** - 20 hours per fortnight



The 'Core' Curriculum - English - Mrs Steele (Interim)

GCSE English Language and GCSE Literature - 2 x GCSEs

- Untiered
- No coursework
- SENECA Homework

English Language (AQA):

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing - 50%

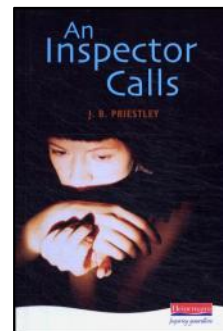
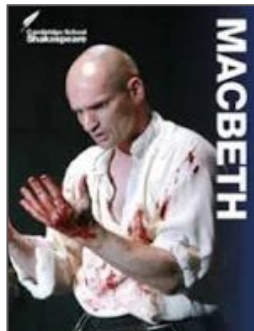
Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives - 50%

Speaking and Listening Assessment

English Literature (AQA):

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and 19th Century novel 40%

Paper 2 - Modern play and Poetry - 60%



The 'Core' Curriculum - Mathematics - Mr Lamb

Content

It is a continuation of the work that they have completed throughout KS3 and still focuses on 6 areas:

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

How it's assessed:

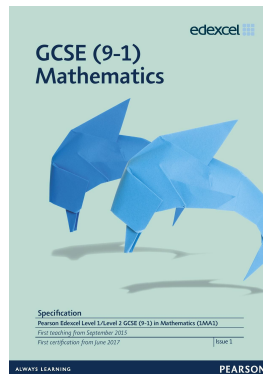
- 1 non-calculator exam
- 2 calculator exams
- Each lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 80 marks each (240 marks in total)

Foundation/Higher

- Two tiers of entry
- Students sitting foundation can achieve grades 1 - 5
- Students sitting higher can achieve grades 4 - 9
- Grades 4 and 5 (crossover) are assessed on both papers
- Decisions on the tier of entry for students will not be made until the second half of year 11

Specification

GCSE
Edexcel
(Pearson)



**Please utilise
this resource**

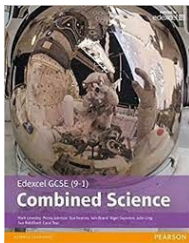
sparx

Paxman Academy

Student



The 'Core' Curriculum - Science - Mr Vieito



Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

8 hours of Science per fortnight

6 exams, 1 hour 15 minutes long.

The scores papers are added together.

The total score determines the two grades awarded.

For example you could get:

GCSE Combined Science *6/6 or 6/5*
 but not 6/4

Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

14 hours of Science per fortnight

6 exams, 1 hour 45 minutes long.

Students get a separate GCSE grade in each of the Sciences, based on the two papers in that discipline.

For example you could get:

GCSE Biology *7*
GCSE Chemistry *6*
GCSE Physics *7*

Either pathway allows for A-level study - minimum grade 6 preferably 7



The 'Core' Curriculum - Science - Mr Vieito

Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

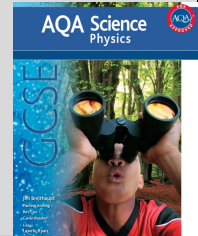
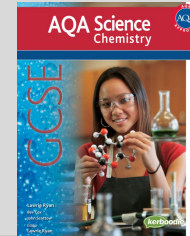
Who chooses Triple Science?

Students who like Science (two or three Science lessons in one day).

Often a preference for very academic students.

Good reading / literacy skills.

Good Maths skills.



DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS

We offer a range of qualifications In Yr 10 & 11

- GCSE
- BTEC L1/2
- WJEC L1/2
- OCR L1/2

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



A CHOICE OF DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

- Students *can* follow different pathways that we offer;
 - ***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



PERSONAL CHOICE OF DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

EBacc Pathway	Open Pathway
Spanish	<u>Guided Option</u> 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	



Do

- Choose subjects which you like or enjoy
- Choose subjects at which you are successful
- Choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education
- Find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to stick with it for the full two years
- Talk to the people who know you best
- Listen to the advice your subject teachers give you



Don't

- Choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it, friendships may change with time but your GCSE grades will remain with you forever, you also may end up in different groups
- Choose or disregard a subject because of any particular teacher. They may not end up teaching you



This is about you!



- Read the “Options” booklet
- Make a list
- Ask questions
- Complete the Google Form (link can be found [here](#) and on our website)
- Deadline 13th March 2026

Key Dates

- Option choices deadline - **13th March 2026 3:30pm**
- Final class numbers decided - End of April
- Final option blocks, group allocations and teaching allocations
- End of May
- Distribution of initial options to students and parents - End of June
- Conversations with students and parents as required and options finalised July 2026.

FILLING IN THE FORM...

Year 9 Option Choices 2026-28

This form is to be completed once you have selected your Option choices. **The deadline for this process is the 13th March 2026.** If you make a mistake you can submit another form and we will delete your previous one.

Each section will take you through the Option selections step by step.

The Options booklet can be [found here for further information](#). Please ensure you read carefully and also ask your class teacher or tutor for any further advice.

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email address

Student's Full Name *

Your answer

Student Form *

- 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 (*over choose*)
- Guided Option
- Open Choice (in order of preference!)
- All online via Google Forms

History	Spanish
Geography	Triple Science* (by agreement)
Computer Science	

**Everyone chooses one of these
PLUS a reserve**

History	Spanish
Geography	Triple Science (by agreement)
Computer Science	

Art (GCSE)	Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Level 2)
Child Development (OCR Level 2)	Creative Media (BTEC Level 2)
Drama (GCSE)	Music (GCSE)
Engineering (WJEC Level 2)	Religious Studies (GCSE)
3D Design (GCSE)	Sports Studies (OCR Level 2)
Health and Social Care (BTEC Level 2)	Textiles (GCSE)
Dance (BTEC Level 2)	

- Is it first come first served?
- Can I choose more than 1 'guided option' subject?
- Can I study multiple 'Clash' subjects?
 - 3D Design / Textiles / Art
- What if I change your mind?

SUBJECT INFORMATION / QUESTIONS

Foodplant:

Geography / History / Religious Studies / Triple Science / Spanish

Room 012:

Computer Science / Creative Media

Room 010:

Hospitality and Catering / Engineering / Textiles / Art / 3D Design

Room 009:

Drama / Dance / Music

Room 013:

Sports Studies / Child Development / Health and Social Care

Room 001:

SEND

‘Options’ 2026-2028

