



Mayflower  
High School

# Year 9 Options Evening 2026

Mr Lee - Headteacher

Mrs Howson - Deputy Headteacher



# Year 9 Options Evening:

- To understand the Option Process
  - To understand what options are available at Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11)
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## Why your choices are important.



- Researchers predict that over 50% of today's primary school children will hold jobs that don't yet exist.
- 1 in 4 workers have been with their current employer less than a year
- Today's learners might have over 10 jobs by the age of 38



- Universities and employers will often look at GCSE levels, not just A levels and BTEC courses (especially as now there are few AS levels taken), to see how you performed under extreme pressure.
- Some courses and jobs will ask for specific GCSEs (such as Maths, English and sometimes science) at certain levels to get on a course or to get a job.
- If you have no idea what you want to do in the future, keep your options open and make broad choices.



# THE CORE CURRICULUM



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Subject	Qualification/Curriculum Content
English	English Language GCSE AND Literature GCSE
Mathematics	Mathematics GCSE
Science	Separate (Triple) or Combined Science (Trilogy)
Physical Education	Core PE which is <b>non-examined</b> and focuses on healthy lifestyle and exercise.
Lifeskills	This is a <b>non-examined</b> subject and covers statutory curriculum content: sex and relationships, drug education, careers education and preparation for work. It also covers religious education and British Values in the 21st century.

# THE DIFFERENT QUALIFICATION TYPES



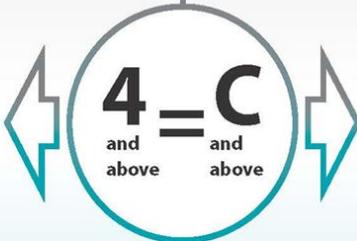
## GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. It is the official certificate for all 16-year-old pupils in England and Wales. The GCSE examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

The majority of GCSEs are now assessed 100% through examination at the end of Year 11. There are, however, a minority of GCSEs that have some form of controlled assessments.

GCSEs in all subjects are graded on a 9-1 scale with a Grade 8 designed to roughly equate an old-style A\* and a Grade 5 designed to represent a more demanding old-style C grade pass.

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NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE											
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U		
											
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U		

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.

# THE DIFFERENT QUALIFICATION TYPES



## Vocational

BTEC and Cambridge Awards are vocational qualifications, and are predominantly coursework rather than examination based.

These qualifications have externally assessed written examinations, often worth at least 25% of the final grade. However, in many cases, examination units can be re-sat as they do not always take place at the end of the qualification.

Vocational courses are graded differently, often with Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit or Pass at either Level 2 or Level 1.

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# THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

All students will take **four** options choices from the range of subjects on offer.

One of the options must be either **history, geography, French, Spanish or Computer Science**. You can take more than one of these

They need to select 4 options, ensuring there is at least one subject in each block and two reserves.



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Option A	
Art	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Design and Technology	GCSE
Enterprise	Voc
French	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
Health & Social Care	Voc
History	GCSE
Music	GCSE
PE	GCSE
Psychology	GCSE

Option B	
Business	GCSE
Design and Technology	GCSE
Film Studies	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
Digital Information Technology	Voc
NCFE Music	Voc
Religious Studies	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Separate (Triple) Science	GCSE

Option C	
Art	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Classical Civilisations	GCSE
Design and Technology	GCSE
Food	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
PE	GCSE
Psychology	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Statistics	GCSE

Option D	
Art	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Cambridge Sport	Voc
Computer Science	GCSE
Drama	GCSE
Food	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE

You need to select 4 options, ensuring there is at least one subject in each block.

You will also need to select **TWO RESERVES**

You must include one of the following: History, Geography, French, Spanish or Computer Science

You can select more than one of these if you wish.

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# THE OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

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Enterprise	Voc
French	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
Health & Social Care	Voc
History	GCSE
Music	GCSE
PE	GCSE
Psychology	GCSE

Option B	
Business	GCSE
Design and Technology	GCSE
Film Studies	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
Digital Information Technology	Voc
NCFE Music	Voc
Religious Studies	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Separate (Triple) Science	GCSE

Option C	
Art	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Classical Civilisations	GCSE
Design and Technology	GCSE
Food	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
PE	GCSE
Psychology	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Statistics	GCSE

Option D	
Art	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Cambridge Sport	Voc
Computer Science	GCSE
Drama	GCSE
Food	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE

# English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

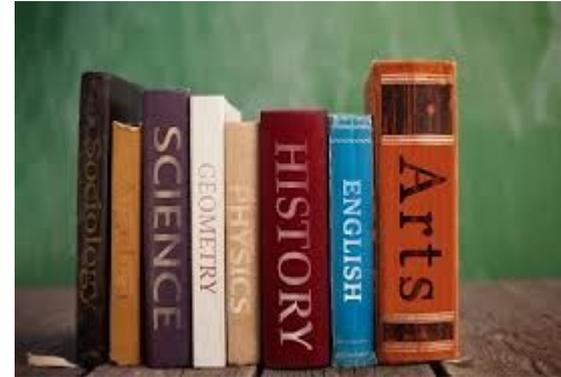
EBacc was the government's preferred curriculum for a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study, particularly university and future careers.

EBacc includes the following subjects:

- English Language or English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined or Separate Science)
- A language
- Either Geography or History.

Research by the UCL Institute of Education shows that taking EBACC subjects enhances prospects for entering further education or employment.

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# PROHIBITED OPTION COMBINATIONS



Due to the similarity of subject content and in the interest of students following a well-balanced curriculum and guidance from the exam board students cannot study the following subject combinations:

- DIT (Vocational) and Computer Science.
- GCSE Business and OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Enterprise and Marketing (Technical award)
- GCSE Music and NCFE MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
- GCSE PE and Cambridge OCR Sport

Due to rooming limitations the following is not allowed:

- GCSE Design & Technology and Food & Nutrition
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## SOME DO'S AND DON'Ts



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DO
Choose courses in which you are likely to achieve success.
Choose courses you are interested in and which you are likely to enjoy.
Research your choices before you make them: speak to teachers, students who have already studied that subject and professionals from the field of work which you wish to enter.
Remember that all courses are of an equal standard and value.
Look carefully at the balance of subjects being considered. It is important to consider the workload that subject choices will entail. Some subjects will require more reading and writing whereas some subjects offer a practical element, e.g. Art and Design, Drama and Music.
Pay attention to the method of assessment and choose a subject where you know you can obtain a high level of marks.
Talk to your parents, your teachers and careers staff. Although they will not want to make the decision for you, they will each have an important perspective.

# The Process:



**7th December 2025 Initial Survey of Options**

February Yr 9 Progress Reports

26th February Options Evening

5th March Yr 9 Progress Evenings

March 2026 Student Consultation Meetings

**9th March FINAL CHOICES MADE - Option Form Closes.**

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## The Option Process:



- Please be aware that the detail of subjects may be amended in the light of changing circumstances.
  - We also reserve the right to withdraw courses if there is insufficient student uptake or staffing constraints.
  - The final selection of subjects remains the School's responsibility.
  - We aim to accommodate as many first choices as possible but this may not always be possible.
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## Where can I find the subjects



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Name of subject	Room	Subject Leader
Design & Technology	2	Mr Fowler
Food Preparation & Nutrition	7	Mrs Murray
Dyslexia/SEND	11 A	Mrs Thorogood
Workskills/SEND	11A	Mrs Coulson Mrs Walter
Geography	21	Mrs Reville
Art & Design	51	Mr A Clarke/ Miss Brown
Drama	56	Mrs Evans
Diploma in IT	71	Miss McDowell
Computer Science	79	Mr Holmes
Health and Social Care	87	Mrs Head
Psychology	87	Mr Anderson
Film Studies	75	Miss Kavanagh

Name of subject	Room	Subject Leader
Business	74	Mr Bailey
Enterprise & Marketing	72	Mr Bailey/Mr Taylor
Classical Civilisation	77	Miss Cooke
History	77	Miss Hughes
RS	85	Mr Wallen
Physical Education	93 (Sixth Form Lounge)	Mr Sergeant
Music	97	Mr Tuck
Music Technology	98	Mr Tuck
Spanish	105	Mrs Whyman
French	105	Mrs Whyman
Separate Sciences	Library	Mr T Griffiths
Statistics	Library	Mr Fish



Question	Who can you talk to about this...
Further information about each subject	Individual Subject Leads found in the Options Booklet
Concerns about which option would be suitable for my child	<b>Progress Reports and Progress Evening</b> Subject Leads/ Classroom Teacher Head of Year or Year Manager Mr Sullivan/Mrs England
Options that meet my child's educational needs	Mrs Thorogood, SENDCO Mr Griffiths, Senior Assistant Headteacher
The school has high expectations of my child	Mr L Kilvert, Deputy Headteacher
The range of subjects available	Mrs S Howson, Deputy Headteacher
The Options Process	Mrs S Howson, Deputy Headteacher
Careers	Careers Manager Mr J Hurd

To contact the member of staff above please email [educate@mayflowerhigh.sch.uk](mailto:educate@mayflowerhigh.sch.uk) marking your email for their attention.

