

Highfields School

be the best you can

Year 9 Options

for September 2026

Name:

Form:



Year 9 Option Choices

This is an exciting point in your time at Highfields School. You now have the opportunity to make choices about the subjects you will study in years 10 and 11. In addition to a core of compulsory courses that everybody studies you are fortunate to have four further choices. Our advice is that you should select a broad range of courses from the long and varied list of subjects on offer. Choosing courses that interest you and which cover different areas of learning will give you a great basis for further work and study after year 11.

The importance of an informed choice

In considering your options, you should ask yourself four important questions:

1. Which courses will I enjoy?
2. Which combination will provide me with a broad range of experiences, for example covering humanities, languages, creative, technological or physical courses?
3. Which courses might I achieve the highest grades in?
4. Which courses will help to move me in the direction I want to go in?

What now? You should ...

1. Read the course information on the courses we offer in year 10.
2. Consider your talents and aspirations and discuss them with your parents/carers, tutors and teachers.
3. Scrutinise your year 9 assessment profile, paying careful attention to teacher comments to identify which subjects you are performing well in.
4. Attend the options evening and gather as much information as possible in order to make an informed choice.

The process

The options process is designed to guide you towards making confident and informed subject choices.

January

Year 9 assembly options launch – options booklet given to you to discuss with your parents / carers Information in form times on courses 'new' to you in year 10

January

Year 9 parent consultation and options evening in the Wheeldon Hall

By 12th February

You will submit your initial options choices* online using Microsoft Forms

From May

Your options interview will take place with a member of the senior leadership team

**Your initial options choices will include two 'reserve' options, in the event that the options you have chosen are not available due to low numbers or clashes within the timetable.*

It is our intention to write to you and your parents/carers to confirm options choices in the summer term.

NB: Option subjects are correct as at time of print and are subject to change

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Year 9 Option Choices

Compulsory for all students:

Examined Subjects

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Maths

GCSE English Language

Science

Non-examined Subjects

Core PE

PRS

PSHE

Science option:

All students will study Science. If students do not opt for Triple Science they will have a double lesson of Biology, Chemistry and Physics every week and gain a double award GCSE Combined Science GCSE, worth the same as two GCSEs. If students opt for Triple Science they will have three double lessons of Biology, Chemistry and Physics every two weeks and gain three GCSEs.

Other options:

- You will take four option subjects. Our advice is that you should select a broad range of courses that interest you and cover different areas of learning. **We advise all students to take a humanities subject (history or geography) and a modern foreign language.** This together with the compulsory subjects would provide the basis of a broad, balanced programme of learning which will provide you with the knowledge and skills to understand the world around you and ensure all future opportunities are open. In addition to this are 2 further options, meaning a very wide range of programmes can be created, matching your interests and strengths.
- You must first pick a **Red** subject from the **GREEN** box. To take the EBacc you need to choose a Language along with History or Geography.
- You must then pick five more subjects in order preference. You will be given three of these.
- Subjects that are similar appear in **orange** boxes together. You can pick **ONE** subject from within each of the **orange** boxes.

Art & Design: Fine Art
Art & Design: Photography
Art & design: 3-D Art
Business
Computer Science
Dance
Design & Technology

Fine Art
3-D Art

Drama
Engineering (Technical Award)
Film Studies
Food Preparation & Nutrition
French
Geography
German

PE (GCSE)
Sport (BTEC)

History
Music
PE (GCSE)
Religious Studies
Spanish
Sport (BTEC)
Travel & Tourism (BTEC)
Triple Science
Health and Social Care (Cambridge Nationals)

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Year 9 Option Choices

My preferred choices:

At this stage your choices are **ONLY** provisional. Your choices will be discussed with you at your individual options interview.

- **Compulsory subjects:** All students will take these subjects

GCSE English Literature

GSCE Maths

PRS

GCSE English Language

Science

Core PE

PSHE

Option Preference:

- Please choose one EBacc Option to start with and then five further Options – listing them in order of preference 1 to 5 – you will be allocated three from this list

EBacc Option

French/ Geography/
German/History/ Spanish

1.

Other Options

In this section you can choose more from French/ Geography/ German/History/ Spanish as well as other subjects from the green box. If you want to take Triple science as an option include it here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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