

Welcome to KS4 Options Evening

**Mrs Deane
Associate Vice Principal**



Resilient

Aims:

To explain:

- ▶ The options process
- ▶ Key dates and deadlines
- ▶ The things to consider when making choices



KS4 - A Three year curriculum

- ▶ Increased content and rigour of GCSE/equivalent
- ▶ Time for in depth learning and skill development
- ▶ Allows time from trips/activities to enrich learning
- ▶ More time to review learning and embed knowledge.

KS4 Qualifications

- ▶ General Certificate of Education (GCSE)
Students aim to achieve 9-1 grades
- ▶ Business & Technology Education Council (BTEC)
- ▶ Vocational Certificate
- ▶ Technical Award
- ▶ Students aim to achieve Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass

Grade comparisons for KS4 qualifications

| GCSE 9-1 Points | | BTEC First Award | | BTEC Tech Award | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|--|--|
| Grade & points | Grade terms | Grade | Points | Grade | Points | | |
| 9 | Strong Pass (DfE) | L2 D* | 8.5 | L2 D* | 8.5 | | |
| 8 | | L2 D | 7 | L2 D | 7 | | |
| 7 | | L2 M | 5.5 | L2 M | 5.5 | | |
| 6 | | L2 P | 4 | L2 P | 4 | | |
| 5 | Strong Pass (DfE) | Level 1 Pass | 1.75 | L1 D | 3 | | |
| 4 | Standard Pass (DfE) | | | L1 M | 2 | | |
| 3 | Level 1 Pass | | | L1 P | 1.25 | | |
| 2 | | | | U | 0 | | |
| 1 | | | | U | 0 | | |
| U | | | | | | | |

Curriculum

ALL students take the CORE subjects:

- English Language 1 GCSE
- English Literature 1 GCSE
- Mathematics 1 GCSE
- Sciences (Combined or Triple) 2/3 GCSEs
- PE – Core (non-exam)

You must also study two subjects from Hums, Spanish and creative arts. These must be subjects from separate categories.

You will then study two further option choices.



Science

- ▶ Combined science - 2 GCSE's from a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- ▶ Triple science - 3 GCSE's awarded separately in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A more challenging qualification which covers the content of Combined Science but includes deeper understanding and some additional topics.
- ▶ Students will be identified by the Science department for Triple Science and this will be studied during Science lessons. Usually this is the top two sets.

Option Subjects available

- ▶ GCSE Art
- ▶ GCSE Business
- ▶ Child development
- ▶ GCSE Media studies
- ▶ Dance*
- ▶ Drama*
- ▶ GCSE Design Technology (DT)
- ▶ GCSE Geography
- ▶ GCSE History
- ▶ Health & Fitness with Outdoor education
- ▶ Hospitality & Catering
- ▶ ICT
- ▶ GCSE Spanish
- ▶ GCSE Music
- ▶ GCSE Psychology
- ▶ GCSE Religious Studies
- ▶ Sport, Health & fitness
- ▶ Travel & Tourism

Please be aware:

* These qualifications may change to GCSE courses due to changes to Government school measures.

- Travel & tourism is only available for students on purple pathway.
- Students cannot study Health & fitness with Sport, and Health & fitness with Outdoor education, as these have the same background qualification.

Pathways

There are three different pathways that students may select from:

- ▶ **Pathway A** - Hums and Spanish, plus two further options
- ▶ **Pathway B** - Hums and creative Arts, plus two further options
- ▶ **Pathway C** - Spanish and Creative Arts, plus two further options

A minority of students will be offered an alternative pathway, this will be agreed in line with the SENDCo. Students cannot request to take this pathway.

- ▶ **Purple pathway** - Travel & Tourism and Creative Arts, plus two further options

All pathways will ensure students study 4 option subjects, with each option studied over 5 hours per fortnight.

Option Forms

- Parents will be sent an email providing links to the different pathways.
- The links will take you to an online form to enable submission of option choices.
- The online form link will not be open for submission until the day after the options PTC at 8am, this ensures parents, carers and students have an opportunity to meet with staff at PTC and discuss the option subjects with their child.

Option Forms

Identifies the pathway you have selected. Please check this is correct.

Year 8 Options form - Pathway A 2026

You have chosen to follow Pathway A. This means that you must select one Humanities subject (History or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language (Spanish).

Subjects must be selected in order of preference. We will aim to give you the subjects you place 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the others will be reserves in case we are unable to offer you your preferred options.

Students must not select the same subject in more than one category. Students who select the same subject more than once, for example Dance in their 3rd and 5th order of preference, will be asked to amend their choices.

Please carefully check the options booklet for which subjects you can and cannot combine.

Please submit this form no later than **Friday 30th January**. Options are not assigned on a first come, first served basis, but any received after this date will be considered after those handed in on time.

***These qualifications may be changed to GCSE qualifications dependent on the outcome of the Governments proposed changes to school measures. This will be determined at the end of this academic year based following the release of the Government consultation outcome.**

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

1. Student Surname *

Enter your answer

You will be asked to complete student details.

When selecting options, a student **must select 7 different options**. The last 3 are reserve choices. Place in order of preference.

Declaration

Please ensure you are happy with the choices made as the form cannot be resubmitted.

By submitting this form, I confirm that I have discussed and agreed the choices with my son/daughter and hold parental responsibility for them.

11. Parent Name *

Enter your answer

Back

Submit

In submitting the form, you are agreeing that these choices have been discussed.

Pathway A: Hums and Spanish

Students on this pathway will study **Hums and Spanish**, plus two further option choices

- ▶ Students will select from Geography or History as their first preference.
- ▶ Students will select Spanish as their second preference
- ▶ Students will select 5 further subjects in order of preference that they wish to study. This means you have reserve choices if we are unable to support your higher preference subjects. Students will study two of these options.

Pathway B: Hums and Creative Arts

Students on this pathway will study **Hums and Creative Arts**, plus two further option choices

- ▶ Students will select from Geography or History as their first preference.
- ▶ Students will select either Art, Dance, Design technology, Drama or Music as their second preference
- ▶ Students will select 5 further subjects in order of preference that they wish to study. This means you have reserve choices if we are unable to support your higher preference subjects. Students will study two of these options.

Please be aware that if the curriculum review proposals by the Government proceed, then Drama and Dance will be offered as GCSE courses instead of vocational courses.

Pathway C: Spanish and Creative Arts

Students on this pathway will study **Spanish and Creative Arts**, plus two further option choices

- ▶ Students will select from Spanish as their first preference.
- ▶ Students will select either Art, Dance, Design technology, Drama or Music as their second preference
- ▶ Students will select 5 further subjects in order of preference that they wish to study. This means you have reserve choices if we are unable to support your higher preference subjects. Students will study two of these options.

Please be aware that if the curriculum review proposals by the Government proceed, then Drama and Dance will be offered as GCSE courses instead of vocational courses.

Purple Pathway

- ▶ A select number of students will be offered the purple pathway. This will be in consultation with the SENDCO. Students cannot request to follow this pathway.
- ▶ Students on this pathway will study **Travel & tourism and Creative arts**, plus two further option choices.
- ▶ Students will select Travel & Tourism as their first preference.
- ▶ Students will select either Art, Dance, Design technology, Drama or Music as their second preference
- ▶ Students will select 5 further subjects in order of preference that they wish to study. This means you have reserve choices if we are unable to support your higher preference subjects. Students will study two of these options.
- ▶ Students on this pathway are encouraged to study vocational or BTec courses, as there is a greater level of coursework.

Please be aware that if the curriculum review proposals by the Government proceed, then Drama and Dance will be offered as GCSE courses instead of vocational courses.

Options

- ▶ You should have been emailed:
 - ▶ A copy of the options booklet
 - ▶ A letter with the links to the options submission form for the different pathways.
 - ▶ The options should be completed in agreement between parents, carers and student.
- ▶ When students make their options the deadline for return of the option selection form is **Friday 30th January 2026**.

Options

The importance of selection

- ▶ Do discuss with your child:
- ▶ What your child wants to do when they leave the Academy
- ▶ What subjects do they enjoy/are successful in?
- ▶ Do NOT allow them to choose a subject because their friend is doing it, or because they like the teacher.
- ▶ Carefully check the Options booklet for any courses which cannot be combined eg. A student cannot study both Sport and Health & Fitness with Outdoor Education.

**YOUR SON/DAUGHTER WILL NEED TO BE COMMITTED TO
COMPLETING THE THREE YEAR COURSE**

Options

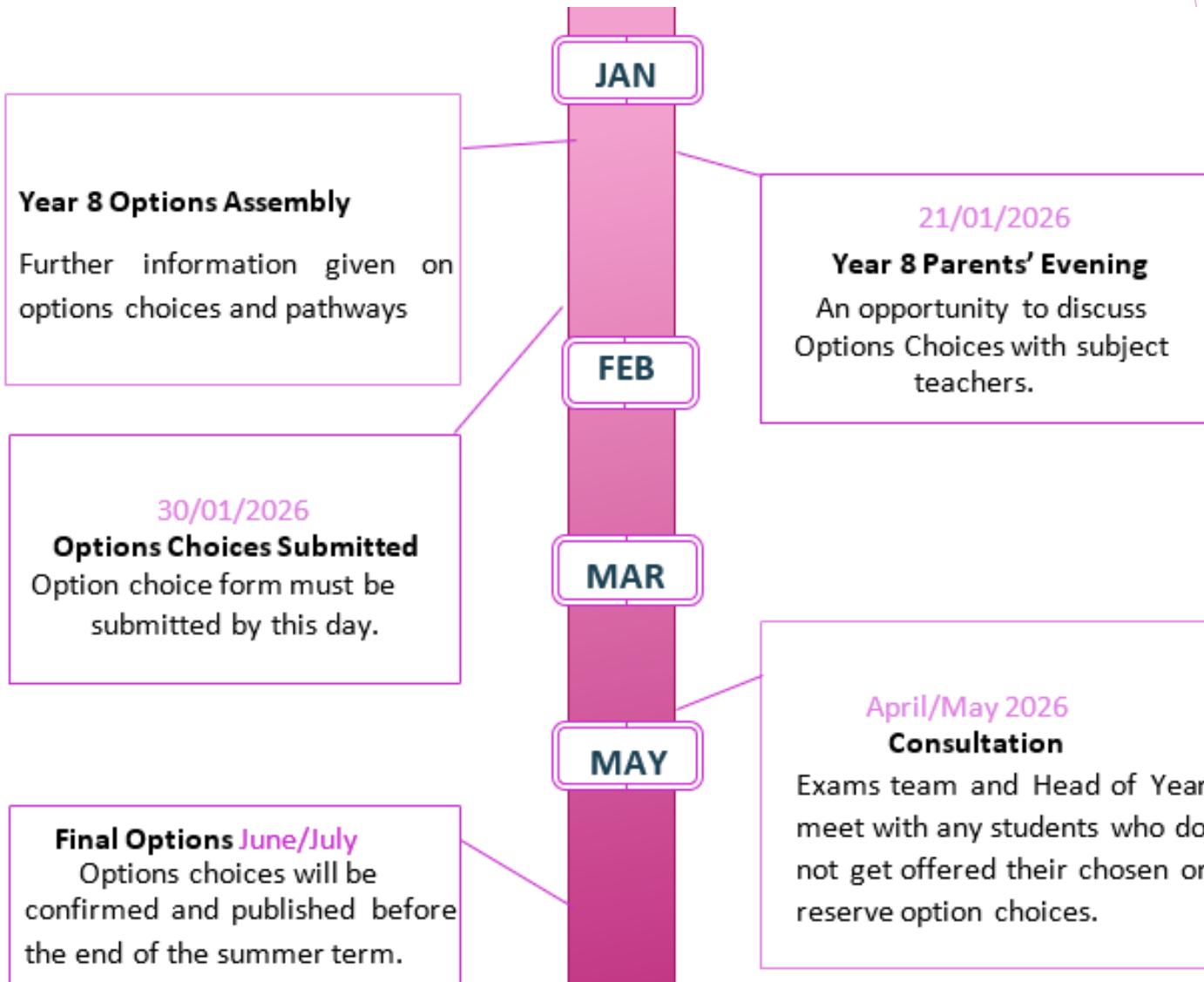
We will do our best to meet the requirements of each student, however we will not be able to give everybody their first four option choices for a number of reasons. Where this is the case students may be allocated their 5th, 6th or 7th option choice instead. This can happen:

- ▶ If not enough students choose a subject we may not be able to run the course
- ▶ After students have selected options in order of preference, the options need to be placed in blocks for timetabling. This can result in some subject combinations not being possible.
- ▶ Where courses are over-subscribed.
- ▶ On occasions recruitment issues can lead us to removing/changing course offers

On the rare occasion a student cannot be allocated all of their options from the seven they requested, students will be spoken to and alternative options will be discussed.

There will need to be some compromise.

Timeline



Options

Questions

- If you have any subject related questions please speak with the teacher of that subject. All option subject staff can be found in the hall.
- There is a brief outline of each course in your booklet as well as on the website.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child's options, please speak to the Head of year, who will direct them to the relevant person.



Options

Please complete the options form no later than the 30th January 2026.

- ▶ It is not a first come first served basis, however, forms returned after the closing date will not gain preference in over-subscribed subjects.
- ▶ We understand that on occasion circumstances may mean some families cannot return the form by the deadline. If this is the case for you please contact your HOY via email to advise.



THE BOURNE ACADEMY



Ambitious Self-confident Physically literate Independent learners Resilient Emotionally literate