



Key Stage 4, you will be focused on the subjects/qualifications you are studying, and preparing for the examinations in Year 11.

You will be taking courses that help you to prepare for further study, maybe on an A level/Level 3 course at Sixth Form or at college, through an apprenticeship or studying one of the newer T Levels.

It is sometimes difficult to make decisions. Often there is no right or wrong answer, but the more informed you are, the easier the decision-making process is. The best place to start is to ask yourself: "What am I interested in doing and exploring after Year 11?" and "What subjects do I enjoy?". Aim to study subjects that are broad and balanced. Talk to your teachers and ask lots of questions; we are here to help and advise you.

Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

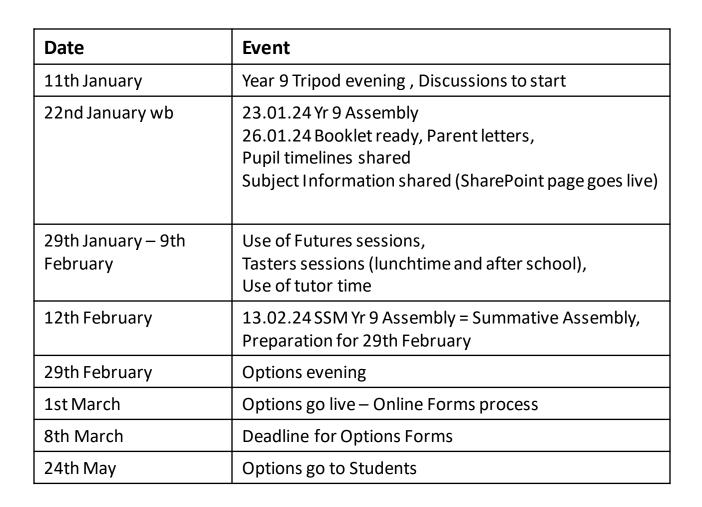
A guide to qualifications and courses







Welcome to the Year 9 Options SharePoint Page





You are about to start the most important stage of your education so far, as over the next few months you will be able to make some choices about which subjects you'd like to continue to study through to the end of Year 11.

There will be two types of qualifications available to students:

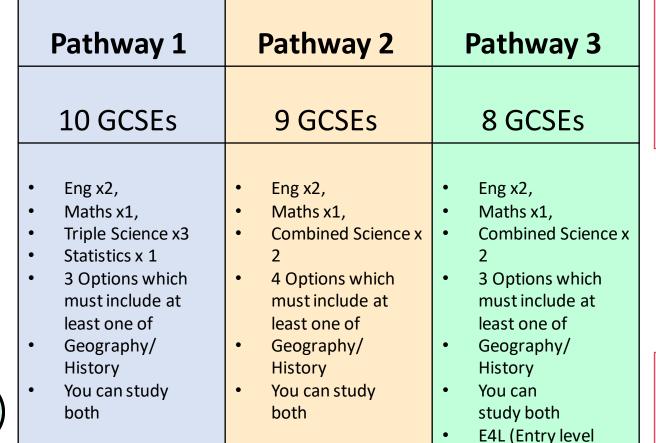
- 1. GCSE qualifications which are linear qualifications where the course is assessed in one or more exams at the end of the course.
- 2. Technical Awards such as BTEC courses

You will have the opportunity to take both types of qualification at Stowmarket High School depending on your interests and future aspirations. All students will have to study the following:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- The Sciences:

Combined Science: two GCSEs that cover the three main sciences - Biology, Chemistry and Physics OR Triple Sciences which include Biology, Chemistry, Physics as single GCSEs

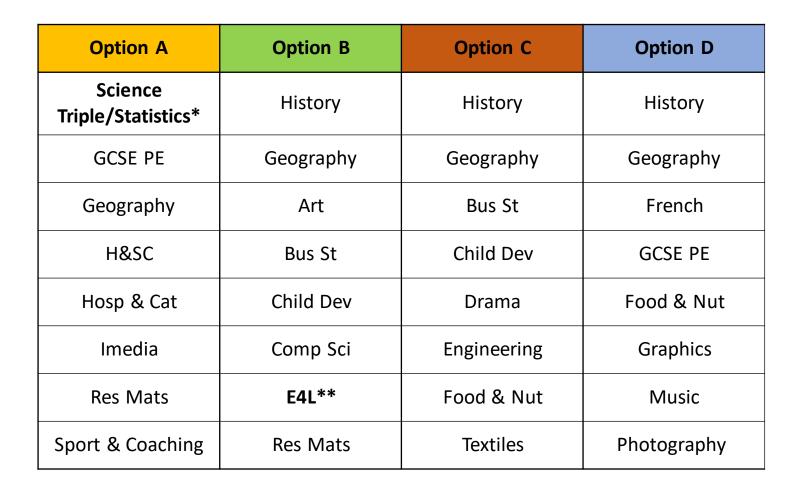
Geography or History



quals) X1

*If you wish to be considered for Pathway 1 you must select Triple Science in Block A

**If you wish to be considered for Pathway 3 you must select E4L in Block B.





You do not have to make this decision on your own. Use all the support and guidance available to you:

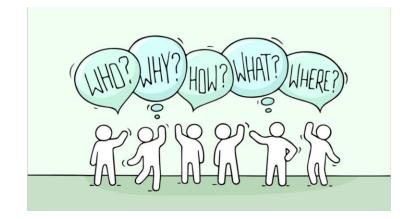
- Think carefully about why you want to choose some subjects in preference to others. Choose subjects because: you enjoy them, you are good at them and you may like to study them at A Levels, at College or University.
- Don't choose the subject because your friend is choosing it or because you like the teacher. You may not be in the same group.
- Research the careers you are interested in and consider which subjects would help you to achieve this goal.
- Talk to your family and your subject teachers about the subjects that you are interested in studying and find out more about the courses that you will be taking.





- Research subjects on our dedicated SharePoint page in futures lessons and outside of school.
- Try to ensure that you are studying a 'broad and balanced' mix of GCSE subjects. You should consider your own academic success up until now, your interests and your abilities in and outside of the classroom.
- There are lots of people within school who can support you and will be able to discuss your future with you, but in the end the choices that you make are your own. You may find it useful to talk to: your parents, your tutor, subject staff, students currently studying the subjects, Mrs Goss (Head of Year 9); Mr Smith (Assistant Headteacher in charge of the curriculum), Ms Mylrea (Inspirational Futures Co-Ordinator), who is located on Floor 2 just near the entrance to the LRC.





Ask great questions

What topics will I study?

How will I be examined?

What courses might it lead to?

What careers might link to the subject?

What skills will I learn?

Making decisions: factors to consider (10 mins)

Below are factors you might consider when choosing your Key Stage 4 subjects.



- Which do you think are the three most important factors to consider and why?
- Which do you think are the three least important factors to consider and why?
 - a) Friends' choices
- b) Siblings' choices
- c) Teachers' opinions
- d) Family and friends' opinions
- e) The subjects you currently enjoy studying

- f) New subjects on offer you don't currently study
- g) A career you'd like to have
- h) A degree you're interested in
- i) An apprenticeship you're interested in

- j) Your skills: what you're good at doing
- k) Your interests: what you enjoy doing
- Post 16 qualifications you're interested in
- m) Type of assessment

n) Type of qualification (academic/vocational)

o) Subject timetable and potential clashes



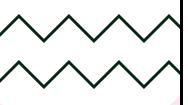
Making decisions: accessing support (10 mins)

Deciding what subjects to study might seem like a daunting task, but there are lots of people who can provide information to help you and offer support.

Subject teacher Form tutor Careers adviser Friend Friend Parent/carer Older sibling

In pairs, select one of the people above (or think of someone else) and discuss:

- Why might this person be a useful source of information to support you with your decision-making?
- Why might this person not be a useful source of information to support you with your decision-making?





Catagorise your subjects ahead of the event.

This can save you a great deal of time.

If you are certain then spend more time investigating your maybes. Remember you need to have good reserve choices. Don't expect to get your first choice!

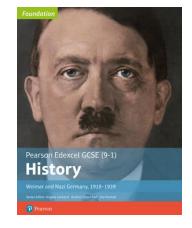


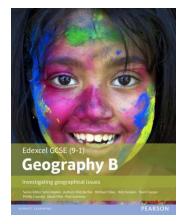


Similar Subject Choices

You will have noticed some very similar areas.

- Food Nutrition/Hospitality and Catering
- GCSE PE/Sport and Coaching
- Computer Science/I-media
- You won't be able to do both so consider which is the right choice.





History and or Geography

Regardless of which pathway you are on every pupil will need to study either History or Geography. You can do both.

Take the time to consider this option carefully, as both offer different skills knowledge and understanding.

