

KS4 Options for September 2027

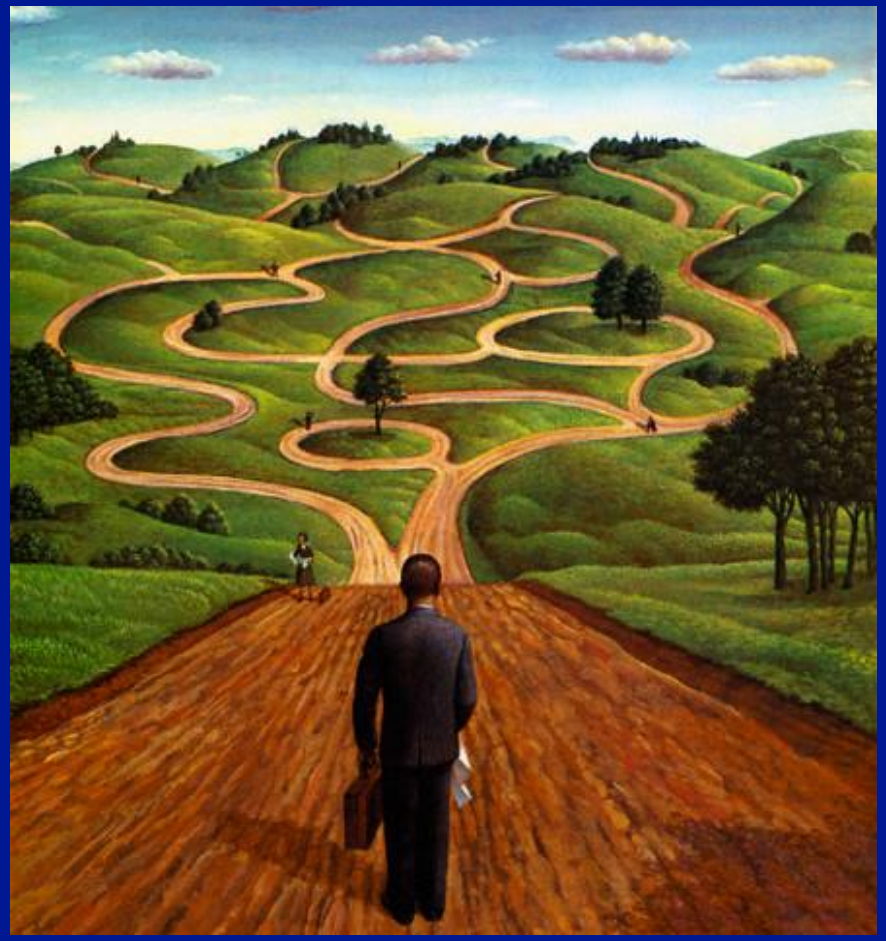
An information evening for Year 9 Parents

"Success for All through Hard Work and Harmony"



Why consider options now?

- Now is the time to evaluate progress and raise ambitions.
- Fresh start for Yr9 in preparation for KS4 with renewed energy.



What do we need to think about?

- *What's best for you?*
- R*esearch and speak to your subject teachers.*
- Grasp *all* opportunities to make a difference.
- Be the best **you** can be – *don't just copy your friends!*
- <u>Maintain best behaviour throughout Year 9.</u>



What are the fundamental subjects?

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- PSHE

Every student will study these subjects.



What are the proposed curriculum changes?

- Government has proposed new progress measures for UK schools to ensure a **broad** curriculum offer.
- This is a good feature and matches HHA approach.



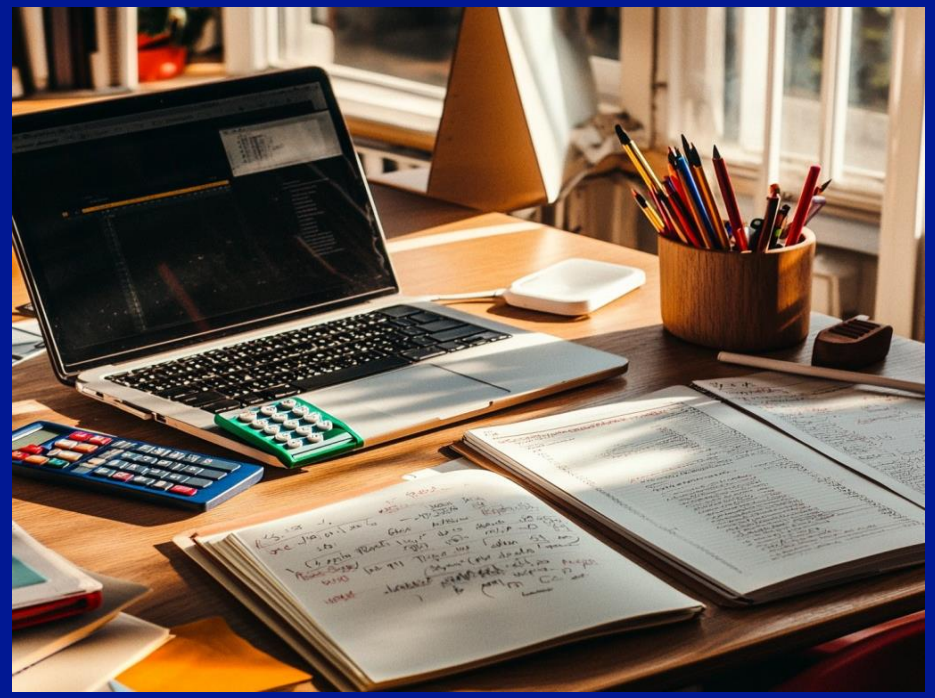
What does a 'broad' curriculum mean?

- Range of subjects including humanities, languages, creative arts, technology, computing, social sciences and vocational disciplines.
- Wide range of skills, supporting future progression and keeping post-16 options open.
- Maintaining breadth ensures students are well prepared for a wide range of post-16 courses, apprenticeships, university pathways and careers.



What do students choose?

- Students will choose their top 3 subjects, and a reserve choice from the full range of subjects we offer at HHA.
- We'll then use students' choices to create option blocks that allow as many students as possible to achieve their first choices and access a broad curriculum.



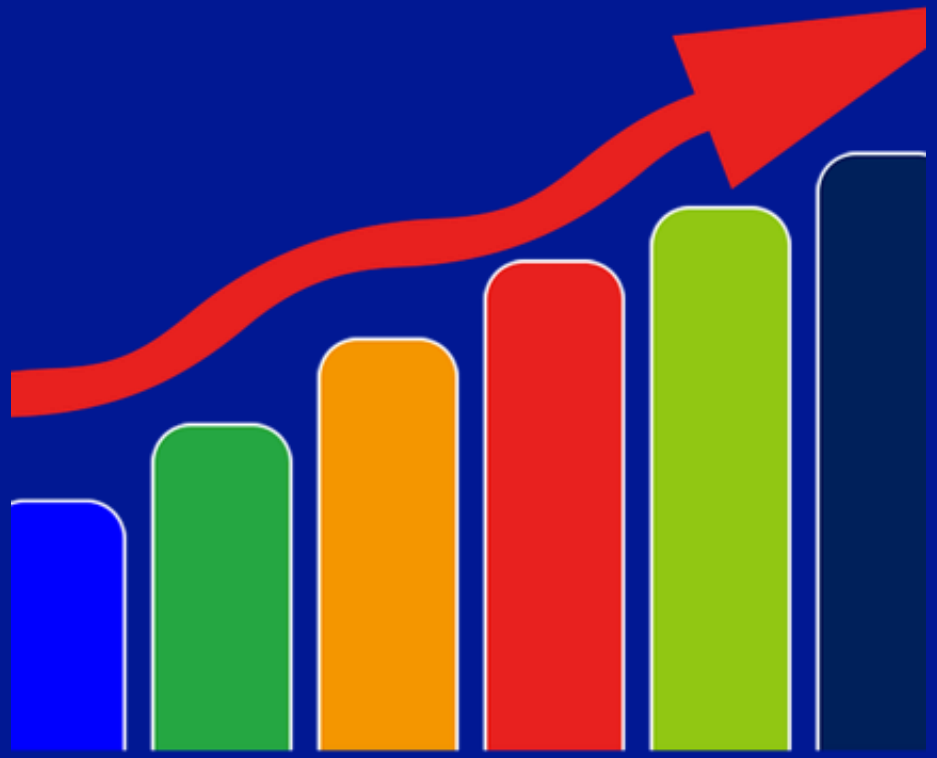
How are options allocated fairly?

- Not all students will gain their top three choices, and reserve choices may also not be possible.
- Reasons for this may include class sizes, blocking availability, and the need to ensure all students gain the breadth in their curriculum offer.
- For oversubscribed subjects, student lists will be shared with curriculum leaders to identify the most suitable students for that course.



What happens if a student doesn't gain their choices?

- We will speak with students individually to find a suitable alternative in the best interests of the student.
- All parents will be informed of option choices ASAP in the summer term.



How do we use assessment data to choose the best subjects for our child?

- Students' reports – shared with parents in the next week – will outline if students are below, on, or above their KS3 pathway.

Pathway	KS4 Target Grade (GCSE)
Emerging	1-3
Developing	4
Secure	5-6
Mastery	7-9



What is the difference between GCSEs and BTECs?

- GCSEs are assessed through exams at the end of Year 11, graded 1-9.
- BTECs are more tailored to a specific industry or career, with formal assessments/ exams throughout the two years of KS4, including in Year 10, graded from Pass to Distinction*.
- Some subjects may have GCSE and/ or BTEC classes (e.g. drama, PE) and an informed decision will be made in the best interests of each student.



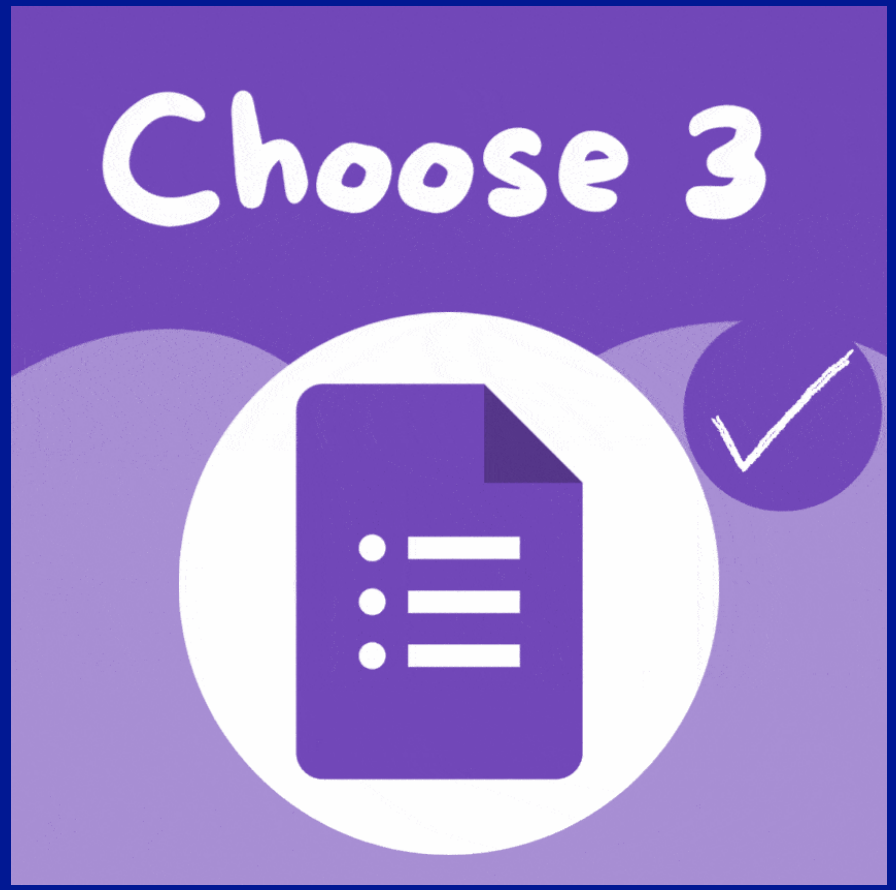
How are students selected for science courses?

- Every student will study science at KS4.
- Combined Science covers the three sciences in a balanced course and awards two GCSEs.
- Triple Science studies Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately and awards three separate GCSEs.
- Students will be selected for science courses based on assessment data and an informed decision of what's in the student's best interests.



What support is available?

- Mr Bonner – Assistant Headteacher
- Mr Mansfield – *Yr9 Progress Leader*
- Ms Morris – *Yr9 Pastoral Leader*
- Ms Sheridan – *Careers Leader*
- Year 9 Form Tutors
- All Subject Teachers
- School Website *(Pupils – Yr9 Options)*



How do we submit final options choices?

- Complete the MS form posted on Yr9 Teams Channel.
- If you make a mistake, submit the form again and your most recent entry will be counted.



What are the key dates to remember?

Key Event	Date
Final Options Process Opens	05.11.26
Final Options Process Closes	18.11.26



What if we have questions?

- We look forward to working with you to help your child make informed and successful choices.
- If you have any questions, no matter how small, please ask.
- We're here to help support you.
- Choosing your options for KS4 should and will be an exciting opportunity for you all.



What are the key points?

- Our aim is for every student to follow a broad curriculum that is ambitious, balanced and suited to individual aspirations.
- English, Maths, Science, PE, RE, and PSHE remain fundamental.
- Humanities, languages, and creative subjects are now all fairly recognised in progress measures by the DfE.
- Students should choose subjects that match strengths, aspirations and future pathways.

Options Process Closes: 18.11.26