

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School

Year 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 12th February 2025



Introduction and Welcome

Dr. S Uttley

Headmaster





School Prayer

Father

Pour out your spirit

Upon our school

And grant us

A renewed vision of your glory

So that we may experience your power,

Be faithful to your word,

And consecrate ourselves to your service.

We pray that your love may grow among us,

and your kingdom come:

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Overview

Pupils will study the **new reformed GCSE courses in all subjects.**

The new GCSEs are graded from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest.

All new GCSEs are linear with assessment at the end of the course and content is not divided into modules. Some comprise a practical element.

Most courses only have a single exam tier.

BTEC courses involve both internally and externally assessed units of study.



New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	B
6	C
5	C
4	D
3	E
2	F
1	G
U	U

New GCSE grading structure

Main points to consider:

- Grade 9 is the new measure – this will be awarded for exceptional performance – it is higher than the ‘old’ A*.
- Grade 4 equates to standard C
- Grade 5 equates to a high C
- The government requirement for a ‘good’ pass at GCSE is a grade 5, higher than the old requirement of a C.

Year 8 focus- Building positive foundations

Year 9 focus is.....



Making the right choices at Options Evening

Accountability-Achievements & behaviour

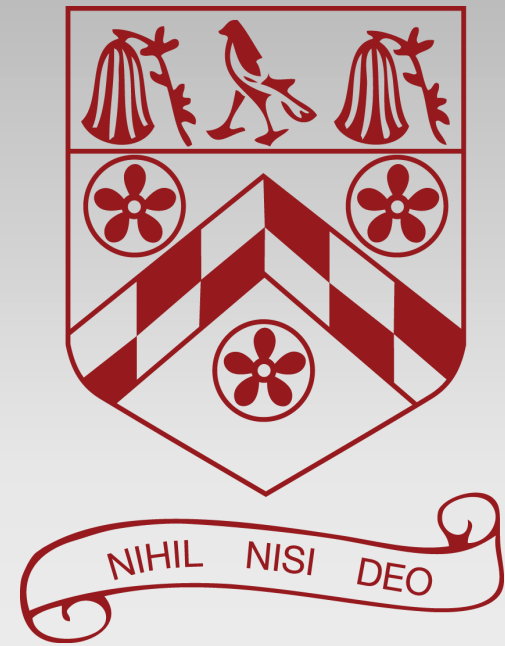
CHOICES

Extra-curricular- opportunities

Respectful- Staff, peer & environment

How to support your child in their studies

- Know the Curriculum/GCSE grading structure
- Assessments and reporting progress
- Attendance & Punctuality
- Parents' Evenings
- Academic Monitoring
- Homework
- Encouraging self-belief and resilience
- Extra curricular activities
- Home – school communication



How to make choices

Do

Consider your interests and hobbies

Take subjects that you enjoy

Take subjects that you are good at

Ask your teachers for advice

Aim for a broad and balanced curriculum – including a variety of subjects

Consider how subjects are assessed, some are 100% exams, others involve coursework.



On the other hand....

Do not

Choose a subject just because your friends are taking it

Choose a subject just because you like your current teacher

Choose too many similar subjects- Assessed in the same way

Choose a subject because you think it is an 'easy option'

Choose a new subject simply because it's new!



Attendance

- To get the most out of a good education, attendance is crucial.
- School attendance has a major influence on educational outcomes.
- Transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4
- 90% attendance = a month of learning in an academic year

Descriptor	Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125



Options Booklet Contents

Guidance on option choices

Curriculum information

Information on developing essential skills at KS4

Guidance for parents

Hard copy this evening and a digital copy will be available on the school website from tomorrow.



Choosing your Options

Core Subjects (subjects that must be studied by all)

Religious Education

English Language *and* English Literature

Mathematics

Science (We will assign Separate or Trilogy and stunts/parents will be notified in due course)

PE (Non-exam)

PSHE (scheduled lessons)

Students will also select from several option subjects. Their choice of subject will be dependent upon their pathway. If a student wants to study Business they should choose the subject and as a school will decide if they follow the GCSE Business or BTEC Enterprise Pathway.



Pathway 1 -EBacc and Optional Subjects

- The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.
- The EBacc is:
 - English Language and Literature
 - Maths
 - The Sciences
 - Geography or History
 - MFL – Modern Foreign Language
- The EBacc is made up some of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and can be useful to students who intend to stay in full time education after GCSE.



Pathway 1 -EBacc and Optional Subjects

	Science	One of the following	One of the following	Option Subjects	
Pathway 1	Separate Science: Biology Chemistry Physics (3 GCSEs) Or Trilog Science (2 GCSEs)	French Spanish Polish	Geography History	2 of the following: Art & Design: Fine Art Business BTEC Enterprise Computer Science Drama Design & Technology Food Preparation & Nutrition Geography or History BTEC Health & Social Care Music PE Sport – Cambridge National Sociology	

Pathway 2 - Core and Optional Subjects

	Science	One of the following	One of the following	Option Subjects	
Pathway 2	Separate Science: Biology Chemistry Physics (3 GCSEs) Or Trilogy Science (2 GCSEs)	Geography History French Alternative language		3 of the following: Art & Design: Fine Art Business BTEC Enterprise Computer Science Drama Design & Technology Food Preparation & Nutrition Geography or History BTEC Health & Social Care Music PE Sport – Cambridge National Sociology French Spanish Polish	

Pathway 3 - Alternative Curriculum Pathway

<p>Pathway 3</p>	<p>Trilogy Science (2 GCSEs)</p> <p><i>Or Entry Level certificate</i></p>			<p>3 of the following:</p> <p>Art & Design: Fine Art Business BTEC Enterprise</p> <p>Drama Design & Technology Food Preparation & Nutrition Geography or History BTEC Health & Social Care Music PE Sport – Cambridge National Sociology French Spanish Polish</p>	<p>ASDAN course</p> <p>and/or study support</p>
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Pathway summary

Pathway 1- Select 2 Options

Must study a Humanities & a Language.

Pathway 2- Select 3 Options

Must pick a Humanities or Language, but can pick both if they wish, but do not have to.

Pathway 3- Select 3 Options

Study ASDSAN- Life skills course

All students must select their subjects in preference order.



Optional Subjects

New subjects-

Film Studies

Sociology

Business

Health and Social Care

Continue learning from KS3

PE

Art

Food & Nutrition

Music

Product Design

Computer Science

Reserve Options

We aim to invite all students to study the courses they choose.

Despite this, due to restrictions we cannot guarantee that every child will be able to study every course they pick.

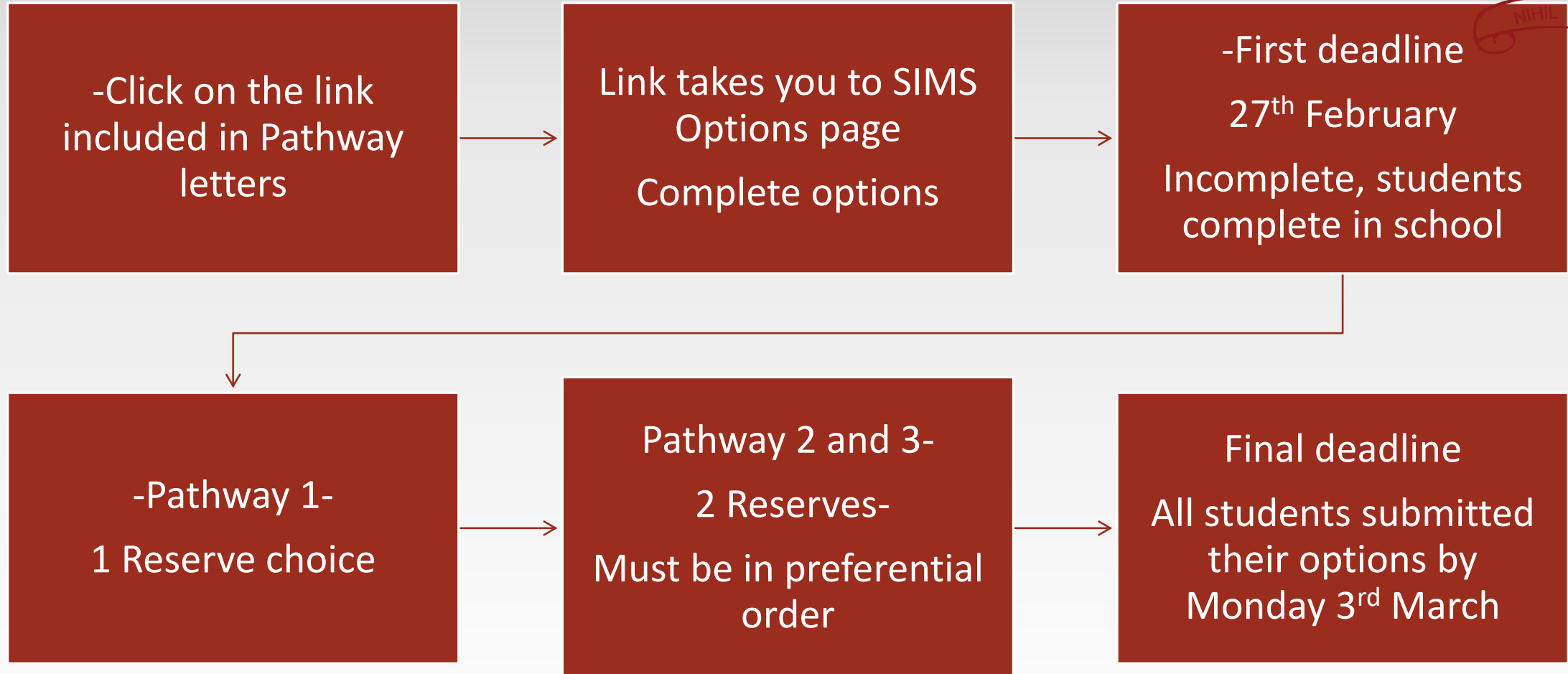
It is really important that they spend time thinking about their reserve options as they may be invited to take this subject.

If a situation arises where they will not get their first choice, we will inform you.





How do you select your options?



Options online

Option 1

You have chosen 1 of 1  courses from this list

French GCSE Full Course


Choice

Polish GCSE Full Course

Humanities


You have chosen 1 of 1  courses from this list

Geography GCSE Full Course



 You have selected this course in Options

History GCSE Full Course

Choice

 This course is also available in Options

Options

You have chosen 2 of 2  courses and 1 of 1  reserves from this list

Art GCSE Full Course

Choice

Reserve

Business Studies GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Computer Science GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Design & Technology - Food GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Design & Technology - Product
GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Drama GCSE Full Course

Reserve


Geography GCSE Full Course


Reserve

Reserve

History GCSE Full Course

Reserve

 This course is also available in Humanities

 You have selected this course in Humanities

Health & Social Care Tech Cert
GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Music GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Physical Education GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Sociology GCSE Full Course

Choice

Reserve

My Choices in Order of Preference

(Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 **Sociology**
GCSE Full Course Options

2 **History**
GCSE Full Course Humanities

3 **Art**
GCSE Full Course Options

4 **French**
GCSE Full Course Option 1

My Reserves in Order of Preference

(Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 **Geography**
GCSE Full Course Options

Miss R Gittings

– Accelerated Achievement Co-ordinator

What subjects do I need for.....?

Where can I find out more about.....?

What does this career involve?

Where can this subject lead?

Miss R Gittings

R.Gittings@hughfaringdon.org



Key Contacts

Form tutors

• **BL** – Miss Maciw H.Maciw@hughfaringdon.org

• **DB** – Miss Kurowski/Mr Starr

R.Kurowski@hughfaringdon.org or R.Starr@hughfaringdon.org

• **MK** – Mr De Robillard T.DeRobillard@hughfaringdon.org

• **ML** – Miss Stevens S.Stevens@hughfaringdon.org

• **MT** – Mr Milne A.Milne@hughfaringdon.org or K.Edwards@hughfaringdon.org

• **OR** – Miss Poddar J.Poddar@hughfaringdon.org

Miss Surtees – Head of Year E.Surtees@hughfaringdon.org

Mrs Richards- KS3 Pastoral achievement co-ordinator L.Richards@hughfaringdon.org

Mrs Edwards– SENDCo M.Edwards@hughfaringdon.org

Miss Williams – Interim Head of ASC Resource Al.Williams@hughfaringdon.org





Creating a balanced timetable not 100% exam in the summer

Understanding what topics and lessons will look like come September

Summary

Selecting options that are best suited to your learning for you to succeed, based on your interests & hobbies

KS4 journey starts in September, but choices you make will be on your course entries in the future post 16

Ask questions, so you know what you are signing up for.

Thank you

Our deepest thanks for coming this evening and for all your support.

Subject marketplace is now
OPEN!

A Floor:

Music – A16

Drama – Drama Studio

PE – A3

Product Design – A5

Food & Nutrition – A8

Medical Pathway – A9

Health & Social Care – A17

B Floor:

History – B6

Film Studies – B7

Art – B15

C Floor:

Computer Science – C1

Sociology – C7

Business – C11

MFL – C12

Geography – C14

Learning Support – Main Hall

Autism Resource – Main Hall