

# Key Stage 4 Choices

2024 - 2026



Mr Dunphy

Assistant Headteacher

# Aims of this Presentation

To give you information about:

- The **Statutory** Courses that ALL students will follow next year
- The **Optional** Courses which are available for you to make your **four** choices
- The **Types** of qualifications available
- The support and guidance which has been, and will be provided during this process

# Planning for YOUR Future

Over the coming weeks, you should be actively doing the following:

- **READ** the options booklet
- **Discuss** your choices with your form tutor
- **Seek out** Careers advice
- **Look at** the website information about each course
- **Pay attention** to guidance in Life Skills lessons
- **Listen to** your teachers in each subject as they provide information in lessons

***Decision time – by FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY***

# Statutory Courses

ALL students will study:

- English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Science (up to 3 GCSEs)
- Personal Development
- Physical Education (can also be an option)

Now it is time to choose your **other** 4 subjects

**4 options?**

# Decisions, Decisions...

You need to think carefully about:

- new challenges and opportunities
- previous success in each subject area
- types of assessment in each course (read the booklet!)
- your future career options (but not too much!)
- what you enjoy most!

# Decisions, Decisions.....

Do **NOT** consider:

- what your friends are planning to do.

*They may well NOT be in the same class as you, even if you choose the same subjects. You might even have a new friendship group when you start Year 10.*

- which teachers you like this year

*You are unlikely to get the same teacher as in Year 9. Circumstances can change. Your favourite teacher may even get a new job somewhere else!*

# What are the *types* of course on offer?

Most courses here at TGS are GCSEs which are graded 1 - 9.  
(9 is the top grade)



**...but there are other equally useful qualifications too....**

- Cambridge Nationals
- Technical Awards
- NCFE Certificates
- BTEC qualifications

# It is just a different journey...

BTEC Grades		GCSE equivalent	
Distinction* (Level 2)	is equivalent to a GCSE grade	8.5	
Distinction (Level 2)	is equivalent to a GCSE grade	7	
Merit (Level 2)	is equivalent to a GCSE grade	5.5	
Pass (Level 2)	is equivalent to a GCSE grade	4	
Distinction (Level 1)	is equivalent to a GCSE grade	3	
Merit (Level 1)	is equivalent to a GCSE grade	2	
Pass (Level 1)	is equivalent to a GCSE grade	1.25	

Most GCSEs have exams at the end of Year 11.

Many of the other courses have 'modules' or 'units' which add up to a final grade. Some of these will be taken in Year 10. They all add up to the same thing.

GCSEs



**Year 10**

**Year 11**

BTEC / Vocational



# **Ask yourself....**

**How does it suit how you like to learn?**

**exam-based, practical, coursework?**

**Consider your preferred mode of study  
and assessment**

**In some subject areas  
there is a choice between  
GCSE and other types of  
qualification:**

**For example, you might choose to study**

**Business Studies GCSE *or* Business (Enterprise) BTEC**

**PE GCSE *or* Sport Studies Cambridge National**

**Food Preparation *or* Hospitality & Catering Level 2**

**staff within each subject area will guide you**

# What is the EBacc? Should I do this?

The EBacc or 'English Baccalaureate' is not a qualification in itself, but represents your achieving a qualification in:

- **English Language & Literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science (Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Computing)**
- **A Modern Foreign Language**
- **Geography or History**

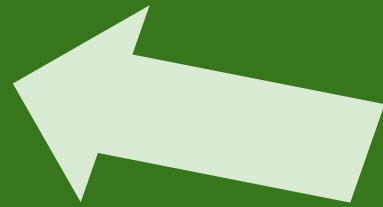
You may feel that this broad range of subjects suits you, and provides you with a strong foundation for further studies post 16. This is your choice.



**What are the  
subjects I can  
choose?**

# Option 1

- Computer Science
- French
- German
- Geography
- History



*You MUST  
choose at  
least ONE of  
these subjects*

# Other option choices

- Art & Design : Art, Craft & Design
- Art & Design : Photography
- Business GCSE *or* Enterprise BTEC
- Computer Science
- Creative Media Production
- Design & Technology : 3D Product Design
- Design & Technology : Graphics
- Drama
- Economics
- Electronics
- Food Preparation & Nutrition *or* Hospitality & Catering
- French
- Geography
- German
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Music
- Physical Education *or* Sport Studies
- Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

**Will I definitely be  
able to study all of  
my choices?**

# No...

We will do our very best to offer every student the courses they select, but....

- Some combinations of subjects might not fit into the timetable. If there is a 'clash', you will need to select a different course.

# or....

- If TOO FEW students opt for a subject, we will not be able to offer this course.

This is why we ask you for a 'reserve' choice  
on the options form

# Careers Guidance Tips to help with subject choice



Think about what you **enjoy**, are **good at** and what your **interests** are. Base this as a good foundation for your decision making, particularly when thinking about which subjects you have enjoyed the most at school so far.

If you are focussed on exploring a particular industry area, you may like to choose your subjects around skill building for a particular industry. eg - Engineering; GCSE Electronics and Design and Technology.

Is there something new that you would like to try? Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and consider something completely different- it may lead to something exciting!



**Research course content- make sure that you will enjoy what you will be studying. Subjects will be more focussed and in depth than your current study of them.**

**Research and ask teachers about their subject and read up about the course. Is it a mandatory subject needed to study Post 16 options? If you are considering studying A-levels in the future then certain subjects may require you to have previously studied the subject at GCSE. If this is the case it would be advised to look at the sixth form prospectus and check out specific GCSE entry requirements for subjects of interest.**

# Remember...

- These subject choices do not shape the rest of your life.
- Don't put pressure on yourself.
- Pick ones that you will enjoy and fit in with your individual requirements.

**How do I make  
my choices?**



Tadcaster  
Grammar School

*Be your best self*

Parents  
Sixth Form  
News  
Vacancies  
Information

**Curriculum**

**Key Stage 4 options**

Curriculum Overview

Subject Information

Key Stage 4 Options

British Values

Careers

Learning Beyond the

Classroom

Progress 8

SMSC



Options information presentation



Click here to view options information booklet



Click here to access the options form (September)

**booklet link**

**Options form link**

**School website**



## Year 9 Options for KS4 2024-2026

Key Stage 4 Option choices 2024-2026

m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk [Switch accounts](#)



\* Indicates required question

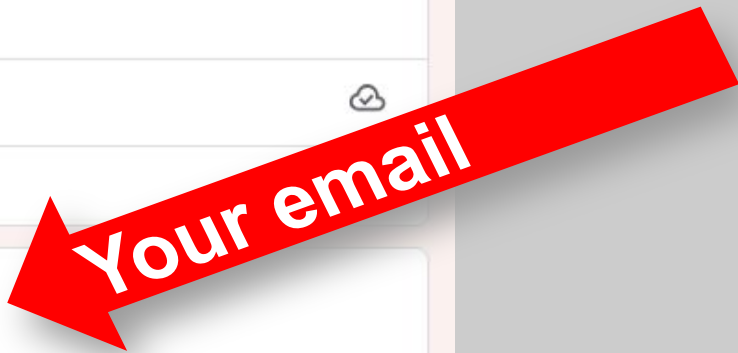
Email \*



Record m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk as the email to be included with my response

Next

Clear form





## Year 9 Options for KS4 2024-2026

[m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk) [Switch accounts](#)

 Draft saved

Your email address will be recorded when you submit this form

\* Indicates required question

### Your Details

Your first name: \*

Tom

Your surname: \*

Smith

 Your FULL name

# Year 9 Options for KS4 2024-2026

m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk [Switch accounts](#)



Your email address will be recorded when you submit this form

## Instructions

Please do NOT make your selection before you have read the options booklet, and have spoken with your parents, form tutor and subject teacher about the courses you would like to study. You may return to this form at any time and change your choices, but it will close on Friday 9th February.

## Link to Options booklet

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d-KAyQvRFp9dJ...up6yIAeF...>

## Will I definitely be able to do my choices of subject?

No.... We will do our best to enable every student to study their selected options, but we can NOT guarantee this. That is why we will ask you for a reserve subject choice. If a course does not run because numbers are too low, or there is a clash which means you can not do your first four choices, we will consider your reserve choice.

## What are my choices?

Read through the options booklet which you have been given, and then choose FOUR DIFFERENT subjects below. You must also write a brief explanation of WHY you would like to study each subject. Please note that you can only choose a total of TWO subjects that are marked with an asterisk (\*)

**Read the instructions**



## Year 9 Options for KS4 2024-2026

m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk [Switch accounts](#)



Your email address will be recorded when you submit this form

\* Indicates required question

### Option ONE

Pick ONE subject from the list below.

#### Option 1 \*

- French
- German
- History
- Geography
- Computer Science

**make your choices**

Why have you selected this first option? \*

Your answer

**Say WHY for each**





## Year 9 Options for KS4 2024-2026

m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk [Switch accounts](#)



Your email address will be recorded when you submit this form

\* Indicates required question

### Reserve option

This 'Reserve' choice will ONLY be considered if we are unable to offer you your first choice options. Please think very carefully about what you select.

#### Reserve choice \*

- French
- German
- History
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Art & Design (Art, Craft & Design)
- Art & Design (Photography)

**Choose a 'reserve' subject**

## Year 9 Options for KS4 2024-2026

m.dunphy@tgs.starmat.uk [Switch accounts](#)



Your email address will be recorded when you submit this form

\* Indicates required question

### Parental agreement

Before submitting this form, you must confirm that you have discussed and agreed these choices with your parents. You must also get a signature in your planner to confirm this, and show your form tutor or Year Leader.

Parental Agreement \*

Yes, I have discussed and agreed these options with my parents

A copy of your responses will be emailed to:

Back

Submit

Clear form

**Discuss with your parents**

**click 'Submit'**

# Key Dates:

**Monday 9th January**

*online options form goes 'live'*

**Wed 31st January / Thu 1st February**

*Parents' Evening (subjects)*

**Friday 9th February**

*options form closes*

# Remember to.....

- Ask questions, talk to your parents and teachers, discuss with your form tutor
- Complete your Options Form by 9th February at the latest!

It is **NOT** 'first come, first served', but if your form is LATE you may not get all of your choices!