

# Key Stage 4 Choices

## 2026 - 2028



**Mr Dunphy**  
Assistant Headteacher

**Miss Hall**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher/ Year 9 Year leader

# 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 you have been given**
- **Discuss your choices with your form tutor**
- **Seek out Careers advice, and go to meetings when invited**
- **Look at the website information about each course**
- **Pay attention to guidance in Personal Development lessons**
- **Listen to your teachers in each subject as they provide information in lessons**

*Decision time – by **FRIDAY 6th 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 was the EBacc?

The EBacc or ‘English Baccalaureate’ is no longer a measure used by the Department for Education. It was not a qualification in itself, but represented the recognition of a ‘pass’ in:

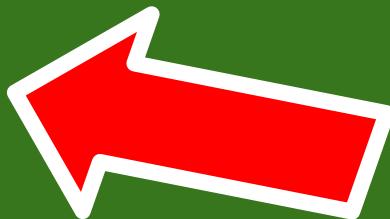
- **English Language & Literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science (Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Computing)**
- **A Modern Foreign Language**
- **Geography or History**

We have never made EBacc combination of options mandatory, so we do not envisage significant changes to our current curriculum.

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

# Remember...

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

# Careers Guidance Tips to help with subject choice



**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.**

How do I make  
my choices?



Tadcaster  
Grammar School

Be your best self

1557

Parents  
Sixth Form  
News  
Information  
Vacancies

## Curriculum

### Key Stage 4 options



Options information presentation



Click here to view options subject information booklet



Click here to access the options form (September)

booklet link

Options form link

School website



## Year 9 Options for KS4 2026-2028

Key Stage 4 Option choices 2026-2028

\* Indicates required question

Email \*

Record my email as [year9options@gs.starmat.uk](mailto:year9options@gs.starmat.uk) as the email to be included with my response

Your email

Next

Clear form



## Year 9 Options for KS4 2026-2028

Your email address will be recorded when you submit this form

\* Indicates required question

### Your Details

Your first name: \*

Your answer

Your surname: \*

Your answer

**Your FULL name**



## Year 9 Options for KS4 2026-2028

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 6th February.

Link to Options booklet

[Options booklet](#)

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.

**Read the instructions**

# Year 9 Options for KS4 2026-2028

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 2026-2028

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

Choose a 'reserve' subject



## Year 9 Options for KS4 2026-2028

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/carers

A copy of your responses will be emailed to m.dunn@...  
Please note that you must be 16 or over to complete this form.

Back

Submit

Clear form

Discuss with your parents

click 'Submit'

# Key Dates:

**Wed 28th / Thu 29th January**  
*Parents' Evening (subjects)*

**Friday 6th February**  
*options form closes*

# Remember to.....

- Ask questions, talk to your parents and teachers, discuss with your form tutor
- Complete your Options Form by 6th 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!

# Class of 2028

## POST 16 DESTINATIONS

August 2028 Results day

July 2028 Prom!

GCSE 2028 Exam Series May- June 2028

February/ March 2028 Mocks (tbc)

November 2027 Applications open for Post 16 and Mocks (tbc)

September 2027 Start of **Year 11**

Summer Term 2027 - Mock Exams

July 2025 Year 8 Enrichment Week

July 2025 Water Sports Trip

September 2025 Start of **Year 9**

January 2026 GCSE Option Evening

February 2026 Year 9 Reports 1 and Deadline for GCSE Option Choices

Year 8 Information Evening

February/March 2025 Year 8 Reports 1

September 2024 - Start of **Year 8**

June 2024 Year 7 Reports 2

Easter 2024 Silent Disco

September 2023 **Year 7** Induction Day

February 2025 Legally Blonde Junior

Enrichment Week 2024 - Year 7 Residential - Bushcraft

February 2024 High School Musical Junior Year 7 Reports 1

September 2026 Start of **Year 10**

Easter 2026 - Year 9 Ski Trip



## AMBITIOUS

learners:

- Are **fully focussed** and **ready** to work straight away.
- **Actively listen** to the teacher and others.
- **Participate** fully in their learning. **Ask** and **answer** questions.

## RESILIENT

learners:

- **Give everything a go**; see mistakes as an opportunity to improve.
- Have a “**can do**” attitude. Show **initiative**; **work independently**.
- **Respond to feedback** in order to improve.

## RESPONSIBLE

learners:

- Arrive **on time** and are **fully equipped** for the lesson.
- Hand all their work in **on time**.
- Always **behave and act in a safe manner** for themselves and others.

## RESPECTFUL

learners:

- Take **pride in the presentation** of their work and themselves.
- **Follow instructions** and are **considerate, polite** and **tolerant**.
- **Look after** the school environment.

Home  
Learning

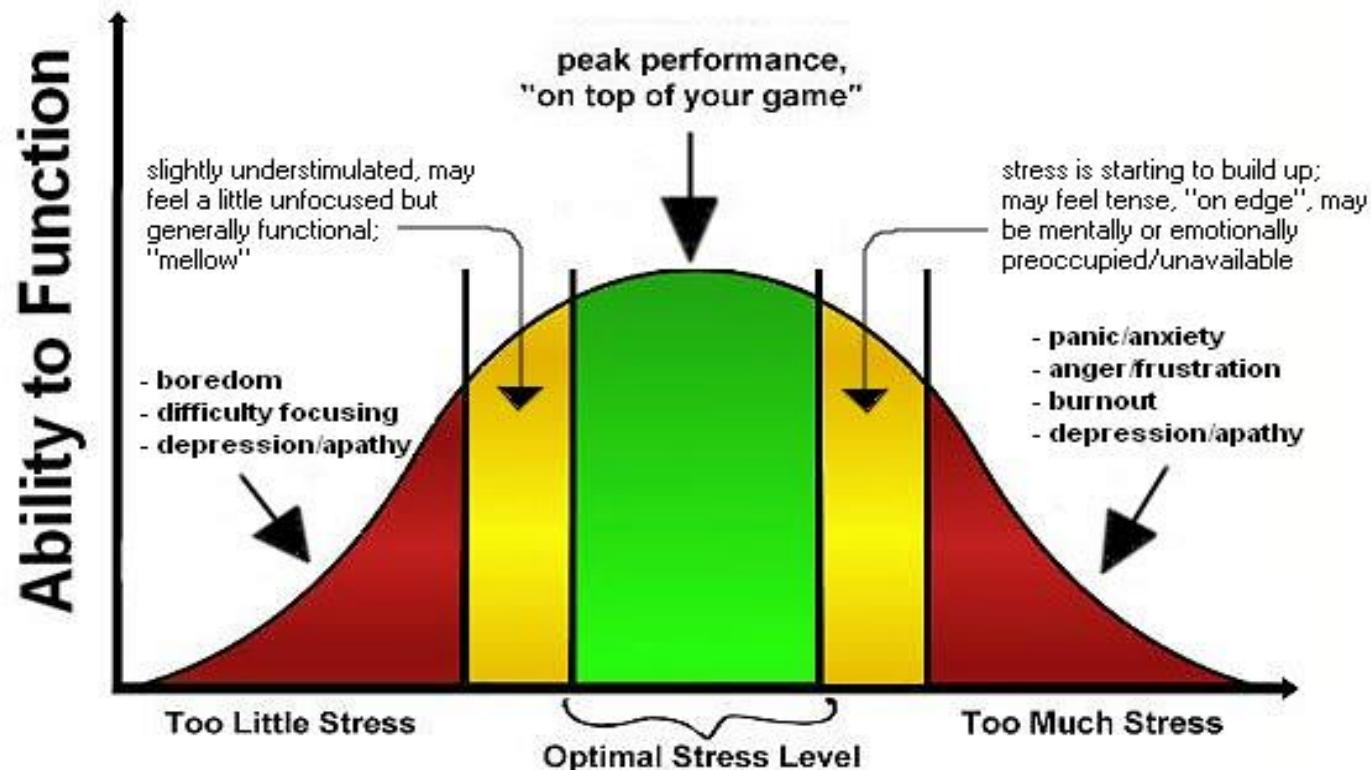
Attendance  
Matters

Equipment  
and Uniform

Punctuality  
to lessons

There are 350 Teaching days in Year 10 and 11 Combined

# Stress Continuum



# School links



Year team  
and whole  
school  
staff support



# Key Stage 4 Choices

## 2026 - 2028



Mr Dunphy  
Assistant Headteacher