



# Year 9 Options: Information Evening

*Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

**Principal: Ms Marrill**

# Welcome to Year 9 Options Evening ....

KS4  
Curriculum  
Offer

Outline the  
Options  
Process



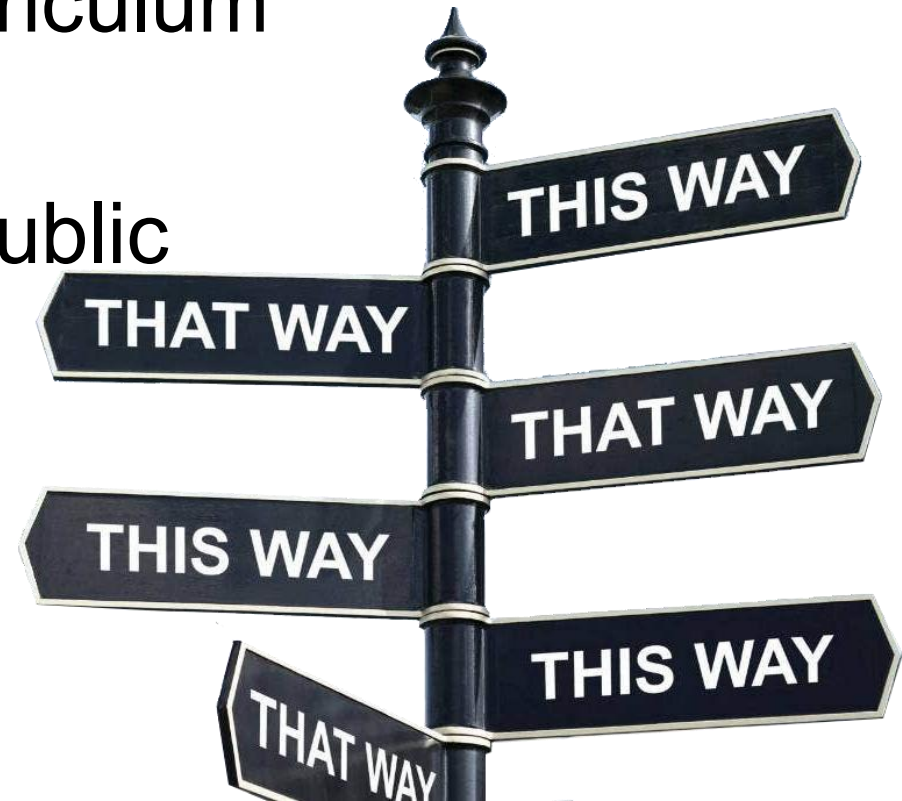
Highlight  
important  
factors

Answer any  
questions



# Decision time...

- First ever opportunity to make significant choices;
- First narrowing of curriculum experience;
- Formal transition to public exams;



# A Broad & Balanced Curriculum

- We have prioritised student choice and expanding future opportunities when developing our curriculum at Key Stage 4.
- We offer students the opportunity to study a wide range of academic, creative and vocational subjects with few restrictions, but provide a structure to ensure that students do not make decisions that close doors in the future.
- We only have one prohibited subject combination, **GCSE PE and Cambridge National Sport Science**. This is due to the amount of similar content taught in both subjects, however, we would strongly advise **against** selecting subjects that are too similar.



# An ever-changing world

- ✓ Will I have the same type of job for the rest of my working life?
- ✓ Will I need to continue to study when I have left Sixth Form or University?
- ✓ What skills are going to be in demand in the future?
- ✓ Are any jobs in danger of serious decline or even disappearing in the next 10 years with AI?





**The 7 Year Journey....**

**GCSEs**

**PPE1 Exams**  
Student Support Sessions  
Masterclasses  
Coursework units

**PPE2 Exams**  
Student Support Sessions  
Masterclasses  
Coursework units

**GCSE Exams**  
Support Sessions  
Masterclasses  
Coursework units

**Option choices**  
End of Y9 Exams

**End of Y10 Exams**  
Coursework units

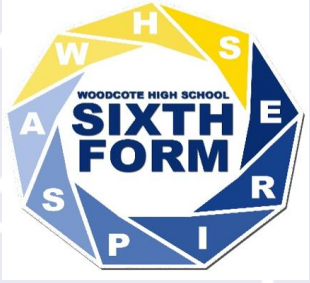
**Year 9**

**Year 10**

**Year 11**

**Your journey.....**





# WHS Sixth Form & Beyond

## To study the A Level route

- Five or more strong GCSE passes (9-5)
- Subject specific requirements in the subject or most similar subject wanting to be taken as an A-Level (usually a Grade 6 or above, or Grade 7 in Maths & Science)
- Grade 9-4 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics



## To study the Vocational route

- Five or more strong GCSE passes (9-5)
- Grade 9-4 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics
- Merit/Grade 5 in the subject of your choice if studied at GCSE

*\*There are some individual course requirements, which must be met, detailed in the Sixth Form Handbook.*

**The 7 Year Journey....**

**We Are Woodcote | Together we belong, together we learn, together we grow.**





# Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Deputy Principal: Ms Bigden

# The Curriculum in Years 10 and 11

**‘Core Curriculum’** consists of:

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, RE, PHSCE and Digital Literacy/Computing

**Option choices** from these areas:

Modern Foreign Languages, Creative Arts, Technology, Business, Sport and Humanities



# Key Stage 4 Curriculum, GCSEs & Options

- **General Certificate of Secondary Education**

- **The Core Curriculum:**

- *English and Mathematics*
- *Sciences*
- *Core PE, Core Computing, PSHCE, RE*

GCSEs  
Grade  
**9-1**

- **Options provide breadth and balance:**  
GCSEs and Vocational qualifications

Standard  
Pass  
**4**

Strong  
Pass  
**5**

- **Assessment & Grading**
- **Teaching Groups at KS4**



# What is a BTEC or Cambridge National (CNAT)?

Qualifications run by **Pearson** or **OCR**

- Study a variety of units, that link theory to industry case studies/visits
- Promotes independent learning; self-motivation and organisation are prerequisites

**Level 2 = GCSE Grade 4 pass or higher**

- Pass (Grade 4.5)
- Merit (Grade 6)
- Distinction (Grade 7)
- Distinction\* (Grade 8.5)
- These qualifications include coursework & exams



Pearson

**BTEC**

**OCR**

Oxford Cambridge and RSA



# EBacc: The English Baccalaureate

Maths

English  
Language or  
Literature

French or  
Spanish

Science or  
Computer  
Science

Geography  
or History

- The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.
- It is not a separate qualification but the achievement of a particular **set of qualifications**.
- Whilst studying the EBacc is not compulsory, it is both suitable and expected for the vast majority of students.



# How important is the EBacc?



- The EBacc is made up of the subjects which **Russell Group universities** says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees.



- A study by the University College London (UCL) shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with **greater opportunities** in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.



- The EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) research reveals that studying the EBacc significantly helps **improve** a young persons' **performance** in English and Maths, by studying facilitating subjects.



# New opportunities for students....

Health & Social  
Care

Business Studies

Film  
Studies

Photography

Computer  
Science

Triple Science

*\*Option courses are subject to availability based on student enrolment and staffing considerations*





# The Options Process

Head of Year: Ms McKenzie

# Full Suite of Options Information



Home About Us Admissions Curriculum Parents Student Information

Assessment at Key Stage 3

British Values

Careers

Curriculum Maps

Enrichment >

Reading

SEND >

Year 9 Options

"Leaders have high aspirations for the pupils." - Ofsted 2024



<https://woodcotehigh.org.uk/year-9-options/>



# The different Option Pathways:

## Purple

2 'EBacc' selections  
2 Open Choices

## Green

History or Geography  
3 Open Choices

## Orange

3 Open Choices  
Additional Literacy/Numeracy



*\*Option courses are subject to availability based on student enrolment and staffing considerations*

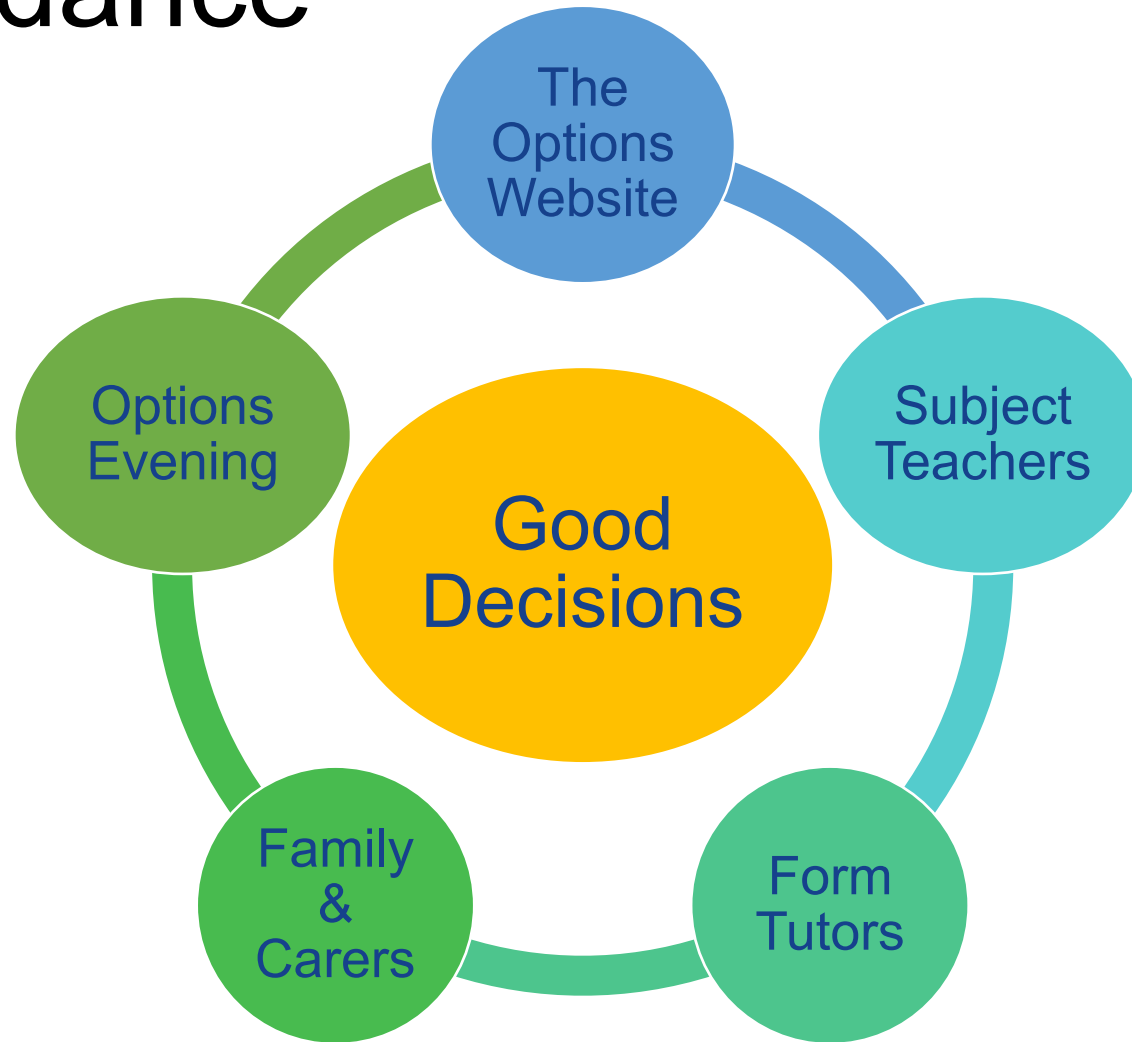
*\*Option courses are subject to availability based on student enrolment and staffing considerations*

# Will I be able to study the subjects that I want?

- Where possible students will be provided their first choice subject.
- Final subjects will depend on available staff, timetable restrictions, popularity of subject...
- It's therefore important to select 'reserve/second choice' subjects carefully.



# Sources of Support, Advice and Guidance



# How to choose.....

## Good reasons to choose a subject:

- You enjoy it!
- You have been successful in it so far.
- It provides you with the best opportunity for future choices.
- It will support your study at A-level and beyond.
- It ties in with a future ambition or career.

## Bad reasons to choose a subject:

- You like the teacher.
- Someone else thinks you should take it.
- Your friends have chosen that option.
- You want to try a new subject.
- You can't think of anything else to do.
- You think it's going to be easy.

# Next Steps

- Reflect on the Market Place and conversations with subject teachers and Y10/11 students
- Speak with your child and go through all the options with them
- Go through **WASP data** (December & March) and identify areas that your child is successful in and areas they may need support with.
- Ensure their choices are **broad** and **balanced** (for most this will be the EBacc) allowing them the greatest possible opportunity for future success.
- Discuss what your child is good at. **Be realistic** and ensure they are picking the right options that gives them the best **chance to succeed**.
- Email teachers with any **questions** you may have about subjects/courses or any questions your child has
- Speak to the subject teachers to help answer any questions during the **virtual parents evening** on the 20th March



# Market Place: Subject Locations

Location	Subject
<b>Room 25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE Languages</li><li>• GCSE Religious Studies</li></ul>
<b>Room 26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE Science/Triple Science</li><li>• PHSCE</li><li>• BTEC Health &amp; Social Care</li></ul>
<b>Room 27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE English</li><li>• GCSE Geography</li></ul>
<b>Drama Studio 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE PE/BTEC Sport</li><li>• GCSE Drama</li></ul>
<b>Drama Studio 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE DT</li><li>• GCSE History</li></ul>
<b>Food Technology 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE Food &amp; Nutrition</li></ul>
<b>Art 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE Photography</li><li>• GCSE Art</li></ul>
<b>Music 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE Computer Science</li><li>• GCSE Film Studies</li><li>• GCSE Music/BTEC Music</li></ul>
<b>Music 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE Business</li><li>• GCSE Maths/ Further Maths</li></ul>



# Key Dates

Date	Support/Information
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Year 9 Options Assembly with students
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 9 Options Information Evening 17:30 – 19:30
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	WASP Reports go home
W/C 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Students select their Options in school during this week in the LMC
W/C 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Confirmation email to Parents/Carers of choices selected ( <i>this confirms selections only and does not guarantee allocation of those options</i> ).





# Thank you

## Website

Further information will be available online at

- <https://woodcotehigh.org.uk/year-9-options/>

## Email

If you have any questions, please send them to our dedicated [options@woodcotehigh.org.uk](mailto:options@woodcotehigh.org.uk)

## Questions

Myself and senior staff will now be available to discuss any questions that you may have.

