

Pathways to Success

Year 9 into 10 Options Evening

Mr Gray - Headteacher

Dr Creaby - Deputy Headteacher

Miss Fryer - Performance Director Year 9



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Welcome

The next few weeks are a very important and very exciting time where you can:

- **Find out more** about the GCSE and vocational courses on offer
- **Make choices** that are the first step on a journey towards public examinations at the end of Year 11 and to future pathways



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Our curriculum offer

At Sandringham, our curriculum offer is:

- **Broad and balanced** – a secure base from which to progress
- **Flexible** – personalised to reflect your interests, strengths and aspirations
- **Rigorous** - designed in a way that keep doors open to you in an increasingly competitive world.



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The purpose of this evening

- We have already spoken to **students** before half term
- This evening is an opportunity for **parents and carers, as well as students**, to hear that same guidance, to ask questions, to speak to teachers and find out more about courses you are interested in
- We aim to equip you with all of the information that you need in order to your child make an **informed choice**



In what follows, we will

- Explain some of the key **information** about GCSEs and vocational courses.
- Explain the **core, allocated and option subjects** in Years 10 and 11
- Provide an outline of the Year 9 **options process**
- Highlight what **support and guidance** is on offer in the weeks ahead



Key information about courses

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Qualifications

General Certificate of Secondary Education - GCSE

- Assessed through terminal written exam
- Non-examined assessment (NEA) in some subjects
- Graded: 9-1

Vocational qualifications – BTEC / CAMNAT / WJEC

- Non-examined assessment (NEA) makes up a greater percentage of final grade
- Include some external exams
- Graded: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*
- GCSE equivalent



Grades

Old GCSE	New GCSE	Vocational Qualification
A*	9	Distinction*
	8	
A	7	Distinction
B	6	Merit
	5	
C	4	Pass
D	3	
E	2	
F/G	1	



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Results day 2025

Subject	Grade
GCSE Mathematics	8
GCSE English Language	7
GCSE English Literature	8
GCSE Biology	7
GCSE Chemistry	8
GCSE Physics	6
GCSE French	7
GCSE History	7
GCSE Media	8
BTEC Dance	Distinction



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Core, allocated and option subjects

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Core subjects

1. Maths: 1 x GCSE
2. English: 2 x GCSEs
3. Science: 2 or 3 GCSEs
4. PE/Dance: 1 qualification in PE or Dance
5. Personal Development: non-examined



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Core subjects: Science

1. Maths: 1 x GCSE
2. English: 2 x GCSEs
3. Science: 2 or 3 GCSEs
4. PE/Dance: 1 qualification in PE or Dance
5. Personal Development: non-examined



Core subjects: Science

Toward the **end of the year**, students will be allocated either:

- **Triple science:** three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. 6 lessons a week.
- **Combined science:** two GCSEs combining Biology, Chemistry and Physics. 6 lessons a week.
- Both pathways enable students to progress to A level and beyond



Core subjects: PE/Dance

1. Maths: 1 x GCSE
2. English: 2 x GCSEs
3. Science: 2 or 3 GCSEs
4. PE/Dance: 1 qualification in PE or Dance
5. Personal Development: non-examined



Core subjects: PE/Dance

Based on how students have been doing in PE and Dance and on their **participation and skills**, they have been allocated one/some of the following courses:

- **CamNat Sport**
- **BTEC Dance**
- **GCSE PE**
- **GCSE Dance**

All worth the equivalent of 1 GCSE



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Allocated subjects



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MFL

All students likely to get a good pass in a language GCSE will be **allocated** to one: **German, French or Spanish**

If you haven't been allocated a language, you can choose:

- **Language GCSE**
- GCSE Media
- GCSE Business
- WJEC Hospitality and Catering



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Option subjects

Guidance for the two remaining subjects



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Fine Art
Astronomy
Business
Computer Science
Design & Technology
Drama
Economics
Food and Nutrition

Geography
History
Media
Music
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
Photography
Textiles



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Two subjects remaining

- If a student has been allocated a **language**, they have a **free choice** over the remaining **two** subjects. However, choosing History or Geography will ensure students are eligible for the **Ebacc**
- If a student has **not been allocated a language**, they **must** include **History or Geography** as one of their remaining two subjects to ensure academic breadth.



Examples

- French, History, Drama
- German, Geography, Product Design
- Spanish, History, Geography
- French, Drama, Music
- German, PRE, Art
- Spanish, Computer Science, Economics
- Media, History, Computer Science
- Hospitality and Catering, Geography, Art



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- Media, History, Computer Science
- Hospitality and Catering, Geography, Art



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Reserve / twilight option

- We ask all students to select a reserve option, just in case we cannot timetable the option choices
- Students can choose one additional twilight option (2 hours after school each week)
 - A second language (Spanish) if they have already studied this in school
 - Astronomy



Your timetable in Key Stage 4

Maths (4 hours)

English (4 hours)

Science (6 hours)

GCSE PE (2.5 hours)

Personal Development (1 hour)

French (2.5 hours)

Geography (2.5 hours)

History (2.5 hours)

Maths (4 hours)

English (4 hours)

Science (6 hours)

BTEC Dance (2.5 hours)

Personal Development (1 hour)

Spanish (2.5 hours)

Computer Science (2.5 hours)

DT (2.5 hours)



How do I choose?

What do I enjoy?

- What's your passion? Where will you put most of your effort in?

What you be most successful in?

- Consider the balance of exams, practical and non-examined assessment components.

Will these subjects help you take you where you want to go?

- Consider your future pathways. Sixth forms and colleges have entry requirements: average performance and performance in your chosen subjects.



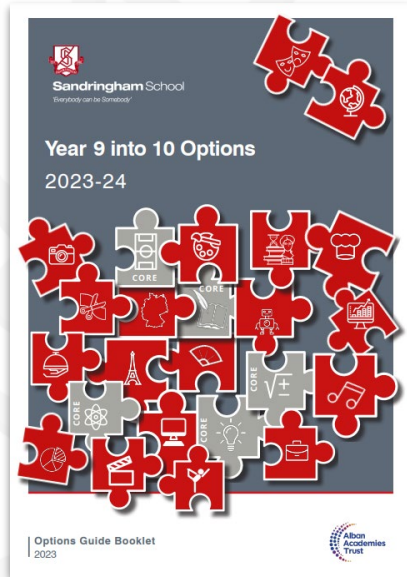
The options process



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How to choose 1



Options booklet



Subject discussions in I and K blocks



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How to choose 2



Personalised guidance

Step 1 of 5

[Start](#) > Choice 1 > Choice 2 > Choice 3 > Choice 4 > Confirmation

Choose ONE of the following subjects as your PE Option:

- GCSE Dance (DA)
- BTEC Dance (DAB)
- GCSE PE (PE)
- BTEC Sport (SRC)

Now move to the next screen where you can choose your Language option.

Online options form



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Support and guidance



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Support for students

- Parents/Carers
- Tutors
- Subject teachers - Year 9 PTC
- Performance Director: Miss Fryer
- Options booklet



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Support for students

- Deputy Headteacher: Dr Creaby
121 meetings from March
- Data Manager: Mrs Biggs -
Administration and timetable
- Careers Coordinator: Mrs Eady



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Timeline

- Options Evening - Thursday 23rd February
- Year 9 PTC - Monday 27th February
- Options deadline - Friday 3rd March (online submission)
- 121 meetings - begin middle/end of March



Year 9 into 10 Options Evening

Subject information

I BLOCK		K BLOCK	
Room	Subject	Room	Subject
I11	Product Design, Food and Nutrition, Hospitality and Catering	K1	English
I13	Science and Astronomy	K2	PRE
I15	Geography	K3	History
I16	French, German, Spanish	K4	Fine Art, Photography, Textiles
I17	Drama	K5	PE: GCSE and CAMNAT
I19	Mathematics	K6	Dance: GCSE and BTEC
Seminar Room (by I9)	Careers advisor	K7	Economics, Business
I111	Music	K8	Media
I113	Personal Development		
I115	Computer Science		



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Thank you for listening

*Please head to I and K blocks
to meet subject teachers
Details on your flyer*



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