

WALDEGRAVE SCHOOL

ENJOY • ACHIEVE • EMPOWER



Please sign in digitally



YEAR 9 OPTIONS INFORMATION EVENING

11 February 2026

Please ensure mobile phone is on 'silent'.

Please ensure you have scanned the barcode to register.

Assistant Headteacher: Mr Sharp
Head of Key Stage 3: Mr P Greaves
Head of Year: Mrs Lyddon



Format of the Evening

Welcome - Ms Tongue - Headteacher

General Information - Mrs Lyddon - Head of Year
Mr Greaves - Head of KS3

GCSE Options - Mr Sharp - Assistant Headteacher

The Year 9 Pastoral Team

Mr D Sharp Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Lyddon Head of Year

Mr Greaves: Head of Key Stage 3



Mr Honey 9SHU



Mr Bharadia 9EBH

Ms G Lewis 9FLE

Ms S Ahmed 9PAH



Mr Trevelyan 9STR



Mrs N Davies 9EDA

Mr N Drew 9FDR

Mrs Irshad 9PIR



‘Your choices, Your Journey. Your Future.’



- Through form time activities and pastoral support, we are developing **resilience, independence, and positive learning behaviours** to support success at Key Stage 4
- Students have been introduced to the GCSE options process using Drop Down Day, form time activities and an options assembly

Support and Advice

- Making contact ks3@waldegravesch.org
- Subject staff can provide more information
- Form Tutor/ Head of Year
- Key Stage 3 Hub
- Pastoral support and external support



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Coming Up

- **'Live Lounge'** music event tomorrow evening
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award-** The biggest take up yet!
Students need to have submitted their programme planners on eDofE by **Friday 13 February**.
- **Dance Show** - 26 March
- **Year 9 Reports** in June
- **Drop Down Day** trips in July
- **GCSE choices**

Attendance - Mr Greaves

The biggest asset to your child's success is a high attendance.

Your child's attendance should be over **96%**

If in doubt, please send students in. You can contact the KS3 hub if you have any concerns.

Watch out for patterns.

Get in touch with any issues or concerns.

The Passport to Success!

A positive approach to learning and school life as we look towards GCSE's

- Attendance (>96%)
- Punctuality (Registers taken at 8.35am)
- Equipment (including chromebooks)
- A positive attitude to the challenges ahead

‘Enjoy Achieve Empower’

How to Support Learning

All lesson resources are on Google Classrooms.

Subject 'Learning Plans' on the school website enable you to follow what will be studied each term'

[Waldegrave School](#)

Curriculum → (subject) → Learning Plan

ENGLISH Learning Plan 2025-2026

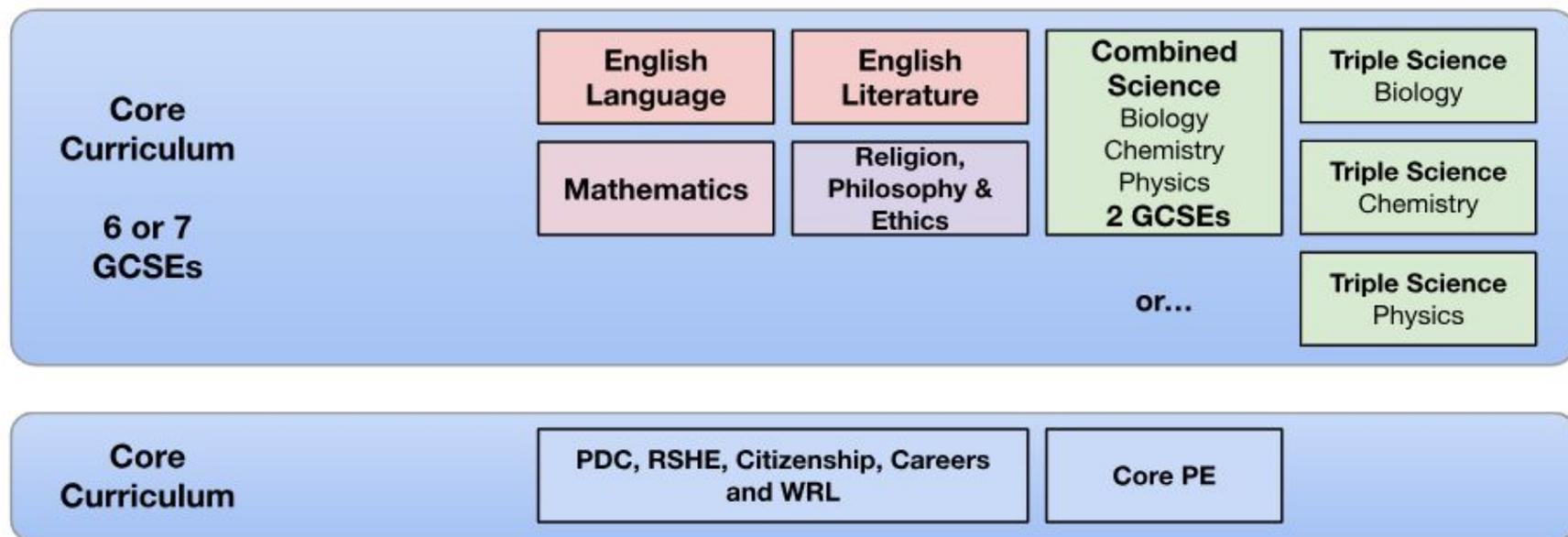
Key Stage	Year	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
KS3	7	<p>Introduction to the class novel: 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell</p> <p>Plus a literacy lesson-developing literacy skills and a focus on independent reading (bring a novel to the lesson)</p>	<p>Class novel 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell</p> <p>Plus a literacy lesson-developing literacy skills and a focus on independent reading (bring a novel to the lesson)</p>	<p>Myths and Legends 'Medusa' by Jessica Burton</p> <p>Plus a literacy lesson-developing literacy skills and a focus on independent reading (bring a novel to the lesson)</p>	<p>Shakespeare 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'</p> <p>Plus a literacy lesson-developing literacy skills and a focus on independent reading (bring a novel to the lesson)</p>	<p>The Choices Poets Make Using an anthology of poems</p> <p>Plus a literacy lesson-developing literacy skills and a focus on independent reading (bring a novel to the lesson)</p>	<p>Who We Are Non-fiction Short Stories Non fiction/Mixture of fiction and nonfiction.</p> <p>Focus on autobiographies. Power of voice</p> <p>Plus a literacy lesson</p>
	8	<p>Class novel: Young Lives 'Coram Boy' by Jamila Gavin</p>	<p>Class Novel: Finishing Coram Boy and introducing the 19th century novel Oliver Twist by Dickens</p>	<p>Exploring Identity Through Poetry Using an anthology of poems</p>	<p>Short Stories Using EMC Iridescent Adolescence Exploring genres from personal to critical responses</p>	<p>Graphic Novel: HeartStopper by Alice Oseman Exploring a graphic novel considering ideas around form and genre</p>	<p>Non-Fiction Unit Comparing Viewpoints and Perspectives: Awe and Wonder Comparing viewpoints across time.</p>
	9	<p>Viewpoints and Perspectives Comparing non-fiction texts</p>	<p>Gothic Introduction to 19th Century fiction Studying excerpts from a selection of 19th century novels</p> <p>Poetry by Heart</p>	<p>The Tempest William Shakespeare</p> <p>Analysing Shakespeare's language choices exploring relationship</p>	<p>Short Stories Studying a variety of short stories</p>	<p>The Power of Voice: The Facility (play)</p>	<p>The Power of Voice: Speeches & fast read Animal Farm</p>
	10	<p>Modern texts (Lit 2) An Inspector Calls</p>	<p>19th Century fiction 'A Christmas Carol'(Lit1)</p>	<p>Language Paper 2 Viewpoints and perspectives</p>	<p>Poetry Worlds and Lives (Lit2)</p>	<p>Language Paper 1 Creative reading and Writing</p>	<p>Revision AIC & Poetry W&L - end of year exam And Unseen Poetry</p>

Options Information - Mr Sharp

An overview

- The core curriculum
- GCSE grading
- Understanding Progression
- Option Choices
- Timescale

The Core Curriculum



Exam Boards and Legislation



GCSE Grades

 Department for Education

GCSE Grading

New Grading Structure

Old Grading Structure

9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
Standard Pass → 4	C
3	
2	
1	G
U	
	U

NEW GCSE (9-1), (9-9 to 1-1)

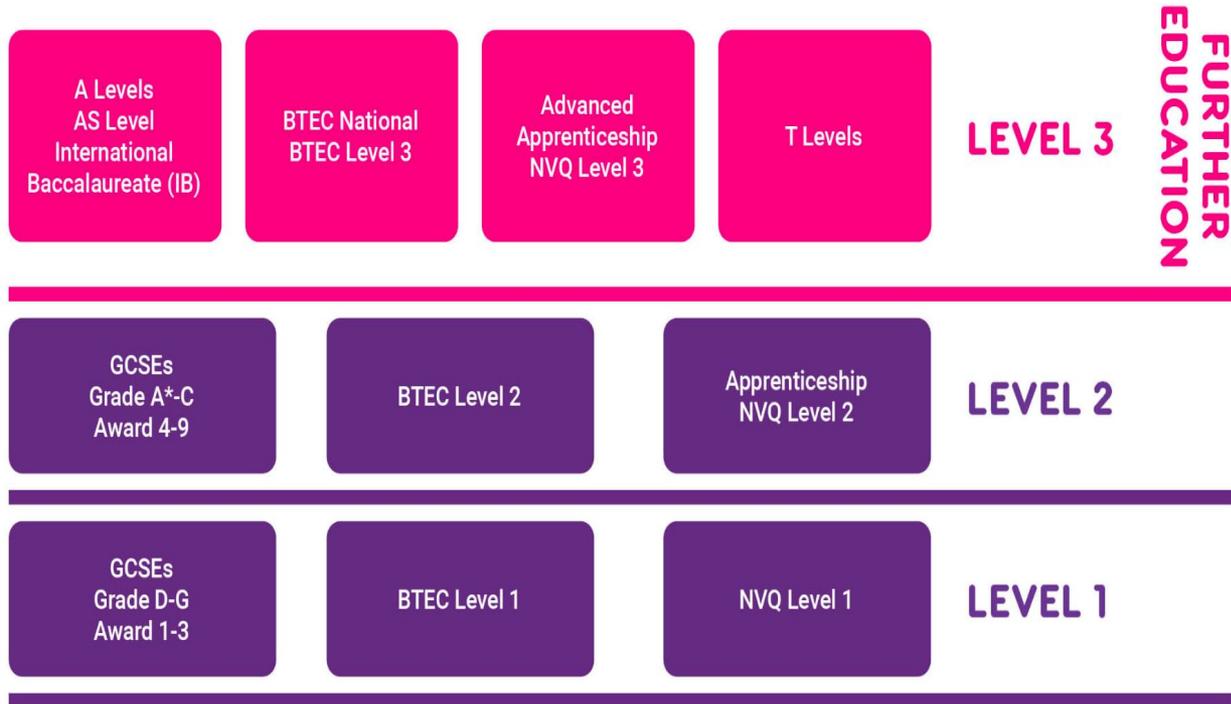
SCIENCE GRADING

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS	COMBINED SCIENCE
9	9-9
8	9-8
7	8-8
6	8-7
5	7-7
4	7-6
3	6-6
2	6-5
1	5-5
U	5-4
	4-4
	4-3
	3-3
	3-2
	2-2
	2-1
	1-1
	U

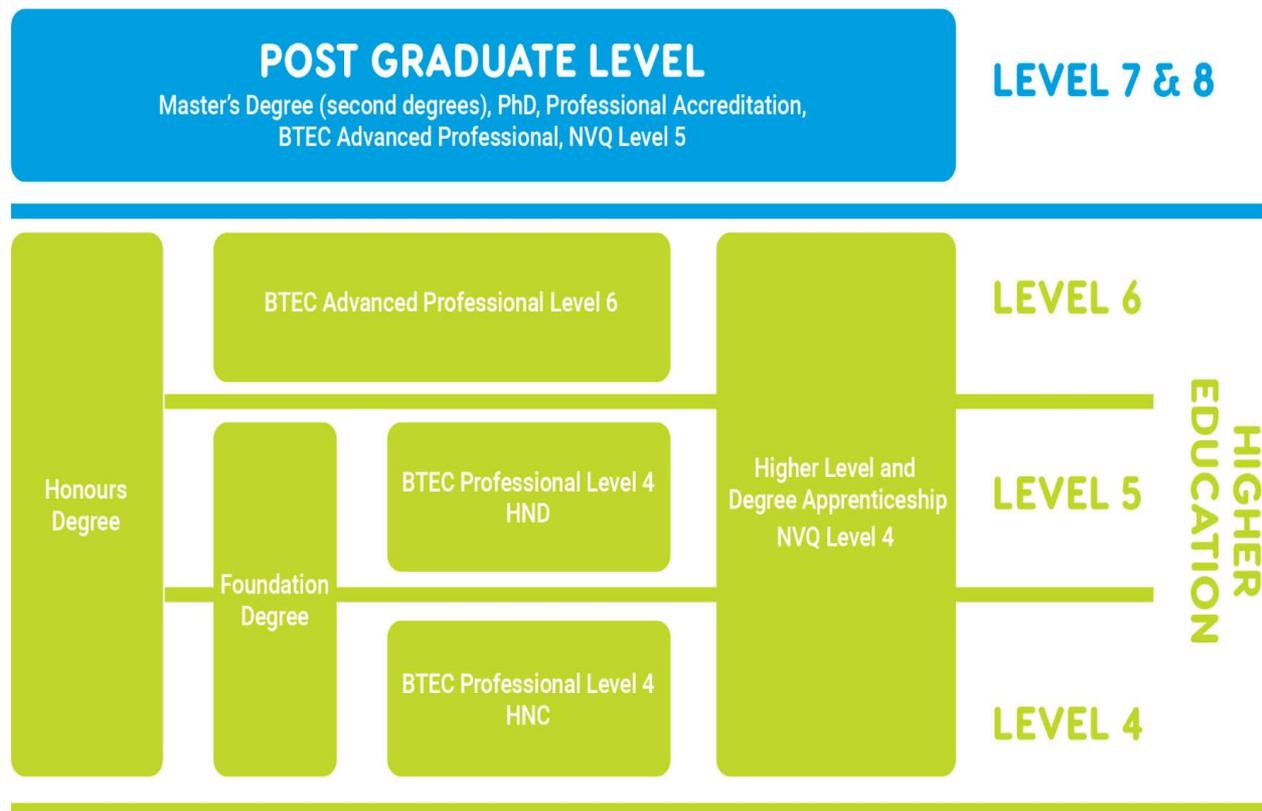


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Understanding Course levels



Understanding Course levels



Exams and Non-examined assessment



National Exam Results 2024

Subject	Gender	Number Sat	% of Total No. Sat	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade									
				9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Mathematics	Male	407978	14.3	3.9	10.1	18.0	27.7	43.3	60.2	77.3	89.5	97.3	100.0
		(382929)	(14.0)	(3.9)	(10.5)	(18.2)	(28.1)	(43.9)	(61.7)	(77.6)	(89.9)	(97.4)	(100.0)
	Female	408187	14.5	2.6	8.0	15.5	25.3	41.5	58.9	76.9	89.6	97.5	100.0
		(379032)	(14.1)	(2.7)	(8.6)	(16.2)	(26.4)	(42.2)	(60.2)	(76.9)	(89.9)	(97.6)	(100.0)
	Male & Female	816165	14.4	3.3	9.1	16.7	26.5	42.4	59.6	77.1	89.5	97.4	100.0
		(761961)	(14.1)	(3.3)	(9.6)	(17.2)	(27.2)	(43.0)	(61.0)	(77.3)	(89.9)	(97.5)	(100.0)
English Language	Male	407453	14.3	1.5	5.0	11.5	23.7	39.6	55.2	79.9	91.8	97.3	100.0
		(379019)	(13.9)	(1.7)	(5.3)	(12.0)	(25.1)	(41.1)	(57.8)	(81.3)	(91.9)	(97.2)	(100.0)
	Female	374569	13.3	3.2	9.5	20.0	36.1	53.7	68.6	88.5	96.0	99.0	100.0
		(349191)	(13.0)	(3.5)	(10.0)	(20.3)	(37.7)	(55.3)	(71.1)	(89.5)	(96.1)	(98.9)	(100.0)
	Male & Female	782022	13.8	2.3	7.2	15.6	29.6	46.4	61.6	84.0	93.8	98.1	100.0
		(728210)	(13.4)	(2.6)	(7.6)	(16.0)	(31.1)	(47.9)	(64.2)	(85.2)	(93.9)	(98.1)	(100.0)

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

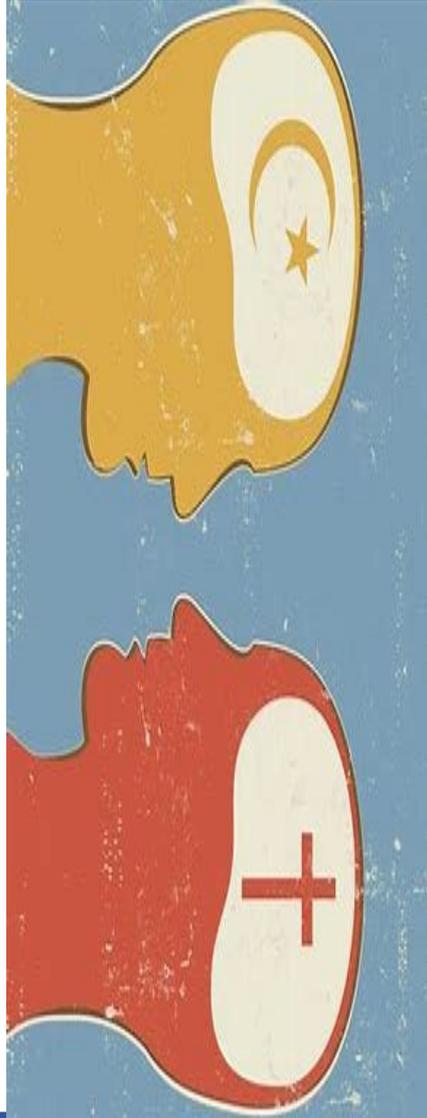
Miss G Hanson - Head of RPE

RPE GCSE- Why do students study it?

Over 50% of students
achieve grade 9-7
Around 25% achieve
grade 9

All schools in the UK must provide some form of Religious Education.

All Waldegrave students will follow the RE Edexcel GCSE specification so that they can achieve a recognised qualification whilst we meet our statutory curriculum obligations, rather than pursuing a non-qualification route.



Experience

Opportunity to learn and understand the culture they are a part of, as well as, the background and culture of others.

Expertise

Provides and supports skills which are useful and transferable to other subjects, futures, further education or and careers.

Enjoyment

Students enjoy the variety of interesting topics studied and often achieve excellent results in their GCSE exam.


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RPE GCSE- What do students study?

Can war ever be just?

Is capital punishment fair?

Edexcel GCSE "Beliefs in Action"

Year 9 (Religion and Ethics, Christianity) Paper 1 Option 1B	Year 10 (Religion and Ethics, Christianity) Paper 1 Option 1B	Year 11 (Religion Peace and Conflict, Islam) Paper 2 Option 2C
Christian Beliefs	Matters of Life and Death	Muslim Beliefs/Muslim Living
Marriage and the Family	Christian Living	Crime and Punishment/ Peace and Conflict

Should all Christians get married?

Assessment:
2x 1 hr 45 minute exam papers

When does life begin?

Science Pathways

Mr C Allen - Head of Science

Science Pathways

Headline figures:

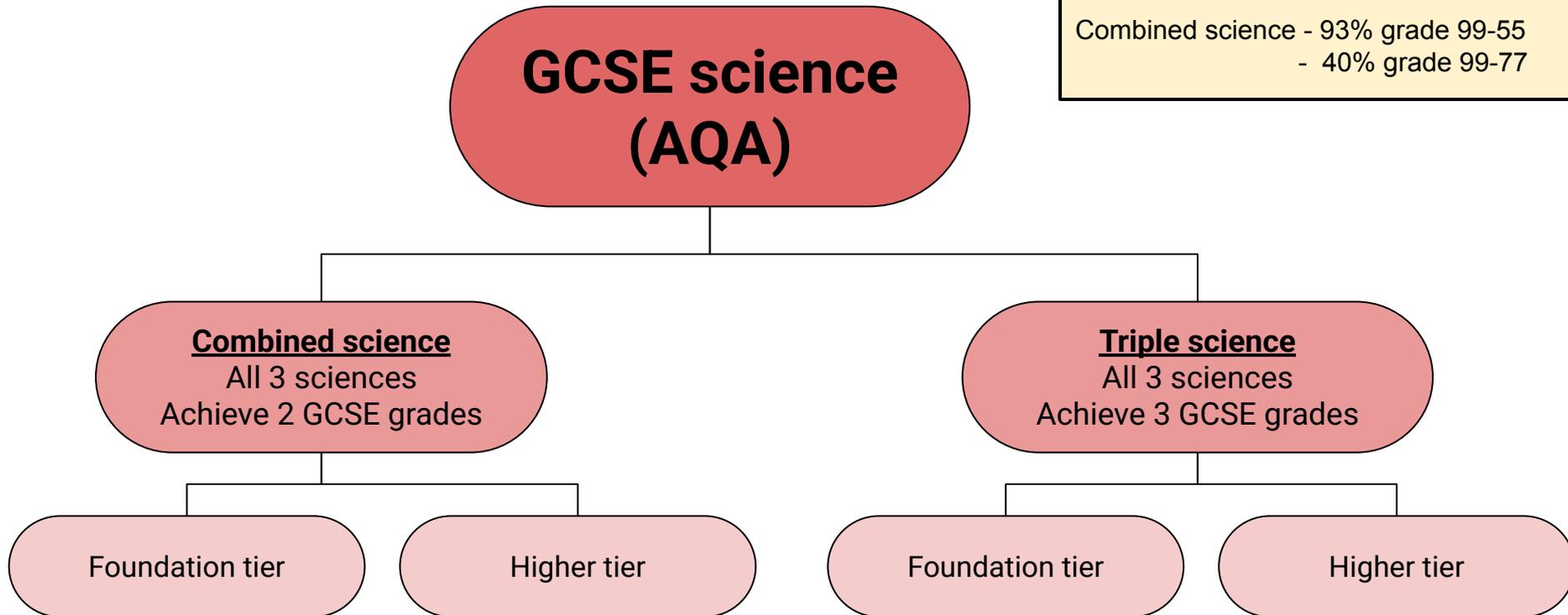
Biology - 65% grade 9-7

Chemistry - 71% grade 9-7

Physics - 61% grade 9-7

Combined science - 93% grade 99-55

- 40% grade 99-77

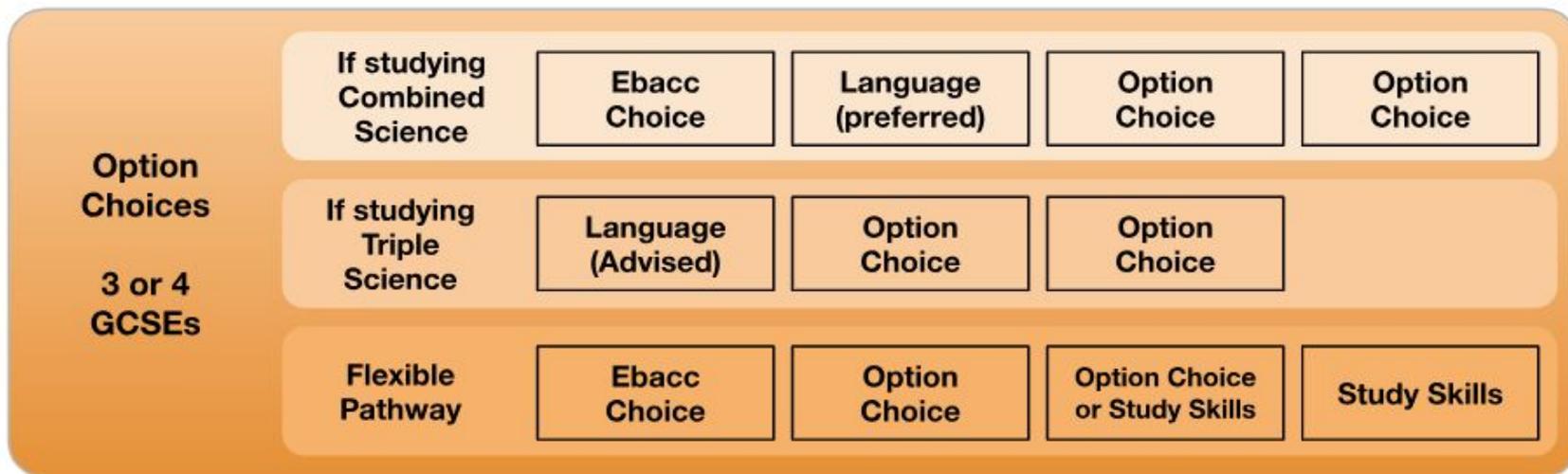
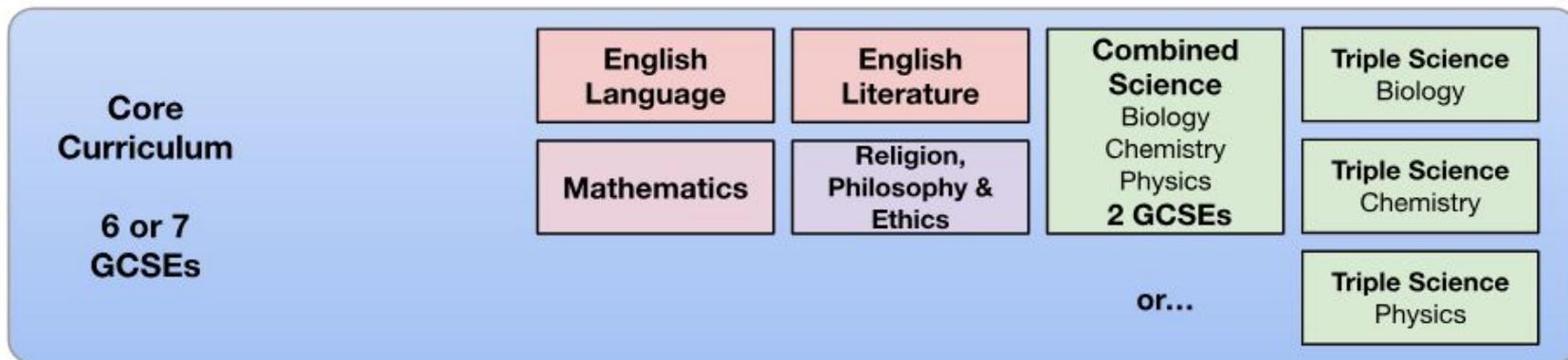


What to consider when making my choice?

- Can I do sciences at A-level?
- Subject enjoyment
- Differing levels across the three science disciplines
- Mathematical skills: more complex concepts and multi step calculations
- Course pace: 9 lessons combined science vs 14 lessons triple per fortnight
- Triple science has greater depth: 30-40% more content

Option Choices

Option Choices 3 or 4 GCSEs	If studying Combined Science	Language (Preferred)	EBacc Choice	Option Choice	Option Choice
	If studying Triple Science	Language (Advised)	EBacc Choice	Option Choice	
	Flexible Pathway	Ebacc Choice	Option Choice	Option Choice or Study Skills	Study Skills



Our GCSE Option Choices

Creative Arts	Humanities (Ebacc)	Languages (Ebacc)	Sciences (Ebacc)	Design & Technology	Other
Art Drama Music	Geography History	French German Spanish	Triple Science Computer Science	Product Design or Textiles	Physical Education Food & Nutrition

Important Dates & Deadlines

- ❖ **Wednesday 11 February** Key Stage 4 Choices evening
- ❖ **Thursday 12 February** Options form shared with students
Key Stage 4 Information Pack shared with parents
- ❖ **Wednesday 10 March** Last date for Options Forms to be submitted
- ❖ **Summer Term** Parents will receive written confirmation

<p>Examination Board: AQA Specification: 8035</p>	<p>AQA</p>
<p>Course Content The Geography GCSE is an intellectually challenging course which allows pupils to study a diverse range of topics from both human and physical geography. Topics allow pupils to engage with the dynamics of cultures, societies and economies as well as the changing physical landscapes and the environment. Pupils will also develop a range of geographical skills and fieldwork which they will have an opportunity to apply to a real-life issue in their Geographical applications exam.</p> <p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35% of GCSE) Topics: The challenge of natural hazards, The living world, Physical landscapes in the UK, Geographical skills</p> <p>Paper 2: Challenges with the human environment (35% of GCSE) Topics: Urban issues and challenges; The changing economic world; The challenge of resource management; Geographical skills</p> <p>Paper 3: Geographical applications (30% of GCSE) 3 Sections: 1. Issue Evaluation, questions are based on <u>resource</u> booklet studied and is available 12 weeks before exam; 2. Fieldwork Techniques, questions relate to field trips undertaken; 3. Geographical Skills</p>	<p>Opportunities for careers and progression after GCSE Geography is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences. Geographers are highly employable and can access a range of careers, such as town and transport planning, chartered surveying, sustainability, environmental consultancy, international development, tourism, conservation, demography, housing and social welfare. Links to careers in geography: https://www.rgs.org/choosegeography/</p> <p>Additional information Students are required to take part in a compulsory residential weekend field trip, carrying out first hand data collection in both human and physical fieldwork. Students will be asked questions about their fieldwork in their physical and human geography exam papers. The field trip costs approximately £250. Financial assistance is available where necessary.</p>
<p>Assessment There will be an end of unit exam style test for each of the 6 core topics as well as a mock GCSE in year 11. Additionally, exam-style questions and project work will be marked by the teacher during topics.</p> <p>Final Examination There are three papers. In each paper students will be assessed in all four question styles: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose. All papers include marks for using key terms, spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>	<p>Head of Geography Miss R Flanigan More information: </p>



Essential Notes

- ❖ In most cases students will be asked to indicate **five subjects they would like to do**, in order of preference and including at least one Ebacc subject.
- ❖ The number of groups we can offer in each subject will depend on available resources, staff and rooms. While every effort will be made to allocate preferred choices, students must be prepared to study any of their choices.
- ❖ Timetables for September are planned on the basis of choices made by the students before Easter. It will not be possible to make changes during the summer term on request from parents or students.
- ❖ Once a course has started a student may not change to another subject or “drop” a subject. A student would be removed from a course only in extreme circumstances, e.g a significant medical condition.

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