



HOULTON
SCHOOL

Year 9 Options Evening

Principal McCulley and Vice Principal Buckenham



NURTURE POTENTIAL



INSPIRE COMMUNITY



DELIVER EXCELLENCE



TL Proud to be part of the
Transforming Lives
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Curriculum vision

Innovation: we're not afraid to take risks to explore our curiosity

Aspiration: we set ourselves challenging goals

Excellence: we do everything to be best of our ability, every time:
'...when you know better, do better'



How is progress measured at KS4?

- Pupils will be set **minimum expected** and highly **aspirational** targets that would place their individual grades between the **top 20%** and **top 5%** of pupils with similar starting points.
- All pupils are measured in terms of progress from their starting point at the end of KS2 to their end point in Year 11.
- GCSEs are now graded **1-9** and Technical Qualifications are graded from L1 Pass to L2 Distinction*.

New GCSEs	Level 2 Equivalent	Legacy GCSEs
8, 9	Distinction *	A*
7	Distinction	A
6	Merit	B
4/5	Pass	C
3	(L1 Pass)	D
2		E/F
1		F/G

- **Grade 4** is considered a 'Standard Pass' (legacy equivalent of C-)
- **Grade 5** is a 'Good Pass' (C+)



HOULTON
SCHOOL

+1.00

+0.5
Well Below Average

+0.00
Average

+0.5
Well Above Average

+1.00



majority of schools nationally





Department
for Education

The English Baccalaureate

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is:

- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Geography or History**
- **French or Spanish**



The government asks established schools to work towards 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and all pupils by 2025.



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Key Stage 4 Options at Houlton

Vice Principal Buckenham



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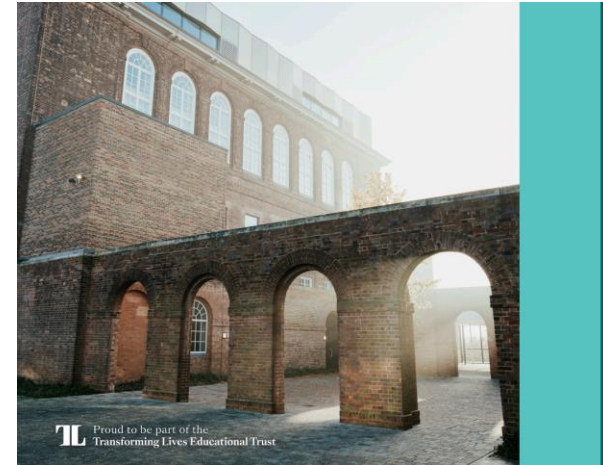
KS4 Options Booklet

All pupils have all taken part in an options 'canvassing' exercise to allow us to ascertain the potential viability of courses on offer.

All pupils have recently undertaken assessments in their Year 9 subjects to support them in deciding which courses are the best options for them.

Reports will come out to you before Christmas to help pupils in their decision making.

Our Options Booklet contains information on all **potential** KS4 courses at Houlton School.



Options
2025-26

What will pupils' study in the core?

All pupils will study:

English Language

English Literature

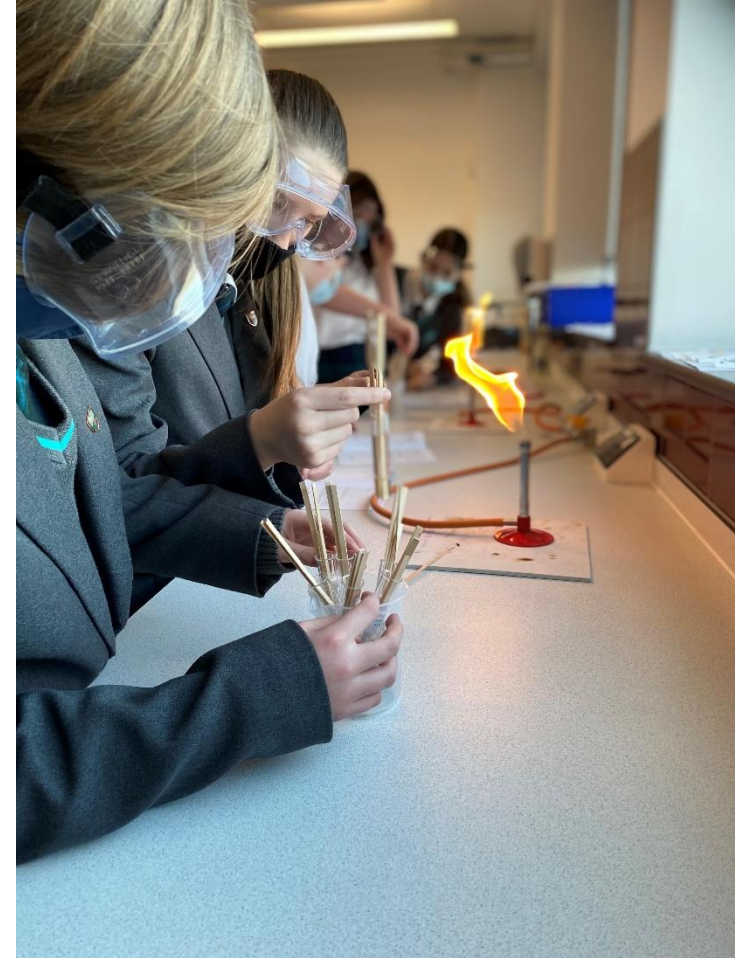
Mathematics

Science (combined or triple)

Short course Religious Studies

PHRSE

Core PE



The English Bacculaureate at Houlton

- All pupils at Houlton School will study the English Bacculaureate and will be asked to choose:

History *or* **Geography**
and
French *or* **Spanish**

- Pupils are free to select the other in the free choice options if they wish to study both history and Geography and/or French and Spanish.



Pupils have two free choice options which are detailed in the Options Booklet.



GCSE Biology/Chemistry/Physics Triple Award	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Design Technology
Level 2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care	GCSE Fine Art	GCSE Food and Nutrition	GCSE Music
GCSE Photography	GCSE Physical Education	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Religious Studies (full course)
GCSE Sociology	Level 2 Technical Award in Performing Arts: Acting	Level 2 Technical Award in Broadcast (TV/Radio) and Game Design	Level 2 Technical Award in Performing Arts: Dance

What should you child choose?

Reasons a pupil should choose a subject...

- To keep a broad and balanced selection of subjects
- To focus on their skill set
- Subjects that they enjoy the most
- Subjects they may wish to pursue at A Level or Level 3
- Subjects in which they have the best chance of success

Reasons a pupil should not use to choose a subject...

- My friends have chosen that subject
- I like the teacher in that subject
- I think that subject will be easier
- Someone I know did that subject and liked it



We are here to offer guidance

Our subject teachers are here this evening if you would like to discuss with them how your child is progressing in their subject or their suitability for any of the option choices available.

All pupils have also had their first set of Year 9 assessments which will be followed soon by a report home to parents so you can see how your child is making progress in each subject area to help support them in making informed decisions.





The next stage

- Following the recent canvassing exercise options will be placed into blocks ready for pupils to make their final choices.
- Pupils will need to make their final options choices by **January 17 2025**.
- Options will be completed on a Google Form which will be sent home to **parents/carers** in January who will need to confirm they are happy with their child's choices before it is submitted.

A young woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing glasses and a grey blazer over a teal top, is looking thoughtfully to the side. The background is blurred, showing other people in a classroom or meeting setting.

Important things to remember

- It is important pupils think carefully about their reserve choices as whilst we will endeavour to give pupils their first choices where possible, this is not guaranteed.
- Pupils are free to choose what they would like; however, if we feel a pupil is selecting options which are not sensible choices, we may ask to meet with you to discuss this.

What's next?

- Staff are here this evening to support you and answer any questions you may have.
- Continue the discussion at home with your child about their options choices.
- Get in touch if you think of any further questions.
- If we cannot offer your child's preferences, we will be in touch.
- Confirmed KS4 Options will be communicated to you in the New Year once pupils have submitted their choices.