

Options – Common questions...and the answers!

Have a read while you wait.....

1. Does my pathway affect the set I am in for English, maths or science?

NO - core subject sets are all set separately and this is not part of the options process.

2. If I am on the Languages pathway, do I have to do history or geography?

No, but you can choose either as an option. If you do then you have the Ebacc subjects.

3. What is Ebacc?

It is an academic set of 5 subjects Eng, maths, science, MFL and a humanity. Achieve a grade 4 or 5 (or higher!) in all to achieve Ebacc.

4. Why can only some students opt for triple science?

It is very content heavy and puts a real pressure on exam performance. Students need to have been involved since year 7 to ensure they are fully committed to the high demands of the course.

5. What is the deadline for option forms and when will we know which courses we have?

The deadline for handing in options forms is Tuesday 4th February and choices will be confirmed in May. We have to check we can staff and timetable all courses and this takes time.

6. Why do we need to pick back up subjects?

Unfortunately you may NOT get your top two choices – we sometimes have to use back-ups if courses are full or not running so pick these carefully too!

Options

An introduction to the
options process

Main curriculum: everyone

Examined subjects

- English (2 exams) | GCSE
- English lit (2 exams) | GCSE
- Maths (3 exams) | GCSE
- Science (6 exams) | 2 GCSEs
- RE (2 exams) | GCSE

15 EXAMS = 6 GCSEs

Plus three more GCSEs

Non-examined subjects

- PE
- PSHCE
- Work Experience

Options Pathways

HUMANITIES

pathway: Approx. 60 pupils



- **No MFL** – instead choose either Geography or History (a Humanity)
- 2 other choices

LANGUAGES

pathway: Approx. 180 pupils



- **With MFL**
- Triple Science for those eligible
- 2 other choices (inc. Hi or Geog for **Ebacc**)

EBacc

(English Baccalaureate)

An academic set of **5** subjects:

English

Maths

Science

MFL

History or Geography

Grade 4 or higher in all to achieve Ebacc

Option subjects

Art

Computer science

Food

Design Tech

Geography

History

PE

Dance

Drama

Music

New subjects:

Business

Citizenship

BTEC Child Care

BTEC Health Care

Media

Sociology

Psychology

Art Graphics

Photography

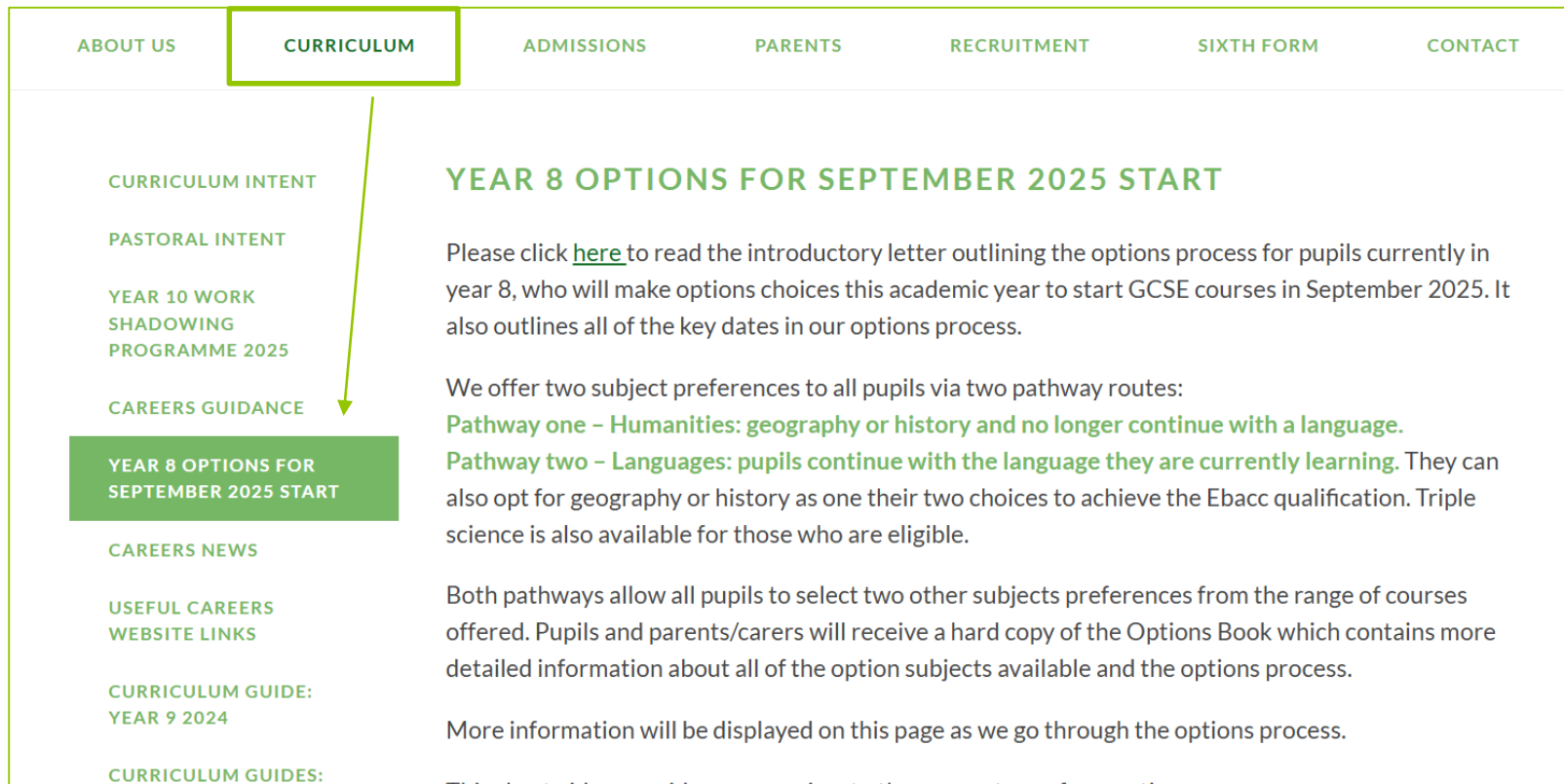
Date/timing	Actions
Week comm. 4th Nov	Introductory letter home to all families
Tues 19th Nov	Introductory assembly to Y8 in <u>main Hall</u> with Mrs Devereux
Thur 28th Nov	Issue all option course descriptions (Options Book) to pupils
Mon 2nd Dec – Fri 6th Dec	Google sign up for taster sessions in new option subjects
Mon 6th – Fri 17th Jan	Two weeks: taster lessons in KS3 options subjects, careers lesson in PSHCE, drop down taster lessons for new subjects in the canteen
Mon 13th Jan	‘Dry run’ of option choices on a Google Form
Fri 24th Jan	Issue options forms to all Y8 – <u>includes subject option blocks</u>
Tues 4th Feb	Deadline for handing in options forms

Example from last year:

Option Y 1 = first choice in Block Y 2 = back up choice in Block Y		Option Z 1 = first choice in Block Z 2 = back up choice in Block Z	
Art	1	Child Care	
Business		Business	
Citizenship		Citizenship	
Dance		Computer Science	
Design Technology		Drama	
Food	2	Geography	2
History		Media	
BTEC Health & Social Care		Music	
Photography		PE	1
Psychology		Psychology	
Sociology		Sociology	

The option blocks are different every year!

Our website:



The screenshot displays a school website's navigation menu and a page of content. The navigation menu at the top includes: ABOUT US, CURRICULUM (highlighted with a green box), ADMISSIONS, PARENTS, RECRUITMENT, SIXTH FORM, and CONTACT. The left sidebar contains a list of links: CURRICULUM INTENT, PASTORAL INTENT, YEAR 10 WORK SHADOWING PROGRAMME 2025, CAREERS GUIDANCE, YEAR 8 OPTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 START (highlighted with a green box), CAREERS NEWS, USEFUL CAREERS WEBSITE LINKS, CURRICULUM GUIDE: YEAR 9 2024, and CURRICULUM GUIDES: (partially visible). A green arrow points from the 'CURRICULUM' menu item to the 'YEAR 8 OPTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 START' link. The main content area features the following text:

YEAR 8 OPTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 START

Please click [here](#) to read the introductory letter outlining the options process for pupils currently in year 8, who will make options choices this academic year to start GCSE courses in September 2025. It also outlines all of the key dates in our options process.

We offer two subject preferences to all pupils via two pathway routes:

- Pathway one – Humanities: geography or history and no longer continue with a language.**
- Pathway two – Languages: pupils continue with the language they are currently learning.** They can also opt for geography or history as one their two choices to achieve the Ebacc qualification. Triple science is also available for those who are eligible.

Both pathways allow all pupils to select two other subjects preferences from the range of courses offered. Pupils and parents/carers will receive a hard copy of the Options Book which contains more detailed information about all of the option subjects available and the options process.

More information will be displayed on this page as we go through the options process.

CURRICULUM GUIDE: YEAR 9 2024

Year 9 students study 5 core subjects; English, English Literature, maths, science (trilogy worth 2 GCSEs), RE and a Language or Humanity (history or geography). They also study two additional GCSE option choices and have core PE and PSHCE as part of their non-examined core curriculum. The following provides families and students with guidance on what the full academic year of learning looks like for each subject. It outlines what Year 9 students will be taught, the type of assessment that students will experience and any resources that they will need.

If you click to display as full screen, the tabs on the left will display the subject code to make it easy to find subjects you are looking for.

The screenshot displays a digital flipbook interface. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'Heyzine Powered by Flipbooks'. The main content area features a white page with the following elements:

- A green header box containing the text 'Swakeleys School for Girls'.
- A blue-bordered box containing the text 'Year 9 Curriculum Guide by subject: KS4 GCSE Year 1'.
- A 2x2 grid of four small images showing students in a classroom setting.
- A green progress bar at the bottom with the words 'enjoy', 'achieve', 'aspire', and 'succeed'.

On the right side of the page, there is a vertical navigation bar with several white tabs. At the top right of the interface, there is a control bar with icons for home, search, full screen, and volume. At the bottom right, there is a white arrow icon pointing to the right.

What now?

- **Keep checking the Year 8 Goggle Classroom –** various information will be there as well as on our website and emailed home for families
- **Useful information – READ course descriptions**
- **Y8 GC taster lesson sign up link – for ‘new’ subjects.** Sign up opens on Monday 2nd Dec and closes on Friday 6th Dec.
Business, Citizenship, Media, Psychology, Sociology, Child Care, Health & Social Care