



WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum Offer

WHERE  
WILL YOUR  
*choices*  
TAKE YOU?

## Year 9 Options 2024 – A Guide for parents and students

# Your Curriculum Offer

Choosing the curriculum that you will follow in Years 10 and 11 is a major decision and an exciting opportunity. It is vital that choices are only made after the most careful consideration of the pathways on offer. The companion “**Subject Information Guide**” will give more information to assist your choices and should be read before completing the online application. Many subjects are, of course, compulsory and have to be taken. Where you are given the opportunity to select courses, it is important to maintain a broad and balanced programme of study in order to keep as many opportunities open as possible for the future. The good news is whatever you choose to study, Wolgarston is consistently in the top quintile of schools for the progress students make, outperforming other local schools in the key Government measure and continuing to be one of the top Staffordshire schools. (See School Performance Tables). In addition, the 6th Form is the highest performing in Staffordshire in 2023, so you can choose options with confidence that there is a strong Post 16 offer.

## Aim High

We want you aim high so that you will have the freedom to take every opportunity you get when considering which university to attend, apprenticeship to apply for or college place to pursue. At Wolgarston we offer a wide range of courses to suit many individual tastes and needs, all of which provide opportunities for you to be successful and help prepare yourself for adult life. The curriculum process is designed to inform you and your parents/carers as fully as possible about subjects you will study from Year 10.

## Careers Planning

‘Good career guidance is the key to social mobility: It is about showing young people – whatever their social and family background – the options open to them, and helping them make the right choices to set them on the path to rewarding future careers.’ (Good Career Guidance – Reaching the Gatsby Benchmarks)

Choosing your Key Stage 4 options is a brilliant opportunity to refine your learning to suit your skills, interests and aspirations. It is the first key milestone on your career pathway. Everyone will follow their individual career route; these Year 9 options are your first chance to begin to shape your future. To support you, we have subscribed to an online careers service called ‘Start’ Some information has already been sent out for students to log in and parents to create an account for themselves. I hope you have been able to use this resource?

They simply go to <https://login.startprofile.com/>

They then enter their username – this is their school username (Format is L-Handley23)

The Password needs to be entered – this is Wolgarston123 but it is important to change it once they are in.

To find out more about university and apprenticeships you can research at

<https://www.ucas.com>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/help-shape-their-career#>

Some of you will have a very clear idea of a future career and you can work backwards to understand which Key Stage 4 options would be best to take. Others will not be sure yet so it's important to opt for a good balanced curriculum that gives you the opportunity to study for qualifications that you are passionate about.

## Two Choices of Year 10 Route

### The Academic Pathway

We expect **about 75%** of our students to choose the Academic Pathway. This comprises English, Maths, at least 2 GCSE Sciences, a foreign language and either History or Geography along with a further option.

We look for our Academic pathway students will go on to study A levels within our highly successful Sixth Form. One of the highest performing in Staffordshire for many years with an average A Level grade of B- and 45% A\*A grades in 2022. Students planning to attend the very top universities (the Russell Group) will need to achieve grade 9,8 or 7 in their GCSEs. The 6<sup>th</sup> Form offers courses requiring 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 and above that will open doors to the best universities and employers.

### The Vocational Pathway

Approximately 25% of our students choose the Vocational pathway. This pathway includes an academic core curriculum but allows more opportunity to develop vocational experiences through a mixture of GCSE and BTEC courses.

Our BTEC provision is externally inspected annually by EDEXCEL and has been consistently graded outstanding. Students can still continue on to A Levels or select from our Level 3 BTEC courses in Sixth Form.

### Pathway Choice

You will need to think very carefully about which Pathway to choose and the Subject Information Guide will help inform you as to what is on offer. As we cannot guarantee that sufficient numbers will pick any particular option to make the course viable, you need to choose reserve subjects. We hope to offer you at least, either your first or second choice subjects. If *different* reserve subjects are not identified, you may be allocated into another course with spaces, so you must make sure all choices are completed.

Please note, courses with insufficient numbers opting for them, may not run and students will be allocated a second choice or, where possible, allowed to choose an alternative option. Oversubscribed courses will be allocated fairly.

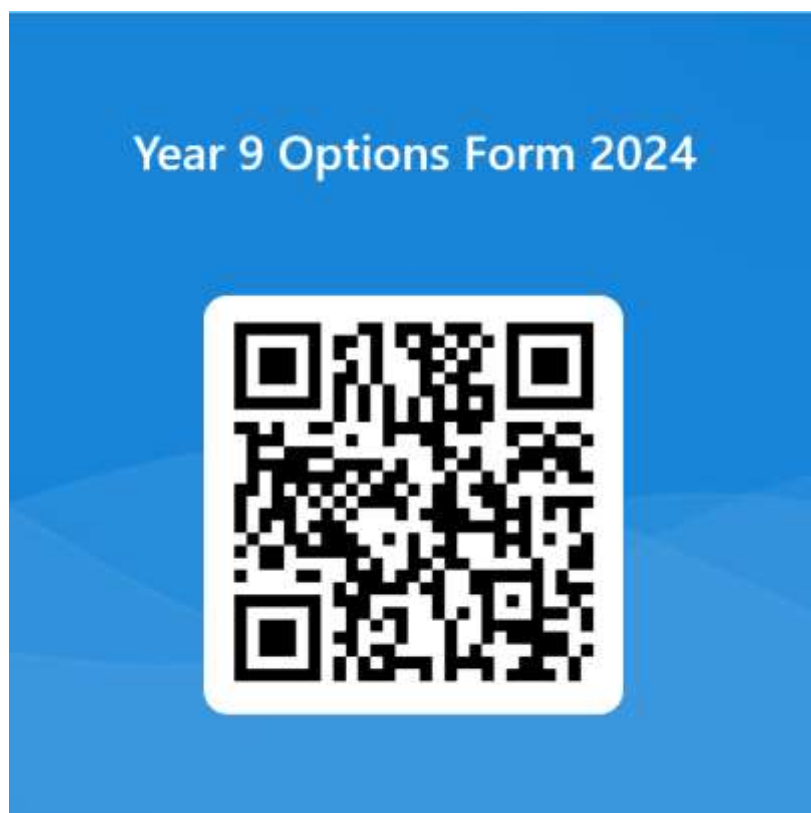
Please read through this guide before completing the online options form, this is important to ensure you are as informed as possible about next year.

**Please read through the separate “Options Booklet” before completing the online form, this is important to ensure you are as informed as possible about next year. It supplements the presentation and discussions you were able to have, at the Options Evening.**

## The Online Curriculum Return

Once you have made your decisions, you will need to complete a Curriculum Return online. **This form will open on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** at the following web address or using the QR Code: -

<https://forms.office.com/e/meiwD47K6k>



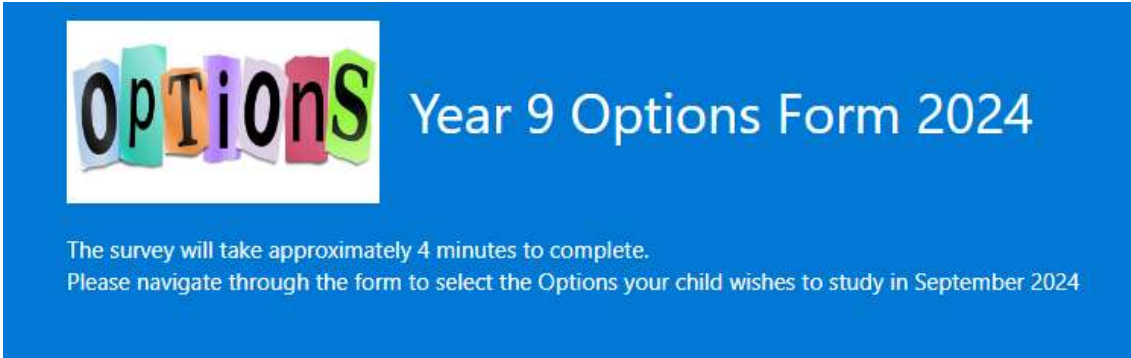
All online forms must be completed **no later than:**

**Friday 26 April 2024**

**Please see the guide that follows**

## Completing the form online

The link is given on the previous page, but we will also send it in a message out to all Year 9 parents.



The banner features the word "Options" in large, colorful, 3D block letters on the left. To the right, the text "Year 9 Options Form 2024" is displayed in white on a blue background. Below this, a smaller white box contains the text: "The survey will take approximately 4 minutes to complete. Please navigate through the form to select the Options your child wishes to study in September 2024".

1. Once you have followed the link provided you will be asked for some information about the student making the application. This is crucial to ensure we allocate the choices to the correct individual.
2. The first page also includes a request for the date and time the form was completed. If for some reason you have to complete the form again we will be able to identify the latest option choices, you made.
3. Once you click next at the foot of the page you will be taken to two screens with important information and then on to choose the Academic or Vocational Pathway.
4. Your choice will then determine the options you see and the choices you make. If at any point you decide to change your options, you can use the back button move to the pathway choice and start again. You will be able to make the same choice and alter your options or choose a different pathway and complete your choices. **Please Note – Whatever pathway you choose here, the last version you complete will be your final choice that is submitted.**



## 5. Academic Pathway

If you choose this Pathway you will see the following options

### Academic Pathway Options

We need you to pick from the following options for your chosen pathway.

**Please note Spanish will be studied in 2 years and require significant commitment . If insufficient applications are received for any course it may not run as a course in 2024/25.**

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Which Language do you wish to study? \*

- French GCSE
- Spanish GCSE

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Which Humanities subject do you wish to study? \*

- History
- Geography

## 6. Vocational Pathway

If you choose this Pathway you will see the following choices. Please note you are asked to pick a reserve 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.

You must then choose History or Geography

## Vocational Pathway Options

These are the options in the Vocational Pathway you can pick for your child.

**Please note - Do not pick the same first choice subject here and in the final Option or you will not get your choice of subject. Please note Art and Graphic Design cannot be studied together due to exam restrictions.**

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Please choose one of the following Vocational Subjects \*

- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- GCSE Art
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Business Studies

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As a 2nd (reserve) choice in case we cannot give you your first selection, please choose one of the following Vocational subjects to study?

**Note if you do not choose a different reserve choice you may be allocated to any course with spaces. \***

7. Once the Vocational Pathway or Academic Pathway options are completed everyone moves on to the final option section. Choose your preferred option, a 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice as reserves.
8. Please note, whatever Sport option you put down in the final option section, the PE Department will evaluate the best course for students to take. Making your choice online, lets them know your preference, but everyone starts on the same course in this block. Please see the Examined PE section in the accompanying Subject Information Guide.
9. The last page is just a double check you are finished before you submit and close the survey.
10. If, a few days later, all the ideas get turned on their head you can submit the form again but you must enter all the details again but most importantly the new Date and Time so we know which was you last application.
11. Please note that reserve choices are essential in case we cannot offer the first choice. This is rare but possible. Trying to get your first choice by picking it more than once in different blocks or as reserves can result in missing out on choices in the end.

## Final Option Choice

Everyone can pick from the following choices whatever their pathway. You will need to identify a 2nd Choice and 3rd Choice subject as reserves in case we cannot, despite our best efforts, give you the option you want.

**Please note - Do not pick both Graphic Design and Art as a combination in the blocks as they will not be accepted by the exam boards as a combination. One can be chosen as reserve for the other. In addition only choose Computer Science as an option if Mathematics "On Course For" grades in the reports are 5 or above due to the heavy Maths content.**

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Choose one of the following as your first choice. \*

- Computer Studies GCSE
- GCSE PE
- BTEC Sport
- History GCSE
- Media Studies GCSE
- Art GCSE
- Food and Nutrition GCSE
- Music GCSE
- Graphic Design GCSE
- Business Studies GCSE

### A Final Reminder

All online forms must be completed **no later than:**

**Friday 26th April 2024**

**If there are any problems or queries not answered in the Options Booklet please email with "Options for the attention of S McCosh" in the subject line. [office@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk)**