

Poltair School

# Year 9 Options

Class of 2028



# Contents

- 
- 1. Welcome**
  - 2. The EBacc**
  - 3. The Options Buckets**
  - 4. Options Overview**
  - 5. Subjects**
  - 6. Options Timeline**
  - 7. English Language**
  - 8. English Literature**
  - 9. Maths**
  - 10. Combined Science**
  - 11. Triple Science**
  - 12. Computer Science**
  - 13. Geography**
  - 14. History**
  - 15. Spanish**
  - 16. Performing Arts**
  - 17. Art**
  - 18. Engineering**
  - 19. Enterprise**
  - 20. Health & Social Care**
  - 21. Hospitality**
  - 22. Media Studies**
  - 23. Music**
  - 24. Religious Studies**
  - 25. Sociology**
  - 26. Sport**
  - 27. Core RE**
  - 28. Core PSHE**
  - 29. Core PE**
  - 30. Options Guidance Meeting**
  - 31. Final Options Choices Sheet**
  - 32. Options Overview**



# Welcome

Choosing your GCSE options is an exciting and important milestone in your school journey. For many students, it is the first opportunity to shape part of your own curriculum by selecting subjects that reflect your interests, strengths and future ambitions. It is natural to feel both excitement and uncertainty, and this process often sparks helpful conversations with teachers, family and friends about what you enjoy learning and where your talents lie.

At Poltair, we want every student to leave us with strong qualifications as well as the personal qualities needed to succeed in the future. Everything we do is rooted in our commitment to building confidence and character, and the subjects you choose at this stage will play an important role in that journey. GCSE study will challenge you to think deeply, develop independence and build knowledge and skills that will support your next steps after Year 11.

This booklet is designed to guide you through the options process and introduce the courses available to you. Our curriculum offers a broad and balanced range of subjects so that students can continue developing strong academic foundations while also exploring areas of personal interest.

When making your choices, think carefully about what you enjoy and where your strengths lie. Your teachers, tutors and families are here to support you in making informed decisions. Some subjects share similar elements – for example Media Studies and Enterprise – so we recommend choosing one or the other rather than both.

While we always try to accommodate students' first choices, this cannot always be guaranteed due to timetabling constraints. Some courses will only run if there is enough demand, so you will also be asked to choose a reserve subject. In addition, some practical subjects, such as Food and Music, have limited places due to specialist equipment and facilities.

Take time to read the information carefully, ask questions and discuss your options with the people who know you best. Your choices should reflect your interests, your strengths and the subjects that will help you continue to grow as a learner.

We wish you every success as you begin this next stage of your journey at Poltair.

# The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

At Poltair, we are committed to providing every student with a broad, ambitious and challenging curriculum. One of the key academic pathways that supports this is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

The EBacc is not a separate qualification, but a recognised measure of achievement across a group of core academic subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, a Language (Spanish), and either History or Geography. Together, these subjects provide a strong academic foundation and keep a wide range of future pathways open.

Choosing the EBacc demonstrates a willingness to embrace academic challenge and intellectual curiosity. These subjects are highly valued by colleges, universities and employers because they develop important skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem solving and cultural awareness.

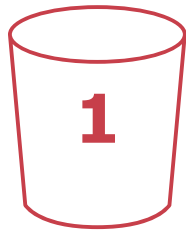
Studying a modern foreign language is an important part of the EBacc. Languages help students understand different cultures and perspectives while developing memory, analytical thinking and confidence in communication. Similarly, History and Geography encourage students to question, analyse evidence and explore the forces that shape the world around them.

Following the EBacc pathway can help students stand out when competing for future opportunities in further education and employment. At Poltair, we believe these subjects play an important role in helping students continue building confidence and character, while developing the knowledge and skills they will use long into the future.

When choosing your options, we encourage you to consider the opportunities that the EBacc pathway can provide and to discuss these choices with your teachers and family.

# Each student will study 9 subjects at GCSE level.

(in addition to Core PE, Core RE & PSHE)



**English Language**



**English Literature**



**Maths**



**Science**



**Science**



**EBacc**

## Subjects 1, 2 & 3

These subjects are compulsory.

## Subjects 4 & 5

These subjects will be filled by Science.

## Subject 6

Subject 6 can be an additional Science, increasing to Separate Sciences

Or another EBacc subject of Geography, History, Spanish or Computer Science.



**Open**



**Open**



**Open**

## Subjects 7, 8 & 9

These subjects can be a personal choice from the broad range of options offered. We encourage students not to pick more than 2 vocational subjects in order to have a balanced curriculum.



Option A		Option B		Option C		Option D	
Geography		Geography		Enterprise		Geography	
History		History		History		Triple Science	
Spanish		Religious Studies		Engineering		Art	
Sport		Computer Science		Music		Hospitality	
GCSE Media		Health and Social Care		Hospitality		Sociology	
		Spanish		Performing Arts		Sport	
				Geography			
				Art			
Choose 2 x Reserves from:	Spanish	Geography	History	Computer Science	Religious Studies	Art	

## Core Subjects

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science

Physical Education

PSHE

Religious Education

## Open Subjects

Geography

History

Performing Arts

Art

Engineering

Enterprise

Health & Social Care

Hospitality & Catering

Media Studies

Music

Religious Studies

Sociology

Sport

Triple Science

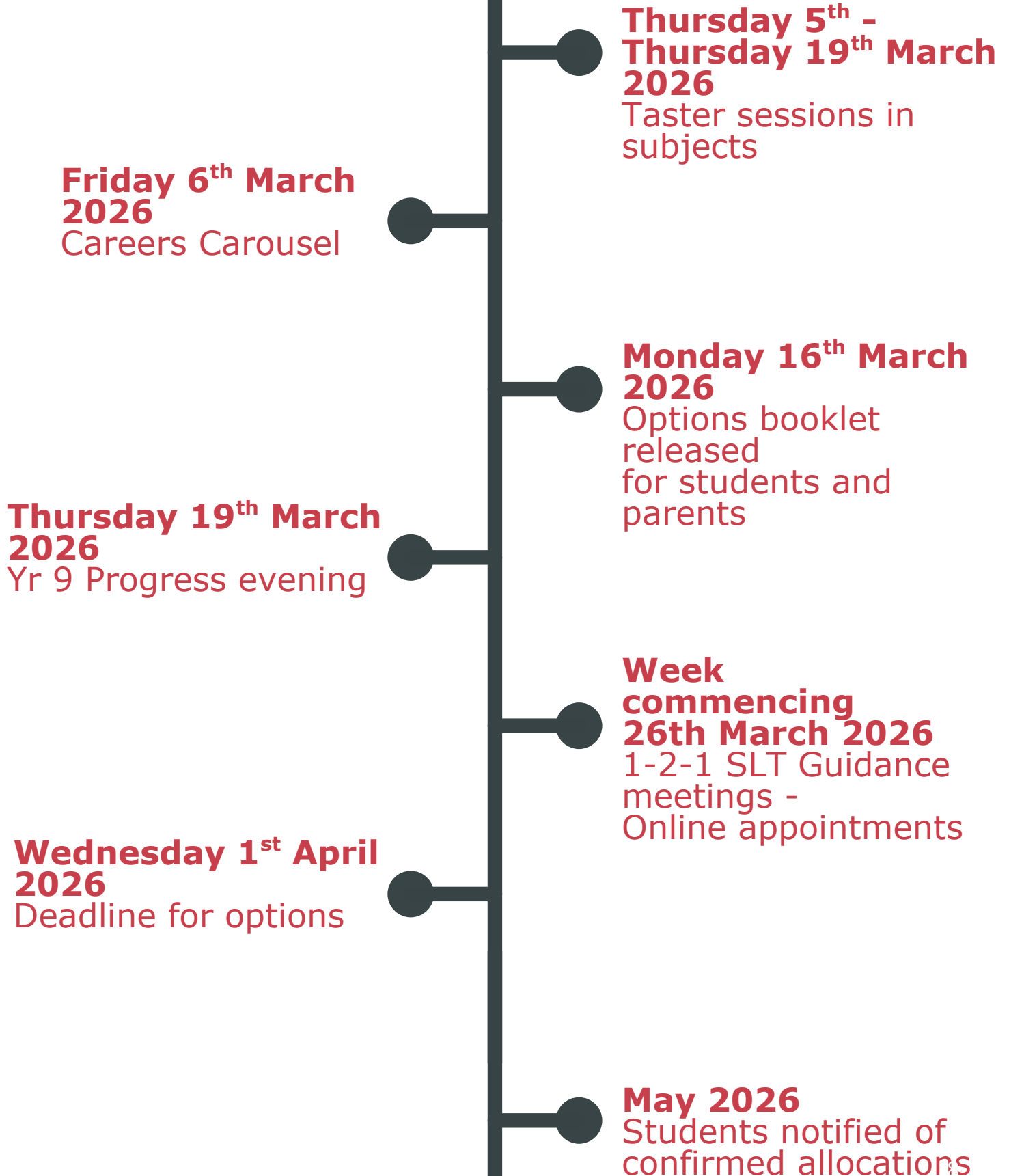
Spanish

Computer Science



**Click on each subject to  
view more details**

# Options Timeline



# English Language

During your GCSE English Language journey, you will explore the power of words and ideas, developing the skills to read, analyse, and craft a wide range of texts. From gripping fiction to thought-provoking non-fiction, you will learn how writers use language and structure to entertain, inform, and persuade. Along the way, you will improve your own writing, ensuring clarity, coherence, and creativity while mastering a range of vocabulary and methods.

In Paper 1, you will step into the world of storytelling, uncovering how writers create compelling narratives and descriptions through language and structure. You will analyse unseen fiction texts, exploring character, setting, and atmosphere while developing your ability to interpret meaning and evaluate effects. Then, inspired by what you have read, you will craft your own creative writing—whether a vivid description or an engaging short story.

Paper 2 shifts the focus to real-world writing, where you will explore and compare how different writers present ideas, viewpoints, and perspectives across two non-fiction texts—one modern and one from the 19th century. From newspaper articles and speeches to diaries and letters, you will develop the ability to summarise, analyse, and compare, identifying how writers influence their readers. You will also put these methods into practice, writing your own opinion-based piece that argues, persuades and informs with confidence and clarity.

You will also refine your spoken communication skills through the non-examined assessment (NEA), where you will prepare and deliver a speech on a topic of your choice. This will help you grow as a confident and articulate speaker, equipping you with valuable skills for both academic and real-world settings.

## Course Breakdown



### Paper 1: 80 Marks

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing  
(1 hour 45 minutes)

### Paper 2: 80 Marks

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives  
(1 hour 45 minutes)

English Language is not a tiered subject; all students sit the same exam papers.

NEA Spoken Language Edorsement:  
Pass/Merit/distinction

## Career Opportunities



Digital Copywriter  
Editorial Assistant  
Event Planner  
Journalist  
Marketing Executive  
Teacher  
Paralegal  
Public Relations Officer  
Publishing Copy-Editor/Proofreader  
Recruitment Consultant  
Social Media Manager  
Web Content Manager  
Writer



# English Literature

Studying AQA GCSE English Literature is an opportunity to explore some of the most powerful and thought-provoking texts ever written. Across two exam papers, you will analyse characters, themes, and writers' methods, developing skills that will not only help you in exams but also allow you to understand the world in new ways.

Paper 1 focuses on two texts: *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*. When you read and explore Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, you will consider themes such as ambition, fate, and the supernatural, while analysing Shakespeare's use of language and dramatic techniques. Section B (*A Christmas Carol*) delves into Dickens' timeless messages about social responsibility, the struggle of the poorest in society and redemption. In both questions, you will develop the skills to write an extended critical response. You will learn how to write an answer guided by a clear thesis introduction, demonstrating an understanding of the writers' key ideas and methods.

Paper 2 covers a wide range of literature, including *An Inspector Calls*, the *Power and Conflict* poetry anthology, and *Unseen Poetry*. Priestley's play explores social responsibility and inequality. The poetry section requires you to compare themes across different poems, looking at how poets use language, structure, and form to convey powerful messages. The *Unseen Poetry* section tests your ability to analyse a poem you have not studied before, using the knowledge, skills and vocabulary you have developed throughout the course.

## Course Breakdown



### Paper 1: 64 Marks

Shakespeare and the 19th century novel  
(1 hour 45 minutes)

### Paper 2: 98 Marks

Modern Texts and Poetry (2 hours 15 minutes)

## Career Opportunities



Digital Copywriter  
Editorial Assistant  
Event Planner  
Journalist  
Marketing Executive  
Teacher  
Paralegal  
Solicitor  
Barrister  
Public Relations Officer  
Publishing Copy-Editor/Proofreader  
Recruitment Consultant  
Social Media Manager  
Web Content Manager  
Writer



# Mathematics

Studying Mathematics is important to help us in all areas of life. Mathematics uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulae and we need number to manage in everyday situations. This can range from running bank accounts, going shopping, paying for phone bills or working out ratios in hairdressing, construction and many other areas of industry.

The course studied at GCSE is split into the following areas:

- **Numbers:** Integers, negative numbers, number properties, decimals, fractions, percentages, indices and standard index form.
- **Algebra:** Use of symbols, equations, sequences, formulae, graphs and proof.
- **Ratio:** Sharing amounts in a ratio, similarity, proportion and rates of change.
- **Geometry:** Area, perimeter and volume, angles, properties of shapes, transformations, constructions, measures, Pythagoras' theorem, trigonometry and vectors.
- **Probability & Statistics:** Probability, Venn diagrams, frequency trees, data collections, statistical measures, representing data, interpreting data.

## Course Breakdown



**Two tiers are available:**

- **Foundation** awarding grades 1 to 5
- **Higher** awarding grades 4 to 9

**Maths is assessed by 3 written exam papers:**

- **Paper 1 – Non Calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)**
- **Papers 2 and 3 – Calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)**

## Career Opportunities



Software Engineer  
Forensic Scientist  
Astronaut  
Technology Analyst  
Actuary  
Special Effects Director  
Business Analyst  
Cryptanalyst  
Maths Teacher



# Combined Science

Through the study of science, we encourage students to show a curiosity for learning and a desire to know and understand the world in which they live. Through the delivery of knowledge and practical work from Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics, we are able to intrigue learners, inspire them and enable them to become capable of making sense of and improving the world in which they live.

Students will:

- Develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, science.
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.
- Develop their understanding of how science works and its role in society.
- Acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding for progression to further learning.
- Learn about careers in science.

## Career Opportunities



Paramedic  
Dental Nurse  
Ecologist  
Zookeeper  
Electrician  
Gardener  
Formula 1 Engineer  
Forensic Scientist  
Phlebotomist  
Physicist  
Sonographer  
Speech and Language Therapist



## Course Breakdown



### Biology Paper 1

#### What's assessed:

Biology topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

**Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes**

### Biology Paper 2

#### What's assessed

Biology topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

**Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes**

### Chemistry Paper 1

#### What's assessed

Chemistry topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

**Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes**

### Chemistry Paper 2

#### What's assessed

Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Questions in Paper 2 may draw on fundamental concepts and principles from Sections 5.1 to 5.3.

**Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes**

### Physics Paper 1

#### What's assessed

Physics topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

**Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes**

### Physics Paper 2

#### What's assessed

Physics topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

**Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes**



# Triple Science

Science underpins our world. By studying Separate Science, learners will develop fundamental scientific ideas as well as promote curiosity about our world and beyond. Students will acquire life-long skills that will enable them to investigate, question, problem solve and critically think across a wide range of applications. The course embeds crucial literacy and numeracy skills through data handling and reciprocal reading of Scientific literature to enable them to be successful, independent learners.

## Course Breakdown



### GCSE Biology

During the course, students will be taught the knowledge, skills and understanding of how science works through the study of cell biology; organisation; infection and response; ecology; bioenergetics; homeostasis and inheritance, variation and evolution.

### GCSE Chemistry

During the course, students will be taught the knowledge, skills and understanding of how science works through the study of atomic structure; bonding; organic chemistry; chemical and energy changes; rates of reaction; quantitative chemistry; chemistry of the atmosphere; using resources and chemical analysis.

### GCSE Physics

During the course students will be taught the knowledge, skills and understanding of how science works through the study of particle model of matter; electricity; energy; atomic structure; forces; waves and magnetism.

[Link to Biology specification](#)



[Link to Chemistry specification](#)



[Link to Physics specification](#)



### Biology Paper 1

#### What's assessed

Topics 1–4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes**

### Biology Paper 2

#### What's assessed

Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes**

### Chemistry Paper 1

#### What's assessed

Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes**

### Chemistry Paper 2

#### What's assessed

Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes**

### Physics Paper 1

#### What's assessed

Topics 1–4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes**

### Physics Paper 2

#### What's assessed

Topics 5–8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.

**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes**

## Career Opportunities



Doctor  
Nurse  
Midwife  
Physiotherapist  
Radiographer  
Aeronautical Engineer  
Clinical Scientist  
Food Technologist  
Robotics Engineer  
Vet  
Pharmacist

# Computer Science

Computer Science is part of everything we do.

Studying the subject can lead to many different careers and give you an opportunity to make a positive difference in the world.

During the course you will develop and extend your coding skills and knowledge about how computers work.

Your study will be a mixture of theory and practical coding.



## Course Breakdown



The course is designed to give you a breadth of understanding of the two areas covered in the exam:

### Paper 1: Computer Systems (written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 50% of marks)

- How data is encoded on a computer (images, sounds & text)
- How data is stored on different media (DVDs, HDDs, Flash Memory)
- How computers communicate via Networks including the Internet
- Computer system threats and cyber security
- Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Concerns

### Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming (written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 50% of marks)

- Computer Programming (planning, coding and troubleshooting programs)
- Boolean Logic
- Algorithms for searching and sorting
- SQL, databases and files
- Problem Solving (Simplifying a problem into logical steps)

## Career Opportunities



Software Developer  
Database Administrator  
Computer Network Architect  
Aerospace Industries  
Systems Engineer  
Police Force Digital Crime Officer  
Web Developer  
Computer Games Developer  
Sound and Lighting Engineer  
IT Manager  
Network Manager

[Link to specification](#)



# Geography

GCSE Geography is split into three components.

## Component 1 Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

- Landscapes & physical processes
- Rural-urban links
- Tectonic landscapes and processes

## Component 2 Environmental and Development Issues

- Weather, climate and ecosystems
- Development and resources issues

## Component 3 Fieldwork Enquiry

- One physical fieldwork enquiry
- One human physical enquiry



## Course Breakdown



### Component 1 – Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

- Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of qualification

### Component 2 - Environmental and Development Issues

- Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of qualification

### Component 3 – Fieldwork Enquiry

- Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes
- 30% of qualification

## Career Opportunities



Architectural Technologist  
Business Analyst  
Cartographer  
Data Analyst  
Environmental Consultant  
Geographical Information Systems Officer  
Marketing Executive  
Nature Conservation Officer  
Social Researcher  
Sustainability Consultant  
Town Planner



# History

## Paper 1: Medicine through time:

Topic 1: What was Medicine like in the Medieval England?

Topic 2: How did the Renaissance develop medical understanding?

Topic 3: Why did Medical understanding advance in the 18th and 19th Century? How has modern medicine advanced?

Topic 4: We will finish Paper 1 with analysis of medicine in the trenches of WWI with a focus on source skills; source utility and following up enquiries.

## Paper 2:

### Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588:

Topic 1: What was the situation for Elizabeth when she became Queen, 1558-69? (focus on religion and government).

Topic 2: What were the challenges facing Elizabeth, at home and abroad, 1569-88?

Topic 3: What was society like in Elizabethan England during the Age of Exploration, 1558-88?

### Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon & Norman England, c.1060-88:

Topic 1: How did Anglo-Saxon England come under Norman control, 1060-1066?

Topic 2: How did William secure his control, 1066-87?

Topic 3: What was society and government like in Norman England, 1066-88?

### Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

Topic 1: What was the situation in Germany after WWI?

Topic 2: What was the early Nazi Party like?

Topic 3 and 4: How did the Nazis create a dictatorship? What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?

## Course Breakdown



### Paper 1:

#### Medicine c.1250-Present Day and Medicine in the Trenches, 1914-1918 (1 hour, 20 minutes)

This paper comprises two sections: A (Trenches: Source Skills) and B (Medicine Through Time: Explanations of Change and Continuity).

### Paper 2:

#### Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588 (1 hour, 50 minutes)

This paper comprises two question and answer booklets.

### Paper 3:

#### Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939 (1 hour, 30 minutes)

This paper tests key skills of source analysis, explanations and interpretation.

## Career Opportunities



Teaching in Schools

Museums and Galleries

Historic Houses, Heritage Sites and Organisations

Record Offices, Archives, Libraries and Universities

Archaeology and Architecture, Conservation and Horticulture

National and Local Government, the Civil Service and the Diplomatic Service

The Media and Journalism



# Spanish

Language is more than words.

Combining clear, concise and straightforward assessments with engaging, meaningful and relatable content, the Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Spanish is fit for the future, equipping students for life and careers in a global setting.

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs.

There are six broad thematic contexts to provide a focus for the teaching and learning of vocabulary and grammar:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism



## Course Breakdown



### Paper 1 - Speaking exam Speaking in Spanish

- 15 minutes prep time
- Foundation 7-9 mins
- Higher 10-12 mins
- 25% of qualification
- 50 marks

### Paper 2 - Written exam Listening and understanding in Spanish

- 5 minutes reading time
- Foundation 45 mins
- Higher 60 mins
- 25% of qualification
- 50 marks

### Paper 3 - Written exam Reading and understanding in Spanish

- Foundation 45 mins
- Higher 60 mins
- 25% of qualification
- 50 marks

### Paper 4 - Written exam Writing in Spanish

- Foundation 1hr 15 mins
- Higher 1 hr 20 mins
- 25% of qualification
- 50 marks

## Career Opportunities



Air Traffic Controller  
Aviation Operations Manager  
Cabin Crew  
Customer Support  
Intelligence Analyst  
International Freight Forwarding Specialist  
International Law  
Interpreter  
Journalist  
Marine Pilot  
Sports  
Teacher  
Translator  
Transport Planner  
Travel Consultant

[Link to specification](#)



# Performing Arts

The BTEC Performing Arts course is an exciting, practical course for students who enjoy performing and would like to develop their communication and social skills.

The skills developed throughout the course are integral to roles across the creative industry, including film and TV, theatre, and advertising.

While the course is very practical and focuses on practical performance skills, written work is combined with it. This will include workshops, portfolios, presentations, and skills audits. Practical work will include taking part in acting workshops, as well as group performances in response to a brief.



## Course Breakdown



### Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts

- Coursework-based Unit (PSA)
- 30% of qualification
- You will study 3 styles of theatre and produce a portfolio of evidence to show your understanding of the genre, the creative intentions and creative processes within one play.

### Component 2 – Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

- Coursework-based Unit (PSA)
- 30% of qualification
- You will rehearse an extract from a published play and perform it to a live audience. You will also produce a portfolio of evidence to show your understanding of the creative process as well as develop your ability to evaluate a performance.

### Component 3 – Responding to a Brief

- Practical Exam
- 40% of qualification
- You will devise your own piece of theatre in response to a brief. You will produce a written log that shows your understanding of the style, influences and skills and techniques within the piece and your ability to reflect on the work you have devised.

## Career Opportunities



Actor  
Playwright  
Director  
Choreographer  
Theatre/Film Critic  
Stage Manager  
Backstage Crew  
Producer  
Lighting Technician  
Sound Technician  
Events Manager  
Youth & Community Worker



# Art

GCSE Art & Design will provide students with the opportunity to explore and investigate ideas through research, observation, reflection, and aspiration; demonstrating and extending knowledge that reflects greater depth, context and understanding of the world around us. Experimenting with a range of materials, techniques and processes that inform final outcomes. Evaluating and reflecting on their work and the work of others to create independence. Preparing students for further education through experience and knowledge.

## What will you study?

We study GCSE Art & Design which allows us to learn across a variety of experiences and through various processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to generate different kinds of ideas and outcomes.

This course offers flexibility in content and approach and the opportunity to explore and create work associated with areas of study from areas such as fashion design, ceramics, textiles, architecture or illustration. We follow this specification as it introduces the variety of choice within the creative industries which account for 1 in 11 jobs in the UK.

Students will explore practical and relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of historical and contemporary artists, craftspeople and designers and the different purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and design. This research will inform their ideas as they develop through the course.

Art & Design students must over time, reflect critically upon their creative journey, and its effectiveness in relation to the realisation of personal intentions.

We will have several opportunities to enhance their experiences and understanding of art, design and wider world through enrichment opportunities to London, Edinburgh and St Ives.

## Course Breakdown



### GCSE Art & Design has two components:

- Component 1 is the coursework folder of work that accounts for 60% of the final grade. This is all the work undertaken in class over the duration of the course.
- Component 2 is the externally set exam which accounts for 40% of the final grade. Students will be required to sit a 10-hour exam as part of the externally set exam (component 2).

## Career Opportunities



Fashion Designer  
Games Designer  
Architect  
Hairdresser  
Graphic Designer  
Illustrator  
Car Designer  
Education  
Community Arts  
Health  
Engineering  
Fashion Buyer & Marketing  
Milliner  
Cobbler  
Set & Costume Design  
Hair for Stage & Film  
Digital Arts  
Web Design  
Props Designer  
Product Design  
Textiles Designer  
Garden Designer  
Town Planner



# Engineering

This Vocational Award in Engineering will develop students' knowledge and understanding of the engineering sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers manufacturing engineering products, designing engineering products and solving engineering problems which focuses on how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.

Unit 1 provides learners with the opportunity to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to produce engineering products. Learners will develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment in order to produce and test an end product (assessed in school) and worth 40% of their overall grade.

Unit 2 is also assessed in school and allows learners to explore how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time. It offers learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding to adapt an existing component, element or part of the engineering outcome that they produced for Unit 1 and contributes to 20% of their overall grade.

Unit 3 is externally assessed. It introduces learners to a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general via a written examination worth 40% of their overall grade.



## Course Breakdown



### Unit 1: Manufacturing Engineering Products

20 hour controlled assessment worth 40% of qualification

### Unit 2: Designing Engineering Products

10 hour controlled assessment worth 20% of qualification

### Unit 3: Solving Engineering Problems

1 hour 30 minute written examination worth 40% of qualification

## Career Opportunities



- Engineering
- Building/Construction Trades
- Furniture Design
- Industrial Design
- Yacht/Vehicle Design
- Marine & Agricultural Maintenance & Engineering
- Architecture
- Jewellery Design
- Interior Design
- CAD Developer
- CAM Technician



# Enterprise

Have you ever thought about being an entrepreneur? Do you have a great business idea but not sure how to make it happen? Then this is the right course for you! The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise, is for students who wish to acquire knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, behaviours and skills related to researching, planning, pitching and reviewing an enterprise idea.



## Course Breakdown



### Component 1 Exploring Enterprises (Internal Coursework 30%)

Students will examine different local enterprises to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs.

### Component 2 Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity (Internal Coursework 30%)

Students will individually select an idea for a micro-enterprise activity to plan and pitch. They will individually pitch their business plan for their idea to an audience and then use the feedback to review their plan and pitch.

### Component 3 Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (External Exam 40%)

Students will explore the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market. Learners will explore financial documents and how to use them to monitor and improve the performance of an enterprise in order to make decisions and recommend strategies for success.

## Career Opportunities



Project Manager  
Business Analyst  
Human Resources Officer  
Financial Advisor  
Investment Analyst  
Sales Manager  
Social Media Manager  
Digital Marketer



# Health & Social Care

Health and Social Care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with the demand in the UK for both health and social care employees continuously rising. This Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge across various areas such as life stages, life events, support, barriers and obstacles and how these can be overcome along with a person-centred approach. Digging deep into real life situations from imprisonment, bereavement, starting a family, marriage and much more.



## Course Breakdown



### **Component 1- Human Lifespan Development (Internal Coursework 30%)**

Explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional and social development and how they can cope and be supported through changes.

### **Component 2- Health and Social Care services and values (Internal Coursework 30%)**

Explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

### **Component 3- Health & Wellbeing (External Exam 40%)**

Explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators and using person centered approaches to make recommendations to improve an individuals' health and wellbeing plan.

## Career Opportunities



- Nursing
- Social Worker
- Personal Trainer
- Midwifery
- Occupational Therapist
- General Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- General Practitioner



# Hospitality & Catering

The hospitality and catering industry is a truly worldwide employment sector with everything from managing luxurious hotels to catering to guests' needs on cruise ships. Organising food from local suppliers and planning menus to meet the nutritional needs of the elderly. Wherever your passion takes you, there will be a range of employment in the hospitality industry. Your own biggest skills may lie in the food preparation aspect, and you will have plenty of chances to plan and cook a wide range of sweet and savoury dishes. If your interests lie more in the food provenance and business structure you will be interested to learn about our many local suppliers. You may want to develop your career into hospitality management, in which case looking at job roles and business structures and supply chains will appeal to you. Wherever your ambitions lie, the hospitality and catering course will have something for you.



## Course Breakdown



### Unit 1 – The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40% assessed by a written exam paper)

You will complete an exam paper that is 1 hour and 20 minutes. There will be a mixture of questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations within the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop your knowledge of the industry over time for this course.

### Unit 2 – Hospitality and Catering in Action (60% assessed internally)

An assignment brief will be provided by the exam board where they include a scenario and several practical tasks for you to complete. You will typically plan to create two exciting dishes with accompaniments that show off a range of high-skills, nutritional value, cooking methods and much more.

## Career Opportunities



- Nutritionist
- Manager of a Food Business
- Restaurant Manager
- Research Chef
- Teacher
- Events Management
- Chef/Sous Chef
- Food Scientist
- Food Lawyer
- Cruise Ship Caterer
- Confectioner
- Wedding Caterer
- Hotel Manager
- Marketing Manager



# Media Studies

If you are interested in film, television, advertising, music, social media or journalism, GCSE Media Studies is an exciting course that explores how the media shapes the way we see the world. You will learn how media products are created, how they influence audiences, and how different messages and representations are constructed. You will analyse real media texts and explore the techniques used to persuade, entertain and inform audiences.

Media Studies is also a writing-based subject. In the exams you will analyse media products and explain your ideas using clear written responses and specialist vocabulary. Students who enjoy subjects like English, analysing texts, discussing ideas and writing extended answers will do well on this course.

The course also includes a creative practical project, where you design and produce your own media product in response to a brief. This means you will need a good grasp of IT and digital skills, as you may be using software to create things like magazine pages, marketing materials or digital media content.



## Career Opportunities

Video Producer/Video Editor

Graphic Designer

Advertising

Multimedia Specialist

Online/Print Editor

Visual Design Consultant

Press Industry

Web Content Manager

Brand Manager

Music Industry

Social Media

Runner Broadcasting/Film/Video

Public Relations Officer

## Course Breakdown



The GCSE is made up of two written exams and one practical coursework project.

### Component 1: Exploring the Media

#### Written exam – 1 hour 30 minutes (40%)

Students study how media products communicate meaning and influence audiences.

Topics include:

- Media language and visual techniques
- Representation of people, groups and issues in the media
- Media audiences and how different groups respond to media
- Media industries and how media companies operate

Students answer a mix of short and extended questions analysing media products.

### Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

#### Written exam – 1 hour 30 minutes (30%)

Students explore specific media forms in greater detail and analyse how media texts are created and consumed.

This includes studying areas such as:

- Television and moving image media
- Music and advertising
- Online and social media platforms

Students will analyse extracts and discuss how media language, audience and industry influence media products.

### Component 3: Creating Media Products Coursework / Non-exam assessment – 30%

Students create their own original media product in response to a brief set by the exam board. This may include producing items such as:

- A magazine cover and pages
- A film or TV marketing campaign
- A music marketing product
- A website or digital media product

Students must design their product for a specific audience and explain their creative decisions. This project allows students to apply the knowledge they have gained throughout the course in a practical and creative way.

[Link to specification](#)

# Music

The Music Tech Award is a really exciting course that takes you on a journey around lots of different styles of music and what makes them interesting. You learn about the different features of music and what makes them tick! You get the opportunity to really hone an instrument of your choice where you can explore, perform, and compose music for it. This course will give you the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that you have learnt so far through the exploration of different techniques and styles.

You will need to be able to play an instrument or sing to a good standard – or be willing to learn quite quickly to take part in this course. Having instrument lessons is strongly recommended, but not required; just the enthusiasm and willingness to learn.



## Course Breakdown



### Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles (30% assessed internally)

You will explore through a series of practical workshops the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.

### Component 2: Music Skills Development (30% assessed internally)

You will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines of their choice – live performance, production or composing – through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting your progress and planning for further improvement.

### Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief (40% assessed externally)

You will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief, where you will choose to create a performance, or produce a sequence using a computer with music software (DAW/Digital Audio Workstation) of a given song in a new style.

## Career Opportunities



- DJ
- Session Musician
- Recording Artist
- Tour/Event Manager
- Music Teacher
- Radio Producer
- Music Critic
- Music Therapist
- Composer
- Singer/Songwriter
- Live Sound Technician
- Musical Director
- Producer
- Sound/Lighting Engineer

[Link to specification](#)



# Religious Studies

In Religious Studies, you will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, and will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. You will develop analytical and critical thinking skills; the ability to work with abstract ideas; the ability to present your views in an articulate and coherent manner; and skills in perspective taking. All these skills will help prepare you for further study and entering the world of work.

In addition to this, Religious Studies helps you to develop tolerance and understanding through an appreciation, not only of different faiths, but of different attitudes and perspectives towards ethical issues. This ability to recognise and understand other cultures and attitudes is highly valued by employers as you move forward into an increasingly diverse workforce.

## Career Opportunities



Law  
Politics  
Teaching  
Childcare  
Psychology  
Paramedic  
Care Worker  
Youth Worker  
Hospitality  
Civil Service



## Course Breakdown



### Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

This half of the course allows you to explore the religions of Christianity and Islam in depth. For both religions, you will examine the core beliefs of the religion and the influence that these beliefs have on the religious followers. You will then consider important practices within each religion and the diversity within the ways these are carried out.

### Component 2: Thematic Studies

For this half of the course, you will consider different ethical questions from both a religious and a secular perspective. This will enable you to develop your skills in critical thinking, perspective taking, debating, forming a coherent argument and articulating your own views. Each theme will consider relevant and challenging topics that allow you to apply the religious teachings you have learnt to a modern and real-world context.

**Theme A – Relationships and Families:** Explore attitudes towards sex, relationships, contraception, marriage, divorce, gender equality, and family roles.

**Theme B – Religion and Life:** Examine beliefs about the origins of the universe and life, the value of the world, animal use, sanctity of life, abortion, and euthanasia.

**Theme D – Religion, Peace and Conflict:** Consider war and conflict, including reasons for war, terrorism, Just War theory, holy war, pacifism, and weapons of mass destruction.

**Theme E – Religion, Crime and Punishment:** Investigate crime and punishment, including causes of crime, aims of punishment, prisoner treatment, forgiveness, and the death penalty.

[Link to specification](#)



# Sociology

There are 7 key components to the whole of the GCSE, many of these apply to both exam papers as they are the skills that make you a good sociologist.

1. The Sociological Approach – Development of sociology, key terms, and influential sociologists (Durkheim, Marx, Weber).
2. Social Structures, Processes & Issues – Understanding and evaluating key sociological theories through extracts, with critical analysis of different sociologists' interpretations.
3. Families – Roles, changing relationships, criticisms, and divorce.
4. Education – Functions, links to capitalism, achievement, and school processes.
5. Crime & Deviance – Social construction, control, behaviour, and crime data.
6. Social Stratification – Class structure, life chances, poverty, power, and authority.
7. Sociological Research Methods – Identifying, evaluating and applying research methods, considering advantages, limitations, ethical issues, and data interpretation.



## Course Breakdown



### Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

#### What's assessed:

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

#### How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

#### What's assessed:

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

#### How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

## Career Opportunities



Law  
Politics  
Teaching  
Armed Forces  
Psychology  
Paramedic  
Care Worker  
Youth Worker  
Civil Service  
Social Worker  
Police Force



# Sport

This course provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the world of sport. It incorporates important aspects of the industry, focusing on investigating provisions in sport, planning and delivery of sport drills and fitness for sport including fitness testing.

The course is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about the sport industry. You will study three mandatory components covering and underpinning knowledge and skills required for the sports sector.



## Course Breakdown



### Component 1 – Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (30% of overall grade - coursework)

This component focuses on understanding the fundamental principles of sports participation and physical activity.

### Component 2 – Taking Part and Improving Other Participants' Sporting Performance (30% of overall grade - coursework)

This component emphasizes active participation and supporting others in improving their sports performance.

### Component 3 - Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (40% of overall grade)

This component focuses on fitness and training principles to enhance sports performance.

## Career Opportunities



- Sports Psychologist
- Athletic Trainer
- Physical Therapist
- Sporting Event Planner
- Sports Massage Therapist
- Fitness Instructor
- Sports Nutritionist
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- PE Teacher



# Core Religious Education

Core RE is a statutory subject for all students and will be studied once a fortnight. Core RE is not examined and is not linked to a qualification (GCSE Religious Studies is available as an option for students). Studying RE not only prepares students for the diverse world around them, but also enables them to develop skills in oracy, critical thinking, analysis, empathy, questioning and perspective taking. These skills are not only valuable to them in their other subjects and further studies, but are also sought after skills in the workplace.

In Year 10, students will study religious beliefs and practices and will learn about how these impact on the lives of those people who hold and follow them. This will help them to gain an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of cultures in modern Britain.

In Year 11, students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of ethical and philosophical questions allowing them to develop and articulate their own views on these questions as well as enabling them to develop an appreciation for different perspectives and views and an understanding of how to challenge these respectfully.



## Course Breakdown



### Year 10

Study of religious beliefs and practices

### Year 11

Study of ethical and philosophical questions

## Career Opportunities



Law  
Politics  
Teaching  
Childcare  
Psychology  
Paramedic  
Care Worker  
Youth Worker  
Hospitality  
Civil Service



## Core PSHE

PSHE is a statutory subject which includes content we are required to teach you as a school. There is no exam to sit for PSHE and it is not attached to any form of qualification. The large variety of topics taught and discussed in PSHE prepare students for life outside the school community once they depart Poltair School.

In Year 10, students cover historical protests and the rationale and consequences that come with them; staying safe within sexual relationships; online safety and being aware of the internet's impact on employability; radicalisation and extremism in the community, how to maintain a positive level of mental and physical health throughout our lives and also making well-informed financial decisions and managing funds effectively.

In Year 11, students start the year looking at alcohol, drugs and the influences associated with them. Students will evaluate the impact of these substances and influences. We begin thinking about independence as an adult and the additional responsibilities we face in this country and when travelling abroad; and we also recap sex and relationships topics with a focus on consent, the law surrounding abortion, contraception and how to identify and manage healthy and unhealthy relationships.



## Course Breakdown



### Year 10:

- People and Protests
- Staying Safe – Sex, the law and relationships
- Life Online
- Radicalisation and Extremism
- Mental and Physical Health
- Financial Decision Making

### Year 11:

- Exploring influence
- Independence as an adult
- My Body, My Choice

## Career Opportunities



Carer  
Therapist  
Counsellor  
Teacher  
Financial Advisor  
Politician  
Community Liaison Officer



# Core PE

Core PE is a statutory subject in Key Stage 4 with the goal of maintaining healthy and active lifestyles for our students by creating an opportunity to partake in physical activity each week. The lessons will recap sports and activities learned throughout Key Stage 3 and will be a continuation of skill development previously acquired. This will start with a focus on Rugby and Netball in the Autumn Term, with Football taking priority in Spring Term and then Strike and Field and Athletics being our primary activities for the Summer.

Students will be assessed in a variety of sports depending on their pathway. Students will also be assessed by Engagement with Learning Grades. With the Core PE curriculum being focused on promoting a healthy active lifestyle, a large focus will be on students' attitudes and effort made in lessons.



## Course Breakdown



4 learning cycles of different sporting activities across a range of sub-categories of activities.

## Career Opportunities



Sports Scientist  
PE Teacher  
Community Sports Coach  
Physiotherapist  
Professional Athlete  
Fitness Instructor  
Leisure Centre Team Member  
Sports Analyst  
Personal Trainer  
Sports Journalist  
Referee/Official  
Commentator



# Year 9 Options Guidance Meeting

To ensure all students make the right decisions regarding their options choices we would like all parents and students to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team online for a Guidance Meeting. These will be 10 minute appointments where we can guide and select options together.



Week commencing Monday 23rd March to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026



Taking place online after school



To book your appointment [CLICK HERE](#)

**Make a note of when your appointment is:**

## Appointment Details

Date .....

Time .....

Meeting with: .....

Option A		Option B		Option C		Option D	
Geography		Geography		Enterprise		Geography	
History		History		History		Triple Science	
Spanish		Religious Studies		Engineering		Art	
Sport		Computer Science		Music		Hospitality	
GCSE Media		Health and Social Care		Hospitality		Sociology	
		Spanish		Performing Arts		Sport	
				Geography			
				Art			
Choose 2 x Reserves from:		Spanish	Geography	History	Computer Science	Religious Studies	Art

**Please use this sheet to choose your options. Have it with you for your online meeting.**

Student Name .....

Tutor Group .....

**Compulsory Subjects:**

**English**

**Maths**

**Science**

**Science**

**My first choice options:**

**Option A**

**Option B**

**Option C**

**Option D**

**My reserve options:**

Please select one first choice from each option block. You must pick at least one of the following: Separate Science, Geography, History, Spanish or Computer Science. These subjects can be selected from any of the option blocks below. You must then choose 2 reserve options from the reserve subjects.



# Year 9 Options

**If you have any questions regarding the options process,  
please contact:**

Miss Owen, Deputy Headteacher- [\\_eowen@poltair.celtrust.org](mailto:_eowen@poltair.celtrust.org)

Mr McNally, Head of Year 9 - [\\_smcnally@poltair.celtrust.org](mailto:_smcnally@poltair.celtrust.org)

