

Please scan this QR code to give us
feedback at the end of the evening.
Thank you!



Year 9 Pathways Information Evening

WELCOME!

2-Year Key Stage 4

- Courses begin in September 2026
- Final exams sat April-June 2028 (although some courses also have periodic assessments and/or coursework that count towards the overall final grade)
- Roughly 20 months of study – important that students make well-informed choices

The Core Curriculum



- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science Award - equivalent to 2 GCSEs OR 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics **if chosen as one of your 4 option choices**
- Core PE
- PSHCE

Options choices

NOTE: The Core Curriculum + 1 blue subject and 1 red subject = English Baccalaureate

On top of the Core Curriculum, students need to pick 4 option subjects to study at KS4 from the list below:

- History
- Geography
- Ethics and Philosophy
- Spanish
- French
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Art
- Photography
- Textiles
- Design and Technology
- Food and Nutrition
- Drama
- Music
- Film Studies
- P.E.
- Sport Studies (Cambridge National Award)
- Health and Social Care (Cambridge National Award)
- Dance
- Advanced Maths
- Separate Sciences (3 x GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Options choices

NOTE: We recommend only choosing one of these – on rare occasions, we will accept 2 (but never all 3)

On top of the Core Curriculum, students need to pick 4 option subjects to study at KS4 from the list below:

- History
- Geography
- Ethics and Philosophy
- Spanish
- French
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Economics
- **Art**
- **Photography**
- **Textiles**
- Design and Technology
- Food and Nutrition
- Drama
- Music
- Film Studies
- P.E.
- Sport Studies (Cambridge National Award)
- Health and Social Care (Cambridge National Award)
- Dance
- Advanced Maths
- Separate Sciences (3 x GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Options choices

NOTE: If you wish to study Sport as a qualification at KS4, you will need to pick the PE/Sport option and we will then put you on the course that gives you the best chance of success out of these 2.

On top of the Core Curriculum, students need to pick 4 option subjects to study at KS4 from the list below:

- History
- Geography
- Ethics and Philosophy
- Spanish
- French
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Art
- Photography
- Textiles
- Design and Technology
- Food and Nutrition
- Drama
- Music
- Film Studies
- Separate Sciences (3 x GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- **P.E.**
- **Sport Studies (Cambridge National Award)**
- Health and Social Care (Cambridge National Award)
- Dance
- Advanced Maths

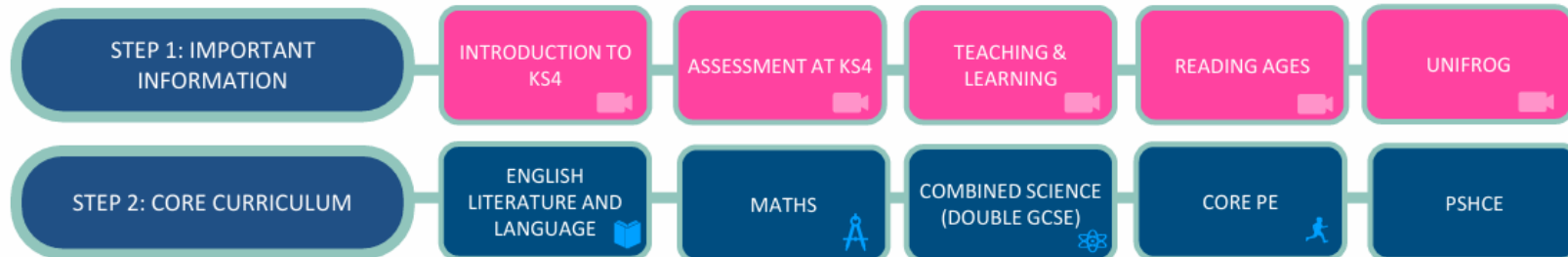
For information about each course:

Step 1: KS4 Pathways booklet (emailed home, on MCAS and on Epraise for students)

GCSE PATHWAYS



Our Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum offers students the opportunity to study a diverse range of subjects and qualifications with the aim that all our students gain the best possible qualifications at the end of Key Stage 4. The efforts of teachers, parents and, most notably, students can be seen in our students' successes over a number of years. Students receive a huge amount of support during the Pathways process. The process outlined in the framework below provides students and their families with a platform to consider the subjects and qualifications they will elect to study at Key Stage 4.



Step 2: Students should speak to their current teachers and staff available tonight

For information about each course:

Step 3: Parents are able to send specific questions to our enquiries email for the attention of the relevant Head of Faculty who will arrange a response for you:

Head of English – Mrs. Gotham-Remond

Head of Maths – Mr. Taylor

Head of Science – Dr. King

Head of Humanities – Mr. Kane (*Geography/History/Ethics and Philosophy*)

Head of Modern Foreign Languages – Mrs. Williams (*Spanish/French*)

Head of Business, Computing and Economics – Mr. Sandhu (*Business Studies/Computer Science/Economics*)

Head of PE – Mrs. Woodward (*GCSE PE, Sport Studies (Cambridge National Award), Dance , Health and Social Care (Cambridge National Award)*)

Head of Creative Arts – Ms. Newton (*Art, Design, Photography, Textiles, Food and Nutrition, Drama, Music, Film Studies*)

Choosing 1 option in each column:

Timetabling restrictions mean that students MUST pick one from each list. Although not every single combination is possible, we have done our utmost to keep combinations as flexible as possible.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Art	Advanced Maths	Art	Business Studies
Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies	Computer Science
Design Technology	Design Technology	Drama	Photography
Economics	Computer Science	PE/Sport	GCSE Dance
PE/Sport	Photography	Food and Nutrition	Ethics and Philosophy
Food and Nutrition	Film Studies	History	Economics
Music	Spanish	Geography	Food and Nutrition
History	Food and Nutrition	Health and Social Care	French
Geography	PE/Sport	Separate Sciences	History
Health and Social Care	History	Spanish	Geography
Separate Sciences	Geography	French	Health and Social Care
	Textiles		

When filling in the form to inform us of which options you would like to pick (link sent in the options letter), we also ask you to nominate a 5th back-up subject just in case.

Other important things to bear in mind:

- Do not choose combinations that will restrict your curriculum too much (for instance, we do not recommend choosing any combination of Art, Photography and/or Textiles as they have many aspects that cross over).
- Students cannot pick whether they will be on the GCSE PE or Sports Studies course – they must pick the option of PE/Sport if they wish to study a qualification in Sport and we will pick the course that will give them the greatest success (bearing in mind that GCSE PE students must participate in at least 1 sport outside of school).
- Some subjects require higher levels of competence in specific skills and therefore need careful consideration before being selected. For instance:
 - Music requires students to be working at performance grade 4 by Year 11
 - Advanced (Further) Maths requires students to be on track to achieve at least a grade 6 in Core Maths in Year 11 (on track for LP1/2 in Year 9)

Other important things to bear in mind:

We strongly suggest that students choose courses:

- in which they have an interest;
- which provide a balanced programme of study;
- that are appropriate for specific future aspirations (in the pathways booklet, there is a link to Unifrog where students are able to look up any careers they may be considering to find out more about future subject requirements). We also have our Careers manager, our head of 6th Form and a representative from Abingdon and Whitney College for you to talk to this evening if you would like to.

Crucially:

Students should not choose subjects based on what their friends are choosing or who their teacher may be.

There are no guarantees regarding which teacher or class students will be in and may find they do not have the teacher they wanted or their friends with them (as multiple classes run in the same list for many subjects).

The opportunity to speak to subject specialists this evening in the Science block

Ground Floor:

Science, English, Maths and Advanced Maths, Geography, History, Ethics and Philosophy, French, Spanish, Careers, King Alfred's 6th Form, Abingdon and Whitney College.

Second Floor:

Economics, Business Studies, Computer Science, GCSE PE and Sport Studies, Health and Social Care, Dance, Drama, Film Studies, Music, Food and Nutrition, Design and Technology, Art, Textiles, Photography.

Please help yourself to a map and a cup of tea or coffee as you head off to the Science block (ensuring you have **signed in in the cold canteen**).

Please scan this QR code to give us feedback at the end of the evening. Thank you!

