



Year 9 Options

2024



At Backwell School our aims are

For students to study a curriculum that **suits their abilities, skills and aspirations**

For students to follow a curriculum that is **broad and balanced**

For students to be given the opportunity to **focus on their strengths and to explore new areas of interest**

For students to be able to access a **range of future choices** at the end of Year 11



- Significant reform of KS4 qualifications
- Content, assessment methods and the way they are graded have all changed
- This applies for every GCSE subject your child will take

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

The core curriculum

Maths

**English
Language**

**English
Literature**

**Science
(either
double or
triple)**

**Modern
Foreign
Language***

History

and/or

Geography



Options curriculum

- Students will choose **two options subjects**
- Students will need to make a 1st and 2nd choice
- Students will also have to choose two **reserve subjects** again in order of preference
- All subjects lead to a GCSE qualification apart from those in red which are L2 vocational courses
- Computer science: appropriate for students in maths sets 1-3

- History
- Geography
- P&R
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Design technology
- Food preparation and nutrition
- PE/**Sports studies**
- **Performing Arts**
- Drama
- Music
- **Music Practice**
- Sociology
- Business studies
- Computer science
- Art, craft and design
- Art textiles
- Photography

What are vocational qualifications?

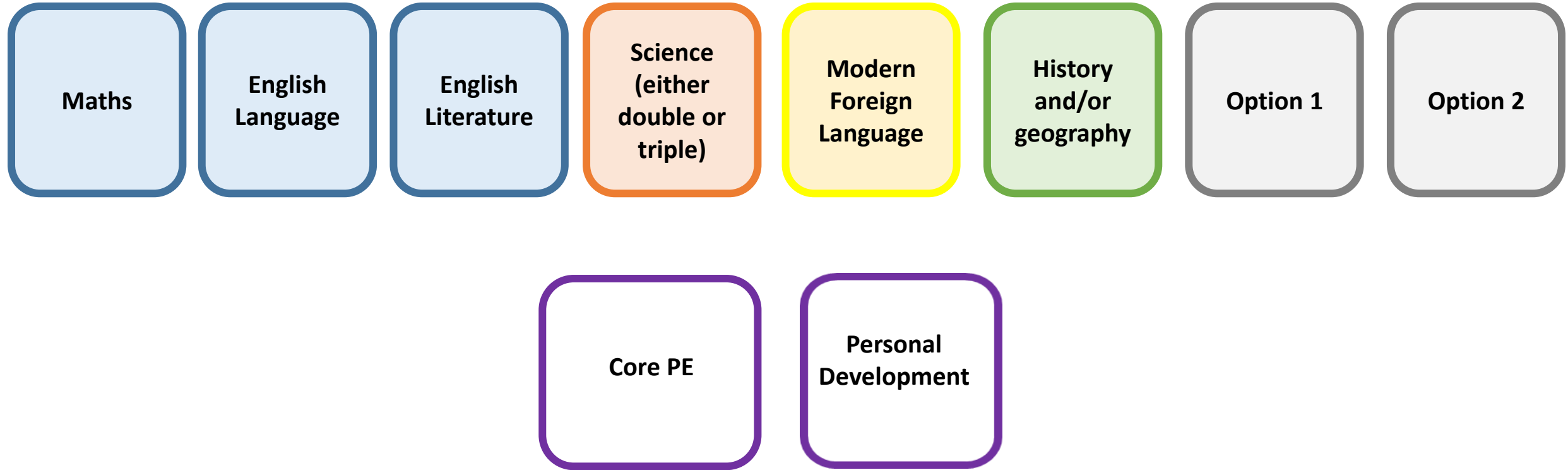
- They are a **level 2** qualification i.e. the equivalent of a GCSE
- They are assessed through a mix of exams and assessments (coursework)
- The curriculum in these subjects is more practical than most GCSEs
- They are **NOT** an easy option
- They are graded differently

Performing Arts

Sports Studies

Music Practice

KS4 curriculum



Good reasons for students to choose subjects

- They enjoy the subject and will work hard
- They have found out about what they will learn in that subject in years 10-11
- They have spoken to subject teachers/older students/their tutor about the subject
- They have listened to the advice they have been given

Bad reasons to choose subjects

- They like the teacher they have in Y9 for that subject
- Their friends have chosen that subject
- They think they will like it but haven't done any research or spoken to anyone about it
- They ignore the advice they have been given

How do students make their choices?

- Read the **options booklet**
- Visit the **subject showcase** to find out more about options subjects, talk to subject staff and students
- **Do some research** -Talk to subject teachers/older students/tutors to find out more about the subjects they are interested in
- Fill in the **options form** and hand it in to Student Services by **Friday 23rd February**



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Exploring pathways

[Careers library](#)

[Subjects library](#)

[Know-how library](#)

[MOOC](#)

[Personality profile](#)

[Interests profile](#)

Create an account

[Sign up](#)

Recording what you've done

[Activities](#)

[Competencies](#)

[Interactions](#)

Searching for opportunities

[UK universities](#)

[US universities](#)

[European universities](#)

[Oxbridge](#)

[Apprenticeships](#)

[College / Sixth Form](#)

[Canadian universities](#)

[Asian universities](#)

[Australasian unis](#)

[Special opportunities](#)

[ME and African unis](#)

[Irish universities](#)

Drafting application materials

[UK Personal](#)

[Academics](#)

[CV / Resumé](#)

[Common App Essay](#)

[US recommenders](#)

[Notes for Ref Writers](#)

Making applications

[Post 16/18 Intentions](#)

[Locker](#)

[Applications list](#)

Parents/carers can register using the formcode: **BACKparentscarers**

SUBJECT SHOWCASE- Sixth form block

6th form canteen	Geography, history, philosophy and religion, MFL, Careers
6th form theatre	Art, food, photography, textiles, product design
Dance studio	Music, music tech, drama, performing
SF4	Computing
SF1	Business, sociology
SF2	PE, sports studies