



# Year 9 options 2026

*Backwell School is a proud member of Lighthouse Schools Partnership*



# 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



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# The core curriculum

Maths

English  
Language

English  
Literature

Science  
(either  
double or  
triple)

Modern  
Foreign  
Language\*

History

Or

Geography

Core PE

Personal  
Development  
(SMSC)

# Options curriculum

- Students choose **two options subjects**
- Students need to make a **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**
- **Art, craft and design**
- **Art textiles**
- **Photography**
- **PE/Sports studies**
- **Performing Arts**
- Drama
- Music
- **Sociology**
- Business studies
- **Computer science**

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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

All GCSE courses are graded from 1-9

Grade 4 is a **standard pass**  
Grade 5 is a **strong pass**

Source: Ofqual



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# 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 (pass, merit, distinction)

**Performing Arts**

**Sports Studies**

# KS4 curriculum

Maths

English  
Language

English  
Literature

Science  
(either  
double or  
triple)

Modern  
Foreign  
Language

History or  
geography

Option 1

Option 2

Core PE

Personal  
Development  
(SMSC)

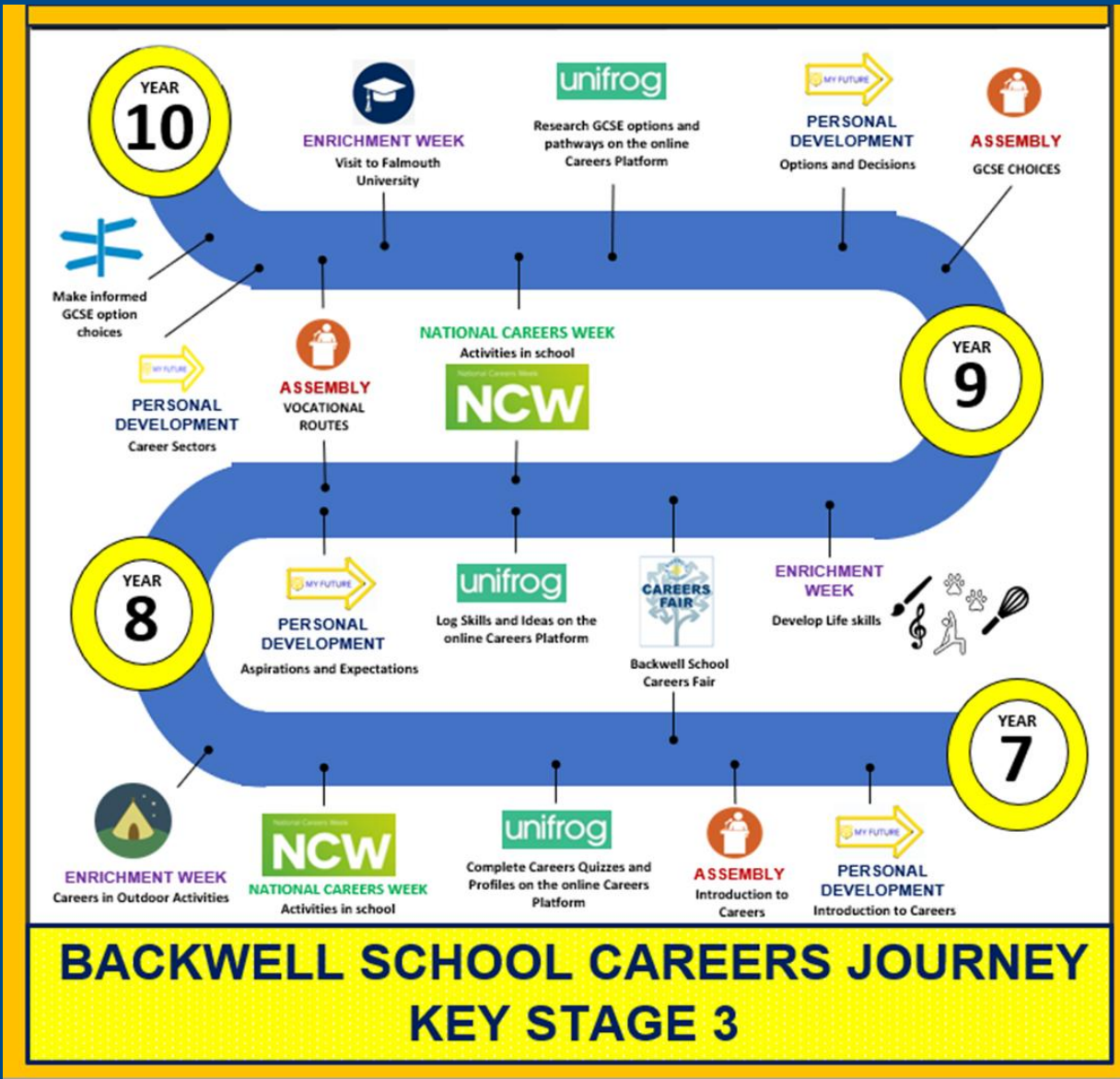
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## Good reasons for students to choose subjects

- 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 because it's something different but haven't done any research or spoken to anyone about it
- They ignore the advice they have been given



# CAREERS FAIR

## TUESDAY 3RD MARCH

12:50PM - 4:00PM, NEW SPORTS HALL

Discover your career possibilities, and get connected with top employers.

Ideal for work experience, post 16, post 18 options and future careers.

- Over 40 Employers
- Nationwide Universities and Colleges
- Local Training Providers

All students can attend at lunch and after 3:10pm.  
Year 9 and 11 will be visiting during scheduled lessons.

Sixth Form Students Welcome Anytime.

Parents and Carers welcome after 3:10pm.



# What happens next...

Visit the subject showcase

Read the options booklet

Do your research – talk to subject teachers/older students/teachers to find out more about subject choices

Complete the options form and submit online by Wednesday 25 February

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# Subject showcase- 6<sup>th</sup> form block

6 <sup>th</sup> Form canteen	History, Geography, P and R, Languages , Careers
6 <sup>th</sup> Form theatre	Art, Food, Photography, Textiles, Design Technology
Dance studio	Drama, Music, Performing Arts
SF1	PE, Sports Studies
SF2	Business, Sociology
SF4	Computing