

Options Evening

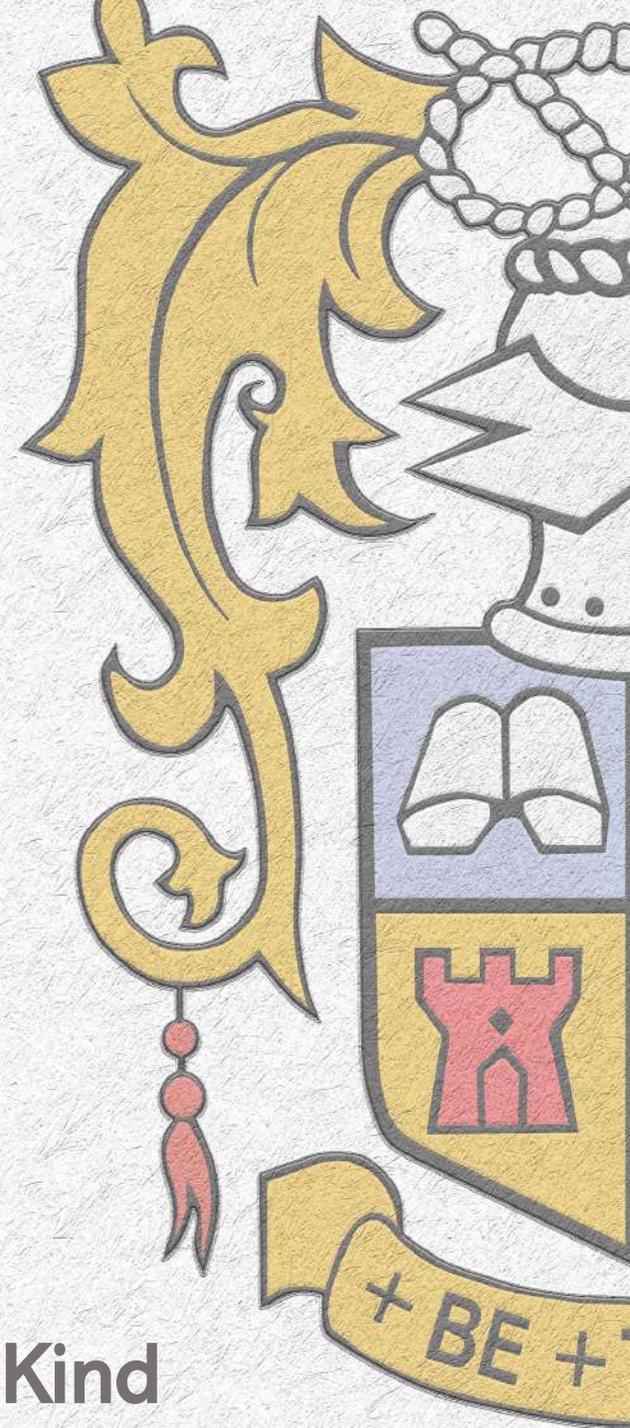
Thursday 9th January 2025

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The Key Stage 4 Curriculum:

Over the last 12 months we have conducted a review of our Key stage 4 curriculum which runs over two years in Year 10 and 11.

The findings of the review were that many of our subjects were struggling to complete the extensive knowledge required by the revised GCSE and Vocational syllabuses.

- In English students' study two GCSEs in Language and Literature and our revised curriculum has extended the time available to complete and excel in both of these subjects.
- In our ambition to support more students achieving good passes within GCSE Maths and GCSE Combined Science we have also added additional time to these subjects.
- Triple science has been moved out of the core offer and into the options blocks to secure additional time to complete these three separate GCSE, with time to recover content and prepare for the rigour of the nine exams.
- The new Key stage 4 curriculum now has compulsory subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science, PSHE within Tutor time and Core PE.
- This leaves three free options, each with more time than in the previous curriculum model.

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The English Baccalaureate - EBACC

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. To be eligible for the EBACC students must study:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- The Sciences
- Geography or History
- A modern foreign language (French or German)



The EBACC is made up of subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and opens lots of doors.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBACC provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBACC can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

The government's ambition is to see 90% of pupils studying the EBACC subject combination at GCSE by 2025.



The Options Process:

It is an exciting time as you begin to think about your next steps here at The Wilnecote School.

The options process allows you to start to choose subjects which you have an interest in or are thinking of pursuing when you leave here for post-16 study.

However, not all subjects are optional, some subjects must be continued during Year 10 and 11.



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The Options Process:

Core subjects are:

- English (Language and Literature)
- Maths
- Science (Double award worth 2 GCSES for Biology/Chemistry and Physics)
- PE

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The Options Process:

You are then given the choice of a **further 3 subjects** to study to gain KS4 qualifications.

When choosing subjects:

- Consider broad and balanced
- What are you interested in studying
- Potential career aspirations

What not to do:

- Choose subjects because your friend is
- Choose subjects based on a teacher



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Are there subjects with specific guidelines?

There are several subjects where students should consider the guidelines prior to choosing their options:

These are:

- GCSE Triple Science
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Music



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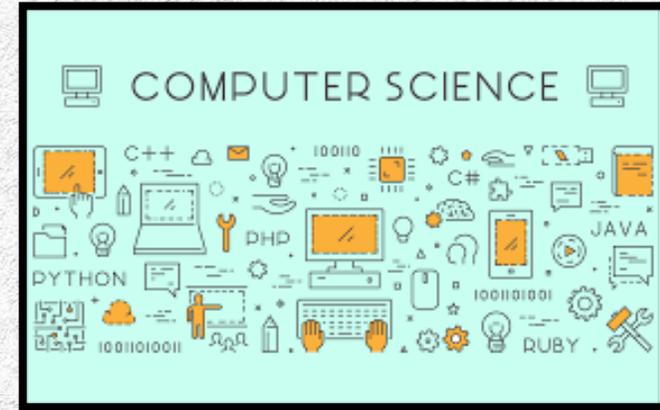
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Are there subjects with specific guidelines?

Successful Computer Science students...

- have determination when solving problems
- complete homework tasks between lessons to a high standard
- put 100% into lesson tasks, even when things are challenging
- proactively move their learning forwards with independent research
- work cooperatively to complete tasks and find solutions



Consideration will be given to the following:

- Over the next two weeks, you will be given the opportunity to complete a small programming project. Your attendance and effort in these sessions will be strongly considered.
- Your monitoring throughout this year in terms of your effort and behaviour in lessons.
- Your outcomes from both programming tasks in lessons, and any assessment tasks and homework set so far this year.
- How much you push to achieve or exceed your target grade in your Computing lessons.
- The determination you show in lessons and the project to independently solve problems and improve your programs.

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Are there subjects with specific guidelines?

Music:

To choose music you must either:

- Competently play a musical instrument; or
- Be a vocally competent singer
- Be able to read music – an understanding of musical notation



You must be prepared and enjoy performing in front of others for example in assembly or as part of an evening to showcase work within class as this forms part of the course.

Please consider these guidelines as you consider what subjects you might want to select for Year 10 and 11.

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KS4 Grading Systems

GCSE Grading System

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

We aim for all our students to achieve **at least** a Grade 4 in all their KS4 GCSE courses. This allows students to access A-Levels and Level 3 courses at Post 16 study.

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KS4 Grading Systems

Vocational Course Grading System

Level / Qualification Grade	Grade Equivalent
Level 2 / Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 / Distinction	7
Level 2 / Merit	5.5
Level 2 / Pass	4
Level 1 / Distinction	3
Level 1 / Merit	2
Level 1 / Pass	1.25

We aim for all our students to achieve **at least** a Level 2 Pass in all their KS4 Vocational courses. This allows students to access Level 3 courses at Post 16 study.

What is the difference between Vocational Courses and GCSE's?

Vocational courses focus on practical, work-related skills for specific industries, with hands-on learning and are assessed by a combination of coursework-based assessments and exams.

GCSEs, in contrast, are academic qualifications covering a broad range of subjects, assessed primarily through exams, and are more theory-focused.

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The Option Blocks

Students must select ONE option from each of the three option blocks. Students must also select one reserve choice from Option Block B or C

* Students cannot select any combination of Art, Textiles and 3D Product Design.

Option A	Option B	Option C
Triple Science	French	History
History	German	Geography
Geography	Computer Science	RE
Art	Photography	Photography
Drama	Music	PE Theory (V)
Hospitality and Catering (V)	Statistics	Hospitality and Catering (V)
Business Enterprise (V)	Art	Business Enterprise (V)
	Fashion and Textiles (V)	IT (V)
	3D Product Design	
	PE Theory (V)	

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What if I have any questions?

Further conversations regarding option choices should happen during the Year 9 Parents Evening on Thursday 16th January.

Deadline for the Options form to be handed in is **Friday 7th February 2025.**

 **The Wilnecote School**
ENSURING EXCELLENCE

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM PREFERENCES 2025 (Year 9)

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Triple Science	French	History
History	German	Geography
Geography	Computer Science	RE
Art	Photography	Photography
Drama	Music	PE Theory (V)
Hospitality and Catering (V)	Statistics	Hospitality and Catering (V)
Business Enterprise (V)	Art	Business Enterprise (V)
	Fashion and Textiles (V)	IT (V)
	3D Product Design	
	PE Theory (V)	

(V) Indicates a Vocational Course
**Please note you cannot choose any combination of Art, Fashion & Textiles and 3D Product Design **

MAKING YOUR CHOICES
You must choose one subject from Block A, one subject from Block B and one subject from Block C, aiming for a broad balanced curriculum when combined with the core subjects of English, Maths, and Science.

You **MUST** give one reserve choice. Please give careful thought to your reserve choice as you may end up studying this subject if we are unable to give you your first choice.

Name: Form:

Please write your choice of subjects in the table below. You **must** select one subject from Block A, one subject from Block B and one subject from Block C.

You **must** give one reserve choice from Option Block B or C. Please give careful thought to your reserve choice as you may end up studying this subject if we are unable to give you your first choice.

Choices	Please write the name of the subjects you want to study clearly.
Option Block A:	
Option Block B:	
Option Block C:	
Reserve Choice:	
Reserve Choice: (From Option Block B or C only)	

To ensure you follow a balanced curriculum your preferences will be considered carefully by the school and after discussion with you and/or your parents a final decision will be taken as to the subjects studied.

Notification of the final options allocation will take place in the Summer Term.

Courses will run **subject to staffing, timetabling, accommodation and appropriate student numbers for each subject.**

Signed by Student:

Signed by Parent/Carer:

**RETURN TO Headteacher's PA Office
BY FRIDAY 7th February 2025**

Admin Use Only	
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What if I have any questions?

You now have chance to speak with Mr Foskett, Mr Croydon, Mrs Marsland and Mr Thomas along with all Heads of Department.

Dance Studio	Statistics – Mr Mulhall Triple Science – Mr Blake Art, 3D Product Design, Photography, Hospitality & Catering and Fashion & Textiles - Miss Collier, Mr Ogleby and Mrs Marsland PE – Miss Dickins French and German – Mrs Turner and Mrs Hill
Library	Geography – Miss Molineux History – Mr Farrell RE – Mrs Day
Room 48	Computer Science & IT – Mr Garland Business Enterprise – Mrs Drewett
Room 58	Drama – Miss Julius
Room 59	Music – Mr Hyden

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