

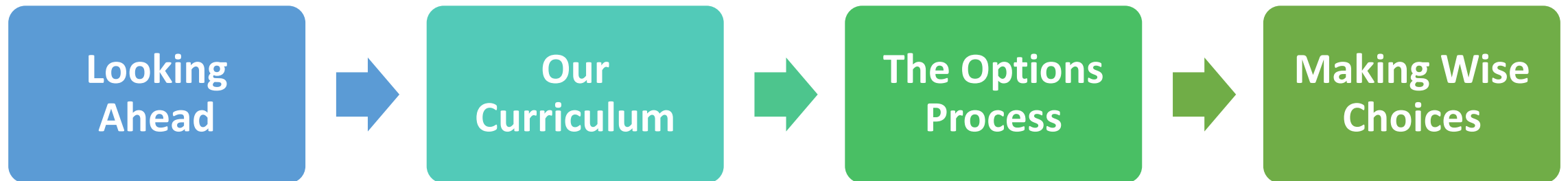
# **Welcome to the Year 9 Options Evening**



# Introductions and Format

Mrs J Geldenhuys – Head of Year 9

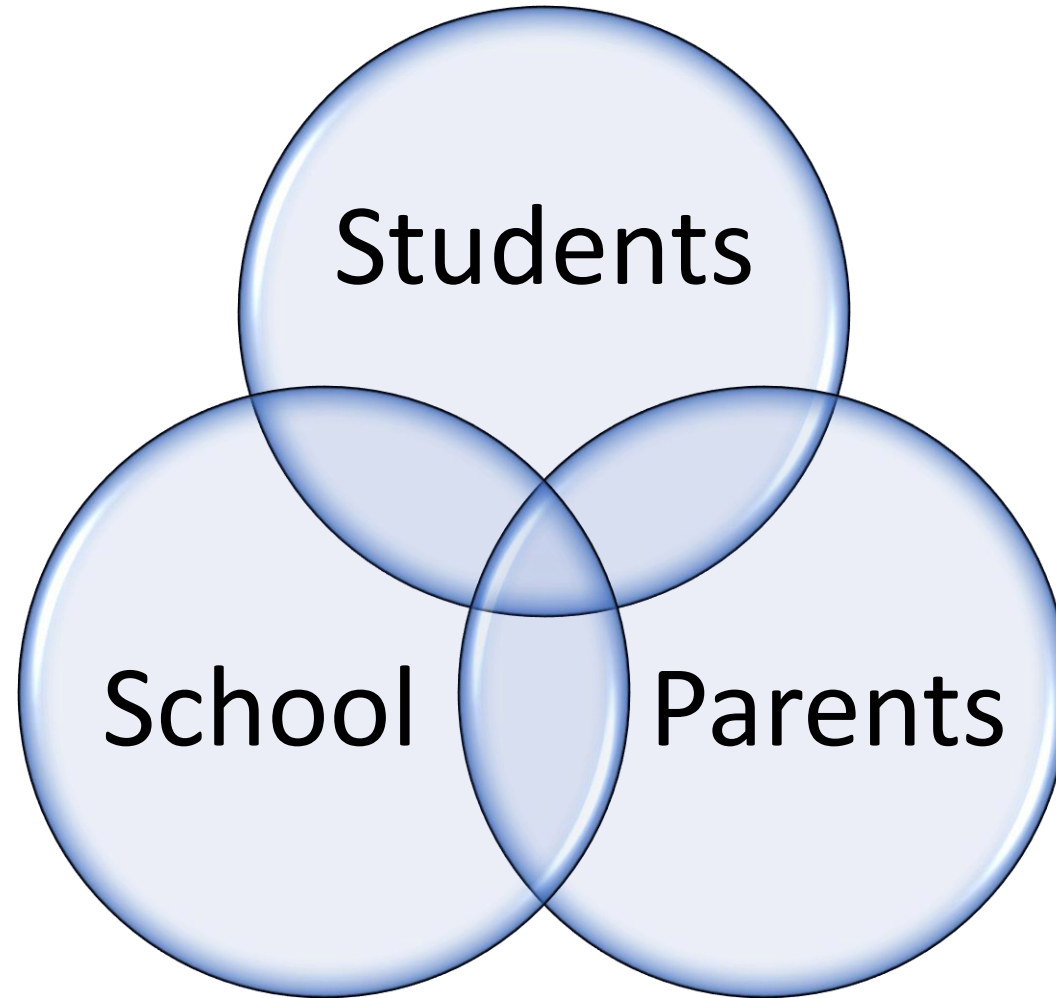
Mr J Young – Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Assessment)



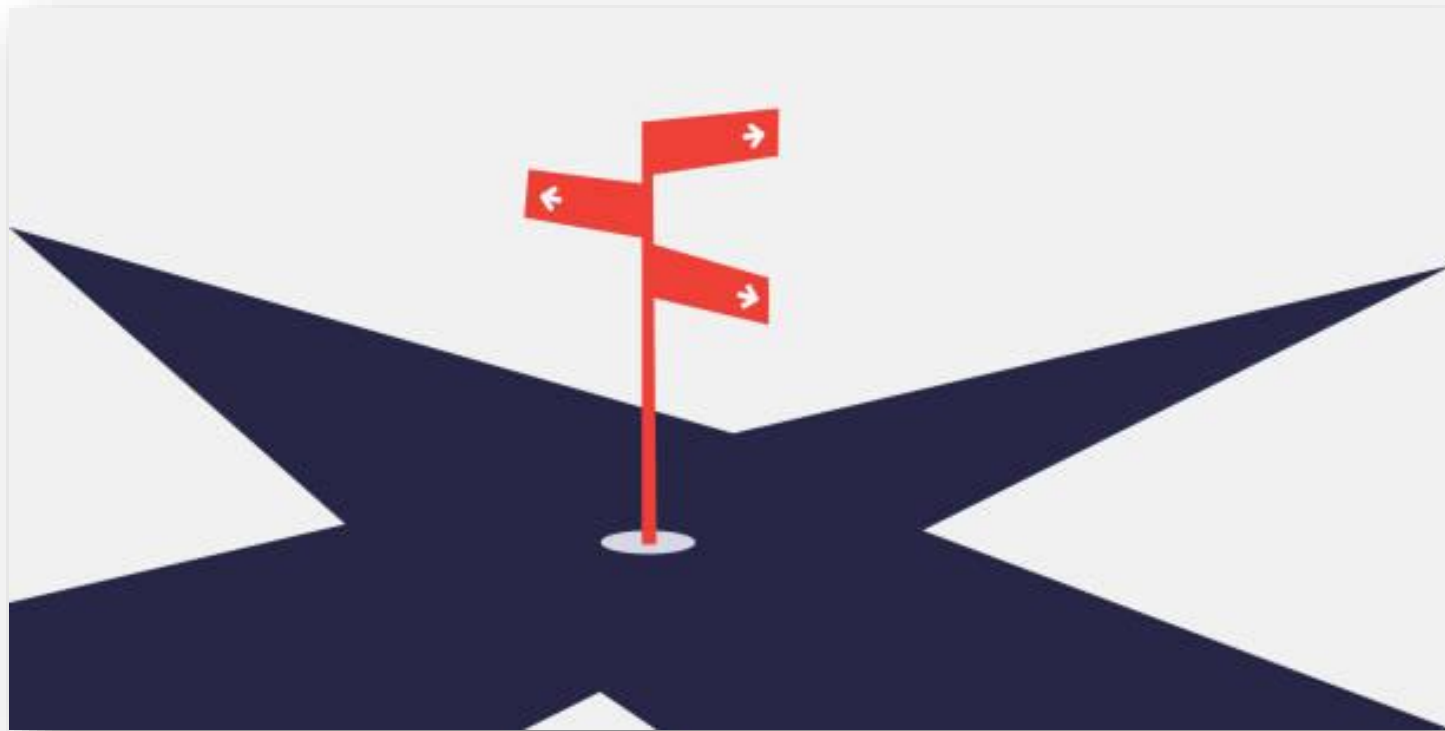
**Looking ahead to  
next year...**



# We all have a role to play



# It's time for the next step



**I am going to...**



**...be ambitious for my future.**



# What is needed for success in Key Stage 4

- A commitment to learning and your chosen subjects
- Being organised and keeping good subject notes
- Good study and revision habits from the beginning
- A willingness to be open minded, try new things and persevere when things get tough
- A long-term perspective with clear goals – something we will support you with over the next two years
- Excellent attendance (98%+)



# **Our 2024-25 Curriculum**





# Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11)

Our ambition is to ensure that students have access to the broad and balanced curriculum that enables successful progression into their future destinations and careers.

The overall 'curriculum' goes far beyond the subjects a student takes, including the tutor programme, PSHE, extra curricular activities, trips and work experience.

**Subjects are a key part of the curriculum**, therefore we aim to ensure:

- We have choices that meet our students needs
- There is a breadth of choice
- They ensure suitable access to post-16 options



# Level 2 Qualifications

**GCSE** – traditional linear qualification where all or the majority of the course has external assessments such as exams or performances e.g. maths, history, business.

*These courses are graded 9-1 where 9 is the highest grade. A grade 4 is a basic pass, a grade 5 is a strong pass.*

**Vocational (NCFE/BTEC/OCR Cambridge National)** – qualifications that combine exams with other forms of assessment such as coursework.

*These courses are graded Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction onto Level 2 P/M/D/D\*. A level 2 pass is the equivalent to a grade 4 at GCSE.*



# Core Subjects

**Every student will study the following courses + 4 option subjects:**

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Combined Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics worth 2 GCSEs)

Twice weekly PE lessons

*Every student must achieve a grade 4 or above in Maths and English at the end of Year 11 otherwise they must continue to study it when attending a College/Sixth Form/Apprenticeship.*



# Option Subjects

GCSE Art or 3D Design  
GCSE Business  
GCSE Citizenship\*  
GCSE Computer Science  
GCSE Drama  
GCSE Film Studies\*  
GCSE Geography  
GCSE History  
GCSE Photography

GCSE Physical Education  
GCSE Religious Studies\*  
GCSE Spanish  
GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)  
Cambridge National in Creative iMedia  
Cambridge National in Sport Studies  
BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice  
NCFE Food and Cookery



\*New courses  
for 2024/25



# ***An Example of Option Blocking***

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Art	Creative Design	Business	Citizenship
Business	Art	Computer Science	Creative Design
Geography	Film Studies	Drama	Geography
History	Geography	Food and Cookery	iMedia
Photography	History	History	Religious Studies
Spanish	Music Practice	Spanish	Spanish
Triple Science	Photography	Sport (Cam Nat)	Physical Education



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Will I be offered all of the subjects I choose?**

Possibly not. We will do all that we can to make things happen but some groups may be over or under-subscribed. We will support you through the process if you need to rethink your options.

## **Will I be able to change my mind?**

We will always try to be flexible. If a course is unsuitable, change may be possible if spaces exist in other groups. However, changing courses becomes increasingly difficult within half a term of starting Year 10. It is important to think carefully about the choices you make and use the guidance provided.

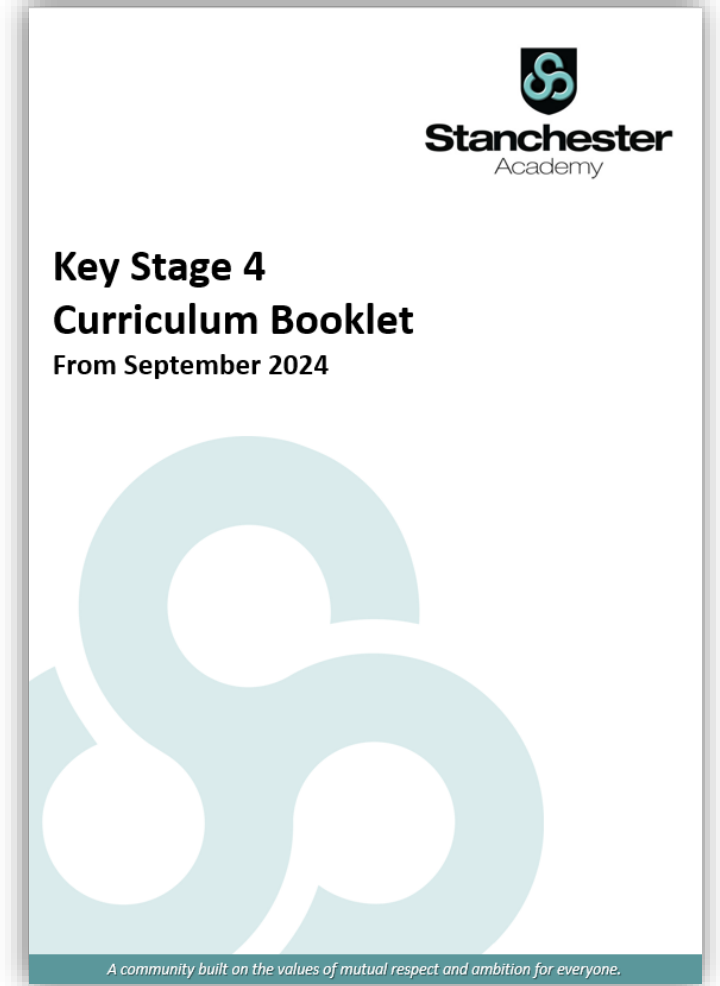


# The Options Process



# The Options Process

1. Finding out about the courses available
  - Tonight's options evening
  - Curriculum Booklet
  - Website resources
  - Speak to your teachers
2. Options can be selected from **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**
3. Parents' Evening **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**
4. Options deadline **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**





# Information to Support Decisions



## Key Stage 4 Curriculum Booklet From September 2024



*A community built on the values of mutual respect and ambition for everyone.*

### GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA  
QAN: 601/8410/3

#### Why do we study this subject?

Geography is all around you. It is dynamic, exciting, relevant and a useful subject. It helps you understand the environment in which you live, it allows you to consider world issues and acquire knowledge about people in different places, and in doing all of this you will develop a range of unique, yet useful skills.

Geography gives a balanced viewpoint which is a good preparation for the world of work. Employers want people with the following attributes: good communication skills; ability to work in a team; ability to manage themselves; numeracy and literacy; ability to problem solve; computer literacy; spatial awareness; environmental and social awareness. Geography provides them all!

#### What content will I be learning?

This course has 3 units:

**Unit 1:** The Physical Environment. This unit focuses on the UK and its physical environment with an emphasis on coasts and rivers. It also looks at the living world: Rainforest and Cold Environments. Finally, it covers natural hazards and their management.

**Unit 2:** The Human Environment. The changing economic world, the increasing urban world and resource management are covered in this section of the course.

**Unit 3:** This comprises geographical skills and includes decision making, fieldwork and map work skills.

You will use different sources of information such as fieldwork data, pictures, geographical information systems and maps.

You will need to be able to use these sources effectively to be able to understand how the world is formed and changes over time.

#### How will I be assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of the course:

**Paper 1: Physical environment**  
1 hour 30 minutes; 88 marks; 35% of final mark.

**Paper 2: Human environment**  
1 hour 30 minutes; 88 marks; 35% of final mark

**Paper 3: Geographical applications (fieldwork & skills)**  
1 hour 15 minutes; 76 marks; 30% of final mark.



As part of the GCSE students will participate in a series of trips to support the fieldwork component of the course.

1 day coastal fieldwork - Lyme Regis  
1 day urban fieldwork - Bristol  
UK based residential – Aberystwyth  
International residential - location to be confirmed

#### Where can the subject take me?

Anyone wishing to study Geography further at A-level or university should consider the GCSE. It can lead to careers in professions such as cartography, climate change analysis, climatologist, or emergency management specialist.

### COURSE SPECIFICATIONS

GCSE Art, Craft and Design/Photography:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Business:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/business/specifications/AQA-8132-SP-2017.PDF>

GCSE Combined Science:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Computer Science:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

GCSE Drama:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE English Language:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8700-SP-2015.PDF>

GCSE English Literature:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8702-SP-2015.PDF>

GCSE Film Studies:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/sjyhrqeu/eduqas-gcse-film-studies-spec-from-2017-e-27-09-22.pdf>

GCSE Geography:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-8035-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE History:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf>

GCSE Mathematics:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf>

GCSE Physical Education:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/pe/specifications/AQA-8582-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Religious Studies:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE Spanish:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-8698-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics):

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-8462-SP-2016.PDF>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF>

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610942-specification-cambridge-nationals-creative-imedia-j834.pdf>

Cambridge National in Sport Studies:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610953-specification-cambridge-nationals-sport-studies-j829.pdf>

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/music-practice/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370555-BTEC-Tech-Award-Music-Practice-2022-spec-PPD1-190721.pdf>

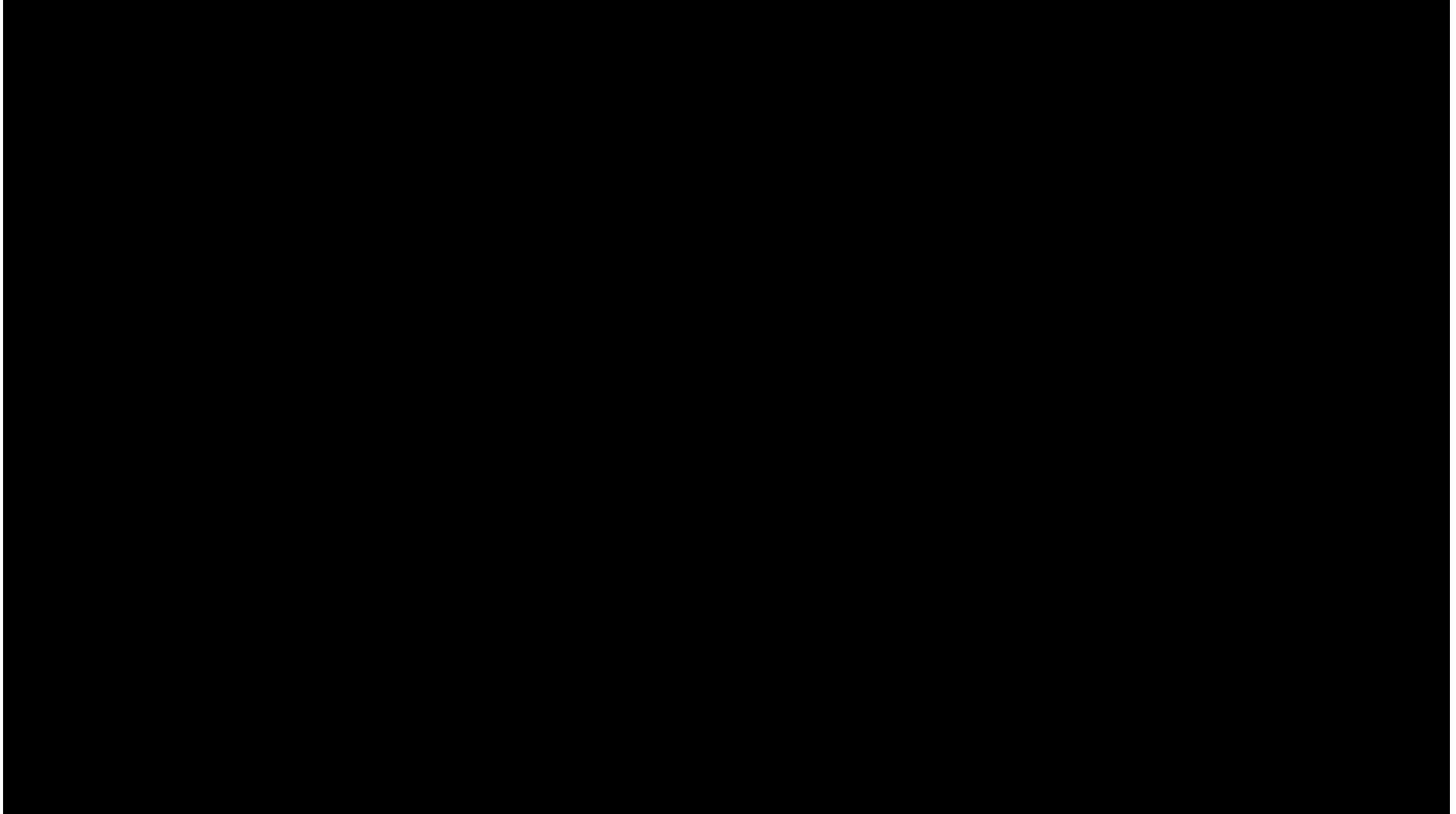
NCFE V-Certs Creative Design and Production:

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16/v-certs/creative-design-production/>

NCFE V-Certs Food and Cookery

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16/v-certs/food-cookery/>

# Information to Support Decisions – Videos



# Making your selections

- Choices will be selected via the SIMS Parent App
- Students can download a version of the app and make their choices
- Parents are able to verify these choices via their account
- If you do not have access to the app, a paper application form can be used.

Options can be selected from **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 9 Parent's Evening is **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

The options deadline is **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**



# Making Wise Choices



# Poor reasons for choosing a subject

1. What your friends are doing
2. A liking for a particular teacher or their way of working – you may be taught by someone else next year
3. Looking for an easy two years and choosing courses which seem to put fewer demands on you
4. Choices based upon hearsay or out-of-date careers information.



# What are important considerations?

1. Think about what **you** want to do
2. Identify possible links between subjects of study and access to future careers or College/Sixth Form/Further Education
3. Remember, generally you will do best at subjects which you enjoy and perform well at now
4. Be prepared to face the challenges of GCSE – you might surprise yourself
5. Understand the nature of the new subjects on offer and what they involve, particularly how you are assessed for example exams vs coursework.



# Thank You

*Please stay around for any questions*

