

Welcome to the Year 9 Options Evening

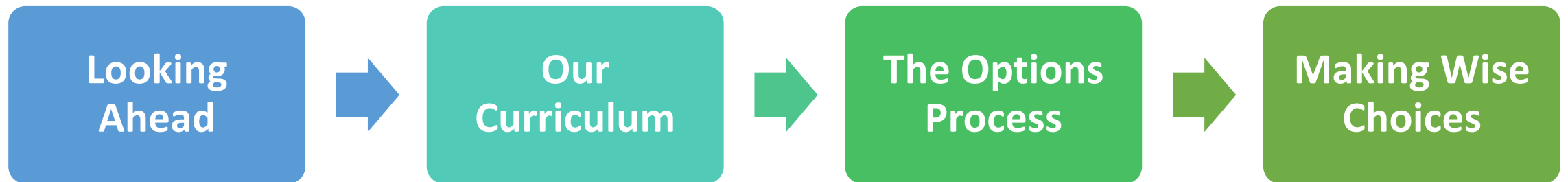


Introductions and Format

Mrs J Butler – Head of Year 9

Mr J Young – Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Assessment)

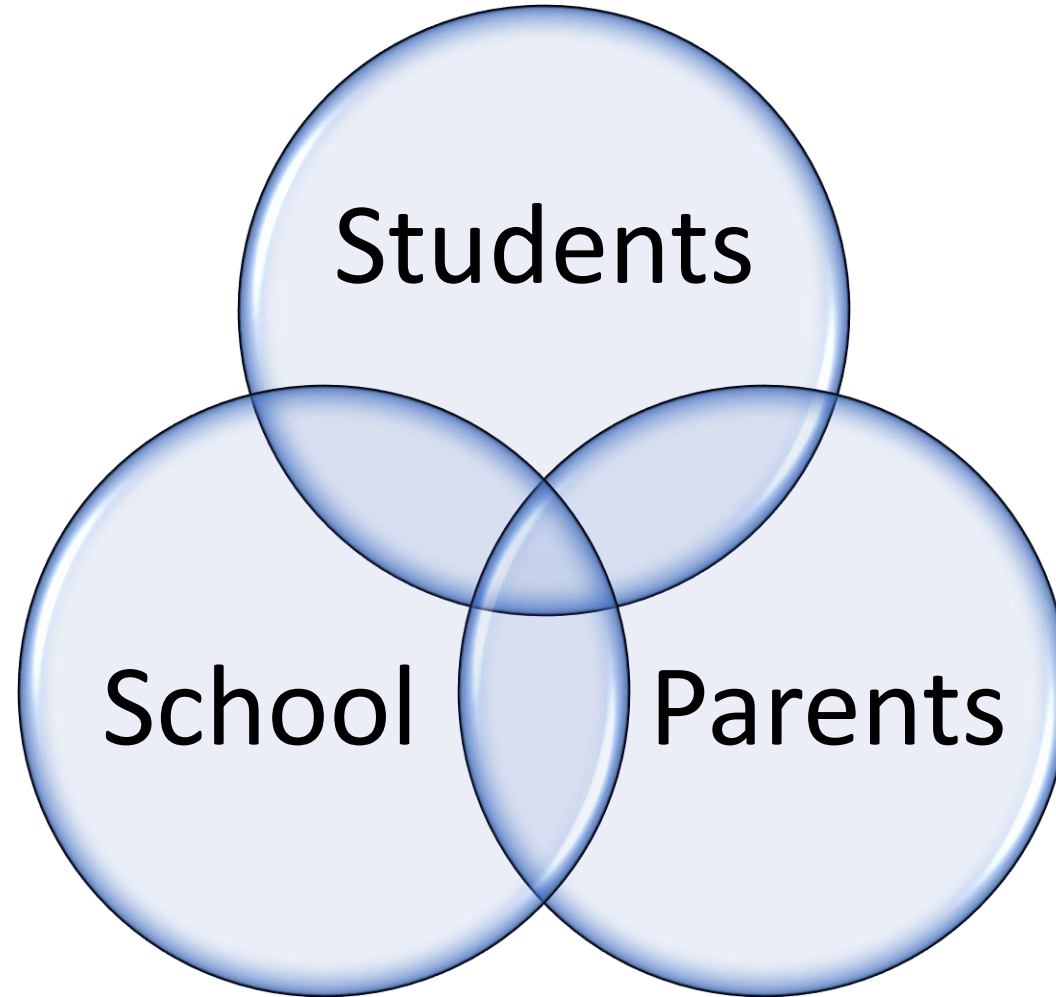
Mr G Mockridge - Headteacher



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



We all have a role to play



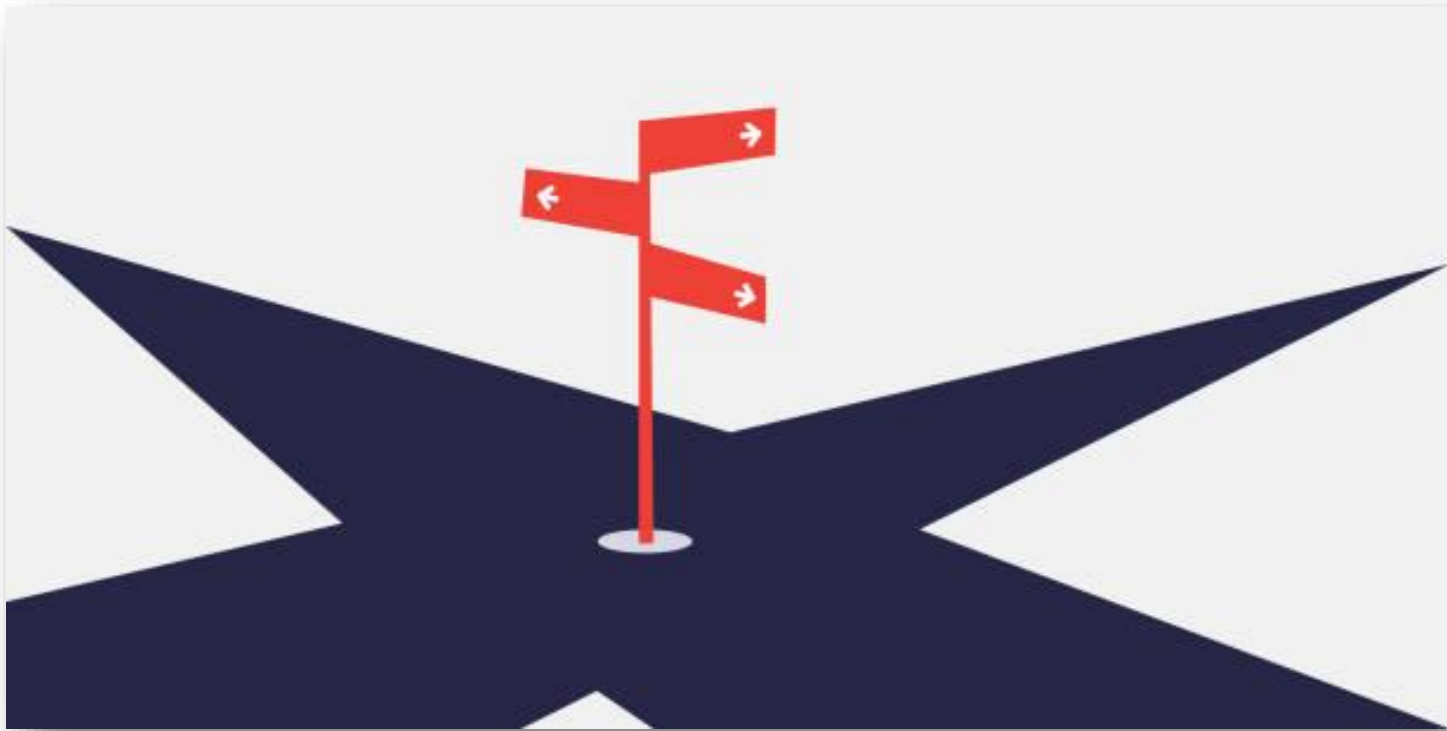
I am going to...



...be ambitious for my future.



It's time for the next step



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 2023-24 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.*



Changes This Year

Following feedback from students and parents we have restructured the curriculum to offer **4 option subjects** alongside the core programme of study.

Students will therefore sit 9 GCSEs over their two years.

We have introduced a number of **new courses**:

- GCSE Film Studies
- GCSE Religious Studies
- NCFE V-Certs Creative Design and Production
- NCFE V-Certs Food and Cookery



Core Subjects

Every student will study the following courses:

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE 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, Craft and Design

GCSE Business

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 V-Certs Creative Design and Production

NCFE V-Certs Food and Cookery



Potential Option Blocking

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Art	Creative Design	Business	Creative Design
Business	Art	Computer Science	Business
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 overcrowded 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.

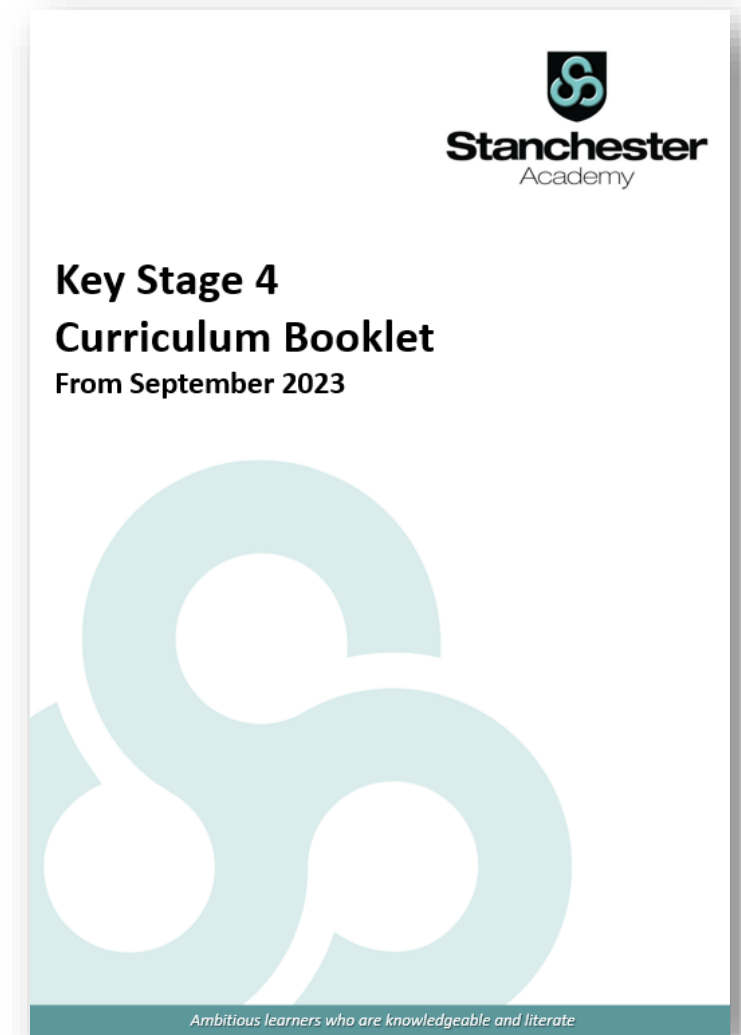


The Options Process



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 30th January**
3. Parents' Evening **Wednesday 8th February**
4. Options deadline **Friday 24th February**



Information to Support Decisions



Key Stage 4 Curriculum Booklet From September 2023



Ambitious learners who are knowledgeable and literate

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-i834.pdf>

Cambridge National in Sport Studies:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610953-specification-cambridge-nationals-sport-studies-i829.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 30th January**

Year 9 Parent's Evening is **Wednesday 8th February**

The options deadline is **Friday 24th 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 after you leave Stanchester Academy
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

