

**WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST**

# **Key Stage 4 Options**

March 2024



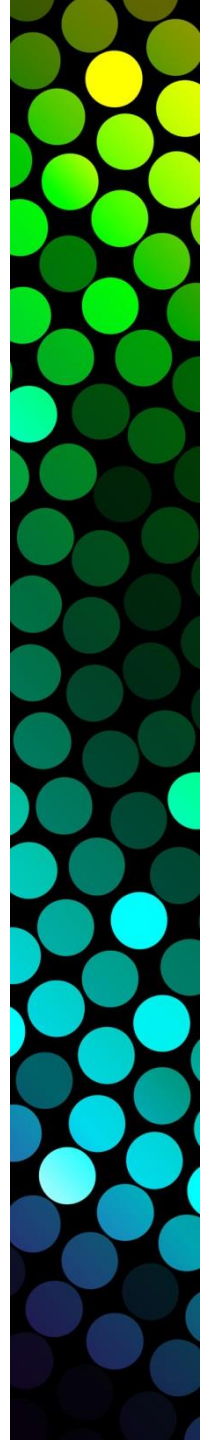
# Our Curriculum

To help we have designed a curriculum that is

- Broad
- Balanced
- Relevant
- Personalised



We encourage you to be creative and adventurous, taking risks to expand your understanding



# Your GCSEs

- Majority of courses are 'linear' - exams take place at the end of the course.
- Remodelled GCSE courses are 'robust'
- Reduced coursework (controlled assessment) component in most subjects.
- Marks for SPAG – Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar
- Grading system: 9 - 1 has replaced A\*-G in all GCSEs



# GCSE Grading Structure

How the GCSE grading structure compares to the old one

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

Awarded to only 2% of candidates nationally

Strong pass

Standard pass



# EBacc (English Baccalaureate)

- The Department for Education is aiming for a large percentage of students to complete the EBacc combination of subjects at GCSE.
- The EBacc recognises students that achieve Grade 5 or above in:
  - English
  - Maths
  - Science - Combined Science / Separate sciences / Computer Science
  - History / Geography
  - Modern Foreign Language (MFL)

*Almost essential for students wishing to apply to top universities (i.e. think seriously about the implications of not taking a MFL)*



# What will you study?

## Core curriculum

Compulsory for all students

## Optional curriculum

Four additional  
qualifications



# Core Curriculum (compulsory)

- English Language (GCSE)
- English Literature (GCSE)
- Maths (GCSE)
- Combined Science **or** Separate GCSEs  
(Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- PE (Core)
- **PSHCE / Careers (non-examination)**



# Core or GCSE PRE?

- Students will be asked to choose if they wish to follow PRE (**Philosophy, Religion and Ethics**) through to a GCSE or undertake Core PRE lessons

## Option 1:

- **GCSE PRE** (4 lessons) + **Core PE** (2 lessons)

## Option 2:

- **Core PRE** (2 lessons) + **Core PE** (4 lessons)





# Options subjects

Students will then choose 4 additional option subjects from the list on the next slide.

At least one of these choices must include **Geography** or **History** (although you may do both)



# Options subjects

Students choose 4 option subjects from the list below.

- Art \*
- Child Development –  
Cambridge National
- Computer Science
- Creative Media - BTEC
- Dance
- Design & Technology \*
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- Graphics \*
- History
- IT - BTEC
- Music
- Separate Science
- Spanish
- Sport - BTEC
- Textile Design \*
- Travel & Tourism  
- BTEC

Please note that students should only select one of the Art and Design subjects (indicated with \*)



# Languages?

Should I choose a language?

- The global tech industry is booming
- Languages give you the edge
- Employers know language students are quick learners
- Languages boost confidence

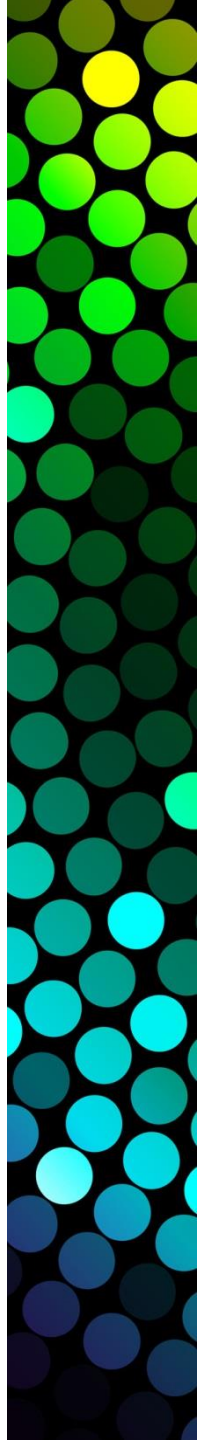


# Options subjects

**Separate Science** - this is ideally for students who wish to pursue Science at A-level (although you can do this without taking Separate Science).

Maths content is significant in Physics and Chemistry papers. **If you follow this you could get up to 13hrs of Science (Core lessons + 1 option)**

**Computer Science** - challenging programming concepts and problem solving – need to be good at Maths (ideally in Sets 1, 2 or 3)



# Subjects and class sizes

**Maximum class sizes** – there is a limit on the class sizes that we will allocate students to. Some classes are restricted by health and safety (e.g. DT), by the equipment available or a maximum group size.

**Course selection** – if a class has too few people selecting it then will be unable to run it as it is not economically viable.

If a class has too many students selecting it then we will look to see if we can run additional classes, if not we will initially use the subject priorities that students have ranked their choices by



# Number of lessons per fortnight

Subject	Lessons
English	8
Mathematics	8
Science	8
GCSE PRE/Core PRE + PE	6
Option A	5
Option B	5
Option C	5
Option D	5
Total	50



# KS4 Options – Why so much fuss?

## Competitive and changing job market

It is more vital than ever that you leave school thoroughly prepared with the **qualifications**, **range of skills** and **attributes** required for further study or for the fast-changing world of work and training.

Decisions made now may impact on opportunities available in future!

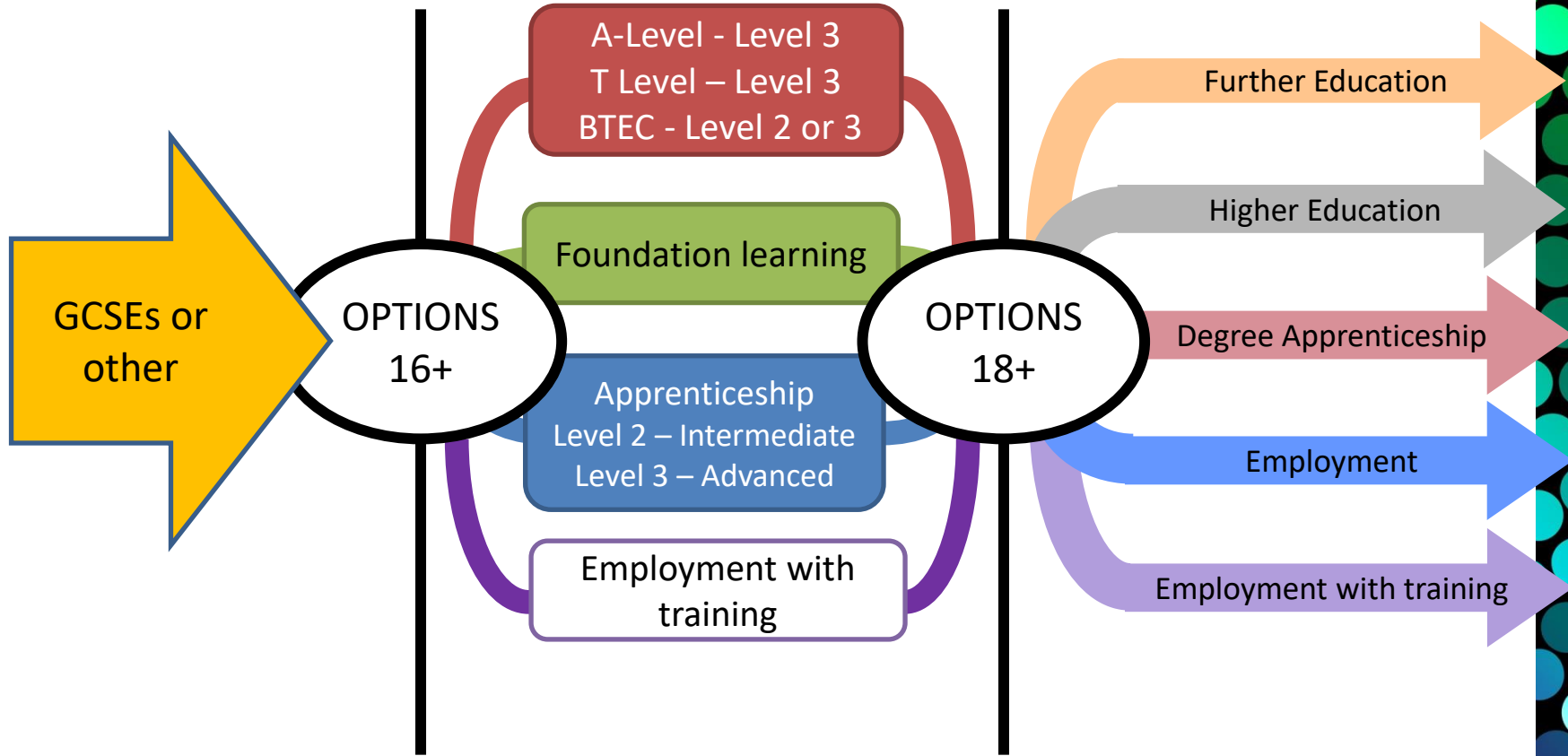


# Where does this fit in?

## Key stage 4

## Key stage 5

## Life, 18+



To access a Level 3 course or apprenticeship post-16 – achieve 5 GCSEs grades 4/5 or above, including both English and Maths



# Making the right choices!

- Consider future aspirations
- Aim high
- Enjoyment & balance
- Skills
- Achievement



# Top Ten Tips

Get as much advice as you can

Talk to your teachers

Talk to your parents

Talk to older students who have been through this process in the past

Do research into any possible career paths you may be considering

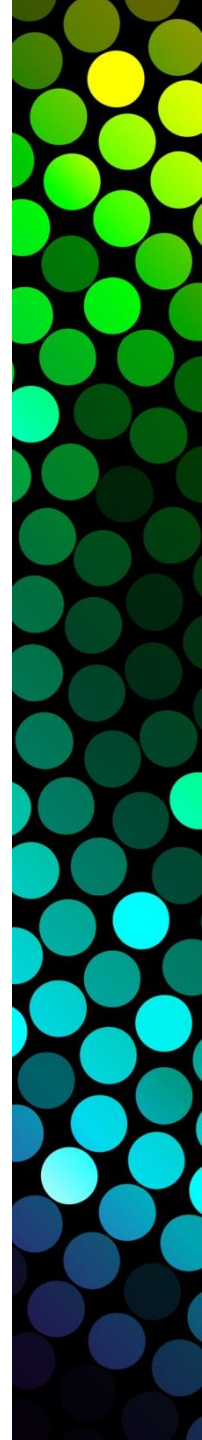
Choose subjects which will help you progress into post 16 education and onto university or employment

Choose subjects in which you have an interest

Choose subjects in which you are successful

Choose a balanced group of subjects

Do not choose a subject because your friend is taking it!



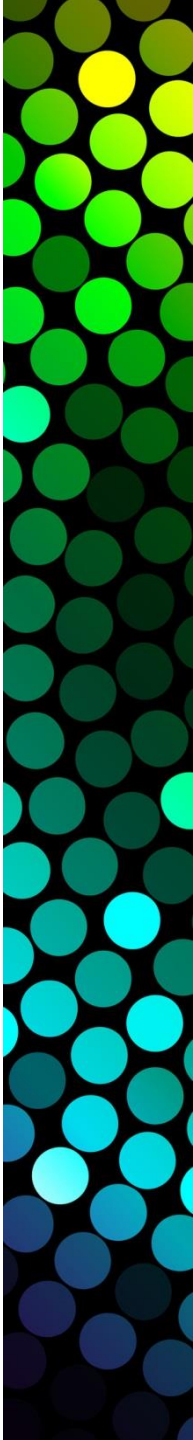
# Selecting your options

## Step 1

Using the online options system, you will be asked to select which of the following you would prefer.

<b>GCSE PRE</b> (4 lessons) and <b>Core PE</b> (2 lessons)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Core PRE</b> (2 lessons) and <b>Core PE</b> (4 lessons)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Select one of these two choices**



# Selecting your options

Please choose **ONE** option from each block.

One of your choices must be Geography or History

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
Art	Art	Child Development #	Drama
Computer Science *	Child Development #	French *	Geography *
Creative Media (BTEC) #	Computer Science * (Ctrl) Geography *	History *	History *
Dance	Creative Media (BTEC) #	History *	Separate Science *
Design & Technology	Dance	Sport (BTEC) #	Sport (BTEC) #
Geography *	Design & Technology	Travel & Tourism (BTEC) #	
Graphics	Drama		
History *	Geography *		
IT (BTEC) #	Graphics		
Music	History *		
Spanish *	IT (BTEC) #	* <u>indicates</u> EBACC subjects # indicates non-GCSE subjects	
	Textiles		

Select one subject from each option block

If you are in **NORTH** population then Blocks C and E.

If you are in **SOUTH** population will be called D and F

# Selecting your options

## Step 3

3. You will also need to select a **Reserve choice in each option block** – again when completing this via the online system the order you choose these will show your order of priority (i.e. The first one you click will be your preferred reserve choice).  
The 'reserve' subjects will only be used if it is not possible to accommodate all your main choices.

Reserves:

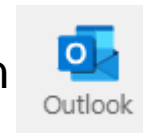
Priority	Subject	Option Block
1	Child Development	D
2	Geography	C
3	Graphics	A
4	Computer Science	B

**Select one reserve choice from each column**

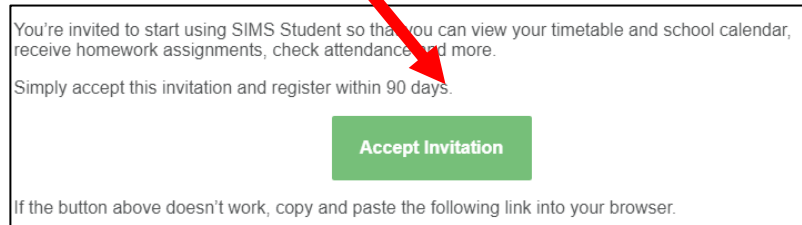
**You will be able to rank these in order of preference**

# How to access Options online

**Step 1** – log onto school email via [www.office.com](http://www.office.com) and click on



**Step 2** – you should have received an email from SIMS  
Click **Accept invitation**

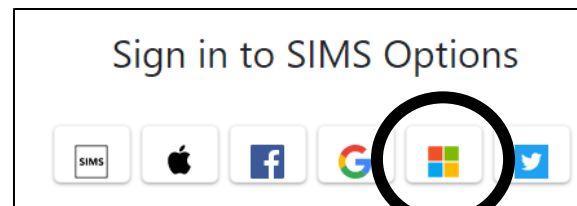


**Step 3** – Click on **Register with an external account**

**Step 4** – Then copy and paste the invitation code from the email and click **Register**

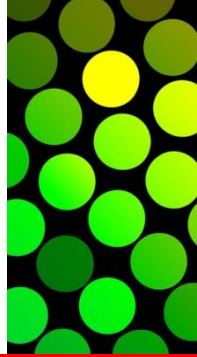
**Step 5** – Enter your date of birth

**Step 6** – Click on the Microsoft icon to sign in



# Options online

[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)



**GCSE PRE/Core PE**

You have chosen   courses from this list

**Priority Choices** (Total Choices: 1)

Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.

**1** **GCSE PRE & PE**  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course GCSE PRE/Core PE

**Option A**

You have chosen   courses and   reserves from this list

<b>Art</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in Option B</small>	<b>Computer Science</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in Option B</small>
<b>Dance</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in Option B</small>	<b>Drama</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in other lists.</small>
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in Option B</small>	<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in other lists.</small>
<b>Graphics</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in Option B</small>	<b>History</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in other lists.</small>
<b>IT (BTEC)</b> BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in Option B</small>	<b>Creative Media (BTEC)</b> BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <small><b>i</b> This course is also available in Option B</small>
<b>Music</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>

**My Choices** (Total Choices: 0)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No courses selected.

**My Reserves** (Total Reserves: 0)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No reserves selected.



# Options online

[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)



## Option A

You have chosen 1 of 1  courses and 0 of 1  reserves from this list

<b>Art</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in Option B	<b>Computer Science</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in Option B
<b>Dance</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in Option B	<b>Drama</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in other lists.
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in Option B	<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in other lists.
<b>Graphics</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in Option B	<b>History</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in other lists.
<b>IT (BTEC)</b> BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <i>Choice</i> <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in Option B	<b>Creative Media (BTEC)</b> BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/> <i>i</i> This course is also available in Option B
<b>Music</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>



# Options online

[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)

**Option B**

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

<b>Art</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Option A</small> Reserve	<b>Computer Science</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Option A</small> Reserve	<b>Dance</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Option A</small> Choice Reserve
<b>Drama</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small> Reserve	<b>Design &amp; Technology</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Option A</small> Reserve	<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>You have selected this course in Option F</small> Reserve
<b>Graphics</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Option A</small> Reserve	<b>(BTEC)</b> BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <small>This course is also available in Option A</small> Reserve	
<b>Creative Media (BTEC)</b> BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <small>This course is also available in Option A</small> Reserve		

**Click on the subject in each block you wish to choose.**

**Click these in priority order.**

**Option D**

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

<b>Child Development</b> OCR Nationals Award Level 2 Reserve	<b>French</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Choice Reserve	<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>You have selected this course in Option F</small> Reserve
<b>History</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small> Reserve	<b>Sport (BTEC)</b> BTEC Award Level 2 <small>This course is also available in Option F</small> Reserve	

**Option F**

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list

<b>Drama</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small> Reserve	<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small> Choice Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in other lists.</small> Reserve
<b>Separate Science</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Reserve	<b>Sport (BTEC)</b> BTEC Award Level 2 <small>This course is also available in Option D</small> Reserve	<b>Travel &amp; Tourism (BTEC)</b> BTEC Award Level 3 Reserve

# Options online

[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)

**Your subjects will appear on the right in the order you selected them.**

**To change, just click a subject and click the position that you wish it to move to in the list**

**My Choices** (Total Choices: 4) 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 French**  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option C
- 2 IT (BTEC)**  
BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Option A
- 3 Geography**  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option E
- 4 Dance**  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

Click to move French here.

# Options online

[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)

Then choose a reserve in each block (the subject changes to orange)  
Again this is displayed in priority order

To do this, click the 'Reserve' button next to the subject

The screenshot displays the 'Option B' selection interface. At the top, it indicates 'You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list'. Below this, a grid of course options is shown. The 'Art' course is highlighted in orange, and its 'Reserve' button is circled in red. Other courses include Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Design & Technology, Geography, Graphics, History, and Textiles. A modal window titled 'My Reserves in Order of Preference' is overlaid on the bottom right, showing a list of four reserved courses in their current order of preference: 1. Art (GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A), 2. Sport (BTEC) (BTEC Award Level 2 Option D), 3. Drama (GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option F), and 4. Graphics (GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B). The modal also includes instructions on how to change the order of preference.

**Option B**

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

<b>Art</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Computer Science</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Dance</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <span>Choice</span> <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
<small>This course is also available in Option A</small>	<small>This course is also available in Option A</small>	<small>This course is also available in Option A</small>
<b>Drama</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Design &amp; Technology</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Geography</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>
<small>This course is also available in other lists.</small>	<small>This course is also available in Option A</small>	<small>You have selected this course in Option F</small>
<b>Graphics</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>History</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	
<small>This course is also available in Option A</small>	<small>This course is also available in Option A</small>	
<b>Creative Media (BTEC)</b> BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	<b>Textiles</b> GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <input type="button" value="Reserve"/>	
<small>This course is also available in Option A</small>		

### My Reserves in Order of Preference

(Total Reserves: 4)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1** Art  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option A
- 2** Sport (BTEC)  
BTEC Award Level 2 Option D
- 3** Drama  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option F
- 4** Graphics  
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Option B

# Options online

[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)

The screenshot shows the 'Options online' interface. At the top left, there is a 'Save' button. Below it, a red validation warning banner reads: 'Validation Warning: You have chosen too many courses from Option A.' The main content area is divided into 'Option A' and 'Option B'. 'Option A' shows '1 of 1' courses selected, with 'Philosophy, Religion & Ethics' and 'Sport' listed. 'Option B' shows '2 of 1' courses selected (indicated by a red exclamation mark icon) and '1 of 1' reserves. The grid of options includes: Art, Design & Technology, History, Music, Child Development, Food, Info.Tech, Computer Science, Graphics, and Creative Media. Each option has a 'Reserve' button and a message indicating if it's also available in another option.

**Click SAVE in the top left.**

**If an error appears – this means you have selected more than one subject in a block.  
Adjust your choices and click 'save' again**

▼ Parent/Carer Approval

Parent/Carer Approval

**The parent/carers tick box has not been activated so please ignore this**

# Where to get more advice?

## Subject/Options information

- Subject teachers via parents evening (21<sup>st</sup> March)
- Drop-in session with SLT (11<sup>th</sup> March)
- Form tutors
- Parents
- Subject Information and videos (school website)

## Options online issues

- [options@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:options@wootton.beds.sch.uk)



## Key Stage 4 Options 2024

Welcome to KS4 Options

The information on this page is designed to support both students and parents/carers with this exciting time in the learning journey. This is the time when you can choose some of the subjects that you/your child will be studying in years 10 and 11.

Please view the video below to and then read through the Options Booklet carefully as the information in it will help you make these important decisions.

**Options Booklet – all information about the process and choices**

**Subject Information – details about each subject**

**Options blocks – the combinations that are available**

**Links to subjects – click to find out more**

Options Information Booklet



Subject Information Booklet



Options Form

Wootton Upper Academy Trust  
KS4 Options Blocks 2024-2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the action options column, you will be asked to select which of the following you would prefer:

Block	Option	Selected
Block 1	Maths	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	English	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	History	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Art	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Physical Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Religious Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	French	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Latin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block 1	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose ONE option from each block.

One of your choices must be Geography or History.

Maths, Science, English, History, Geography, Art, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, PSHE, French, Spanish, Latin, Other.

Maths, Science, English, History, Geography, Art, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, PSHE, French, Spanish, Latin, Other.

Maths, Science, English, History, Geography, Art, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, PSHE, French, Spanish, Latin, Other.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Click to view the subject information sheets and videos

Video for each subject

Subject information

## Child Development

Child Development

Why Child Development matters

Have you ever considered what skills you are developing when studying Child Development?

**Creativity**  
The ability to think outside the box and the generation of new ideas

**Flexibility**  
The ability to change recognise where changes need to be made

**Listening**  
The receiving, retaining and processing of information or ideas

Thumbnail includes a play button, a PDF icon, and a small portrait of a woman.

## Computer Science

Computer Science

Discover more about the role

Explore careers using National Careers Service and find out what jobs involve and how they are right for you

Includes:

- Average Salary
- Typical Hours
- Work patterns
- Pathways/How to be
- Essential skills
- Daily tasks

30 potential careers:  
Computer games developer  
Cyber intelligence officer  
Project manager  
Network engineer  
Robotics engineer  
Web designer

Thumbnail includes a play button, a PDF icon, and a small portrait of a man.

## Creative Media

Creative Media

BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

Thumbnail includes a play button, a PDF icon, and a small portrait of a man.

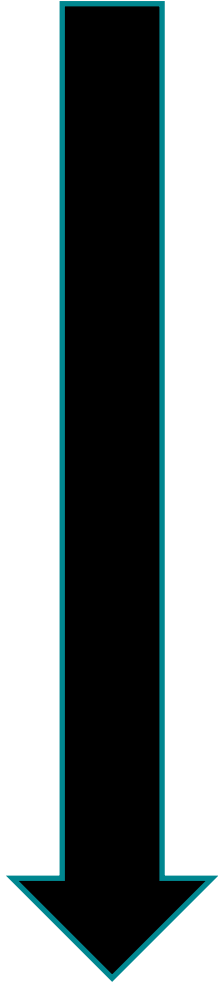
## Dance

THE GCSE DANCE ANTHOLOGY

Dance

Thumbnail includes a play button, a PDF icon, and a small portrait of a man.

# Options Timeline



**7<sup>th</sup> March**

KS4 Options launch

**11<sup>h</sup> March**

SLT Drop-in (book appt)

**21<sup>st</sup> March**

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening

**25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Deadline for completion of Options choices**

**April / May**

Follow up interviews with students if required

**w/c 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Options choices confirmed





# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What happens next?
  - Choices are analysed and discussed and modelled.
- Can we change our requests:
  - Up to 25th March**
    - Go back onto the Options system and before March 25<sup>th</sup> and edit your changes.
  - After 25<sup>th</sup> March**
    - Yes, please use the form that will be on the website (completed with your parents) and we will do our best to accommodate your change if it is feasible. However, it may not be possible to meet your request if groups are full or subject combinations do not allow it.
- What is the latest date we can request a change?
  - We cannot accept any further requests for changes once the new timetable has been in operation for a few weeks of the new academic year.



Thank you and good  
luck with your choices