



Wootton
Upper School

Key Stage 4 Options 2026

Options



Aims

- To summarise GCSE and Level 2 qualifications and explain the options available
- To present guidance about progression routes
- To explain how to submit your option choices
- To offer guidance about the process and provide any necessary support



GCSE Qualifications

- Grading system with 9 to 1 (not A* to G)
- No controlled assessment for non-practical subjects
- Written examination element in most subjects.
- Linear examinations with maths, science and languages offering tiered papers ("higher" grades 9 to 4 / "foundation" 5 to 1)



GCSE grades and where they take you

You should aim to achieve at least grade 4's especially in English and Maths

If you do not achieve a grade 4 in English and/or Maths you will need to re-sit in Year 12.

Some refer to a 'Good pass', this equates to a grade 5.

GCSE grades and where they take you

Look ahead at where you may choose to go when you leave Wootton.

Some institutions will consider an APS (Average Points Score) of your GCSEs

Think ahead – where may you want to head next?

Entry criteria for Kimberley College 2026

SUBJECTS <small>(W) Indicates subject taught at Wootton Upper School</small>	GCSE Average Point Score <small>English & Mathematics plus BEST 6</small>	GCSE English	GCSE Mathematics	Additional Subject Criteria
Art (W)	4	4	4	5 in Art
Biology	5	5	6	5,5 in Combined Science OR Triple Science APS of 5 with a minimum of 5 in Biology
Business Studies	5	5	6	
Chemistry	5	5	6	5,5 in Combined Science OR Triple Science APS of 5 with a minimum of 5 in Chemistry
Computer Science	5	5	7	
History	5	5	4	
Law	5	5	4	
Mathematics	5	5	6	

Core Curriculum



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All students follow these subjects to GCSE:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (double award)
- French*

As well as:

- PE (non-examined)
- Philosophy, Religion & Ethics – PRE (non-examined)
- PSHE/Careers (non-examined)



French

Learning a foreign language is an essential part of our students' curriculum. It broadens horizons, supports wider literacy and language development, and is an exciting extra strand to a child's knowledge!

From this September, just as all our students study Maths, science, English and history or geography through to GCSE, the majority of our students will continue with French.

All students currently in language sets 1, 2 and 3 will continue with GCSE French.

All students should consider continuing with French. The small number who do not study French at GCSE will be allocated additional intervention English and maths lessons instead.



Option Subjects

Students are asked to choose 3 subjects

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

If you wish to follow **Separate Sciences** (separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics) then you will need to select this as one of your 3 choices.

Option Subjects



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- Geography
- History
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- 3D Design (Art and Design) *
- Art *
- Graphics *
- Textile Design *
- Business
- Computer Science *
- IT (BTEC)
- Food
- PE
- Philosophy, Religion & Ethics – PRE
- Separate Science *

* Students may only select one of these subjects

* Entry criteria apply

Option Subjects



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Separate Science – this is for our most able students who wish to pursue Science to a higher level.

You can still follow A-Level sciences without taking Separate Science.

The Maths content is significant in Physics and Chemistry papers.

If you follow this you will have a larger number of Science lessons (Core lessons + 1 option) – **To take this option, you need to be competent at Maths (you should be in Maths sets 1, 2 or 3) and have achieved a high score in your recent Science assessment**

Computer Science – challenging programming concepts and problem solving – **need to be competent at Maths (in Maths sets 1, 2 or 3)**



Subjects and class sizes

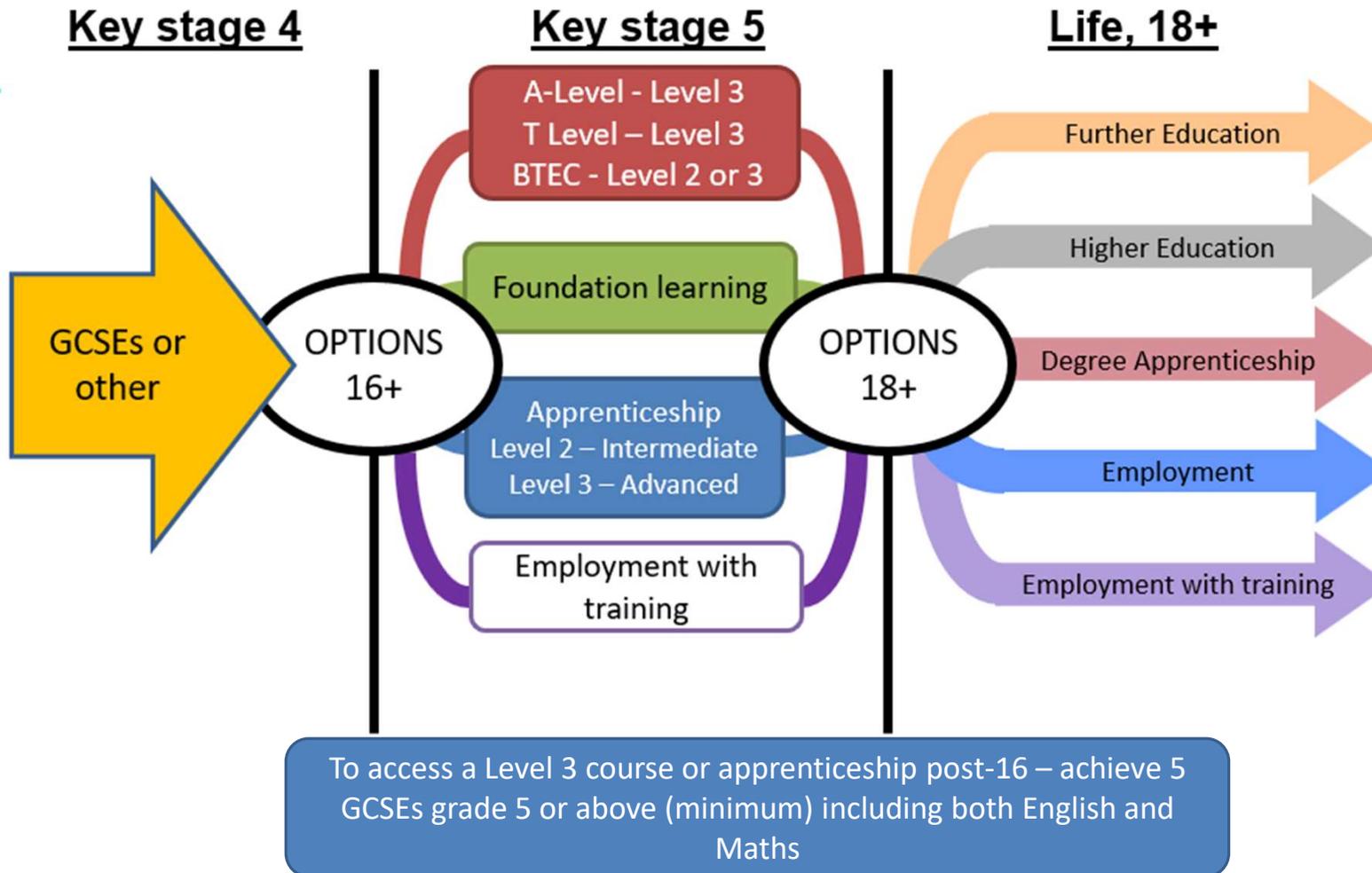
Maximum class sizes – there is a limit on the class sizes that we will allocate students to. Some classes are restricted by health and safety (e.g. Food), by the equipment available or a maximum group size.

Course selection – if a class has too few people selecting it then we may be unable to run it.

If a class has too many students selecting it, then we will initially use the subject priorities that students have ranked their choices by.

We will have a limited number of places/classes in some subjects.

Where do GCSEs fit in?





How to choose your subjects?

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!

Options

Selecting your options



Options choices will be submitted using an online form

You will need to select **ONE** subject from each block.

- One of your choices must be Geography or History
- Only one of: 3D Design, Art, Graphics and Textile Design may be chosen as a main subject.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History
3D Design	Art	Business
Art	Dance	Food
Business	Drama	PE
Computer Science	Food	Separate Science
Drama	Graphics	
Graphics	IT (BTEC)	
PRE	Music	
Textile Design	PE	
	PRE	

Option Blocks A-B are timetabled for the whole year group at the same time.

Option Block C is timetabled for half the year group at the same time, hence the need for less subjects/classes in these blocks

Options

Selecting your options



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You will need to choose 3 main subjects

You will need to select **ONE subject from each block.**

- One of your choices must be Geography or History
- Only one of: 3D Design, Art, Graphics and Textile Design may be chosen as a main subject.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History
3D Design	Art	Business
Art	Dance	Food
Business	Drama	PE
Computer Science	Food	Separate Science
Drama	Graphics	
Graphics	IT (BTEC)	
PRE	Music	
Textile Design	PE	
	PRE	

Main choices (Only one subject from each option block)

Rank Order	Block	Subject
1		
2		
3		

You will then need to put these in priority order

Options



Selecting your options - reserves

You will need to choose 3 main subjects **and then 3 reserves**

You will need to select **ONE subject from each block.**

- One of your choices must be Geography or History
- Only one of: 3D Design, Art, Graphics and Textile Design may be chosen as a main subject.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History
3D Design	Art	Business
Art	Dance	Food
Business	Drama	PE
Computer Science	Food	Separate Science
Drama	Graphics	
Graphics	IT (BTEC)	
PRE	Music	
Textile Design	PE	
	PRE	

Main choices (Only one subject from each option block)

Rank Order	Block	Subject
1		
2		
3		

Reserve choices (Only one subject from each option block)

Rank Order	Block	Subject
1		
2		
3		

Reserve choices - Please do not duplicate any of the choices you have put as main choices.

You will also need to put these in priority order

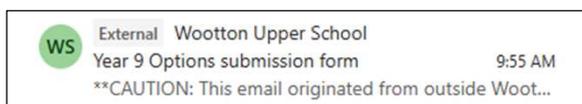
Submitting choices online



Log on to www.office.com using your school email address (as you do in your Computing lessons)

Load up  Outlook

You will receive an email from Wootton Upper School



Click the link within the email

Enter your basic details

A screenshot of the "Year 9 Options Form 2026" web page. The page has a dark green header with the school logo and title. Below the header, there is a message: "Please use the form below to select your Option preferences." followed by three bullet points: "Please remember: One of your 3 main preferences must include Geography or History.", "You may only choose one of the following subjects: 3D Design, Art, Graphics, Textile Design as one of your main preferences.", and "Please also ensure that your RESERVE subjects are different to your MAIN subjects." Below this is a message: "Hi, Gareth. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address." followed by a section for "Required" fields. The first field is "Student first name" with a red asterisk and a copy icon, and a text input box below it containing "Enter your answer". The second field is "Student surname" with a red asterisk and a copy icon, and a text input box below it.

Submitting choices online



There is a copy of the option blocks and then a drop-down list for each of your preferences.

Click the arrow and all subjects (and block will appear)

Please scroll for all subjects

4

Please select subjects from the following option blocks.
MAIN preference 1 - *

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C
Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History
3D Design	Art	Business
Art	Dance	Food
Business	Drama	PE
Computer Science	Food	Separate Science
Drama	Graphics	
Graphics	IT (BTEC)	
PRE	Music	
Textile Design	PE	
	PRE	

Select your answer

- 3D Design - Block A
- Art - Block A
- Art - Block A
- Business - Block A
- Business - Block C
- Computer Science - Block A
- Dance - Block B
- Drama - Block A

Submitting choices online



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Work through the questions adding your 3 main preferences

Then add your 3 reserve choices

Then a question about 'home languages'

Do you fluently speak, read and write another language (apart from English) at home? (Home language) 

Yes

No

The screenshot shows a vertical list of four preference questions. Red arrows point from the text 'Work through the questions adding your 3 main preferences' to the first two 'MAIN preference' questions (MAIN preference 2 and MAIN preference 3). Blue arrows point from the text 'Then add your 3 reserve choices' to the 'RESERVE preference 1' and 'RESERVE preference 2' questions. A blue arrow also points from the text 'Then a question about 'home languages'' to the radio button question below.

MAIN preference 2 - * 

Select your answer 

6

MAIN preference 3 - * 

Select your answer 

7

RESERVE preference 1 - * 

Select your answer 

8

RESERVE preference 2 - * 

Select your answer 

Submitting choices online



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Check you are happy with the selection (and order) and then click Save

Deadline: Friday 27th February



What's next?

Information evening / subject fair

- Thursday 5th February

Parents/carers consultation event
(please book appointments online)

- Thursday 12th February

Deadline for completion of options (online)

- Friday 27th February

Options



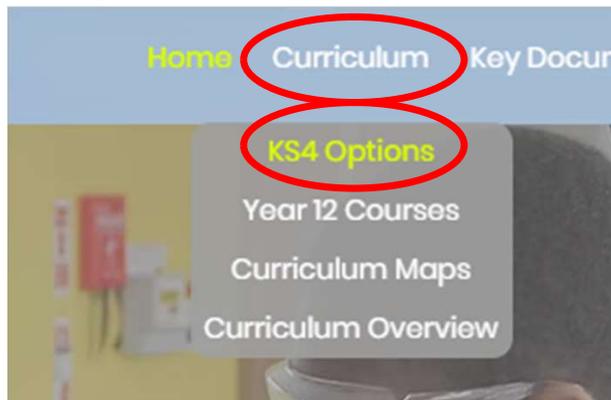
Where do I find out more information?

- Subject Fair
- Parents/carers consultation evening:
 - Speak to teachers (appointments now open)
 - SLT drop in
- Form Tutors
- Parents
- School website – options and subject information

Options

Wootton Upper School website

www.woottonupper.co.uk/ks4options



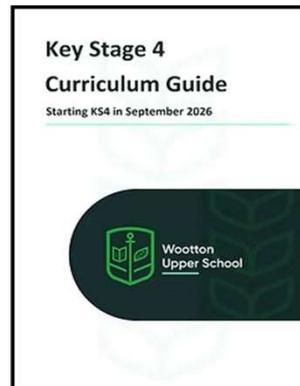
Key Stage 4 Options 2026

We are pleased to launch our 2026 Key Stage 4 (KS4) options information.

The information on this page is designed to support both students and parents/carers with this exciting time on 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.

The information shown below includes:

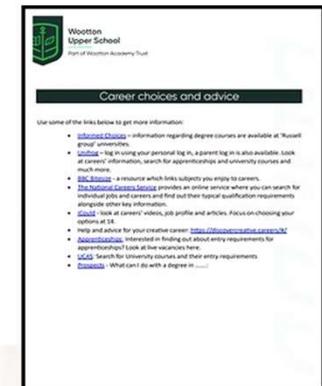
- Link to the **slides** shown on the presentation evening
- **Options Information and Subject Booklet** - this contains detailed information about the options process and subjects available to you
- **Careers link** - links to a variety of website with advice regarding making the right choices, university courses and potential career paths



Options Information
Booklet



Options Form



Careers weblinks



Subject information sheets

GRAPHICS
Qualification: GCSE
Awarding Body: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW
The course consists of two components.
Component 1 is to produce a portfolio that is made up of 2 projects where pupils will learn a range of hand-rendered and computer-generated design work.
The first of the two projects will teach students about designing creative compositions using typography and imagery. Pupils will learn extensively how to use Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to edit and create their own eye-catching graphics.
The second project will be about creating graphic design and illustration inspired by stories and will involve a trip to the Warner Brothers Studio where pupils will take photographs.
Component 2 is an Exam project that is worth 40% of the overall grade.

ASSESSMENT METHOD
Component 1 is to produce a portfolio of work worth 60% of the overall grade. This is made up of 2 projects that are aimed at developing and demonstrating your drawing and design skills using a range of digital and hand rendered media.
Component 2 is an Exam project that is worth 40% of the overall grade. This is a practical project that is completed in January of year 11 by the exam board.

POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS
Graphic Communication is a very open and creative career path. Pupils will learn during GCSE Graphics will develop their thinking, designing, drawing as well as technical skills. These skills can be used in a wide range of future study of: Fine art, Graphic Design, Animation, Web design, Advertising, Engineering, Fashion and Textiles, Journalism, Media, Film and Television, Software design and Technology.
On successful completion of GCSE Graphics, pupils can progress to A Level Graphics Design and Print.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED
Pupils will learn how to draw using a range of hand and computer-generated design work.

FRENCH
Qualification: GCSE
Awarding Body: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW
Modern foreign languages focus on phonics, vocabulary and grammar while developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Language learning broadens horizons and enables greater global understanding through exposure to the culture, traditions and history of the language being studied.

ASSESSMENT METHOD
The assessment is split into 4 papers:
• 25% - Writing examination
• 25% - Speaking examination
• 25% - Listening examination
• 25% - Reading examination
This is a tiered entry subject:
Foundation Tier – Grades 5-6
Higher Tier – Grades 9-13

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED
Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.
Theme 1: People and Lifestyle
Theme 2: Popular Culture
Theme 3: Communication and the world around us.
The course builds on work completed in Year 9. Students will continue to develop the four key skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking and will have the opportunity to work with the French Assistant.

POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS
Languages are one of the most important skills for future success. Pupils who study languages will have a wide range of opportunities in the workplace. Languages are also a requirement for many degree courses and are highly valued for future success.
Employers value language skills as they can be used in a wide range of careers including: International Business, Tourism, Marketing, Translation, Interpreting, etc.

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Qualification: GCSE
Awarding Body: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW
Whether its millions of lines of code of clever app design, computer scientists are the architects of our online lives. The study of computer science involves how computer systems work, from the physical components (hardware) to the apps and programmes that users interact with (software). You will also learn how to create, update and manipulate computer systems by learning a number of programming languages – the code behind the software we interact with as users.
Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement.
Paper 1 focuses on the practical aspects of Computer Science, demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of computer science. It focuses on programming language structures and coding. The content of this paper will be where your programming knowledge and skills will be assessed.
Paper 2 is based on the theoretical aspects of Computer Science, such as networking and communication protocols, encryption and cyber security, ethics and the legal implications of technological development as well as how computers work at a fundamental level in terms of hardware and software. It also covers the representation of text, images and data in binary and hexadecimal.

ASSESSMENT METHOD
Two examinations and coursework.
PAPER 1
Written paper worth 50% - Computational thinking and problem solving – 1 hour 30 minutes exam.
PAPER 2
Written paper worth 50% - Theoretical knowledge – 1 hour 30 minutes exam.

POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS
After successful completion of GCSE Computer Science, pupils can progress to A Level Computer Science, BTEC Computer Science, or a range of other courses.



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Thank you

Options