



# Key Stage 4 Options 2024-2026

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**ACHIEVEMENT ● CARE ● EXCELLENCE**

# Welcome



## Key Stage 4 at GWA

- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Ambitious and aspirational curriculum
- Diverse and coherent curriculum choices
- Confident, independent, life-long learners

# GCSE Number Grades

GCSEs are graded 1-9, with 9 the highest.

Grade 7 and above would be the equivalent to the old A-A\* grades.

Grade 4 is roughly equivalent to the old grade 'C', considered to be a 'pass'.

All courses are 'linear' – exams take place at the end of the course.

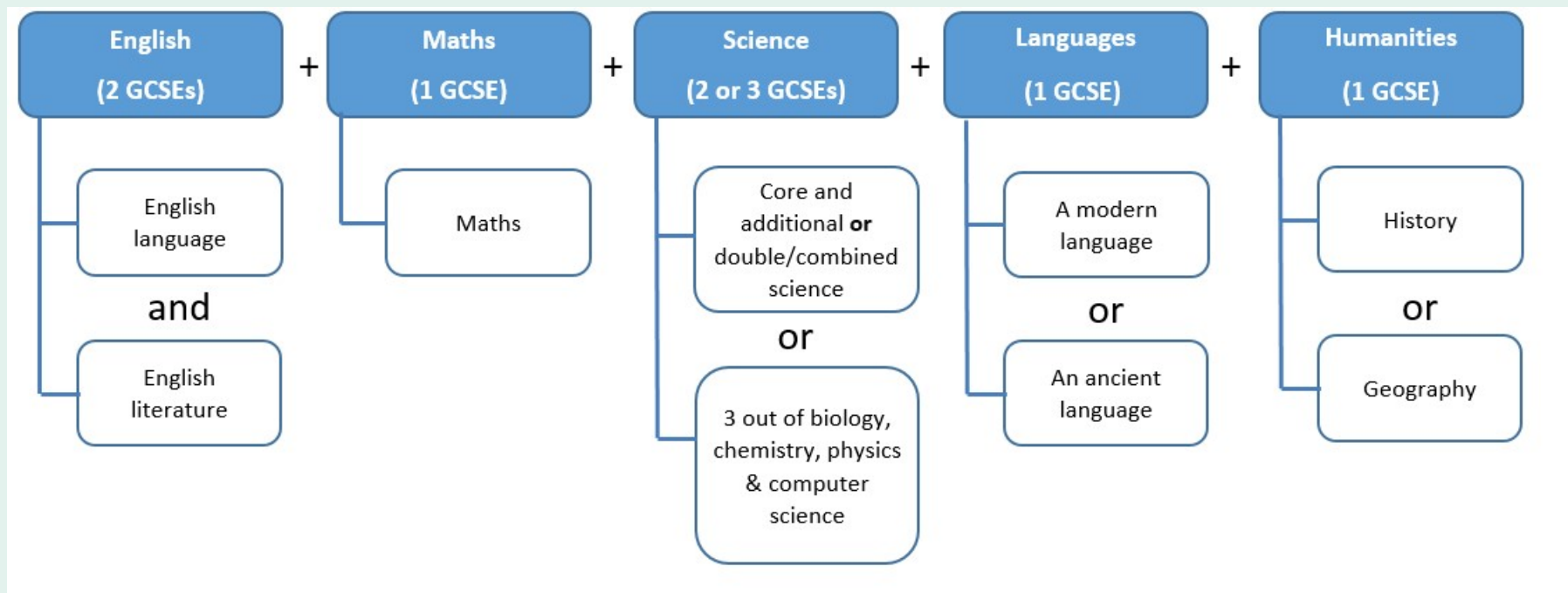
A small number of courses have non-examined assessment (NEA). This is assessed internally by teachers and then submitted to exam boards to count towards the final grade alongside exam result.

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

# English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc comprises the core academic subjects that the vast majority of young people should have the opportunity to study to age 16.

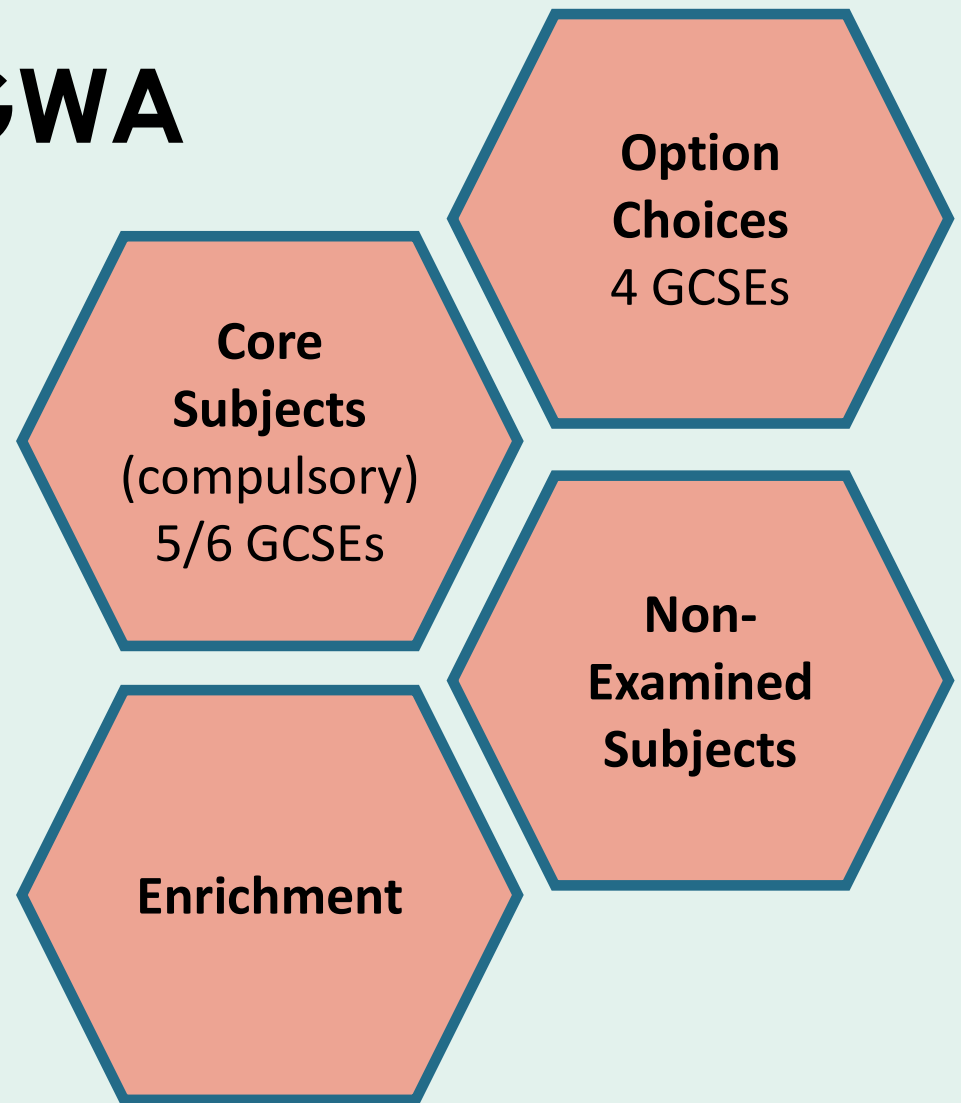
Studying EBACC subjects at GWA is not compulsory, but it is highly recommended.



# KS4 Curriculum at GWA

In KS4 students will study towards 9 or 10 GCSEs or vocational qualifications depending on their pathway.

Part of the curriculum is compulsory and part allows for students to choose the subjects they wish to study.



# Core Curriculum at GWA

All students follow the core curriculum until the end of year 11. The courses, the qualifications that they lead to and the teaching time are shown below. The core curriculum gives all students the opportunity to achieve up to 6 GCSEs.

Subject	English	Maths	Science	PE	PSE
Periods per week	5	5	5	2	1
Qualifications	2 x GCSEs	1 x GCSE	2/3 GCSEs	Not accredited	Not accredited

# Core Curriculum at GWA

In English students will study both GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language. This means all students will achieve 2 GCSEs in English.

In science students will study towards either the GCSE Combined Science qualification or separate science qualifications.

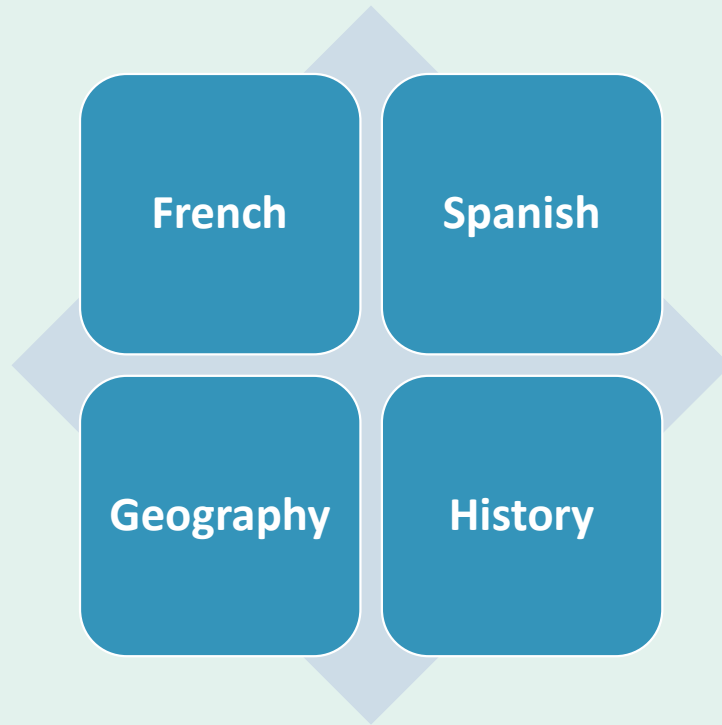
In GCSE Combined Science students will achieve a double grade worth 2 GCSEs.

In GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics students will achieve a separate grade for each qualification, so achieve 3 GCSEs.

The Science Faculty will enter students onto the courses they are best suited to – there is no option for students to make this choice.

# Options Curriculum at GWA

All students will make **FOUR** options choices...  
Students **MUST** choose at least ONE from:



Students could choose more than one from the above, or indeed all 4...



# Options Curriculum at GWA

Students *MUST* then choose their remaining (maximum 3) choices from\*:

**French**

**Religion and Philosophy**

**Art and Design**

**Dance**

**Spanish**

**Business Studies**

**Textile Design**

**Drama**

**History**

**Computer Science**

**Design Technology**

**Physical Education**

**Geography**

**Music**

**Creative iMedia\*\***

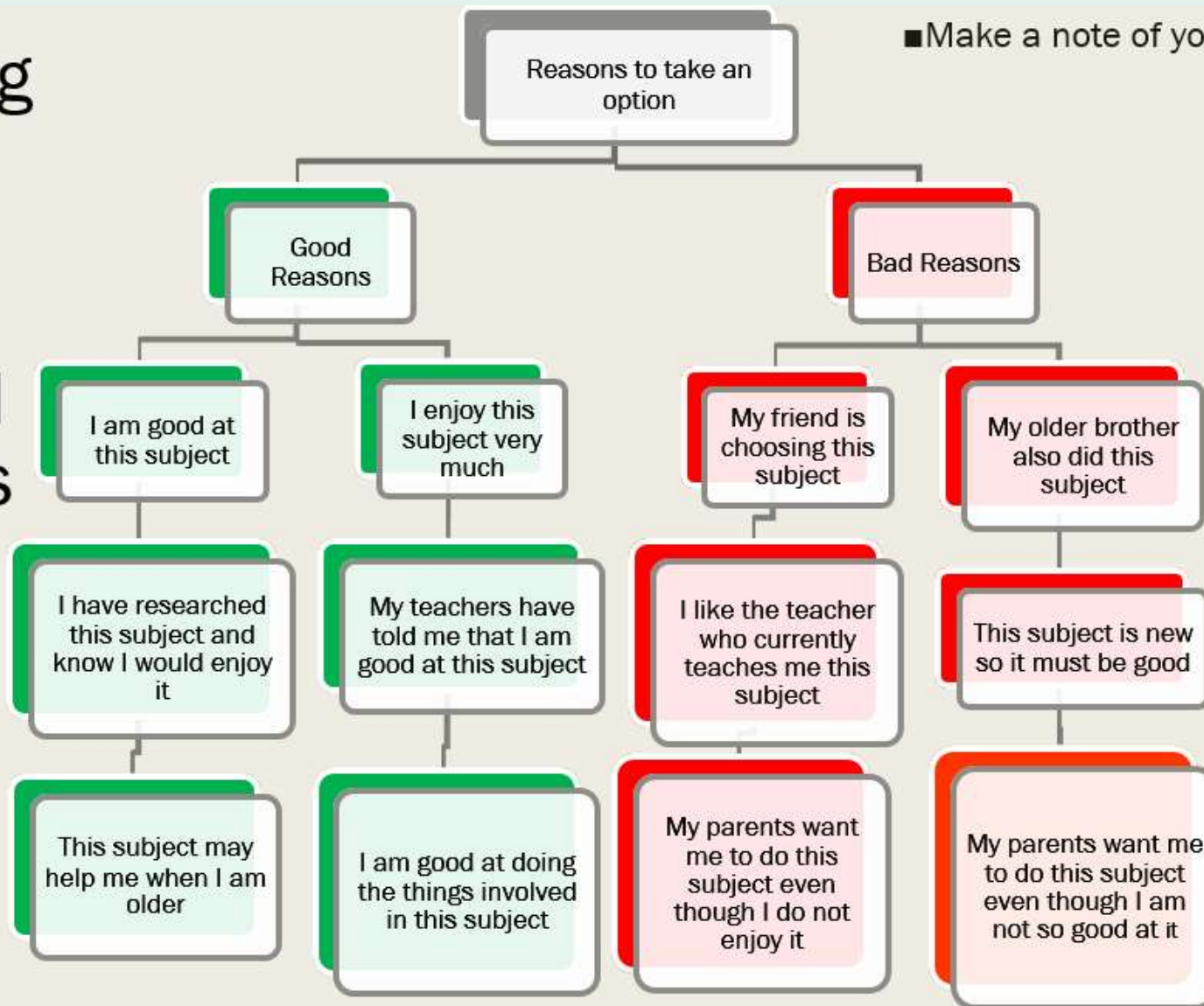
**Hospitality & Catering\*\*\***

\*a small number of learners will study the ASDAN course by invitation, leaving them with three remaining options choices

\*\* Creative iMedia is an 'OCR National' qualification, but carries the same level 2 value as a GCSE

\*\*\* Catering & Hospitality is a Vocational Award and carries the same level 2 value as a GCSE

# Choosing your options: Good and Bad Reasons



# How Do I Make My Choices?

Students will be sent a link to a Microsoft Form.

Please think carefully before making option choices:

- do you/your child know what the GCSE course is like – watch the videos!
- have they spoken to their teachers about their choices?
- are they making the choice for the right reasons?
- have they thought about Post-16 options – what will their GCSEs enable them to do when they are 16?

Use the form to indicate your choices, including your reserve choice (question 6)

**Key Stage 4 Options Form 2023**

Students have had an introductory assembly and information has been provided to parents at the Options Parents Information Evening and within the Options Booklet. Further information can be found on the website: <https://www.owacademy.co.uk/y9options>.

If students or parents would like any more advice before completing this form please speak with form tutors, current subject teachers, or contact Mr Greenish.

Please complete the form by Friday 27th January 2023.

Hi, Rupert. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

\* Required

1. First Name \*

Enter your answer

2. Surname \*

Enter your answer

3. Student Tutor Group \*

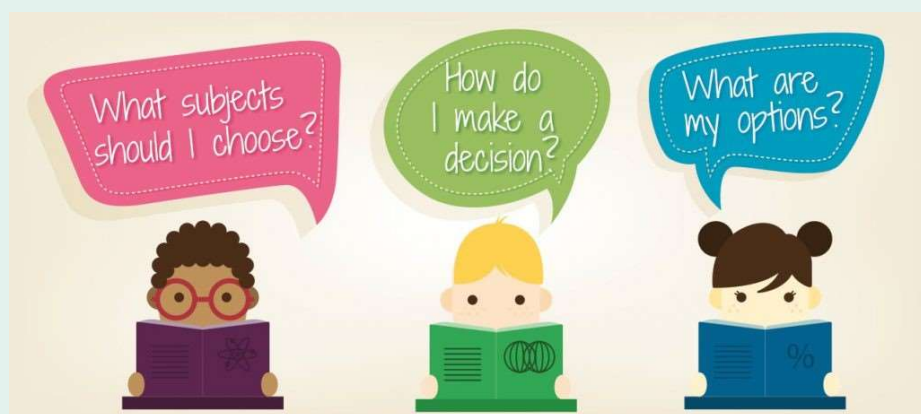
Select your answer

4. Start by choosing one of these subjects \*

Select your answer

5. Now choose any three from these subjects. Do not choose the subject you have already chosen above, otherwise there are no other restrictions \*

# Who Can I Ask For Help?



Reassurance – **we are here to support you...**

- Mr Greenish: the options process...
- Your teachers: subject information – use the parents evening to help find out more and watch the subject videos
- Your tutors: they can give an overview of your strengths
- Miss Katatic: careers advisor – ask her any questions about where a GCSE course might lead
- Mr Smith: Assistant Principal (Head of Sixth Form) – ask him any questions about which A Levels your GCSEs may lead to
- Mrs Winsbury – Assistant Principal (Inclusion and Wellbeing): ask her about any SEN related questions

# Where Can I Go For Help?

The screenshot shows the Great Western Academy website. The header includes the GWA logo and navigation links: SCHOOL INFORMATION, LEARNING, SIXTH FORM, PARENTS, JOINING US, COMMUNITY, NEWS, CONTACT. Below the header is a dark banner with the text 'YEAR 9 OPTIONS' in white. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains text about the curriculum and a list of subjects for Year 9 options. The right column contains a 'LEARNING' menu with links to CURRICULUM OVERVIEW, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING, ENTERPRISE, ENRICHMENT, SHSC, READING, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, GIFTED AND TALENTED, CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY, and YEAR 9 OPTIONS (highlighted in red).

Great Western Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum designed to engage and challenge students so that they achieve the very best possible range of qualifications to enable them to fulfil their future ambitions.

Our curriculum is ambitious and aspirational; we understand the importance of achieving the best qualifications in order to maximise chances of success beyond school. It is excellent results that will get our students to the door of the next stage of their learning journey, be it employment, apprenticeships, post-16 qualifications with another provider, or for the majority, a place at GWA sixth form.

The curriculum is designed to offer students a diverse and coherent choice of courses and learning experiences. The knowledge, skills and understanding from their Key Stage 4 studies will remain with them long after examinations. Ultimately, our goal is for GWA students to leave school as confident, independent life-long learners, equipped with the transferable skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

All students follow the core curriculum until the end of Year 11. These courses and the qualifications which they lead to are shown in the table below. The core curriculum alone gives students the opportunity to achieve up to 6 GCSEs.

All students must make four option choices, of which at least one must be French, Spanish, Geography or History. Students will then have 3 other choices. Details of all choices students can take can be found in this booklet.

[Options Booklet](#)

In order to help you decide which subjects you may wish to choose, you can watch the following videos

- Art
- Art (Textiles)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History

LEARNING

- CURRICULUM OVERVIEW >
- ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING >
- ENTERPRISE >
- ENRICHMENT >
- SHSC >
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- SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS >
- GIFTED AND TALENTED >
- CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY >
- YEAR 9 OPTIONS

- School website: <https://www.gwacademy.co.uk/learning/year-9-options>
- [Career Pilot](#) Picking your options - This page gives you a range of information on how to pick your GCSE subject options.
- [Career Pilot](#) Using LMI - This page shows you Labour Market Information (LMI) for a range of areas. Use it to see which industries are growing, where employment rates are higher and see how many apprenticeship opportunities are available in that area.

# What Happens Next?

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January** – KS4 Options Assembly for Year 9 students



**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January** – KS4 Options Evening for Year 9 parents & students / options form shared



**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** – Year 9 Subject Evening



**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** – Deadline for completing option forms



**Term 3/4 onwards** – Follow up advice and guidance interviews for some students