



Eckington School

Chorus Education Trust



Key Stage 4 Options 2025-27

A student guide

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Welcome

Year 9 is an exciting time for our students. You have reached an important stage in your school career, when you will begin working towards the qualifications that will impact upon future opportunities and your career goals. In September 2025 you will begin key stage 4. In key stage 4 you will follow a curriculum that has core subjects (those studied by all students) and options subjects. Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to choose your options subjects. This will allow you to personalise your learning so that you can begin planning for your future after you leave Eckington School.

At Eckington School we believe that it is important for students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. This means that students should make options choices that will allow them to follow a range of subjects in a variety of different areas. From September 2025, you will get the opportunity to choose four option subjects. We are encouraging you to choose a range of subjects: from the humanities, modern languages, creative arts and technology.

Our students get a wide variety of subjects to choose from, so without limiting their options we do ask all students to choose either geography or history. These subjects form part of the English Baccalaureate or EBacc. The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself, but it recognises students who have secured a 'good' GCSE grade across a core of academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a modern language. The subjects included in the EBacc are designed to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to them for future progression.

If you are already interested in a particular career, going on to study at our Sixth Form or university, or have an apprenticeship in mind, you should check that your options choices help you to progress towards these goals. Our Careers Adviser will be available at the Options Information Evening, or at drop-in sessions every lunchtime in the Careers Office.

You should not make any choices until you have spoken to your parents/carers, subject teachers, form tutor and anyone else you think can help you make a decision. There will be an opportunity to do this at the Options Information Evening on Wednesday 5 March 2025 .

Your options choices are due in on Monday 24 March 2025.

Mr C. Horsfield, Assistant Headteacher

Key dates

The Options Programme

Wednesday 5 March 2025 Year 9 Options Assembly

Wednesday 5 March 2025 Year 9 Options Information Evening

The Year 9 Options Information Evening is a busy event. To help avoid over-crowding, please attend the presentation for your child's tutor group. Individual subject stalls will be open in Main School Hall and Foundation Year Hall between 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Students, parents and carers with a 5:00pm presentation should visit the stalls from 5:30pm, and those with a 6:00pm presentation should visit the stalls from 5:00pm

Form Group	5:00 - 6:00pm	6:00 - 7:00pm
9A, 9B, 9C, 9D	<i>Presentation in Upper School Hall at 5:00pm and then visit the subject stalls.</i>	Please visit the subject stalls.
9E, 9F, 9G, 9H	Please visit the subject stalls.	<i>Presentation in Upper School Hall at 6:00pm and then visit the subject stalls</i>

5 March - 21 March 2025 Options interviews for all Year 9 students

Monday 24 March 2025 Options return deadline

Friday 23 May 2025 Students and parents informed of options allocations

September 2025 Begin Year 10



Advice and guidance

To make the right choices you need to be as informed as possible about what the courses involve and how they are assessed. Assistance from school includes:

- This booklet.
- Information on the school website at: www.eckington.chorustrust.org/ks4options.
- Options assembly and subject talks in lessons.
- Careers Drop-in every Tuesday in the Library.

Assistance from other sources

- Use the nationalcareers.service.gov.uk website and investigate possible careers
- UCAS website to investigate possible careers: www.ucas.com/explore/career-list.
- Informed Choices website to see how your subject choices affect degree options: www.informedchoices.ac.uk.

Who will offer me advice?

- Your form tutor.
- Subject teachers.
- Members of the School Leadership Team.
- Your parents and carers.
- Our Careers Adviser in the Careers Office.

Planning for the future

Your choices now may affect the choices you make at 16 and beyond, so make sure you seek advice and consider what you want to do in future. Think about what subjects you enjoy and what you may want to study after Year 11. Think about which careers you might like to follow when you leave education. Investigate what subjects you need to study now in order to access these opportunities in future.

What types of course are on offer?

There is a wide range of subjects, both academic and vocational. Whatever is chosen, we will support all students equally to gain the best grades possible to enable your chosen future career path.

See the subject pages later in this booklet for details of the courses on offer.

GCSEs

We offer a range of GCSEs, which count as level 2 qualifications. Assessment is through formal examinations, although some also have an element of 'non-examination assessment' (tasks taken in school under controlled conditions). GCSE grades are 1-9 with 9 being the highest; grade 4 is considered a 'standard pass' and 5 a 'strong pass'. Grades 1-3 count as level 1 qualifications.

Level 1/2 Awards

We also offer a range of vocational (relating to the world of work) qualifications that are equivalent to GCSE grades 9 to 4. The awards - BTEC, OCR, WJEC,

Vocational, Technical and Cambridge Nationals - also enable students to progress into post-16 education such as sixth form or college, training or employment opportunities.

These courses count as level 2 qualifications and are graded: Distinction Star (D*), Distinction (D), Merit (M) and Pass (P). Should the standard for a level 2 pass not be achieved, the courses can be accredited at level 1.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

Where appropriate, our students may study a suite of qualifications called the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). Students with passes in all the necessary EBacc subjects have a wide range of options available to them at both post-16 and degree level. The EBacc consists of GCSEs in English, mathematics, science, a modern language and one of the humanities (either history or geography).



Choosing your options

Core subjects

All students study these core subjects:

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Science

In addition, all students will study the following courses, which are not examined:

Physical Education
Character Education

Step 1 - choose your options

Choose a first and a reserve choice from each option block.

At least one of your first choices must be geography or history.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Fine Art
Business	Business	Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Photography
Creative iMedia	French	Business	Creative iMedia
Drama	Geography	Geography	History
Health & Social Care	German	Religious Studies	Media Studies
History	Health & Fitness	Science (Triple)	Music
Physical Education	Health & Social Care	Three-Dimensional Design (Art & Design)	Physical Education
	Media Studies		Three-Dimensional Design (Art & Design)

Step 2 - Complete the options choice form

All Year 9 students will have a meeting with a member of the Leadership Team.

The options form should not be completed until after that meeting.

The deadline for completing the form is Monday 24 March 2025.

The options form is completed online. Scan the QR code to access the form or go to <https://forms.office.com/e/iM3RHbaPVO>

If you do not have access to the internet, please complete the paper form at the back of this booklet and return to the Year 9 office by **Monday 24 March 2025**.



Life after key stage 4

All students in England are expected to continue into learning until the end of the academic year that they become 18.

Choosing option subjects can be a very confusing business and you may find it helpful to obtain some

advice. First and foremost, however, it is absolutely vital that you consider what you think you might be going to do in the future when you leave school. Most young people follow one of the four main career paths listed below.



Full-time education

This involves going to a school sixth form or a college of further education for a further one or two years.

There is a wide range of both academic and vocational (work related) qualifications available. Level 3 qualifications include A-levels and BTEC National Diplomas, amongst others. Staying on in full-time education can enable the young person to get a better job or go to university.

Eckington Sixth Form offers a large range of post-16 courses in our dedicated Sixth Form Centre. For details of the courses currently on offer, and the entry requirements, visit www.eckington.chorustrust.org/sixthform.

Eckington Sixth Form has an experienced Careers Team that is dedicated to supporting students' progress to university, apprenticeships or employment.

Occupation based training programme

By following this route, young people gain work experience and vocational qualifications at the same time. You can take qualifications to NVQ level 2 and above, depending on your individual needs. The length of training is flexible and could last up to two years.

Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship provides you with a job and the opportunity to gain higher level qualifications at NVQ level 3 and above. They are available in a number of vocational areas but are limited in number.

Go straight into a job

Young people can no longer enter full time employment at 16. Young people can spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training until the age of 18.

Art & Design: Fine Art

What will I learn?

- Explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design first hand.
- Take an individual approach to their art, craft and design making.
- Apply a creative approach to problem solving.
- Consider and develop original ideas from initiation to realisation .
- Express individual thoughts and choices confidently.
- Take risks, experiment, and learn from mistakes.
- Develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes or solutions with increasing independence.
- Acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.
- Develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices evident in the production of art, craft and design in the creative and cultural industries.
- Develop an awareness of the purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and design in a variety of contexts and as appropriate to your own work.

What skills do I need?

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by selecting and analysing sources.
- Refine ideas as work progresses through experimenting with media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation, as work progresses.
- Use visual language critically as appropriate to creative intentions and chosen area(s) of study through effective and safe use of: media and materials, techniques and processes.
- Realise personal intentions through the sustained application of the creative process.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Component 2: Exam externally set assignment. (practical) | 40%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Component 1: Coursework personal portfolio (internally set) | 60%

Could lead to:

A GCSE in art & design (fine art) can lead in many exciting directions, including to: an A-level in the same subject, or another adjacent subject, such as history of art and then on to a degree or diploma qualification in fine art, or an applied art such as: graphics, animation, lighting engineering/display, theatre design, advertising, architecture, computer games/visual effects ... and on to further post-graduate studies & many creative careers ... or still further post-graduate studies before the job market.

Art & Design: Photography

What will I learn?

GCSE photography provides the opportunity for you to:

- Explore both contemporary and historical sources of photography first hand.
- Take an individual approach to photography making.
- Apply a creative approach to problem solving.
- Consider and develop original ideas from initiation to realisation.
- Analyse critically your own work and the work of others.
- Express individual thoughts and choices confidently.
- Take risks, experiment and learn from mistakes.
- Develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes or solutions with increasing independence.
- Acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.

What skills do I need?

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources.
- Apply an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries to work and refine ideas as work progresses through experimenting with media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually.
- Use visual language critically as appropriate to creative intentions.
- Realise personal intentions through the sustained application of the creative process.

Assessment

Examination

- Component 2: Exam externally set assignment (practical) | 40%

Non-examined assessment

- Component 1: Coursework personal portfolio (internally set) | 60%

Could lead to:

A GCSE in photography can lead in many exciting directions, including to: an A-level in the same subject, or another adjacent subject, such as media studies and then on to a degree or diploma qualification in photography, art therapist (with further training), community arts leader, editorial photographer, exhibition curator, gallery curator, media researcher, photographic technician, photojournalist, picture editor, product photographer, teacher, visual merchandiser.

Business

What will I learn?

GCSE business provides you with a solid foundation in key business concepts, preparing you for the dynamic world of business. The course encourages critical thinking and the practical application of knowledge. You will gain insights into how businesses operate in the real world.

The subject content has been organised into two themes:

- Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business, such as ownership, marketing, market research, and controlling costs.
- Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows such as legislation or changing technologies etc.

Students will also be asked to learn key numeracy skills to be able to interpret and use data to help inform decisions and judgements.

What skills do I need?

Able to apply knowledge and understanding in different business context.

- Have a high standard of written communication.
- Able to use mathematical skills to work out financial calculations.
- Evaluate and make justified decisions—based on data shown.

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1: Investigating small business | 1 hour 45 mins | 50%
- Paper 2: Building a business | 1 hour 45 mins | 50%

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

- Business skills are employability skills. All aspects of business will help you with the 'world of work' in the future.
- GCSE business provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers such as accountant, personnel work, law, marketing, merchandising, banking, business management, advertising or the leisure industry.
- With GCSE business you will easily be able to go on to study A-level business at Eckington Sixth Form.

Creative iMedia

What will I learn?

The Cambridge Nationals in creative imedia will equip you with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as planning and reviewing, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

You will have the opportunity to work with creative multi-media packages (Adobe Creative Cloud Suite) developing animations, video editing and graphics.

What skills do I need?

Basic skills in design and computing alongside a flair for creative media/ video games and animation.

Basic drawing skills and the ability to learn new software packages will be a benefit.

Assessment

Examination

- R093 Exam paper | 1 hour 30 mins | 40%

Non-examined assessment

- R096 Animation with sound | 30%
- R004 Creating digital graphics | 30%

Could lead to:

You could study level 3 subjects such as creative digital media production, which prepares you to enter employment, apprenticeships, or higher education. Sixth form study is a natural progression.

Students have gone on to study games design, creative digital media and film making at university.

Drama

What will I learn?

You will develop performance skills through practical workshops. You will learn how to successfully devise plays and perform scripts and will also experience a wide range of live theatre. In addition to this there is a large emphasis on written work in both exam and coursework formats.

Therefore, you will be required to explore your ideas practically and then learn how to write down your ideas in essay format.

In component 1 you will learn:

- About the play *Blood Brothers* and how directors, designers and actors make decisions to communicate meaning.
- How to analyse and evaluate live performances. Written evaluation of live performances assessed in a written exam.

In component 2 you will learn:

- About different practitioners.
- To create a piece of drama from a stimulus.
- To reflect, analyse and evaluate their own work.

In component 3 you will learn:

- To rehearse and perform a scripted piece of drama for a live audience and a visiting examiner.
- To apply knowledge and understanding of drama into a scripted performance.

What skills do I need?

- Resilience.
- Cooperation.
- Confidence to perform in front of an audience.
- Teamwork.
- Written and verbal skills.
- Being reflective.

Assessment

Examination

- Component 1 – Understanding drama: Written examination | 40%
- Component 3 – Texts in practice: Scripted performance | 1 hour 45 mins | 20% (external examiner visits school)

Non-examined assessment

- Component 2 – Devising drama: Coursework | 40%
- Devised practical coursework: 10% (internally marked and externally moderated)
- Devised written coursework: 30% (internally marked and externally moderated)

Could lead to:

There are specific jobs in the performance industry such as set designer, theatre administrator, make-up artists, as well as acting itself.

Drama enables you to develop life skills, such as self-confidence, resilience, co-operation and communication skills (written and verbal) needed in any job. These are highly valued by employers, sixth forms or further education colleges.

English Language

What will I learn?

- You will read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts critically to develop an understanding of the author's craft and the effect of language and structure.
- You will write for different audiences and purposes, including a creative response to an image and a persuasive, opinion piece.
- You will engage in discussion and an individual spoken presentations based on themes and ideas suggested by your teacher but made personal to yourself or your group.

What skills do I need?

- The ability to read and write well.
- The ability to engage with a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- The ability to identify a range of viewpoints.
- The ability to form your own viewpoint.
- The ability to memorise and recall information.

Assessment:

Examination

- Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing | 1 hour 45 mins | 50%
- Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and perspectives | 1 hour 45 mins | 50%

Non-examined assessment

- Spoken language | Not included in total marks

Could lead to:

- A grade 5 in English is the essential qualification for further and higher education as well as the key requirement of major employers, a significant number of training schemes or apprenticeships.
- It is a fascinating study of how society and individuals are influenced by language and how they use it.
- You will practice speaking and listening skills which are very important in further education, higher education, employment and life.

English Literature

What will I learn?

- You will read more challenging texts for enjoyment but also for critical evaluation. An important part of the course is developing your own essay writing skills and considering writer's methods and intentions. The syllabus covers texts from the 1600s to the present day.
- You will learn how to identify, explain, and even evaluate writers' methods.
- You will learn how to explore how a writer was influenced by their own life and time and of writing.
- You will learn how to make sophisticated comparisons between texts of similar and different genres.

What skills do I need?

- You need to be able to read and write well.
 - You need to be interested in reading a range of texts.
 - You need to be a critical reader.
 - You need to be able to write a coherent essay.
 - You need to be interested in the life and times of a range of writers.
-

Assessment:

English Literature

Examination

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel | 1 hour 45 mins | 40%
- Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry | 2 hours 15 mins | 60%

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

GCSE English literature provides you with the key skills required for most employment and further and higher education. Many university courses value English literature as an indicator of academic excellence and a highly valued companion subject to the humanities.

French

What will I learn?

In GCSE French, you will continue to develop your confidence, a positive attitude towards French and broaden your horizons, enabling you to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries. You will continue to develop skills in listening, reading, speaking and writing and learn new skills of dictation and translation into and from French.

Similar to key stage 3, lessons will include lots of practice of these skills but as you become more confident, you will learn to speak and write more accurately, with greater spontaneity and at greater length. In addition, you will become more equipped to deal with foreign language texts and conversations which are longer and more complex.

You will learn more about the culture and traditions of French speaking countries.

Course themes

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1: Speaking: Foundation 7-9 mins + 15 mins prep | Higher 10-12 mins + 15 mins prep | 25%
- Paper 2: Listening: Foundation 45 mins | Higher 1 hour | 25%
- Paper 3: Reading: Foundation 45 mins | Higher 1 hour | 25%
- Paper 4: Writing: Foundation 1 hour 15 mins | Higher 1 hour 20 mins | 25%

Non-examined assessment

What skills do I need?

To study GCSE French, you need to have studied French in key stage 3. This is not a beginner's course.

Successful language learners are...

- inquisitive
- motivated
- open-minded
- organised
- reflective
- resilient
- willing to take risks

Could lead to:

A GCSE in French could set you apart from your peers when entering further/higher education and the job market.

Although French can be studied as a subject in its own right at university level, it also marries really well with many other university courses, such as law, business studies and engineering. Many universities offer the opportunity to complete a year abroad as part of their courses and this is where a GCSE in French could become very useful.

Many companies in the UK are looking to employ people with additional languages and you could also work and travel abroad.

Geography

What will I learn?

- Geography will involve you studying the processes that help form the human and physical environment around us and across the world.
- To do this you will learn evidence of case studies about real places where you will become aware of the decisions that affect the lives of real people, including yourself!
- You will have the opportunity to experience a range of teaching and learning styles and you will frequently use a variety of information sources including the internet, interactive whiteboard software, text books and working in groups to develop fieldwork skills. The skills developed within geography are some of the broadest of any subject you could study.
- An important part of the course will be to undertake multiple fieldwork opportunities in contrasting environments analyse the data and sit an exam that requires you to reflect on your findings and experiences. A small charge will be required to cover the cost of transport for the fieldwork visits during the course.
- A revision guide to cover the whole subject is available and will be required to complete the course. This can be purchased through school.

What skills do I need?

- You will need to develop an awareness of what really matters in the world today and tomorrow.
- Literacy skills to communicate your ideas and opinions.
- Competent numeracy skills to help you analyse data.
- Comprehension skills to understand detailed texts and exam questions. (Geography requires the highest reading age of all subjects at GCSE level).
- Specific geography skills including map skills at a range of scales.

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment | 1 hour 30 mins | 35%
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment | 1 hour 30 mins | 35%
- Paper 3: Geographical applications | 1 hour 15 mins | 30%

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

People successful at GCSE geography enjoy going further and studying this at A-level. This often leads to studying further education at university.

Geography covers the broadest range of skills and therefore can lead into the broadest range of careers.

More details on careers can be found in the Geography Department on our displays.

German

What will I learn?

In GCSE German, you will continue to develop your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also develop the skills of dictation and translation into and from German. All very useful skills for the workplace!

As in key stage 3, lessons will include lots of practice of new vocabulary and grammar but as you become more confident, you will learn to speak and write more accurately, with greater spontaneity and at greater length. The level of complexity of the spoken and written language you are able to understand will also increase.

You will learn more about the culture and traditions of German speaking countries.

Course themes

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1: Speaking: Foundation 7-9 mins + 15 mins prep | Higher 10-12 mins + 15 mins prep | 25%
- Paper 2: Listening: Foundation 45 mins | Higher 1 hour | 25%
- Paper 3: Reading: Foundation 45 mins | Higher 1 hour | 25%
- Paper 4: Writing: Foundation 1 hour 15 mins | Higher 1 hour 20 mins | 25%

Non-examined assessment

What skills do I need?

To study GCSE German, you need to have studied German in key stage 3. This is not a beginner's course.

Successful language learners are...

- inquisitive
- motivated
- open-minded
- organised
- reflective
- resilient
- willing to take risks

Could lead to:

A GCSE in German could set you apart from your peers when entering further/higher education and the job market.

Although German can be studied as a subject in its own right at university level, it also marries really well with many other university courses, such as law, business studies and engineering. Many universities offer the opportunity to complete a year abroad as part of their courses and this is where a GCSE in German could become very useful.

Many companies in the UK are looking to employ people with additional languages and you could also work and travel abroad.



Health & Fitness

What will I learn?

This course is taught both in theory lessons and through practical application. The NCFE level 1/2 Technical Award in health and fitness is a vocational equivalent of GCSE qualifications.

To be awarded this qualification, you are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all eight mandatory content areas.

You will develop knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of key body systems. You will know and understand the short and long-term effects that health and fitness activities can have on the body. You will know and understand the components of fitness and the principles of training.

You will know and understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness and be able to apply health and fitness analyses to set goals. You will know and understand how to test and develop components of fitness. You will know and understand how to structure a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safely for health and fitness activities.

What skills do I need?

- An interest in sport, training, health, and physical activity.
- A preference for coursework-based assessment rather than exam.
- An ability to complete work to strict deadlines.
- To be IT literate.
- To be enthusiastic and motivated to do well.

Note: Students can choose to study either health & fitness or physical education but not both. The final decision over which course a student will study will be made by the course leader.

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1: 1 hour 30 mins | 40%

Non-examined assessment

- Project: Plan and lead a client health and fitness programme | 22 hours plus 2 hours preparation and research | 60%

Could lead to:

Students who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 course
- A-level in physical education and sport (this will support progression to higher education)

You could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship in the health and fitness sector

Possible careers include: sports coach, health assistants, fitness instructors, personal trainers.

Health & Social Care

What will I learn?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

You will learn about individuals' growth and development across the entire life course, gaining an understanding of how individuals develop in each distinct life stage. You will gain an understanding of how significant life events can impact upon an individuals' development, and will gain an understanding of the range of support available to them.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

You will explore the range of health and social care services and how each of these may meet the needs of service users. You will gain a vocational understanding of the skills which may be required of an individual working within this sector and how they can support the service users they work with.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

You will learn about factors which may impact the health and wellbeing of individuals and the physiological and lifestyle indicators which can be used to understand an individual's current health. You will also gain an understanding of person-centred care and how this approach may be used to suggest recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

What skills do I need?

- Empathy.
- Good communication skills.
- Organised and driven.
- Ability to apply knowledge.

Assessment

Examination

- Component 3: Health and wellbeing | 2 hours | 40%

Non-examined assessment

- Component 1: Human lifespan development | 30%
- Component 2: Health and social care services and values | 30%

Could lead to:

This course could lead to a range of different post-16 options before looking at a variety of careers within the health and social care sector or other related areas. Students completing this course have achieved careers working within social work, the NHS, teaching and the care sector.

History

What will I learn?

This course is diverse and, therefore, there should be something for everyone. It builds upon both the skills and content of our key stage 3 course.

Around 50% is on British history: a thematic study of Britain over time from the medieval period to the modern day and an in-depth study on the Restoration Period. One part of this will include a site study – a castle or stately home or something similar.

Another element is international history in the 20th century: the causes of World War II. In addition, there will be a study of American history in the 20th century.

Students who have enjoyed the content of their history lessons in key stage 3 will probably enjoy this course.

What skills do I need?

- The ability to read and write really well.
- The ability to engage with abstract reasoning.
- The ability to learn quickly by listening.
- The ability to memorise and recall information.

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1: Understanding the modern world | 2 hours | 50%
- Paper 2: Shaping the nation | 2 hours | 50%

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

GCSE history students from Eckington have gone on to careers in the Civil Service, in education, in business (including being entrepreneurs and establishing their own businesses), in law and journalism.

Mathematics

What will I learn?

In key stage 4, you will extend your learning in the topics covered during Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9, and you will learn some new topics too. Links between these topics will be shown enabling you to transfer skills from one topic into another. Starter activities will be used to help you remember previously taught skills too so you can develop these skills further in the topic areas listed below.

- Number.
- Algebra.
- Ratio, proportion, and rates of change.
- Geometry and measures.
- Probability.
- Statistics.

During lessons, your teacher will respond to how you are learning to help you achieve your potential. Following topic tests, assessments and mock exams, areas requiring more work will be addressed by your teacher and these areas, as well as those done well, will be shared with you. This information will also show you what you can work on independently as you work hard to achieve the best grade you can at GCSE.

Your homework, set on Sparx Maths, will also help you remember your learning from lessons and help you develop your skills at recalling it.

What skills do I need?

Resilience and determination are skills that will help you be successful.

Many questions may not seem the same as you are used to. Your teachers will help you develop your ability in problem solving which will increase your confidence when answering such questions.

Being able to recall times tables well and not just reciting them is a valuable skill when more complicated questions.

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1 (non-calculator): 1 hour 30 mins | 33%
- Paper 2 (calculator): 1 hour 30 mins | 33%
- Paper 3 (calculator): 1 hour 30 mins | 33%

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

A GCSE in mathematics can support you in future learning.

Mathematics is an essential life skill and is also used in so many different careers. For example, when you go shopping you are using mathematics, so did the architect who designed the shop, the builders who built it, the engineers who designed the tills, and the shop assistants who served you.

Media Studies

What will I learn?

You will learn how media texts convey ideas to their audiences, and how different media platforms reflect the world around us.

You will study a wide variety of media forms:

- Advertising (print, online and broadcast)
- Magazines and newspapers
- Video games
- Online, social and participatory media
- Television serial dramas
- Music videos
- Film marketing and promotion
- Radio

You will explore the following:

- Media language: how media texts communicate ideas through images, colours, layout and word choice
- Media representation: how the media portray events, issues individuals and social groups
- Media industries: how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms
- Media audiences: how media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of the audience become producers themselves.

Assessment

Examination

- Media One: 1 hour 30 mins | 35%
- Media Two: 1 hour 30 mins | 35%

Non-examined assessment

- Plan, design and create a media product, responding to a brief released by the exam board | 30%

What skills do I need?

You need to enjoy analysing texts on different levels.

You need to be able to express your ideas verbally and in writing.

You need to be creative.

You need to have IT skills (you may use Photoshop and other editing software to create your non-exam assessment piece - we will teach you how to use them if you've never used them before).

Could lead to:

A qualification in media studies could lead directly to a career in a media-related field such as journalism, film, advertising, games design, web development or broadcast media such as television and radio.

The skills developed on a media studies course are also applicable to a range of other career areas, such as management, retail and information analysis.

Music

What will I learn?

You will learn about basic musical composition and be expected to create, write and perform your own music. You will study music notation and use this or tab to notate your work. You will be expected to complete 2 full compositions, one of which you will have to evaluate under exam conditions and will need be able to read and write music. You will also be required to submit one solo performance and one ensemble performance and perform in concerts or assemblies. You must be up to grade 2 standard instrumentally due to these performance requirements. As well as the practical aspects of the course you will study the history of music and different genres around the world in preparation for the listening exam.

You will study:

- Area of study 1: Musical forms and devices
- Area of study 2: Music for ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film music
- Area of study 4: Popular music

What skills do I need?

- Music allows you to develop skills such as self-confidence and creativity.
- Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used.
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources.
- You will demonstrate that you can work independently as well as a member of a group.
- It is an excellent way to further your instrumental ability and creative skills.

Assessment

Examination

- Component 1: Understanding music | 1 hour 30 mins | 40%

Non-examined assessment

- Component 2: Performing music | solo and ensemble performances of a total of at least 4 mins | 30%
- Component 3: Composing music | composition to a brief and free composition of a total of at least 3 mins | 30%

Could lead to:

Students can progress from this qualification to:

- further study of music at A-level and the study of A-level music technology
- vocational courses in music and music technology
- apprenticeships or other training
- employment in a related sector

A qualification in music is essential if you wish to study music technology or music at A-level.

Physical Education

What will I learn?

The course is taught through both practical and theory lessons. During the course you will also develop your understanding and ability in a range of sports; you will be assessed performing practically in these activities.

There are four components you will cover.

Component 1: Physical factors affecting performance examined unit.

- How the human body works and functions during physical activity.
- Fitness and training.

Component 2: Socio-cultural Issues and sports psychology examined unit.

- Contemporary issues in sport.
- Sport psychology.

Component 4: Performance within physical education.

- Assessment in three sports (1 team/1 individual/1 other).

Component 5: Analysis and evaluation of performance.

- Written coursework that looks at strengths and weaknesses of your own performance and designing an action plan to improve.

What skills do I need?

Students MUST be regularly competing/performing in at least one sport outside school.

- Students must have an interest in sport and be able to apply their knowledge and understanding to sporting examples.
- Willingness to try different sports.
- Independent learning skills - be motivated to learn the vast amount of theory content.
- A sound understanding of biology is beneficial..

Note: Students can choose to study either health & fitness or physical education but not both. The final decision over which course a student will study will be made by the course leader.

Assessment

Examination

- Component 1: Physical factors affecting performance | 1 hour | 30%
- Component 2: Social-cultural issues and sports psychology | 1 hour | 30% |

Non-examined assessment

- Component 4: Practical performance | 3 practical activities | 30%
- Component 5: Analysis and evaluation of performance | 10%

Could lead to:

Students can progress onto a level 3 A-level PE course or any level 3 equivalent sports course.

The course will benefit you if you are considering careers in teaching, sports coaching, the armed forces or uniformed services, physiotherapy, personal training, sports development or sports technology.

Religious Studies

What will I learn?

The course has two key papers:

Paper 1 - The study of religions - beliefs, teaching and practices.

In this unit you will study two religions in detail. The religions we focus on are Christianity and Islam. For each religion you will examine:

- Key beliefs: Nature of God, creation, afterlife & the key figures within that faith.
- Practices: Worship and festivals, forms of worship, importance of prayer.

Paper 2 - Thematic studies (moral issues).

In this unit you will study four topics from the following:

- Relationships and families: Family life, contraception, marriage and divorce.
- Religion and life: Animal rights, abortion, creation.
- The existence of God: Examining the key arguments for and against God's existence and his revelation to mankind.
- Religion, peace and conflict: War and religious attitudes to war.
- Religion, crime and punishment: Religious attitudes to crime and punishment including the death penalty.
- Religion and human rights.

You will gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. You will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare you for further post-16 study and the wider world around you.

What skills do I need?

- Literacy: The ability to read and write fluently.
- Listening skills.
- The ability to engage in group activity.
- Oracy: the ability to discuss different opinions and values.
- Presentational skills (spoken and written).

Assessment

Examination

- Paper 1: The study of religions, beliefs, teachings and practices
| 1hour 45 mins | 50%
- Paper 2: Thematic studies.
| 1 hour 45 mins | 50%

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

As a result of developing key analytical and critical thinking skills, a GCSE in religious studies could lead to further post-16 study in this area and potential careers in law, nursing, politics, journalism, teaching, youth work, social work and the civil service.

Science - Combined (Trilogy)

What will I learn?

Science helps us to develop an understanding of ourselves and the world around us, as well as developing skills such as investigating, analysing and critically evaluating evidence.

This is a course which gives you experience in the main themes of biology, chemistry and physics, along with developing skills needed to 'work scientifically'.

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

Chemistry

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry
15. Chemical analysis
16. Chemistry of the atmosphere
17. Using resources

Physics

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves
24. Magnetism and electromagnetism

What skills do I need?

You will build on the skills they have developed at key stage 3.

These include:

- Communication.
- Designing investigations.
- Observation skills.
- Using and presenting data.
- Working with others.
- Handling apparatus.
- Problem solving and research.
- Analysis and evaluation.

Note: all students study either combined (this course) or triple science (see overleaf), which you may include as part of your options choices.

Assessment

Examination

- Biology Paper 1 topics 1-4: 1 hour 15 mins | 16.7%
- Biology Paper 2 topics 5-7: 1 hour 15 mins | 16.7%
- Chemistry Paper 1, topics 8-12: 1 hour 15mins | 16.7%
- Chemistry Paper 2, topics 13-17: 1 hour 15 mins | 16.7%
- Physics Paper 1, topics 18-21: 1 hour 15 mins | 16.7%
- Physics Paper 2, topics 22-24: 1 hour 15 mins | 16.7%

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

Combined science demonstrates a wide range of skills to employers/colleges. It would be an expected qualification for all young people, including those wishing to become an electrician, or beautician, and is also essential for any student who wishes to study science A-levels, or to have a career in areas such as teaching, nursing, engineering, laboratory analysis, physiotherapy, medicine and veterinary science.

Grade 66 or above in GCSE combined science is required to study science A-level at Eckington. Grade 5s would be acceptable on most BTEC level 3 courses.

Science - Triple (three separate sciences)

What will I learn?

The separate science GCSEs go into a deeper understanding of science and its application than in combined science. Students following this pathway will study three GCSE qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics. There are five additional periods over each fortnight allocated to study these qualifications.

The three separate science subjects develop an understanding of ourselves and the world around us, as well as developing skills such as investigating, analysing and critically evaluating evidence.

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology
8. Key ideas

Chemistry

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

Physics

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics (physics only)

What skills do I need?

Students will build on the skills they have developed at key stage 3.

These include:

- Communication.
- Designing investigations.
- Observation skills.
- Using and presenting data.
- Working with others.
- Handling apparatus.
- Problem solving and research.
- Analysis and evaluation.

Note: all students study either combined or triple science. Triple science is open to all students regardless of ability but if we feel that following the triple course may limit a student's future options then we will discuss this with you during the options process.

Assessment

Examination

Biology

- Paper 1, topics 1-4: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2, topics 5-8: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE

Chemistry

- Paper 1, topics 1-5: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2, topics 6-10: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE

Physics

- Paper 1, topics 1-4: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2, topics 5-8: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE

Non-examined assessment

Could lead to:

It would be recommended for any student who wishes to study science A-levels. However, it is not essential to study separate sciences in order to study science A-levels.

Two GCSEs in separate science at grade 6 or above are required for further study in science at A-level, although all students who opt for separate sciences will of course study three separate subjects.

This is an excellent preparation for a career in science in areas such as teaching, nursing, engineering, laboratory analysis, physiotherapy, medicine and veterinary science.

Three-Dimensional Design - (Art & Design)

What will I learn?

This qualification is intended for students who enjoy designing and making 3D products. It is aimed at those with a preference for the type of processes, equipment and materials used in design and technology during key stage 3 (e.g. woods, metals, plastics, mechanisms, electronics, 3D constructions), and wish to further continue in practical based lessons. You will have the ability to research and analyse existing products and designers and will be developed, along with sketching/drawing skills, how to best respond to a design brief, how to carry out written annotation and how to effectively evaluate designs and products. You will have the opportunity to use traditional and modern skills using a range of digital technologies such as those listed below:

- Architectural design
- CAD/CAM - Computer Aided Design, Computer Aided Manufacturing
- Sculpture
- Laser cutting
- Product design
- Jewellery and body adornment
- Interior design
- Environmental/landscape/garden design
- Exhibition design
- 3D digital design
- Designs for theatre, film, and television.

What skills do I need?

Students will be required to demonstrate:

- A good level of drawing skills, this is desirable but is not essential to joining this course.
- Being imaginative and experimental when developing design ideas.
- Being ambitious and open to explore and take design risks.
- Creativity and problem-solving skills.
- Enthusiasm for the course and strong work ethic.
- Independent thought.
- Perseverance and resilience.
- Basic proficiency in literacy and computer skills.

Assessment

Examination

- Component 2: Exam externally set assignment (practical) | 40%

Non-examined assessment

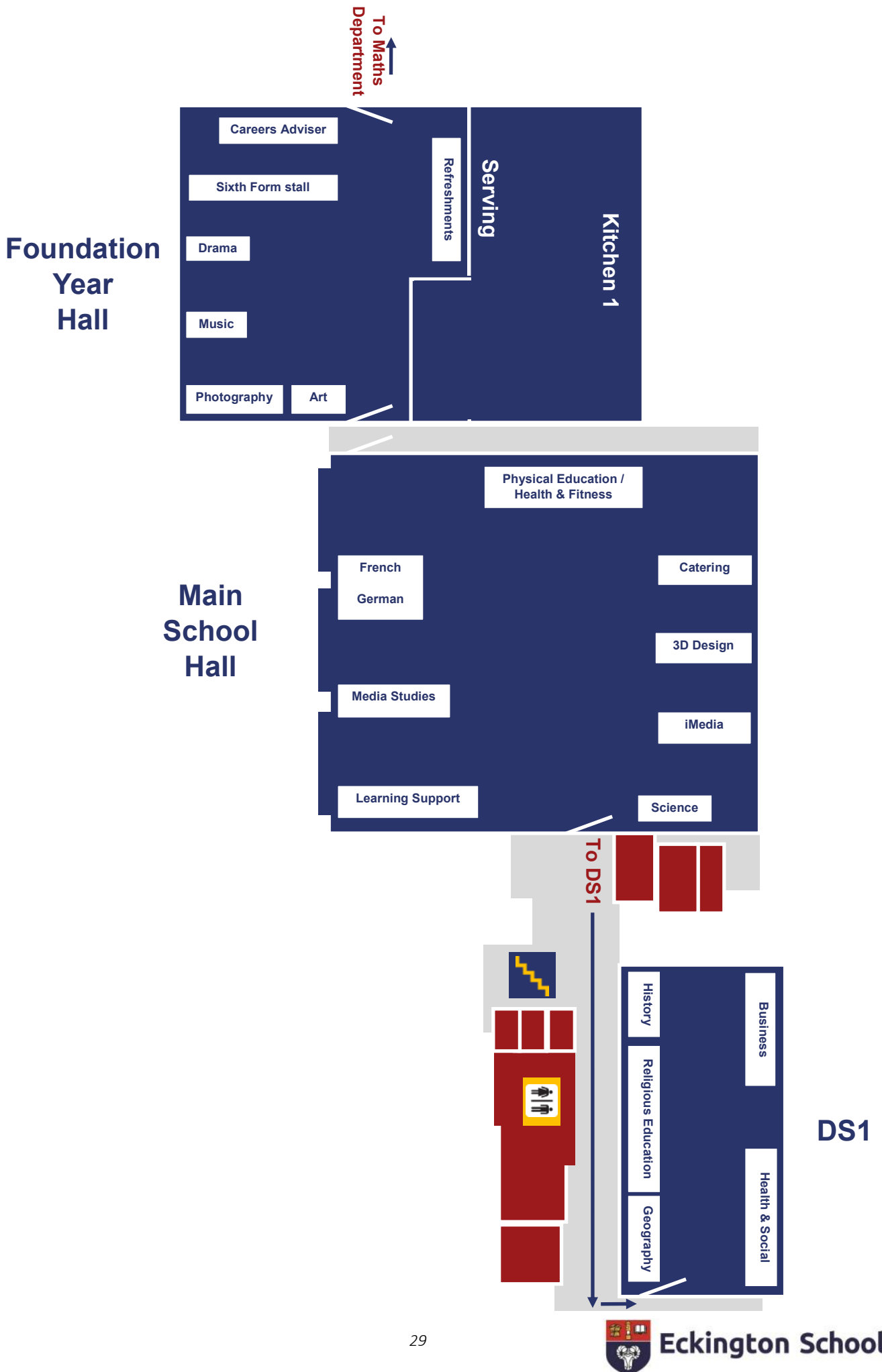
- Component 1: Coursework personal portfolio (internally set) | 60%

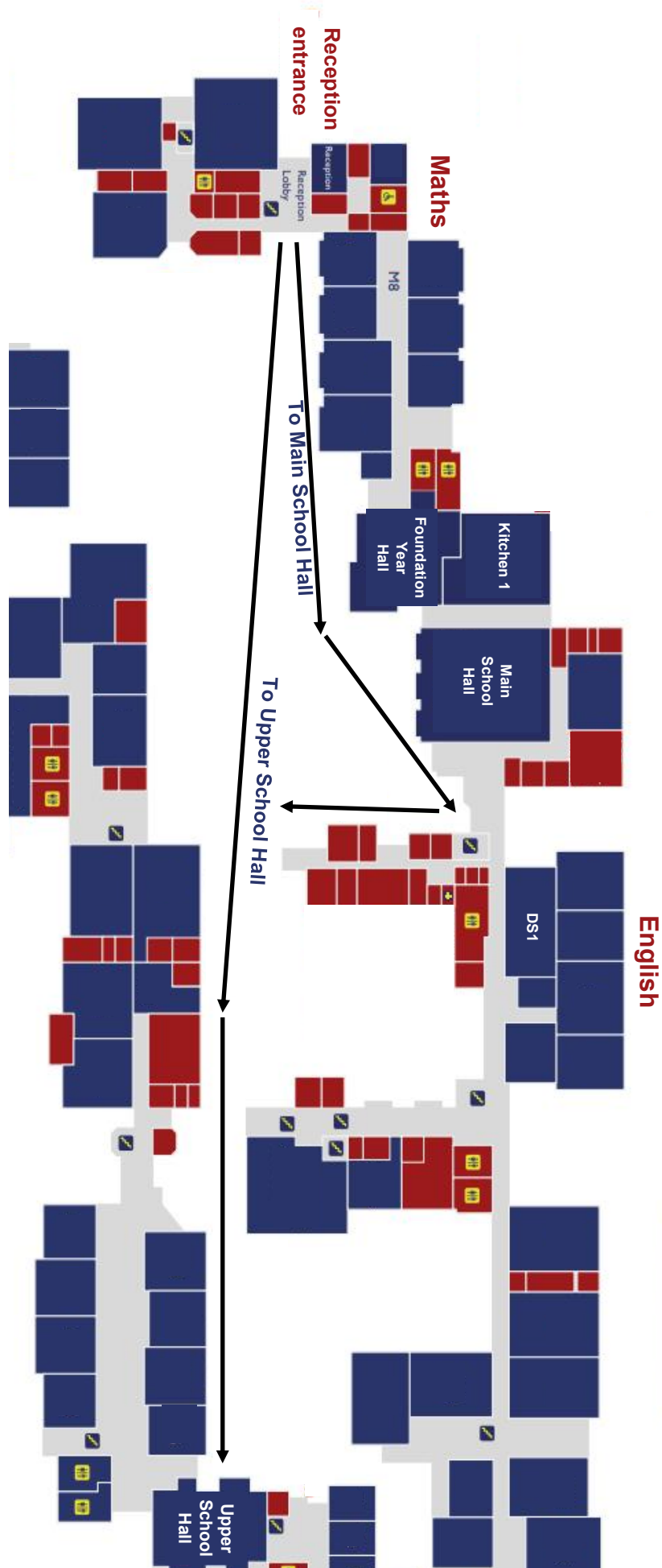
Could lead to:

Upon completion students could progress onto our A-level product design course in Year 12 and Year 13.

This course is also an ideal starting point for further study at degree level or HND/HNC and careers or apprenticeships in: product/ industrial design, architecture and construction, fashion designer, film and television special effects, jewellery, graphic design, theatrical design, industrial designer, web developer, product designer, multimedia programmer engineering, technical support, teaching.

Key stage 4 options evening map





Key Stage 4 Options Form, 2025 - 2027

- Students must choose one first choice and one reserve choice from each of the four option blocks.
- **At least one of the four first choices must be geography or history.**
- All Year 9 students will have a meeting with a member of the Leadership Team. The form should not be completed until after that meeting.
- The deadline for completing the form is Monday 24 March 2025.

Name: _____

Form: 9

Step One: Choose a first and reserve choice from each option block.

At least one of your first choices must be geography or history.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Fine Art
Business	Business	Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Photography
Creative iMedia	French	Business	Creative iMedia
Drama	Geography	Geography	History
Health & Social Care	German	Religious Studies	Media Studies
History	Health & Fitness	Science (Triple)	Music
Physical Education	Health & Social Care	Three-Dimensional Design	Physical Education
	Media Studies		Three-Dimensional Design
Block A first choice	Block B first choice	Block C first choice	Block D first choice
Block A reserve choice	Block B reserve choice	Block C reserve choice	Block D reserve choice

Step Two:

Please confirm that one of your first choices in any block is either Geography or History.

Ebacc Subject: _____

Block: _____

Please complete the options choice form online by following the link in the QR code or go to

<https://forms.office.com/e/iM3RHbaPVO>

If you do not have access to the internet, please complete this paper form and return to the Year 9 office by **Monday 24 March 2025.**

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Date: _____





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