

YEAR 8 INTO 9

CURRICULUM GUIDANCE

Mrs Fiona Welfair

Head of School

Mrs Soulsby

Assistant Headteacher- Curriculum

Exciting times!

It is a time to reflect on personal interests, ensuring that the selected subjects not only align with individual strengths but also pave the way for future opportunities.

Although the process may seem daunting, approaching this decision thoughtfully can lead to a fulfilling and successful GCSE journey.

The subjects you are about to choose will be your subjects from:

Year 9 to Year 11

Some subjects are

- **Core (compulsory)**
- **Optional (choice)**



GCSE

- Graded 9 to 1
- A good pass at GCSE is regarded as a grade 9 to a 5.
- Assessed fully or mostly by exams at the end of the course.

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

VOCATIONAL - BTECS



Graded Level 2 Distinction* to a Level 1 Pass



Skills focused on different services E.G. Health, IT, Business.



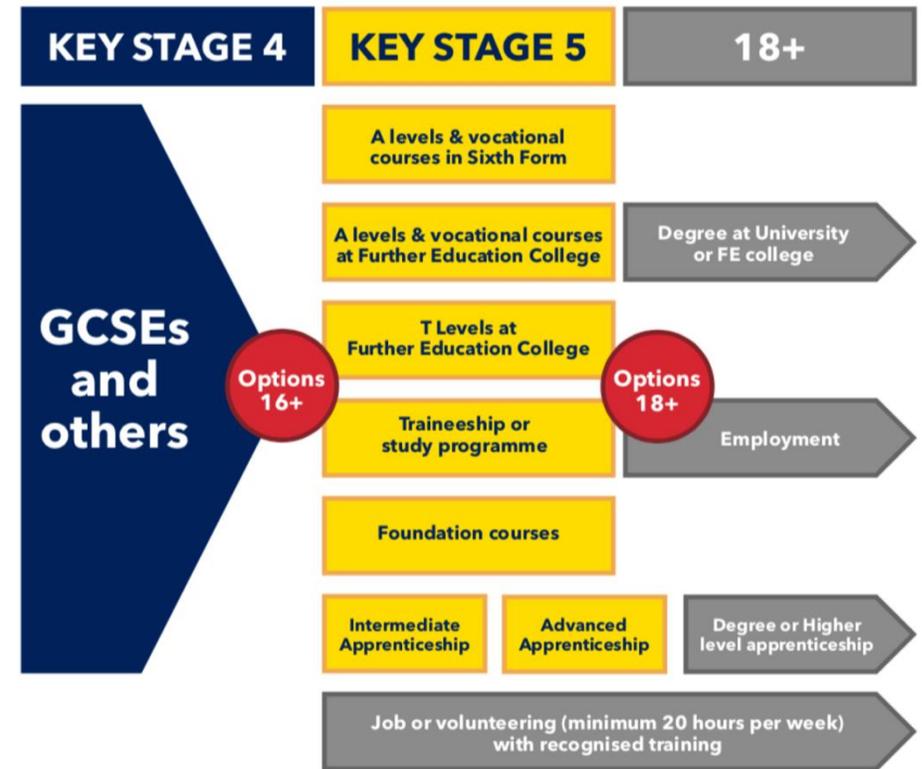
Assessed by a mix of exams and coursework units completed during the course.



Coursework is more heavily weighted (BTECS 60% coursework, 40% exam)

VOCATIONAL	GCSE
Level 2 Distinction*	8.5
Distinction	7
Merit	5.5 (strong pass)
Pass	4 (standard pass)

THE BIGGER PICTURE...



Top Tips

- **Prioritize Enjoyment & Passion:** Select subjects you genuinely enjoy, as this increases motivation and engagement over the two-year period.
- **Play to Your Strengths:** Choose subjects you are good at to improve your chances of achieving high grades.
- **Think About Future Goals:** If you have a career in mind, check if certain subjects are required, such as Triple Science for medicine or specific languages. Do your research
- **Keep Options Open:** Maintain a balanced, broad range of subjects to avoid restricting future study or career pathways.
- **Don't Follow Friends:** Avoid picking subjects just because your friends are; you will be in the class for two years, and you need to enjoy it, not just socialize.
- **Check Exam vs. Coursework:** Consider whether you prefer final exams or coursework-based assessment- choose subjects that align with your learning style.



Actions Required

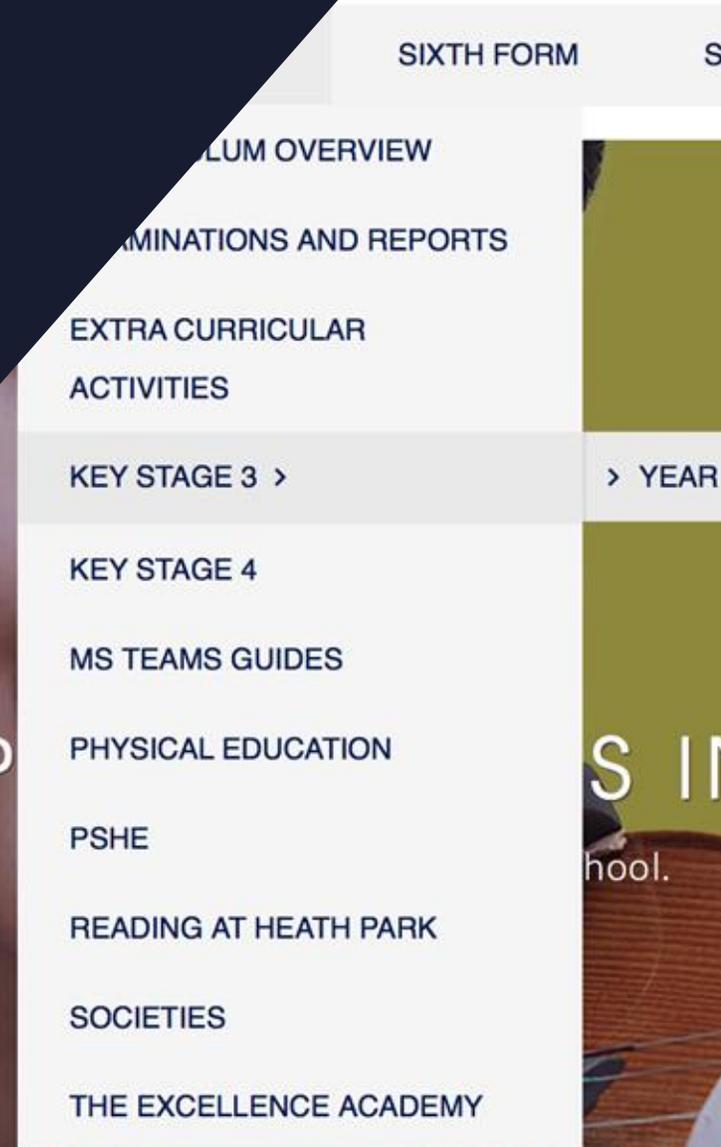
We will email the electronic Options form to you tomorrow morning.

The deadline for completion is March 16th please

If you have any questions or need further support with choices, do not hesitate to contact your child`s form tutor

Further Support

- **Careers Leader –**
Richard.golding@heathpark.net
- **Tutors**
- **Head of Year– Miss Bland**
- **Pastoral Manager- Miss Parker
Onions**
- **SENCO- Miss Hill**



Options Checklist



View the options booklet online



Access taster sessions.



Research career pathways and local market information (LMI).



Speak to Careers Leader or Subject Leads if still unsure.



Complete the online application form by Monday 16th March.

Useful websites:

National Careers Service - www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk Get information and advice on post-16 options.

National Apprenticeship - Service www.getingofar.gov.uk/ Up to date information about apprenticeships including vacancies and how to apply.

UCAS - www.digitalucas.com Information and entry requirements for higher education/university courses in the UK.

Prospects - <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/> advice and guidance on careers, careers quizzes and where A level and degree subjects can take you.

This Evening...

- Appointments (current teachers – progress update).
- Subject Information Hub (Plaza).
- SEND- Sixth Form Cafe
- Careers- Sixth Form Cafe

- Refreshments- Dining room

