



BEAL HIGH SCHOOL

OPTIONS BOOKLET 2025-26



KEY STAGE 4 AND YOUR FUTURE – FOR STUDENTS

Year 10 is the beginning of an important stage of education known as Key Stage 4. You will stay in education and training until you are 18 and many of you will continue with your education and training into your early 20s or beyond. Therefore, the decisions you make at this stage are vital.

Future opportunities will depend upon what you achieve during the next two years. For example, to be able to follow many sixth form and college courses you will have to gain:

- At least five GCSE passes (grades 9-1) and as many good (grade 9-5) passes as possible. More passes mean more opportunities
- A GCSE in English and Maths (grades 9-4)

In order to ensure our students have the best possible progression opportunities, we have had to carefully think about the type, number and structure of courses that students will be offered. At Beal High School, we have designed our curriculum based on the best educational outcomes for all students. All of your courses will be assessed through a range of examinations and assessments. Our options system is based on student choice and we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that will help prepare you for the future.

The main features of the current GCSEs are:

- A grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade
- Assessment will be mainly through exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- Courses designed for two years of study with students taking all of their exams in one period at the end of their course.

In addition to GCSEs, we offer some technical courses, which are approved by the government as equivalent to GCSEs but offer a more vocational approach. These are graded at either Level 2 (D*, D, M or P) equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4 or Level 1 (D, M or P) equivalent to GCSE grades 4-1. All these GCSEs and technical courses are identified on the pages found on the Year 9 section of the website under - ***KS4 options subject information 2026***.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Our Curriculum is intended to support and challenge learners to be:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives, by cementing their sense of identity, this in turn enables them to engage in positive relationships and nurture their own talents
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society, and show respect and tolerance to others

Compulsory Subjects:

You will study these subjects throughout Year 10 and 11. They are:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (combined – 2 GCSEs or separate sciences – 3 GCSEs)
- Physical Education (core – non examined)
- Philosophy (core – non examined)
- PSHE (core –non examined)

Option Subjects:

You will also have the opportunity to study four options subjects to gain GCSE qualifications. It is possible to combine academic and vocational courses. These courses are single award GCSEs or equivalent courses and count as one subject (one option).

- Students should take **History or Geography** and a **language** (if they are likely to be successful and enjoy languages). This helps develop your understanding of the changing world in which we live and adds **balance** to your studies.
- When choosing your options you will be asked to nominate two reserve choices which you could get so think carefully about these subjects

Facilitating subjects:



- Facilitating subjects, as defined by the Russell Group, are those that are often more commonly required by universities and "facilitate" the study of other subjects
- Selecting History or Geography **PLUS** one Modern Language subject will help to ensure balance in your subjects

Subject	Sector	Qualification
Computer Science	Science/Technology	GCSE
French	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
German	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Spanish	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Geography	Humanities	GCSE
History	Humanities	GCSE



Specialist Subjects

Subject	Sector	Qualification
Art	Creative	GCSE
Drama	Creative	GCSE
Business Studies	Humanities	GCSE
Design Technology	Technology	GCSE
Economics	Humanities	GCSE
Engineering	Technology	GCSE
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Technology	GCSE
Media Studies	Creative/Technology	GCSE
Religious Studies	Humanities	GCSE
Sociology	Humanities	GCSE

Additional Subjects – Vocational & Applied courses

Subject	Sector	Qualification
Music Technology	Creative/ Technology	BTEC (L2)
Health and Fitness	Creative/Technology	NCFE Technical Award (L1/2)
Information Technology	Technology	Cambridge National (L1/2)



Additional Subjects – Community Modern Foreign Languages

If students are able to speak, read and write one of the languages below they can take the GCSE in that subject and it will count as the modern foreign language component of the English Baccalaureate. The Tamil qualification is an iGCSE and does not contribute towards the English Baccalaureate. Where possible, the school will support and prepare students for these exams in sessions that will take place after school.

Subject	Sector	Qualification
Arabic (EDEXCEL)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Bangla (AQA)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Chinese (AQA)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Greek (EDEXCEL)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Gujarati (EDEXCEL)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Hebrew – modern (AQA)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Italian (AQA)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Persian (EDEXCEL)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Polish (AQA)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Portuguese (EDEXCEL)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Punjabi (AQA)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Russian (EDEXCEL)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Tamil (iGCSE)	Modern Foreign Language	iGCSE
Turkish (EDEXCEL)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE
Urdu (AQA)	Modern Foreign Language	GCSE



Our expectations

To be successful in KS4 at Beal High School, you will need to:

- Aim for full attendance: This includes all timetabled lessons, morning registration, revision sessions and assemblies. Be in the right place, on time.
- Be organised and smart: Ensure you bring the right equipment and you wear the correct uniform to school; complete all classwork and extra learning tasks on time.
- Value your time and make study your priority: In KS4 we expect every student to spend at least two hours on work each night. Meet all deadlines and strive to exceed your target grades. Organise your home study time effectively and ensure that social media sites do not interfere with study. Read and work outside of the classroom. Ask for help if there are problems.
- Make positive choices: work together to have a calm, tidy, polite school where we are all ready for learning and build positive relationships with students and staff.
- Show respect and consideration for yourself and others; listen when someone is talking; follow instructions quickly. Act as a role model for younger students, setting examples of conduct, commitment to study and participation in school life.
- Contribute to the school community by accepting additional responsibility - possibly a member of the school forum, prefect, form/year team lead, mentor, subject ambassador, sports leader or an environmental champion.



Extra-curricular Opportunities

The aim is to provide useful leadership opportunities for students to take part in outside of lessons, where they can learn new and transferable skills. These opportunities are essential in helping students prepare for the world of work. As well as this, Year 10 students can apply to become members of the school forum. This is to create an effective network of informed young leaders who are active citizens guiding the future of Beal High School.

What should I do now?

Your choices

The Year 9 section of the school website - ***KS4 options subject information 2026*** is designed to tell you about the basic content of each assessed subject including the ones that are compulsory. It is intended to help you and your parents make the right decisions for you and for your future. We always try to give you your first choice subjects but this is not always possible. It is important that you choose reserve options and think carefully about these too.

In addition to reading this booklet you should:

- Talk to your parents and your form tutors about your subject preferences.
- Speak to your teachers about what is involved in their subjects. They will also be able to advise you based on their knowledge of you as an individual.
- Use the KS3-4 progression evening on **Tuesday 20th January** and parents' evening on **Tuesday 24th February 2026** to ask as many questions as you can.
- Talk to other students in Years 10 and 11 who are taking subjects in which you are interested.

Your decisions

The Beal High School website (Year 9 page) provides you with a copy of this options booklet and subject information for all GCSE subjects. We have also provided a link to the subject specific entry requirements for our 6th form.



You will be emailed a link to the GCSE options form after the Year 9 Parents Evening. You must indicate on this what your four choices are as well as your two reserve options. **This online form should be completed before Wednesday 18th March 2026**

Key Dates

Key Stage 3 – 4 Progression Evening- Tuesday 20th January 2026

Year 9 Parents Evening – Tuesday 24th February 2026

Year 9 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) – January/February/ March 2026

Deadline for completion of the online Options Form – Wednesday 18th March 2026

Follow up Year 9 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) – April/May/June 2026

Frequently asked questions – for parents

1. If there are questions still unanswered after the Progression Partnership Evening who should I speak to?

The easiest thing to do is explain your query to our Achievement and Progress Administrator Mrs Sairah Saleem on Telephone number: 020 8551 4954 Email: year9optionssupport@bealhighschool.co.uk who will then direct you to the right person.

2. Will the choice of subjects now affect what subjects can be studied at Sixth Form level?



Not necessarily; the most important thing is to achieve your best possible grades at GCSE. This, along with a good English grade (grade 5+), will then give you more Sixth Form subjects to choose from. A-levels will have subject specific entry requirements. These are available on the school website. Students who already have a clear career in mind should discuss their plans with subject staff at the Year 9 Parents' Evening.

3. Does the School make provision for homework to be completed?

Yes, the Resource Centre is open every day until 5pm for private study. As well as this, a number of lunchtime and after school study sessions happen in the study centre. There are also after school study sessions in departments most evenings (look out for timetables on the website).

4. How can I support my son/daughter?

By monitoring their progress, encouraging them with their homework and supporting them to attend after school study and revision sessions.

5. How do I know about the progress being made by my son/daughter?

All students are assessed regularly against pre-set targets. Parents are then informed of the projected grade in each subject, attitudes towards learning and lessons and the progress being made three times per year. Parents can also meet with subject staff and Form Tutors at their respective Parents' Evenings.

6. Who do I speak to if I am concerned about my son/daughter?

Your son/daughter's Form Tutor should be the first point of contact. The Head of Year, Mr. Goss and the Deputy Head of Year, Mr Salem will also be able to advise and support you.

7. How does the School communicate with parents?

We communicate regularly with parents in a number of ways; telephone, text and email (via Groupcall). In addition, lots of information can be found on our website. You may also receive contact from Form Tutors, teaching staff and the Head of Year who will update you on the progress of your son/daughter.

8. How do we communicate with students outside school?

All students should check their school email accounts and the online platform SatchelOne **every day for important information**.

Students have access Microsoft Teams and Unifrog.



Exam Boards

Subject – Year 11	Exam Board	QN Code
Art: Art & Design GCSE	AQA	601/8088/2
Biology A (Triple): GCSE	OCR A	601/8589/2
Business Studies: GCSE	AQA	603/0304/9
Chemistry A (Triple): GCSE	OCR A	601/8663/X
Computer Science: GCSE	OCR	601/8355/X
3D Design (DT): GCSE	AQA	601/8088/2
Drama: GCSE	AQA	601/8575/2
Economics: GCSE	AQA	603/0126/0
Engineering: GCSE	AQA	603/0719/5
English Language: GCSE	AQA	601/4929/3
English Literature: GCSE	AQA	601/4447/6
French: GCSE	EDEXCEL	601/8708/6
Food Preparation and Nutrition: GCSE	EDUQCAS	601/8093/6
Geography A: GCSE	EDEXCEL A	601/8134/5
German: GCSE	EDEXCEL	601/8709/8
History: GCSE	EDEXCEL	601/8092/4
Health and Fitness: NCFE Technical Award	NCFE	603/7007/5
Information Technology: Cambridge National	OCR	603/7115/8
Mathematics: GCSE	EDEXCEL	601/4700/3
Media Studies: GCSE	EDUQCAS	603/1115/0
Music: BTEC	EDEXCEL	603/7055/5
Physics A (Triple): GCSE	OCR A	601/8651/3
Religious Studies: GCSE	AQA	603/8400/0



Sociology: GCSE	AQA	603/0798/5
Science Combined A (Double): GCSE	OCR A	601/8687/2
Spanish: GCSE	EDEXCEL	601/8710/4

Other Key Staff in Key Stage 4

BHS Co Headteachers	Ms Y Andress and Mr W Mackintosh
Head of Upper School	Ms C Chantaduc
Assistant Principal KS4	Mr A Raja
Head of BCS	Ms H Todd
Head of Year	Mr S Goss
Deputy Head of Year	Mr J Salem
SEND Deputy Head of Year (SEND)	Ms P Patel
SENCO (KS4):	Ms H Todd
KS4 Pastoral Administrator:	Mrs S Salim