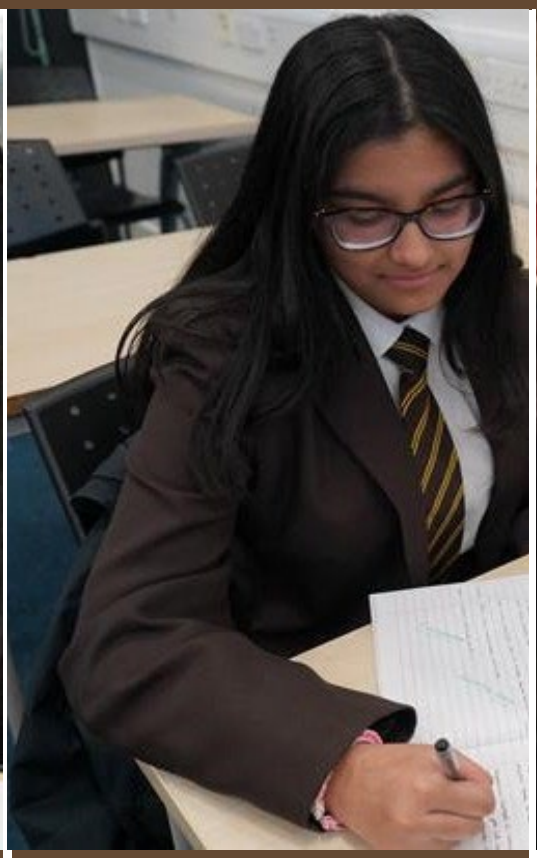
BEAL HIGH SCHOOL







YEAR 9 OPTIONS

KS4 Options Booklet

2026–27

GCSEs and your future

Year 10 marks the beginning of your GCSE studies and the first time that you have some choice over the subjects you study. 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:

5+

At least five GCSE passes (grades 9-1) and as many good (grade 9-5) passes as possible. More passes means more opportunities

9–4

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 vocational courses, which are approved by the government as equivalent to GCSEs but offer a more practical 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 2026-7.***

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	Physical Education (core – non examined)
Mathematics	Philosophy (core – non examined)
Science (combined – two GCSEs or separate sciences – three GCSEs)	Personal Development (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**
- Students should consider taking a **language** (if they are likely to be successful and enjoy languages) as this helps develop understanding of the changing world in which we live and adds **balance** to GCSE studies.
- Some students may choose three subjects and use the extra time to focus on achieving an additional Entry level/Level 1 qualification or the Additional English iGCSE (English as a second language) qualification. Only students who are invited to do this will be able to follow this option.
- When choosing your options you will be asked to nominate two reserve choices which you could get so think carefully about these subjects

A broad and balanced curriculum

- Choosing a broad and balanced range of GCSE subjects helps students develop different knowledge and skills while keeping future education and career options open.
- We encourage students to consider selecting **History or Geography, alongside a Modern Foreign Language**, to maintain breadth and balance across their studies.
- Students should also consider their individual strengths, interests and future ambitions when making their GCSE choices.

YOUR OPTIONS

Subjects on offer

Humanities / Languages / Computing

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
Music	Creative	GCSE
Religious Studies	Humanities	GCSE
Sociology	Humanities	GCSE

Vocational & Applied courses

Subject	Sector	Qualification
IT	Science/Technology	Cambridge National Award
Health and Fitness	Creative/Technology	NCFE Technical Award (L1/2)

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Our expectations

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

01
Aim for full attendance: This includes all timetabled lessons, morning registration, revision sessions and assemblies. Be in the right place, on time.

02
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.

03
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.

04
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.

05
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.

06
Contribute to the school community by accepting additional responsibility - possibly a member of the school forum, prefect, form/year team lead, mentor, subject ambassador or sports leader.

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.

NEXT STEPS

What should I do now?

Your choices

The Year 9 section of the school website - ***KS4 options subject information 2026-27*** 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:

01
Talk to your parents and your form tutors about your subject preferences.

02
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.

03
Use Year 9 parents' evening on **Thursday 10th December 2026** and the Year 9 Options Evening on **Tuesday 26th January 2027** to ask as many questions as you can.

04
Talk to other students in Years 10 and 11 who are taking subjects which interest you.

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 Options Evening on Tuesday 26th January 2027. You must indicate on this what your four GCSE options choices are as well as your two reserve choices. **This online form should be completed before Monday 1st March 2027.**

KEY DATES	
Thursday 10th December 2026	Year 9 Parents Evening
January/February 2027	Year 9 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)
Tuesday 26th January 2027	Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 27th January 2027	GCSE Options Form emailed out
Monday 1st March 2027	Deadline for completion of the online Options Form
March/April/May 2027	Follow up Year 9 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Parent frequently asked questions

1 **If there are questions still unanswered after the Year 9 Options Evening who should I speak to?**

The easiest thing to do is explain your query to our Pastoral Administrator Mrs Sairah Salim 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 or Year 9 Options Evening.

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

Yes, the KS3 library is open every day until 4:15pm for private study. 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 and the progress being made throughout the 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, Ms Hehir and the Deputy Head of Year, Ms Trott 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**.

Contacts

If you require further information on any of our courses, please contact the relevant member of staff listed below.

Subject – Year 11	Head of Department	Exam Board	QN Code
Art: Art & Design GCSE	Ms S Kasperkowicz	AQA	601/8088/2
Biology A (Triple): GCSE	Mr F Ahmed	OCR A	601/8589/2
Business Studies: GCSE	Ms F Annan	AQA	603/0304/9
Chemistry A (Triple): GCSE	Mr F Ahmed	OCR A	601/8663/X
Computer Science: GCSE	Mr J Jackson	OCR	601/8355/X
3D Design (DT): GCSE	Ms S Kasperkowicz	AQA	601/8088/2
Drama: GCSE	Mr J Nolan	AQA	601/8575/2
Economics: GCSE	Ms K Patel	AQA	603/0126/0
Engineering: GCSE	Ms S Kasperkowicz	AQA	603/0719/5
English as a Second Language – 4ES1 (not paper 3): IGCSE	Mr K Nerguti	EDEXCEL	N/A
English Language: GCSE	Ms L Khan	AQA	601/4929/3
English Literature: GCSE	Ms L Khan	AQA	601/4447/6
French: GCSE	Ms A Atwal	EDEXCEL	601/8708/6
Food Preparation and Nutrition: GCSE	Ms D D'Silva	EDUQAS	601/8093/6
Geography A: GCSE	Ms M Alwi	EDEXCEL A	601/8134/5
German: GCSE	Ms A Atwal	EDEXCEL	601/8709/8
Health and Fitness: NCFE Technical Award	Mr K Bennett	EDUQCAS	601/8444/9
History: GCSE	Ms M Alwi	EDEXCEL	601/8092/4
IT: Cambridge National Award	Mr J Jackson	OCR	603/7115/8
Mathematics: GCSE	Mr N Singh	EDEXCEL	601/4700/3
Media Studies: GCSE	Ms N Jaber	EDUQCAS	603/1115/0
Music: GCSE	Mr O Bailey-Green	EDEXCEL	601/8204/0
Physics A (Triple): GCSE	Mr F Ahmed	OCR A	601/8651/3
Religious Studies: GCSE	Mr M Ahmed	AQA	603/8400/0
Sociology: GCSE	Ms A Param	AQA	603/0798/5
Science Combined A (Double): GCSE	Mr F Ahmed	OCR A	601/8687/2
Spanish: GCSE	Ms A Atwal	EDEXCEL	601/8710/4

Other Key Staff in Key Stage 4

Role	Name
BHS Co Headteachers	Mr W Mackintosh / Ms Y Andress
Head of Upper School (KS4)	Ms C Chantaduc
Assistant Principals (KS4)	Ms N Matharu, Mr H Williamson
Head of Year	Ms K Hehir
Deputy Head of Year	Ms C Trott
SEND Deputy Head of Year	Ms L Sharpe
KS4 Pastoral Administrator	Ms S Salim

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QUESTIONS ABOUT OPTIONS?

year9optionssupport@bealhighschool.co.uk

020 8551 4954