

YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROCESS

2026



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THE NEXT TWO YEARS	Anticipated hours per fortnight in Year 10	Anticipated hours per fortnight in Year 11
English Language and Literature (two separate qualifications, worth a total of two GCSEs)	8	8
Maths	8	8
Science (Students who opt for Separate Science will then have more)	10	10
Core PE/ Philosophy & Ethics /PSHE (Students may opt for GCSE Religious Studies)	4	4



WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

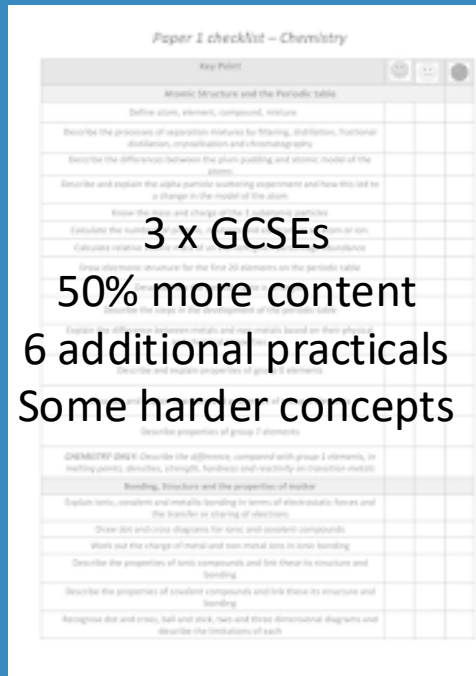
Students will select 4 options and 1 reserve from the lists below. At least one choice must be from humanities and languages list.

Humanities and Languages	Arts (visual and performing)	Technologies	Others
History	Art, Craft & Design	Computer Science	Religious Studies
Geography	Dance	IT	Enterprise & Marketing
French	Drama	Design and Technology	Child Development
German	Music	Engineering	Health and Social Care
Spanish		Food and Nutrition	Sports Science
			Separate Science



SEPARATE SCIENCE / COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Not to be underestimated



Paper 1 checkList – Chemistry

Key Point

Atomic Structure and the Periodic table

Define atom, element, compound, mixture

Describe the processes of separation methods for mixing, distillation, fractional distillation, reprecipitation and chromatography

Describe the difference between the giant ionic and atomic model of the atom

Describe and explain the alpha particle scattering experiment and how this led to a change in the model of the atom

Know the structure and characteristics of atoms

Calculate the number of protons, neutrons and electrons in an atom

Calculate relative atomic mass, relative molecular mass and relative formula mass

Draw electron structures for the first 20 elements on the periodic table

Describe the structure of simple molecular and ionic crystals based on their structure

Describe and explain the properties of ionic compounds

Describe properties of group 1 elements

CHEMISTRY ONLY Describe the difference, compared with group 1 elements, in melting points, densities, strengths, hardness and reactivity in reaction with water

Bonding, structure and the properties of matter

Explain ionic, covalent and metallic bonding in terms of electrostatic forces and the transfer or sharing of electrons

Draw dot and cross diagrams for ionic and covalent compounds

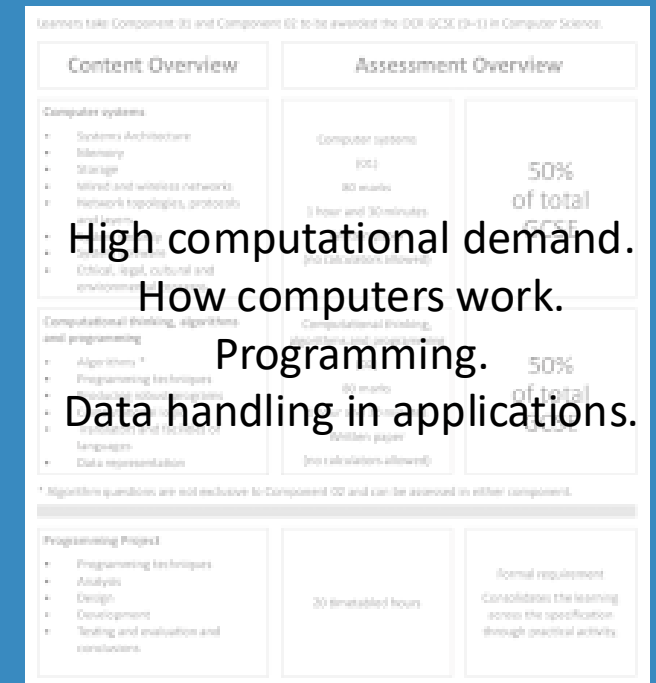
Work out the charge of metal and non-metal ions in ionic bonding

Describe the properties of ionic compounds and link these to structure and bonding

Describe the properties of covalent compounds and link these to structure and bonding

Recognise dot and cross, ball and stick, space-filling and three-dimensional diagrams and describe the limitations of each

3 x GCSEs
50% more content
6 additional practicals
Some harder concepts



Students take Component 01 and Component 02 to be awarded the DQR GCSE (9-1) in Computer Science.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview
Computer systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systems Architecture• Memory• Storage• Wired and wireless networks• Network topologies, protocols• Cyber security• Ethics, legal, cultural and environmental issues	Computer systems 1001 80 marks 3 hour and 30 minutes (no calculator allowed)
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algorithms *• Programming techniques• Data representation	Computational thinking, algorithms and programming 80 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes (no calculator allowed)
Programming Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programming techniques• Analysis• Design• Development• Testing and evaluation and conclusions	30 timetabled hours Special requirement Consolidates the learning across the specification through practical activities

* Algorithm questions are not exclusive to Component 02 and can be assessed in either component.



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SPORT SCIENCE



Eight written coursework pieces and one exam.

Lessons will at times involve some practical elements that students must be willing to be involved in.

Practical lessons do not focus on 'playing sport' like core PE.



MUSIC / PERFORMING ARTS (VQ) MUSIC



There are usually three main areas of study: Performance, Composition, Listening and Appraising. Students will learn about a range of types of music, including vocal, instrumental, music for film, pop, jazz, fusion, and new music.



FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

Not just a cooking course, there is lots of theory and food science aspects to learn and investigate.

If not studied in Year 9, there is lots of practical skills and theory to catch up on, mostly via summer holiday tasks. It is advised you speak with Mrs Derwent prior to picking it as an option.



WHAT SHOULD I CHOOSE THEN?



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FIRST THINGS FIRST...

...they are all challenging. There is no easy option.



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KEY ADVICE:

Think with careers in mind but...

Pick what *you enjoy* and pick what *you are good at*.



OTHER ADVICE:

- **Don't** choose what your friends are doing – you might not end up in the same group.
- **Don't** choose a subject because you like a particular teacher; you may not have that teacher in Year 10.
- **Don't** choose something because it is 'new' without researching what it really is.



TIMELINE

- Launch assembly for Year 9 students – Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th February.
- **Year 9 Guided Choices Evening - Thursday 12th February.**
- Parents receive a written report from subject teachers– Friday, 13th February.
- Options form will open – 9am on Monday, 16th February.
- **Deadline for students making choices – Friday, 13th March.**



Smart Choices

Reasons to Choose Subjects

- You enjoy the subject and don't mind working hard to do well in it
- You know or you think you will be good at the subject
- The subject combination may link to future career ideas
- The subject interests you
- It suits your preferences for exams/coursework



Subjects and Related Careers

Very few career routes require specific GCSE subjects.

For a few degrees, apprenticeships and A Levels, you will be expected to have taken specific GCSE subjects, for example:

- **Medicine** [all areas] and **veterinary sciences** – separate science is the ‘regular’ route but not essential.
- **Art and design pathways** – a portfolio is essential (and can be part-curated using work from a GCSE course)
- **Language based routes** – it would not be possible to pick up a language at A level if it hasn’t been studied for GCSE.



Need More Advice?

- Use our website: <https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/index.php/student-development-and-support/careers/>
- Speak with Lindsay, our Independent Careers Advisor if you are really struggling.
- Talk to your subject teachers
- Talk to your tutor - we are still on the other end of an email
- Contact an adviser from the National Careers Service FREE
 - on 0800 100 900
- Talk to your parents or carers



FAQs

- Will all students get all their choices?

Reserve choice in place of 4th choice.

- What happens if I change my mind?

Email Mr Hayman who will reset the form.

The sooner you change your mind easier to accommodate.

- How will I support my SEND student?

Encourage them to make their choices in preference order.

Mr Hall/Mr Hayman will be in touch to discuss.



MAKING YOUR CHOICES

The screenshot shows a SharePoint Portal Launchpad interface. At the top, there is a search bar and user information for 'Brook, JM (Staff)'. Below the search bar, the page title is 'Portal Launchpad' with 'Following' and 'Share' options. A 'New' button and 'Page details' link are visible. The main content area is titled 'Notices' and contains a message about cancelled lessons with a link to a website. Below the notices is a 'Useful Links' section with a grid of 15 links. The 'Year 9 Options' link is highlighted with a red box. The other links include 'Bedrock vocabulary', 'School Website', 'eDofE', 'PiXL Independence', 'Year 13 Post 18 Destination Tracker Tool', 'EPrise', 'Departments / Subjects', 'School Catering', 'My GCSE Science', 'PiXL Maths', 'Hegarty Maths', 'Email', 'Renaissance Reading', 'Careers Planner', and 'Year 11 Post 16 Destination Tracker Tool'.

NB:
Pay attention
to order of
preference of
choices.



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