



**SIR THOMAS  
BOTELER**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



**HIGH EXPECTATIONS  
HIGH ASPIRATIONS  
HIGH STANDARDS  
YOU WILL SUCCEED**

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**YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2026  
WELCOME  
MRS SCOTT-HERRON**



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**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider

WE ARE PART OF  
**TCAT**  
THE  
CHALLENGE  
ACADEMY  
TRUST



**MR J KOLTAN  
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER  
CURRICULUM**



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- A very important transition in education
- Not something that Year 9 have just started thinking about – well informed
- The choices and decisions your son/daughter makes now will affect their future and career paths
- This needs to be taken very seriously
- Enjoy researching potential subjects and careers



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# KEY DATES

**Monday 9th March** - Options Week Assemblies

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** - Options Evening and Website Live

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 9 Options Assembly

**Ongoing careers interviews** – Career Connect (Tuesdays)

**Monday 23rd March (Two-Weeks)** - Options focus in PD lessons

**Thursday 2nd April** - Option form **submission deadline (digital)**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May** - Option choices confirmed by letter

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** - Year 10 GCSE lessons begin (GCSE Exams 2028)



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# CORE SUBJECTS

The core curriculum subjects that **all** students will study are:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- GCSE Combined Science (Triple award for some students)
- Religious Studies GCSE
- Core PE (Not examined)



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**MR S MASON**

**ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER  
VOCATIONAL LEAD**

# WHAT ARE VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS?

Vocational qualifications are work related qualifications providing a more practical approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background.

- BTEC
- Cambridge Nationals
- WJEC Award



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# VOCATIONAL VS GCSE

## Assessment:

- GCSEs: Focus on the exams at the end of Year 11, limited coursework. Grades 9-1
- Vocational: A mix of coursework, practical assessments and generally one external exam. Grades Distinction\* - Pass

## Focus:

- GCSEs: Academic and theoretical, preparing students for exams.
- Vocational: Academic and theoretical, hands-on, practical learning with real world applications.

## Progression:

- Both pathways are equivalent to **one GCSE**.
- Both lead to further education, apprenticeships, or employment.
- Vocational courses align closely with specific career routes.



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# BENEFITS OF VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS

- Engaging for Practical Learners
- Career Ready Skills
- Builds Confidence
- Flexible Pathways
- Relevant Experience

# VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS FOR 2026-2028

- BTEC Performing Arts (Drama)
- BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)
- BTEC Enterprise
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Travel and Tourism
- WJEC Hospitality and Catering
- Cambridge National in Sport Science



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# TRIPLE SCIENCE AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Very demanding courses
- Significant terminal exams
- Large volume of curriculum content
- We want our students to **enjoy** their subjects but also be **successful** in them
- Not for everybody
- Access assessments for students to demonstrate the suitability of the qualification to support student decisions
- Take place the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026



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# OPTIONS 2026 — TO — 2028

## YEAR 9 OPTION CHOICES 2026

All Option submissions to be completed by Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the latest

The core curriculum subjects that **all** students will study are:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- GCSE Dual Award Science (Triple award for some students)
- Religious Studies GCSE
- Core PE (Not examined)

Option A		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
<b>All Students</b> to choose <b>either</b> History or Geography	History or Geography		
Option B		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
<b>All Students</b> to choose <b>one</b> first choice subject and one second choice subject.	Art Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Drama Enterprise French Graphic Design Hospitality Music Spanish Sport		
Option C		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
<b>All Students</b> to choose <b>one</b> first choice subject and one second choice subject.	Art Design & Technology Drama French Geography Health & Social Care History Hospitality Music Sport Travel and Tourism Triple Science		



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<b>Option A</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
<b>All Students</b> to choose <b>either</b> History or Geography	History or Geography		
<b>Option B</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
<b>All Students</b> to choose <b>one</b> first choice subject and one second choice subject.	Art Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Drama Enterprise French Graphic Design Hospitality Music Spanish Sport		
<b>Option C</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
<b>All Students</b> to choose <b>one</b> first choice subject and one second choice subject.	Art Design & Technology Drama French Geography Health & Social Care History Hospitality Music Sport Travel and Tourism Triple Science		



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# POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS...

Student 1 – Geography (A), Spanish (B), Travel (C)

Student 2 – History (A), Drama (B), Music (C)

Student 3 – Geography (A), French (B), History (C)

Student 4 – Geography (A), Computer Science (B), DT (C)

Student 5 – History (A), Sport (B), Art (C)

Student 6 – History (A), Enterprise (B), DT (C)

Student 7 – Geography (A), Dance (B), Sport (C)

Student 8 – Geography (A), DT (B), Triple Science (C)



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# WILL I GET MY OPTION CHOICES?

- We will do our best to give students the option subjects they have chosen
- We ask students to also select a reserve option choice
- Where groups have very low numbers of students opting for them, we may not be able to run the subject
- Both student and parents will be consulted about reserve/alternative choices

**What if I can't pick the combination of subjects I wanted to do?**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Option choices confirmed by letter**



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# GUIDANCE FROM PAST STUDENTS

- Do something you enjoy – 5 hours fortnightly
- Don't choose something just because your friends are
- Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher
- Think about picking a subject with a practical element - variety in learning that is not just theoretical
- Choose subjects you are good at – stepping stones

# WHAT IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT A FUTURE CAREER OR FURTHER STUDY?

- Options section on the **school website – text link**
- Options booklet (Hard copy tonight) – Read the information
- University of Chester – Option choices explained
- Subject Assemblies – What interested you?
- Year 9 Options Assembly
- Subject experts here tonight – Ask Questions
- Farina Cahm - Careers Connect



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## Options

[OPTIONS EVENING  
PRESENTATION](#)

[THE OPTIONS BOOKLET](#)

[A GUIDE TO GCSE  
OPTIONS](#)

[WHICH SUBJECT?](#)

[OPTIONS FORM](#)

### Year 9 Options Evening 2026

Year 9 Options Evening, takes place on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 18:00 in the School Hall.**

This is a **compulsory event for all Year 9 students and their parents/carers**, as the options process will determine the subjects your child will study at **Key Stage 4**. The evening is a crucial opportunity for both students and families to gain a clear understanding of the process and the wide range of courses available.

The evening will provide:

- A detailed explanation of the options process and key deadlines
- Information about new vocational qualifications on offer
- An opportunity to explore subjects not studied at Key Stage 3
- Time to speak directly with Heads of Department, subject leads, and students currently studying the courses
- Guidance from Further Education providers to help inform future pathways

The first part of the evening will consist of a presentation outlining the options process and introducing the new vocational courses available. This will be followed by a **marketplace-style event**, where you and your child can visit subject areas, ask questions, and discuss course content and expectations with staff and students. It is essential that students and parents have as much information as possible to make informed and appropriate choices about future pathways.

Please confirm your attendance on the evening by clicking on this link: [Year 9 Options Evening – Attendance Confirmation – Fill in form](#)

Students attending the evening are expected to be in **full school uniform**. Should you have any questions in advance of the evening, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email details below.

We look forward to welcoming you on the evening.

Should any parent/carer have any questions in advance, please feel free to contact me using the email details below.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Koltan

**Deputy Headteacher**

[jkoltan@boteler.org.uk](mailto:jkoltan@boteler.org.uk)



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# ENJOY IT!

- Enjoy continuing to investigate and research your option choices
- Review all the information on the Options section of the school website
- Discuss Option choices with teachers in school
- Ask for an additional careers interview – email Farina [Farina.Cahm@careerconnect.org.uk](mailto:Farina.Cahm@careerconnect.org.uk)





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# OPTIONS <sup>2026</sup> — TO — <sup>2028</sup>

## QUESTIONS OR QUERIES

If you have a question or query regarding the options process, please write it below and we will be more than happy to assist. All the questions or queries raised on the evening will be collated with responses emailed out collectively by the end of the day on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# SUBJECT MARKETPLACE

Compulsory subjects English, Maths, Science and RE will not be represented. New courses/vocational qualifications are in *italics*.

## Art

Mrs Morris

Room 25

## Computer Science

Mr Gorman

Room 12

### *\*Dance*

*Mrs Hughes*

Gym

## Design and Technology

Mr Robinson

Room 15

### *\*Drama*

*Mrs Armstrong*

Drama Studio

### *\*Enterprise*

*Mr Sutcliffe*

Room 13

## Geography

Miss Barnes/Miss Peace/Miss Kenny

Room 9

## Graphics

Miss Ellams

Room 16

### *\*Health and Social Care*

*Mr Mason*

Room 7

## History

Mr McDonald

Room 10

### *\*Hospitality*

*Miss Fallon*

Room 17

## Modern Foreign Languages

Mrs Hesford

Room 5

## Music

Mr McCombs

Room 4

## SENDCO

Miss Power

Progress Hub

## Sport

Mr Burbidge

Gym

### *\*Travel and Tourism*

*Miss Peace*

Room 9

## Triple Science

Mr Davies

Lab 5



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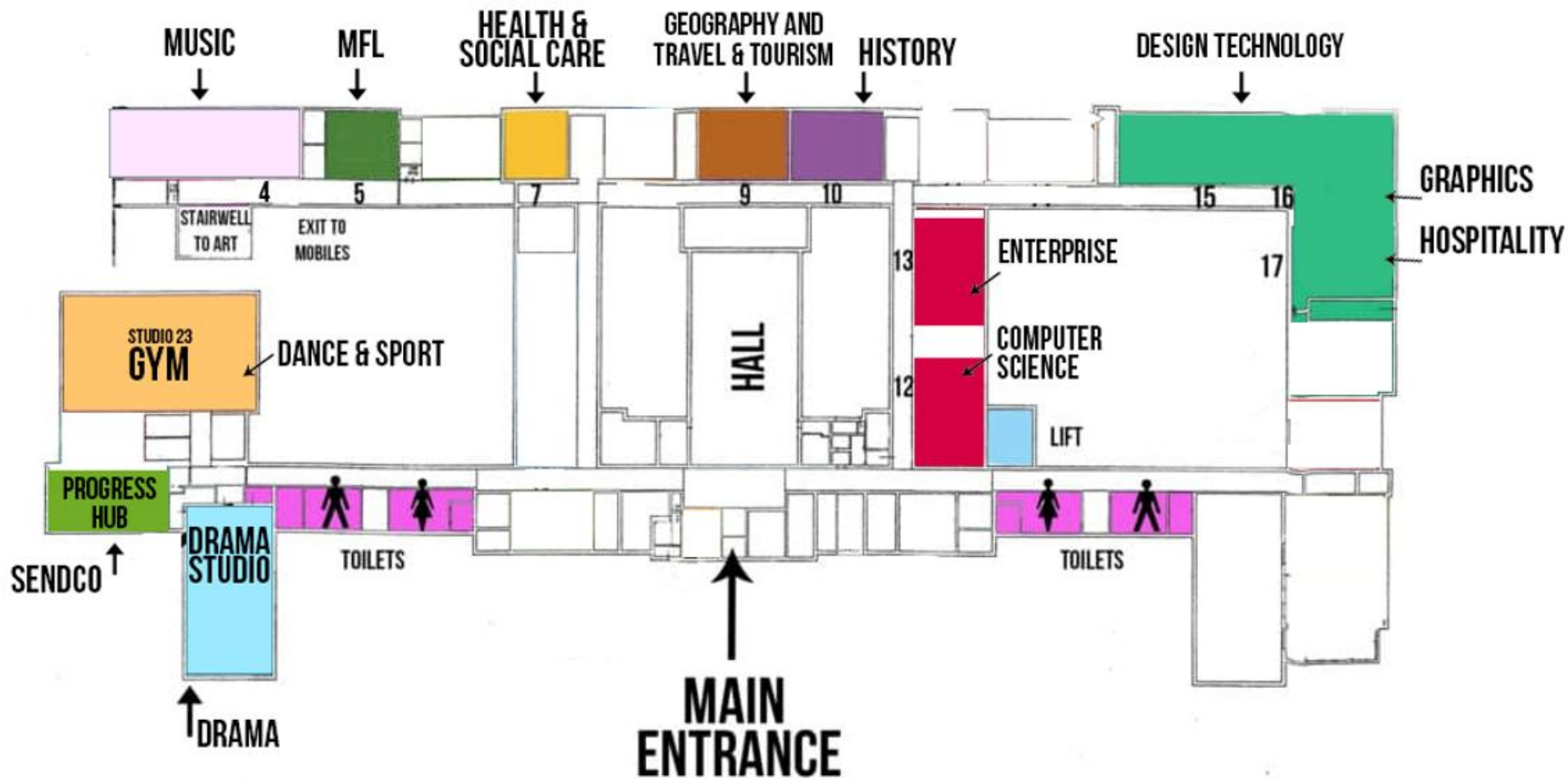


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# GROUND FLOOR





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# FIRST FLOOR

