



Queen Elizabeth High School

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Year 9 options

Mr Seaton

Mrs Fletcher-Woods

2026

Key People Involved.....

Students & Parents/Carers

Subject teachers & form tutors

Achievement & Progression Team:

Mrs Fletcher-Woods (Assistant Headteacher)

Mr Maughan & Mrs Jobber (Achievement & Progression Coordinators)

Vicky Bell (Achievement & Progression support)

Mrs Warland (Assistant Headteacher SENDCO)

Mr Seaton (Head of School)



KS4 curriculum

Most students at QE will pathway to 9 GCSEs.

They will study Maths, English Language, English Literature, Science and at least one of:

Geography, History, French, Spanish, Computing, Triple Science

3 'free' option choices – must choose 4 in order of preference (we will guarantee first and second choice)





8 GCSE Pathway

A group of students will study 8 GCSEs with additional hours in Maths and/or English to secure progress in that qualification.

They have been selected based on a variety of data (Y9 baseline, Key Stage 2 data Y9 English and Maths, reading age screening, middle school transfer levels).

Additional hours in English or Maths will benefit students studying 8 rather than 9 GCSEs.



Attitude to Learning



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Students should consider their ATL grades as much as their attainment in selecting choices.

If students are achieving an ATL of inconsistent or cause for concern they really need to consider if this is the right course to opt into.

Demonstrating a willingness to engage and work hard is as important as the marks or grades achieved in tests.

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Legacy GCSEs	New GCSE Grades	Vocational Qualifications	
A*	9	Distinction * 8.5	Level 2
	8		
A	7	Distinction 7	
B	6	Merit 5.5	
	5		
C	4	Pass 4	
D	3	Distinction * 3	Level 1
E		Distinction 2	
F	2	Merit 1.5	
G	1	Pass 1	
U	U	Not Yet Achieved (NYA)	

Grading

Science –
combined vs
triple



Combined Science

- Is the minimum requirement of KS4 science education.
- Biology, chemistry and physics are all studied.
- Students sit 2 exams in each at the end of Yr 11 and the paper is 1hr15mins long.
- There is a higher (grade 4-9) and foundation tier (grade 1-5).
- All marks are added together to give 2 grades eg 77 or 76.
- 10 hours per fortnight (3 per science plus 1 skills-based lesson).



Triple Science

- Is an option subject in QE. It is accessible and open to study by all students who enjoy science, regardless of ability.
- Biology, chemistry and physics are all studied – more content is covered than combined.
- Students sit 2 exams in each science at the end of Yr 11 and the paper is 1hr45mins long due to the additional content.
- There is a higher (grade 4-9) and foundation tier (grade 1-5).
- Each subject is graded independently of the others so a student can achieve a grade 4 in one and a grade 9 in another!
- 15 hours per fortnight (5 per science) - this is a significant amount of time allocated.



Making choices

Our core curriculum takes care of most career or university choices.

The three 'free' choices should keep their curriculum broad and balanced but also be enjoyable and motivating.

Taster morning helped to inform students, as will this options evening for parents.

Look at assessment methods as well as content.

Making choices

Ask your child what their favourite day of the week is (the school week not the weekend!).

Why? What subjects do they have on that day?

Y9 data report, ATL & grades – use this as a guide.

What interests or skills do they have? (Art/music/drama/computing).

Not all GCSE choices lead to an A Level equivalent at QEHS (RE/Music).

There are some subjects that you do not need for progression to KS5 and can choose as fresh start subjects in sixth form (business/health and social).

Making the option choices

- All students will have a 1:1 meeting with form tutor as a minimum.
- Electronic forms sent to form tutors to complete with students.
- If students are unable to complete the form with tutors, they will be referred and will have a meeting with one of the Achievement & Progression team if additional support/advice is needed.
- E-mail – options@qehs.net

KS4 Options 2026 - Pathway 1

For students doing 9 GCSEs. Please use options@gehs.net for any enquiries

1. Surname *

Enter your answer

2. First Name *

Enter your answer

3. Form *

- 9DNS
- 9EAR
- 9JIC

4. Would you like extra support or a parent present? *

- Yes
- No

5. Choose 1 subject as your Compulsory Option. You can still choose another one of these later. * 

- Computing
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Triple Science

6. Please choose your first option choice *

- Fine Art and Textiles
- Business



Key Dates – page 5 of booklets

25 Feb -12 March – one to one meeting with form tutor or other.

13 March – Deadline for submitting options choices.

16 March – 15 May - we will contact student/home if further discussion re option choices is required.

15 June – Start Key stage 4 subjects.

Thank you



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