



Year 9 Options

2026-27

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What does this mean?

- You are able to choose some subjects to study to a higher level
- You will do fewer subjects overall compared with Key Stage 3
- You need to start thinking about what you might want to do in the future, as choices now can affect this.

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The Curriculum

Our priority is to provide courses that will enable students to **maximise their potential** and **enhance their opportunities** beyond the age of sixteen of finding the best progression route for them.

We believe that this offers them a broad range of subjects in order to prepare them for life after West Craven which is reflected in our motto Ad Vitam Paramus.

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Core curriculum

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- RE/PSHCE (non-exam)
- PE

Options

- **Art*****
- Business Studies
- French
- Geography*
- Health & Fitness
- History*
- Hospitality & Catering
- Photography
- Separate Science
- Spanish
- **Three-Dimensional Design*****

Courses are subject to minimum and maximum numbers-

We cannot run a course if there are only a handful of students wanting to choose it.

***** Art and Three-dimensional Design** have a number of elements during the course that are considered similar by the examination board, so you are not permitted to study both.

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'Academic Breadth'

The Department for Education recommends a curriculum that includes a wide range of subjects, ensuring a well-rounded education. This includes GCSE subjects including the arts, humanities and languages alongside English, Maths and Science. They also wish to encourage more students to study Separate (Triple) Science.

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Pathways

We have analysed the performance data of each of our Year 9 pupils and we have then placed individuals on what we believe to be the appropriate KS4 pathway to enable them to attain, achieve and maximise their potential.

- **Pathway 1** provides academic breadth while encouraging students to study Triple Science and a Language.
- **Pathway 2** also provides a curriculum which is broad and balanced. It offers a range of option subjects.
 - We are confident that both pathways offer students the qualifications, knowledge and skills they will need to lead to successful post-16 provision.

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Pathway One

Suggested Core Curriculum

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Trilogy)
- History or Geography
- French or Spanish

An additional **two** options from

Art***

Business Studies

Computer Science

Geography*

Health & Fitness

History*

Hospitality & Catering

Photography

Separate Sciences (Encouraged for pathway 1)

Three-dimensional Design***

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Core Curriculum

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (Trilogy)
- History or Geography

Pathway Two

An additional three options from

- Art*****
- Business Studies
- French
- Geography*
- Health & Fitness
- History*
- Hospitality & Catering
- Photography
- Spanish
- Three-dimensional Design*****

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GCSEs/Vocational courses

- **GCSE subjects**

These are graded from 9 (highest) to 1.

GCSEs are assessed by exam (very little or no coursework)

- **BTEC, NCFE and CNAT's are vocational courses**

These are graded from L2Distinction* (equivalent to a grade 8/9 GCSE, L2Distinction (7), L2Merit (5.5) and L2Pass (4) down to L1Pass (1)

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GCSEs/Vocational Qualifications

What are Vocational Qualifications (NCFE/BTEC/CNAT)?

Vocational qualifications are:

- high-quality
- career-focused
- grounded in the real world of work.

These courses have a **larger coursework element resulting in smaller sized examinations.**

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When choosing subjects ask two things:

What's the **content** of this subject? (Are they interested in the things they will be learning about?)

What **skills/assessment** does it require? (Do you think they can demonstrate the skills this subject requires?)

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PARENTS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Should they base GCSE options on what they are good at?

- It's worth including this as a factor when choosing their GCSEs. They're likely to enjoy the subjects they are good at.
- Being good at a particular area might help them manage the GCSE workload.
- If they are not sure how good they are at a subject, they can talk to their teacher for advice.

Should they choose a GCSE subject because they like the teacher?

- Whilst a great teacher can inspire them to do their best in a subject, there are no guarantees that they will be their teacher.

Should they choose a GCSE subject because their friends are doing it?

No

- They should not choose a subject because their friends have.
- Their abilities and interests may be different to yours.
- It is also unlikely that you will be in the same groups

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Whose advice should they listen to when choosing GCSE options?

- **Teachers** at school are really well-placed to offer them advice and support; they should talk to their teachers if they have any questions about GCSEs.
- **Parents/carers** you can help!!! Some courses may be new to you but choosing options has been part of schools for many years.
- Their **friends** will be going through the same stress as them, so they can bounce ideas off them.
- College and Sixth Form providers can also give advice

Are their post-16 choices affected by the GCSE choices they make now?

- Some A-level options don't require them to have studied them at GCSE first – for example, Psychology, Economics, Media Studies or Law.
- Some A-levels, like Sciences, History, Geography, Computer Science may no longer be open to them if they don't study at GCSE.

They should be able to answer 3 questions about their choices?

- Does it contain courses that matches their career aspirations?
- Does it feature content they will enjoy learning and be interested in?
- Will the types of assessment help them reach their potential?

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Will students get their first choices?

We will do our utmost to fit all students into their preferred choices, but this cannot be guaranteed. This is why we ask students to provide two back-up choices.

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Will students get their first choices?

The reasons a student may not get their first choice include:

- Insufficient numbers for the class to run – too few students have opted for the subject.
- Oversubscription
- Late return of the options form

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Completing the online form

- If they are considering studying **both Geography and History**, they need to complete the form normally but indicate this by selecting the box **'require a meeting'**.
- **Art and Three-Dimensional Design** have a number of elements during the course that are considered similar by the examination board, so you are not permitted to study both.



What happens now?

- If you have any general questions or concerns; you can contact us directly on **options@westcraven.co.uk**
- The options form will be available online and an email reminder will be sent on **Thursday 5th March.**
- It is important to they complete the online form by **Friday 27th March.**

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How should I choose?

I enjoy the subject



I am good at the subject



It will help me achieve my future career plans



It will allow me to study my choice of course or apprenticeship at 16+



I work hard in this subject



I have a genuine interest in the subject



I am prepared to work hard and complete all of my homework in this subject



My friends are choosing this



I think it will be easy



I think there won't be a lot of writing



My older brother/sister picked this



I like the teacher



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