



Year 9 Options 2026

Here are the subjects which are compulsory (must be taken) at GCSE:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE English language
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science: Trilogy or Separate Sciences
- Core PE (no exams)
- Personal Development / Careers (no exams)
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (no exams; Y10 only)

In addition, you can choose four subjects as your option choices from the list on the next page.

How do you choose the subjects to study?

Here are a few principles which will help you choose a good combination.

1. At this stage, it is important to keep your choice of subjects **broad and balanced**. You should try to avoid narrowing your choices into all sciences, or all arts, or all humanities. You should choose from more than one academic area which will keep your options open for post-16 course choices.
2. Some subjects are specialist and lead to a particular industry. Other subjects connect to lots of different career options. If you do not have a particular career in mind, these **'door-opener' subjects**, like languages, can be very useful.
3. How much coursework is involved? You can only choose a **maximum of two coursework-based subjects** as otherwise the workload will become too heavy.

GCSE Options Subjects

Art*

Business Studies

Computer Science
Drama*
Design and Technology*
Food and Nutrition*
French
Geography
History
Media Studies*
Music*
PE*
Photography*
Religious Studies
Single Sciences (Triple Science)
Sociology
Spanish
Statistics
Textiles*

BTEC Courses

Child Development*
PE*

Languages

If you can read, speak and write a language **other** than English, French and Spanish you may be able to enter a GCSE in that language. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain another qualification and have your linguistic ability officially recognised. If you are interested in this, please speak to Mr Pike (Head of Languages) before the end of Y9 to express your interest and see if this can be accommodated.

Coursework at GCSE

All those subjects marked with * have a percentage of their overall grade assessed through coursework and/or a practical exam. This can be a really good thing for some students. However, too much coursework can cause stress, anxiety and workload issues if deadlines come close together. Therefore, we advise you to take a maximum of two coursework subjects.

Also, Art and Textiles are different specialisms of the same course and so cannot both be chosen as options.

You can find more information about all the courses on the school website:



[Year 9 GCSE Choices | Farmor's School](#)

Save the date!

Do come to the Options Evening on Thursday 23rd April 2026 4-6.30 pm.

The purpose of this evening is for you to gather feedback from English, Maths and Science teachers on your progress this year and how ready you are for GCSE study in these compulsory subjects. You will need to make parents' evening appointments for these.

You can also explore all the additional optional GCSE subjects available for study. This helps you to decide which **four** subjects to choose. You can talk through the subjects in detail with teaching staff and students who are currently studying those courses.

You will also be able to talk to our Careers Advisor, Mrs Mitchell, and our SENDCo, Mrs Timms to get more advice if you need it.