



Scan the QR code to
submit any questions

So... What
will you
choose?

A/B Block:
Media, Film,
Business, IT,
French, Spanish,
PE

H Block:
Art, Hospitality,
Graphics, Textiles,
Construction,
Engineering, RM

C/D Block:
Triple Science,
Photography

K Block:
Geography,
History, Sociology,
Health & Social
Care, Religious
Studies

F Block:
Hair & Beauty

G Block:
Music, Drama

Hellesdon
Sixth Form
Your next step

Careers

UEA
University of East Anglia



Miss Atkinson
Head of Year



Miss McLellan
Vice Principal
SEND

**Scan the QR code to submit
any questions that you have
about Year 9 Options.**

The second presentation will
begin at 7.10pm. Please
come in and take a seat.



HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 Options Evening – 2026

Mr James Read – Assistant Principal
for Progress and Achievement



HIGH SCHOOL

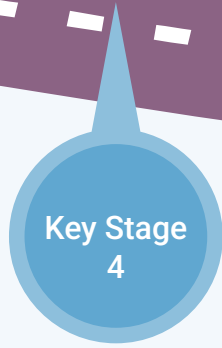
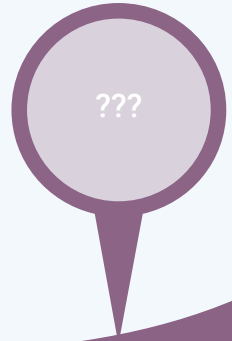
During Key Stage 3, you study a broad range of subjects designed to match or exceed the expectations of the National Curriculum. The school creates a curriculum which gives you access to lots of different areas of potential future interest and ensures that you have had the grounding of knowledge and learning to be successful as you move on in life.

Key Stage 3

???

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4, you will continue to study the core subjects, but you will also be able to choose which non-core subjects you would like to focus on and take a qualification in. These are the subjects that will give you access to further education and career pathways.



After you complete Key Stage 4, you will be required to do one of the following until you are 18:

- stay in full-time education, for example at Sixth Form
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

**Hellesdon
Sixth Form**
Your next step

Key Stage 3

Key Stage 4

???

Key Stage 3

Your achievement during Key Stage 4 will provide you with a wide range of options linked to these pathways.

???

Key Stage
4

Key Terminology for Options

GCSE (9-1)

The majority of the courses we offer are GCSEs. These are mainly assessed through examinations at the end of the courses, and you are awarded a grade ranging from 9 – 1.

A grade 5 is considered a strong pass.

Key Terminology for Options

BTEC and Vocational Courses

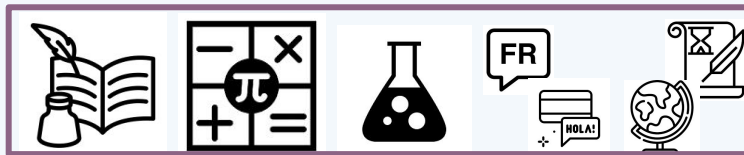
These courses are equal to GCSEs in the level of qualification; however, they provide some form of practical/internal assessment throughout the course as well as an examination. You are awarded a grade ranging from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*.



Key Terminology for Options

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is a measure of success in a range of academic subjects. To meet the EBacc measure, students need to achieve a grade 4 or higher in: English, mathematics and two sciences, geography **or** history, **and** a language. Meeting these criteria does not gain students an additional qualification as such, therefore there is no requirement to take this exact selection of subjects. However, success across these EBacc subjects carries with it **academic prestige** and has been linked to a **wider range of options** at university for students.



2026 YEAR 9 OPTIONS TIMELINE

The key milestones to your personalised curriculum



OPTIONS EVENING

Information evening to build your knowledge of your options and receive the *Options Booklet*.

15 JAN



26 JAN
- 6 FEB



OPTIONS INFORMATION AND TASTER LESSONS

Teachers deliver lessons to explain and exemplify the learning content and style of the KS4 courses. Tutor time activities to help understand the process.

SUBMISSION OF OPTIONS

You complete your online form to indicate your preferences for the courses you wish to take in Year 10 and 11.

23 FEB



SEP COURSES START

You begin the study of your chosen courses with full commitment to achieving your potential.



MAY

CURRICULUM CONFIRMATION

Once course availability has been checked, confirmed courses will be issued.



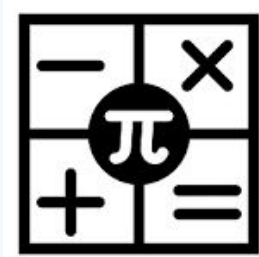
**HELLESDON
HIGH SCHOOL**

What will I study?

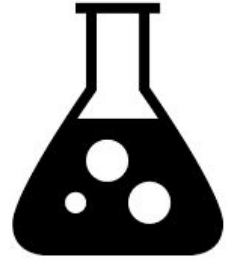
Core subjects make up part of your essential subjects. You have to take these subjects to ensure you have access to all future pathways.



English Language and Literature



Mathematics



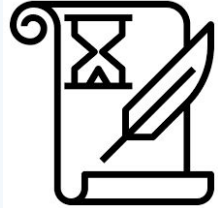
Double Award Science

What will I study?

EBACC subjects provide you with your first decisions. You **must** take at least one of these as part of your academic offer.



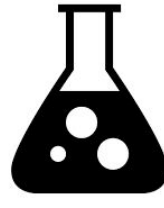
Geography



History



Computer Science



Triple Science



French

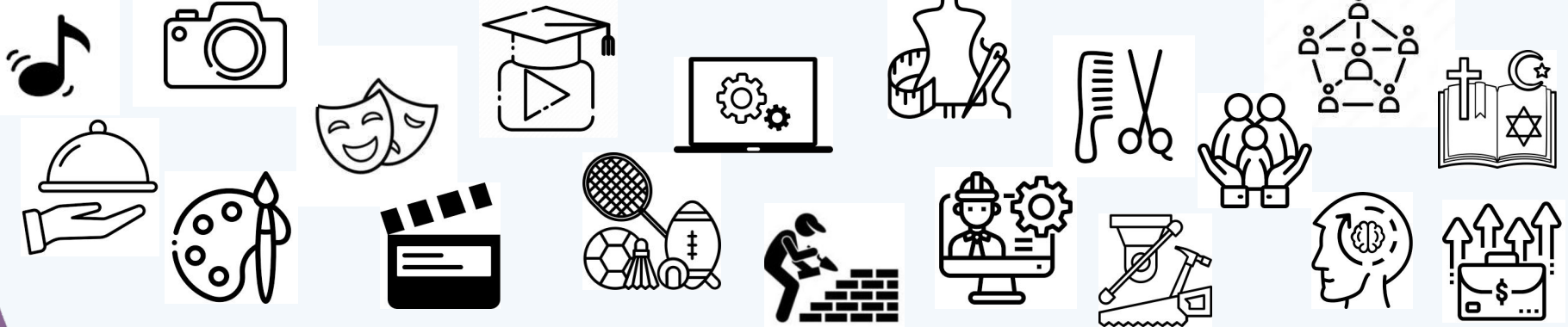


Spanish

Students wishing to take Triple Science as their EBACC choice must speak to their science teacher to see if this is appropriate for you.

What will I study?

Options subjects make up the remainder of your lessons. You will pick 3 more subjects from any of the EBACC or Options subjects.



WHAT SUBJECTS WILL I TAKE?

Core Subjects

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Science (double award)

English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Subjects

- Computer Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish

CORE SUBJECTS

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science

1 x EBACC SUBJECT

Triple Science, Computer Science, French, Spanish, Geography, History

3 x EBACC & OPTIONS SUBJECTS

Any subjects from our EBACC and Options list

Option Subjects

- Art: Art & Design
- Art: Fashion & Textiles
- Art: Graphic Communication
- Art: Photography
- Business Studies
- Design & Technology: Construction
- Design & Technology: Engineering
- Design & Technology: Hair & Beauty
- Design & Technology: Hospitality & Catering
- Design & Technology: Resistant Materials
- Drama
- Film Studies
- Health & Social Care
- ICT (Creative Media)
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Sociology

Overall students must select 4 option subjects with at least 1 from the EBacc subjects



Science Pathways

At Hellesdon High School, there are two different pathways that students can follow when studying Science.

Consideration	Combined Science	Triple Science
Interest	You enjoy Science but want to keep your other options open.	Science is your favourite subject and you want more of it.
Target Grade	You are aiming for Grades 4–6 .	You are aiming for Grades 7–9 .
Future Plans	Thinking of Arts, Humanities, or one Science A-Level.	Planning on multiple Science A-Levels (e.g., Biology & Chemistry).
Teacher Advice	End of Year 9 prediction is below Grade 5 .	Minimum prediction of Grade 5 or higher .
Workload	You want a balanced workload across your GCSEs.	You are ready for more content and deeper complexity.



Science Pathways

Selecting your pathway...

Combined Science	Triple Science
<p>This pathway is automatically selected for all students as part of their core option.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Choose Triple Science as either your EBACC selection, or one of your additional Options subjects2. The Head of Department will review requests based on predicted Science grades and attitude to learning3. Confirmation of acceptance onto the course in the Summer term.

Vocational or GCSE Courses?

- ✓ Vocational courses are no easier or harder than GCSEs.
- ✓ Although the grades are different, they do match up.
- ✓ Colleges view them equally.

So what is the difference?



Year 9, 10, 11 Grades	Year 10 and 11 Vocational Grades
9	Level 2 Distinction*
8	Level 2 Distinction
7	Level 2 Merit
6	Level 2 Merit
5 (Strong Pass)	Level 2 Pass
4 (Good Pass)	Level 2 Pass
3	Level 1 Distinction
2	Level 1 Merit
1	Level 1 Pass
U	U



Vocational or GCSE Courses?

Vocational Courses

Components are completed and assessed throughout the course, starting in Year 10

The grades you achieve are **FINAL** and count towards your final award.

You will still have an exam at the end, but this will only count for about a 3rd of your grade.

They can provide good balance → knowing you have already banked the marks can be real boost for your confidence, and reduce the pressure in the final exams in Year 11!

You need to be motivated and organised from the very start!

GCSE Courses

Typically, all of your grade will be decided at the end of Year 11 through examinations.

You will learn new knowledge throughout the 2 years and have opportunities to practice this regularly through classroom assessment and PPEs (mocks).

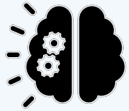
Regular review, recall and revision are really important, right from the beginning of Year 10, in ensuring that you retain all the key knowledge you need for the end of the course.



Making the Right Choice... For You!



Enjoyment: Research the syllabus and talk to teachers to ensure you'll actually like the day-to-day work.



Aptitude: Play to your strengths. Choose subjects where you have proven talent and are willing to put in the necessary extra hours (e.g., rehearsals or labs).



Prospects: Check university or career entry requirements now so your choices align with your long-term goals.



Balance: If you aren't sure about your future path, keep your options open with a diverse range of subjects.



Independence: Decide for yourself. Don't let your friends' choices or a favorite teacher dictate your future.

How will my child submit my preferences?

- At the end of the taster weeks students and parents will have access to our SIMS ONLINE OPTIONS platform
- This should only be completed with the support of a parent and when all questions are answered
- It must be submitted by no later than: **23rd February**



Will my child definitely get the subjects they select?

The vast majority of students will get the preferences that they want. However, there may be reasons that mean they cannot take certain courses:

- Not enough or too many students choose a subject
- The combination of courses chosen can't be timetabled

Supporting your child through the process

Parental support **is essential** during this process. Students will be expected to **work hard and commit** to all of the subjects that they take, which is why making **well informed decisions** is so important.

You should talk through the following questions:

1. How did you find the Options Tasters?
2. What are your ambitions for the future – University, apprenticeship, etc.?
3. What are the subjects you are thinking of taking?
4. What are your reasons for wanting to take these subjects?
5. What else do you need to find out?
6. Who do you need to speak to?
7. When shall we sit down and complete your final Options submission together?



We know that you may need support in making this decision and want to provide the answers to the questions that may be on your minds.

You can submit any questions you have by scanning the QR codes around the building.

We will respond to these questions at the end of the week.





Mrs Rosie Warnock

Careers Advisor

Email: rwarnock9nr2@nsix.org.uk

- Mrs Warnock, our independent Careers Adviser provides careers information and guidance interviews with students.
- Students can access these talks before they select their options in Year 9, when considering their post-16 options in Years 10 and 11 and when they are in the 6th Form.
- Students are able to refer themselves for advice, taking ownership of their career paths
- Appointments with Mrs Warnock can be requested via the form tutor, the Head of House, or by emailing:

rwarnock9nr2@nsix.org.uk

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HIGH SCHOOL



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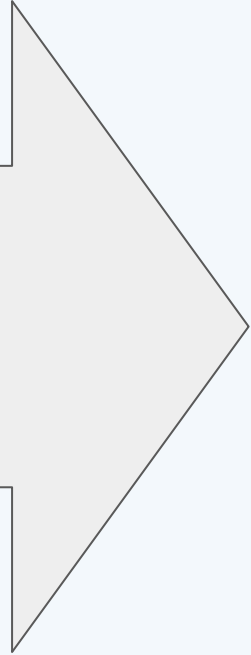
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Careers



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SEND