



Year 9 Curriculum and Options Evening 2026

Programme for the evening



Welcome and introduction of key colleagues



The curriculum as a whole: Mrs Jenkins, Deputy Head teacher and Mr Sidell, Lead Practitioner



Explaining less familiar subjects



Factors in Making the Decisions



Overview of the process – what happens next

Our aims are simple:

“To develop the sharpest minds and the biggest hearts in our children through a traditional academic approach to education.

To meet these aims we:

- Enable our children to access the broadest curriculum possible enabling their learning needs and aspirations to be met.
- To engage our children and enable them to reach their full potential



Enrichment and Extra-curricular



School Clubs: Year 9



MONDAY

LAMDA with Mrs Ashdown
1:30-2:00pm in the Theatre

Just Dance Club with Miss Cunningham
1:35-1:55pm Dance Studio (just turn up)

British Sign Language (BSL) with Mrs Poole
(just turn up) 3:30-4:00pm Languages Room 4

Britten Band with Mr Chapman
3:15-5:00pm Band Room (invitation only)

Football with Mr Humphrey
3:15-4:15pm 3G Pitch (just turn up)

Art Club with Mrs Gamble.
3:15-4:15pm Art Studio 2 (just turn up)

Harry Potter Club with Mrs Lever (just turn up)
3:15-4:00pm English Room 7

Homework Club with Mrs Oxborough & Miss Phillips
3:20-4:30pm Maths Breakout
(Just turn up)

Drama Club with Miss Saunders
3:15-4:15pm Drama Studio

Street Dance with Miss Burnett
3:15-4:30pm Foxborough Dance Studio

Audition Technique with Miss Cunningham
3:15-4:15pm Dance Studio

Table Tennis with Mr Everson
3:15-4:15pm Small Hall (just turn up)

Spanish Pen Pal Club with Miss Poza.
3:15-4:15pm Languages Room 2
(just turn up)

Couch to 5K Club with Mrs Hallaron
(beginners) 3:15-4:30pm Meet at Sports Hall

Geography KS3 catch-up with Mrs Kitching

TUESDAY

Musical Theatre with Miss Cunningham
1:35-1:55am Music Room 1

Table Tennis with Mr Spooner
1:30-1:50pm Small Hall (just turn up)

Woodwind Ensemble with Mrs Cochrane
3:15-4:15pm Band Room

Chess Club with Mr Fawcett
Maths Library
3:15-4:15pm

Science Prep
(for science homework)
Science Computing Suite 3:15-4:30pm

Cryptography Club with Mr Lowe
(just turn up) 3:20-4:20pm Maths Room 7

Creative Writing Club with Miss Baumgartner
(just turn up) 3:15-4:30pm SCCS (Oct-Feb)

Debating Society with Mr Mullender (WEEK 2,
just turn up) 3:30-4:30pm Library

WEDNESDAY

Open Ensemble with Miss Cunningham
Music Room 1, 1:35-1:55pm

Basketball with Mr Spooner
1:30-1:50pm Sports Hall (just turn up)

Brass Ensemble with Mrs Ryan
3:15-4:15pm Britten Lounge

KS3 Textiles Club
See Miss Wisker to sign-up
(15 spaces).
3:30-4:15pm Textiles Room

STEM Club with Dr Wright
3:20-4:20pm Feynman Lab
(October onwards)

Crochet Club with Mrs Poole
3:15-4:30pm Languages Room 4

Couch to 5K Club with Mrs Hallaron
(intermediate) 3:15-4:30pm Meet at Sports Hall

Fitness with Mr Spooner
3:15-4:30pm Fitness Suite

Choir with Miss Juganzon
3:15-4:10pm Drama Studio

Elite Harmony with Miss Juganzon
4:15-5:00pm Drama Studio (invitation only)

Geography revision with Mrs Kitching
3:15-4:15pm Geography Room 1

Board Game Club with Mr Lowe & Mr Philpott,
Maths 5, 3:20-5:00pm

Anime Club with Miss Baumgartner (just turn up)
(WEEK 2 ONLY) 3:15-4:15pm English 11

THURSDAY

Song Writing Club with Miss Wareham
Music Room 1
1:35-1:55pm

Music Tech with Miss Wareham
1:35-1:55pm Music Room 1 (just turn up)

Musical Theatre with Miss Cunningham
1:35-1:55pm Dance Studio

New Band with Mr Chapman and Miss Wareham
3:30-4:30pm Band Room
Auditions to be held

Basketball with Mr Everson
3:15-4:15pm Sports Hall (just turn up)

FRIDAY

Senior Musicians Practice & SMP Practice
with Miss Cunningham
1:35:1:55 Music Room 1

Basketball with Mr Everson
1:30-1:50pm Sports Hall (just turn up)

Orchestra Suffolk Music Hub
3:15-4:15pm, Theatre

History Club with Mr Mullender
3:30-4:30pm Library
(just turn up)

Netball with Mrs McDonald.
3:15-4:15pm Netball Courts
(just turn up)

Dungeons & Dragons Club with Miss Saunders
3:15-5:00pm, Library Quiet Study Room
(12 places)

Dodgeball with Mr Spooner
3:15-4:15pm Foxborough Gym

Britten School of Dance (starts 11 Oct)
3:15-4:15pm, Dance Studio

Song Workshop with Miss Cunningham
3:15-4:15pm, Dance Studio

We have not, and will not ever,
“Game the system”.

The KS4 curriculum is set out as follows:

Compulsory Subjects

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics and Financial Capability
- Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Citizenship
- One Ebacc Option from the following:
History, Geography, French or Spanish

Non-examined Subjects

- Core Physical Education
- Personal Development, Careers, Employability, Relationship and Sex Education.



The EBacc Subjects

- All students have to choose one of the following

- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish



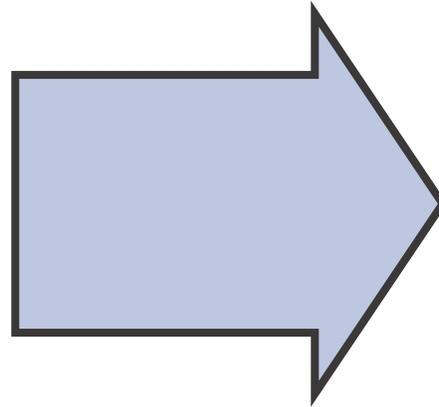
Choose one of these subjects:

Geography

History

French (currently studying)

Spanish (currently studying)



Choose three and rank them:

Art

Business Studies

Child Development

Computer Science (Maths projected 5+)

Creative iMedia

Dance

Drama

Engineering

Hospitality and Catering

French

Geography

History

Music

Photography

Spanish

Sports Studies

You will study two of these

**Subject
presentations
are on the
school website**

Art

Business Studies

Child Development

Computer Science

Creative iMedia

Dance

Drama

Engineering

Hospitality and Catering

Music

Photography

Sports Studies

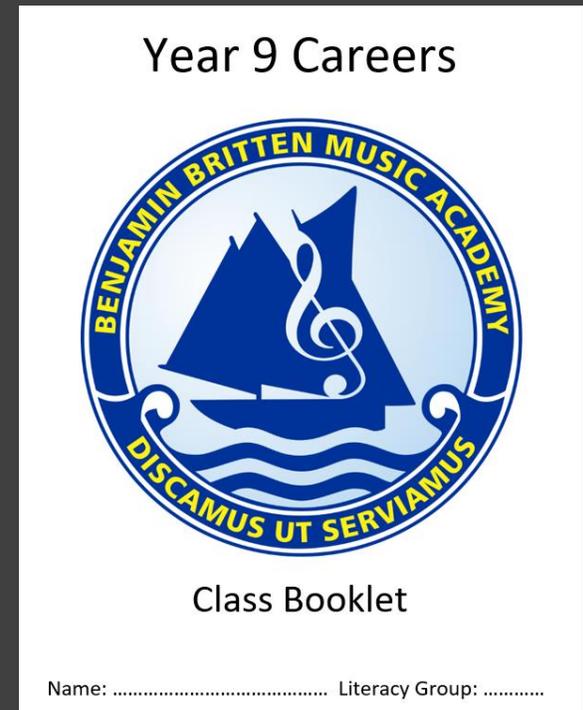
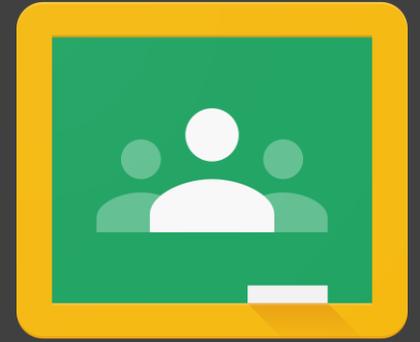


How do you choose?

- Favourite subjects
- Good subjects
- Options booklet
- Research
- Talk to people
- Take advice
- Future career aspirations

Advice from our Careers Department

- During your careers lessons this term with Mr Mullender, you are receiving lots of information and advice about choosing your GCSE options.
- You have also been provided with the **Year 9 Careers Booklet** and access to your **Year 9 Careers Google Classroom**. Both of these sources have lots and lots of useful information
- On our school website there are subject presentations and brief curriculum overviews under the Year 9 Options section.



Within your **Careers Google Classroom**, there is a specific section called 'Options Advice'.

You can find these short videos from BBC Bitesize there:



GCSE Options: Everything you need to know about choosing your GCSE subjects



What I wish I'd known before choosing my options



Myths about choosing your options: Busted!



How to choose your exam subjects wisely for the future you want



GCSEs
OCR Nationals
NCFE and WJEC
Technical Awards

- Some subjects have a vocational bias
- Higher proportion of project work
- Fewer exams



We have also asked some of our local further education providers for information and guidance which may help you to link GCSE option subjects with future college courses and other post-16 options



Representatives from UEA can answer questions regarding option choices and higher education courses





What shouldn't they do?

- Base your decisions on who is teaching them now
- Choose the same options as best friends
- Copy older siblings
- Pick 'easy' subjects



Post 16

All students are required to be in full time education until the age of 18.

As a general guide:

- 5 GCSE or equivalent passes at a Grade 5 or above to progress to A level courses
- At least one grade 4 or above in English and/or Maths for some post 16 courses
- To study a subject at A level, students usually require at least a Grade 5 in that subject at GCSE.
- A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths and French require a Grade 6 at GCSE and typically an average point score.
- **Most apprenticeships require a minimum grade 4 in English and Maths**



Year 9 Core Assessments

Morning Exams (09:10)**2 - 6 Mar****Afternoon Exams (14:00)**

Exam	Board	Duration		Exam	Board	Duration
Y11 English Language Paper 2	AQA	1h 45m	Monday 2 Mar			
Y11 Maths Paper 3 (Calc)	AQA	1h 30m	Tuesday 3 Mar	Y9 English Reading	AQA	1h
Y9 Maths Paper 1 Non-calculator	AQA	1h	Wednesday 4 Mar	Y9 Science Paper 1	AQA	1h
Y9 English Writing	AQA	1h	Thursday 5 Mar	Y9 Science Paper 2	AQA	1h
Y9 Maths Paper 2 Calculator	AQA	1h	Friday 6 Mar	Y11 Combined Science Physics 2	AQA	1h 15m
				Y11 Triple Physics 2	AQA	1h 45m

* English X 10				* Maths X 7				* Science X 7			
X1	30	En ₈ Sp ₂	10	X1	30	Ma ₇	7	X1	30	Bi ₂ Ch ₃ Ph ₂	7
X2	30	En ₈ Sp ₂	10	X2	30	Ma ₇	7	X2	30	Bi ₃ Ch ₂ Ph ₂	7
X3	29	En ₈ Sp ₂	10	X3	29	Ma ₇	7	X3	29	Bi ₂ Ch ₂ Ph ₃	7
* English Y 10				* Maths Y 7				* Science Y 7			
Y1	30	En ₈ Fr ₂	10	Y1	30	Ma ₇	7	Y1	30	Bi ₃ Ch ₂ Ph ₂	7
Y2	29	En ₈ Fr ₂	10	Y2	29	Ma ₇	7	Y2	29	Bi ₃ Ch ₂ Ph ₂	7
Y3	29	En ₈ ¹⁵ Fr ₂ ¹⁴ Fr	10	Y3	29	Ma ₇	7	Y3	29	Bi ₃ Ch ₂ Ph ₂	7
* English Z 10				* Maths Z 8				* Science Z 7			
Z1	30	En ₈ Sp ₂	10	Z1	30	Ma ₇ Rh ₁	8	Z1	30	Bi ₃ Ch ₂ Ph ₂	7
Z2	29	En ₈ Sp ₂	10	Z2	29	Ma ₇ Rh ₁	8	Z2	29	Bi ₃ Ch ₂ Ph ₂	7
Z3	29	En ₈ ¹⁵ Sp ₂ ¹⁴ Sp	10	Z3	29	Ma ₇ Rh ₁	8	Z3	29	Bi ₂ Ch ₃ Ph ₂	7

X English X 9			X Maths 8			X Science X 9		
30	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	32	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	32	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
30	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	31	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	32	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
30	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	31	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	31	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
30	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	30	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	31	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
29	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	25	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	23	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
Y English Y 9			Y Maths 8			Y Science Y 9		
22	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	30	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	28	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
22	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	25	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	22	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
22	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	25	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	22	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
22	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	17	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	22	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9
21	Cz ₁ En ₇ Er ₁	9	12	Ma ₆ Mr ₁ Rh ₁	8	15	Bi ₃ Ch ₃ Ph ₃	9

Options Timeline

4th – 6th March	Year 9 Assessments in English, Maths and Science. These assessments are sat under exam conditions in the sports halls/study centre. These assessments are independent of the choices process but help with the initial setting of Year 10 as the three bands of lower school moves to 2 bands in Key Stage 4, moving from 9 teaching groups to 10.
Wednesday 18th March	Deadline for completed 'Choices' form to be submitted via Google Forms. Processing will not commence until the deadline has passed.
April - July	<p>After receiving your form, we will be running a series of 'dry-runs' to see what the best combination of subjects will be. Initially we will give students an open choice, but eventually we may have to ask students to select one subject from each pool or option block. This is often the point where disappointment sinks in as there will be combinations that won't be possible, where courses may be over-subscribed or options need to be re-thought.</p> <p>In the past five years, we have been able to find an excellent fit based on open choices, however there will be a small number of students for whom we are unable to offer the combination of subjects they have requested. If this is the case, we will talk to you and your son or daughter to discuss the best possible solution.</p>
Early July	Choices confirmed.

Dry Runs

- Following return of the initial choices, we try to write a model to best fit our children's options.
- This is often the point where disappointment sinks in as:
 - There may be combinations that won't be possible
 - Where courses may be over-subscribed or options need to be re-thought



We may ask our children to choose from option blocks if we can't make their choices fit.

Dry Runs

- In the past three years we have been able to find an excellent fit based on open choices.
- The **vast majority** of students will be given their first choice of subjects, but because we have constraints on what we can offer there will be students for whom we are unable to offer the combination of subjects they requested.
- If this is the case, we will talk to you and your child to discuss the best possible solution.



Attendance

Behaviour

Coursework, classwork and of course
homework



Attendance and Attainment

As a school we want to ensure you can make the most of your time here. We know that high attendance and the success of your future is linked.

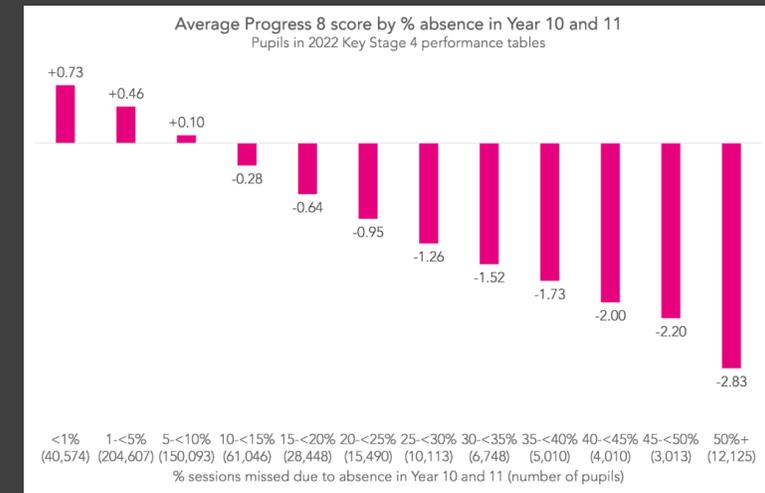
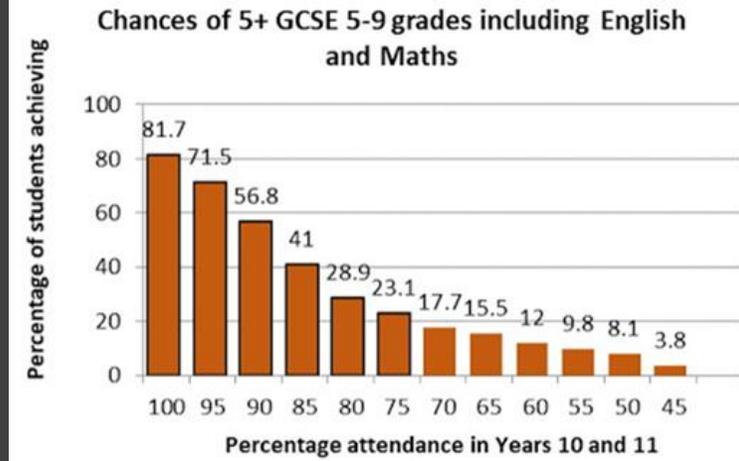
You are more likely to achieve success at GCSE level if you attend. The more you attend, the better your chances.

How much education is your child missing*?

Descriptor	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
Cause for concern	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
Unsatisfactory	92%	175 days	15	85
	91%	173 days	17	
	90%	171 days	19	95
Serious cause for concern	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Critical	86%	163 days	27	135
	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

*Figures based on 190 (whole year) expected attendance

Evidence from a Department for Education study shows a strong correlation between school attendance and GCSE success. The chart below illustrates this:



Contact details

Email:

k.jenkins@benjaminbritten.school

m.sidell@benjaminbritten.school

