

# Welcome to Westhoughton High School's Year 9 Options Evening 2024

**LEARN**

# "WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?"



**12,000+**  
**different jobs**



# EXCITING TIMES!

**KS3**

**Years 7-9**



**KS4**

**Years 10-11**

# The Options Team

- **Mrs Benigno (Deputy Headteacher)**
- **Mrs Burton (Assistant Headteacher)**
- **Mr Dignam (Assistant Headteacher)**
- **Mrs Stocks (Year 9 Progress Lead)**
- **Mrs Whittle-Darrock (Year 9 Support Lead)**
- **Form Tutors**
- **Subject Teachers and Heads of Subject**
- **Post-16 Providers**
- **Independent Careers Advice & Guidance – Ms Vash Lad**
- **Family & Friends**

# Big Choices Ahead

*What you need to know...*

**Everyone will study the Core Curriculum:**

**English Language and English Literature**

**Mathematics**

**Combined Science** *(or Triple Science if they decide to choose this as one of their options)*

**Plus non-examined subjects:**

**PE**

**PHSE**



# Then you will choose 3 Option Subjects + 2 reserves

Step 1: Make your 1st choice from one of the following five subjects:

✓ Computer Science

✓ French

✓ Geography

✓ History

✓ Spanish

✓ Triple Science

Step 2: Select 4 other courses (2 plus 2 reserves)

# Option Choices

## Humanities subjects

History GCSE

Geography GCSE

RE GCSE

## Creative Arts subjects

Art GCSE\*

Photography GCSE

Music GCSE

Performing Arts BTEC

## Computing subjects

Computer Science GCSE

Creative Media Production BTEC

## Sports subjects\*\*

PE GCSE

Sports Studies Vocational

\* These courses cannot be studied together

\*\* The PE department will advise

## Languages

French GCSE

Spanish GCSE

## Design Technology subjects

3D Design GCSE\*

Textiles GCSE\*

Food & Nutrition GCSE

## Other subjects

Psychology GCSE

Enterprise BTEC

Health & Social BTEC

Travel & Tourism BTEC

## Science

Triple Science instead of Combined (3 separate sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

- Most courses are GCSE, graded using 1-9 with exams at the end of year 11
- Vocational Courses are graded at Level 2 - Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass

Grading for Vocational courses	Current Grade Structure	Old Grade Structure
Level 2 Distinction *	9	A*
Level 2 Distinction	8	A
	7	
Level 2 Merit	6	B
Level 2 Pass	5	C
	4	
	3	D
	2	E
	1	
	U	U

- English and Mathematics is crucial for moving on to Post-16 (double weighted)
- English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) Subjects: **History, Geography, Sciences (including Computer Science), Languages (French, Spanish)**





<b>GCSE</b>	<b>Vocational</b>
Traditional subjects	Vocational subjects Enterprise, Health & Social Care...
Assessed through terminal examination	Assessed in modules
Slightly more theory	Slightly more practical
No specific links to employment opportunities	More specific links to employment opportunities
Academic, challenging and equivalent!	

# How to choose

Think about:

What will ***interest*** and ***motivate*** you to work hard for two years

What will fit with your intended ***career path*** and ***future college course*** or training

What you ***enjoy*** and are ***good*** at

Your careful ***research*** – look on our ***website*** and speak to people who can help (staff in school and family members) – remember to ***ask questions***

# Tips for making choices

## Choose a subject because:

- you have ability in a subject and have achieved good results
- you are interested in and enjoy a particular subject
- the subject facilitates your next steps (education/employment)

## Do not choose a subject because:

- your friends have chosen the subject (there is a good chance they won't be with you)
- you like the teacher (you may not stay with the same teacher)
- you feel other people would expect you to choose it
- it's easy (there are no 'easy' options)

January  
2024

- *Year 9 Assembly - Launch of Option Process*

1st  
February  
2024

- *Parents Evening and Options Marketplace – Post-16 Providers present*

14th  
February  
2024

- *Option Taster Day – students sample lessons in the option subjects they are interested in selecting*

15th  
February  
2024

- *Online Option Form sent via **Synergy** to all parents/carers*

1st  
March  
2024

- *Deadline for online Option Form to be submitted*



## National Apprenticeship Week = 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February

- Careers Newsletter - All about Apprenticeships – will be sent out
- Learning activity around apprenticeships in their lessons
- A Guest Speaker from the BBC one Apprentice show on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Adam Corbally





"What do you want to be  
when you grow up?"



"Kind" said the boy



## Most importantly for students

### Time to think and reflect:

- What am I good at?
- What do I enjoy?
- Do I know what career I want?
- What subjects go well together?
- Which type of learning do I prefer?
- What further education do I want to do?
- What have I been successful at before?

