

Welcome to Year 9 Study Pathways Evening 2025-27

Mr Hill (Deputy Headteacher, Curriculum)

We want to help you....

- To enjoy your studies in Years 10 and 11.
- To get onto the best possible post 16 courses in 2027.
- To have the maximum amount of choice in terms of education, employment and training.
- To have a set of highly valued qualifications to present to employers, universities and colleges.

Do you have high aspirations?



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Do you have high aspirations?



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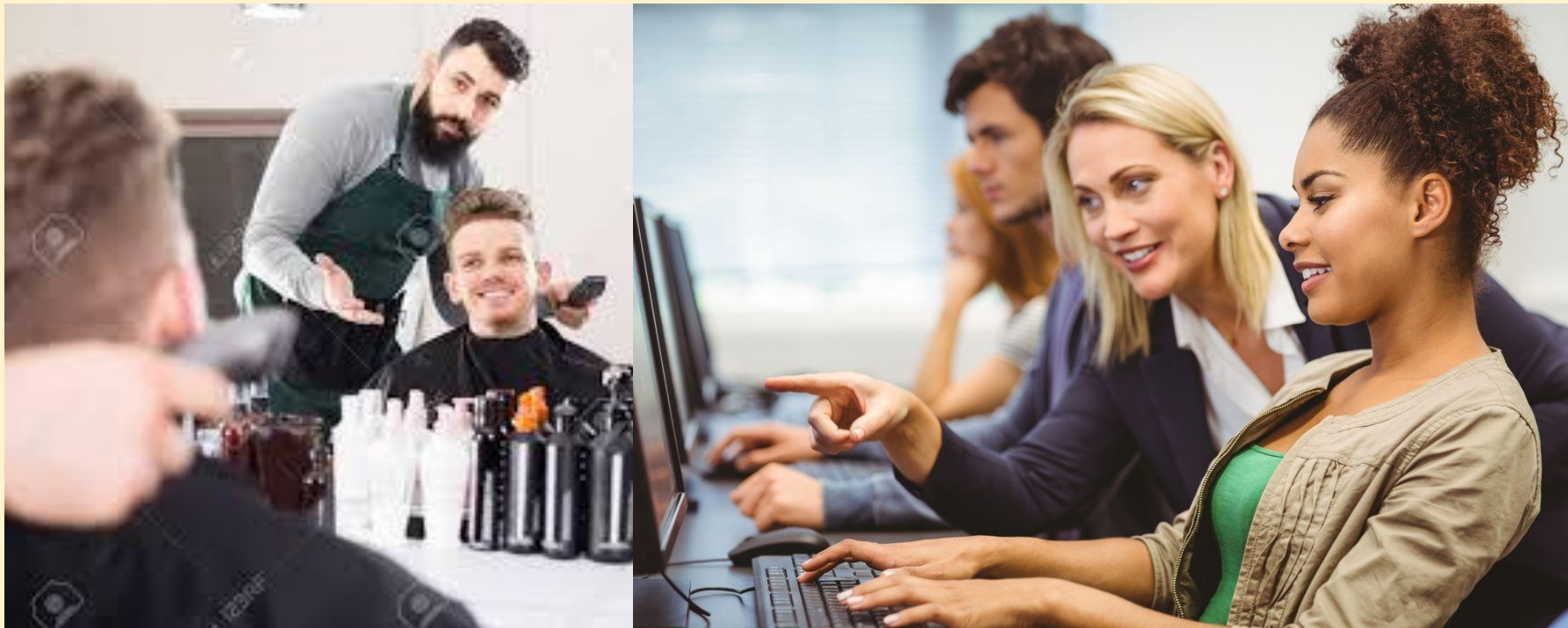
Is university study worth the debt?

- Average UK salary is £35,000
- A University degree gives an average increase of £15,000 more each year over a working lifetime.
- This rises to £18,000 per year for medicine
- Or around £16,000 for engineering and architecture



Are higher apprenticeships worth the effort?

- On average, a 21-31 year old earns around £4 (or 30%) more per hour than somebody who does not have qualifications beyond GCSE level.



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What happened to Wellsway students last year?

- Last year, every student who wanted to go to University from our sixth form successfully obtained a place
- Significant proportion went to the universities regarded as being most prestigious by employers
- In recent years, many students have been successful in obtaining higher apprenticeships with firms such as Babcock and organisations like the Ministry of Defence

Subjects and gender



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What advise do students receive?

Boys

1. Engineer – 12%
2. Scientist – 10%
3. Tradesman (plumber, electrician etc) – 9%

Girls

1. Teacher 16%
2. Doctor 8%
3. Nurse 7%

Examples

- Female Engineers
 - UK – 9%
 - Italy – 20%
 - Sweden – 26%

- Male Teachers
 - UK - 14%
 - Finland – 22%
 - South Korea 20%

A pathway is....

- A package of courses that will allow each student to enter the next phase of school after Year 11 with the best collection of possible qualifications.
- All pathways contain English, maths and science qualifications, plus a choice of history or geography. PE and PSHE are also included for all students.
- Many students will also study French or Spanish.

Have you read the pathways guide?

Wellsway
Study Pathways
Key Stage 4
September 2025 – June 2027



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It contains essential information:

- **Art & Design (Fine Art) - GCSE**
- **Business - GCSE**
- **Child Development - BTEC Level 2**
- **Computer Science - GCSE**
- **Digital Media - GCSE**
- **Dance - GCSE**
- **Drama - GCSE**
- **Food Preparation & Nutrition - GCSE**
- **French - GCSE**
- **Geography - GCSE**
- **History - GCSE**
- **Music - GCSE**
- **Psychology - GCSE**
- **Physical Education - GCSE**
- **Product Design - GCSE**
- **Religious Studies - GCSE**
- **Spanish - GCSE**
- **Textiles - GCSE**

English Baccalaureate Academic Pathway

- English language and literature; maths; combined or separate sciences; core PE and PSHE
- French or Spanish
- History or geography
- Plus a choice of 2 other qualifications and a reserve
- **This route will provide an excellent route through to A Levels and Higher Education. It maximises the range of career choices available.**

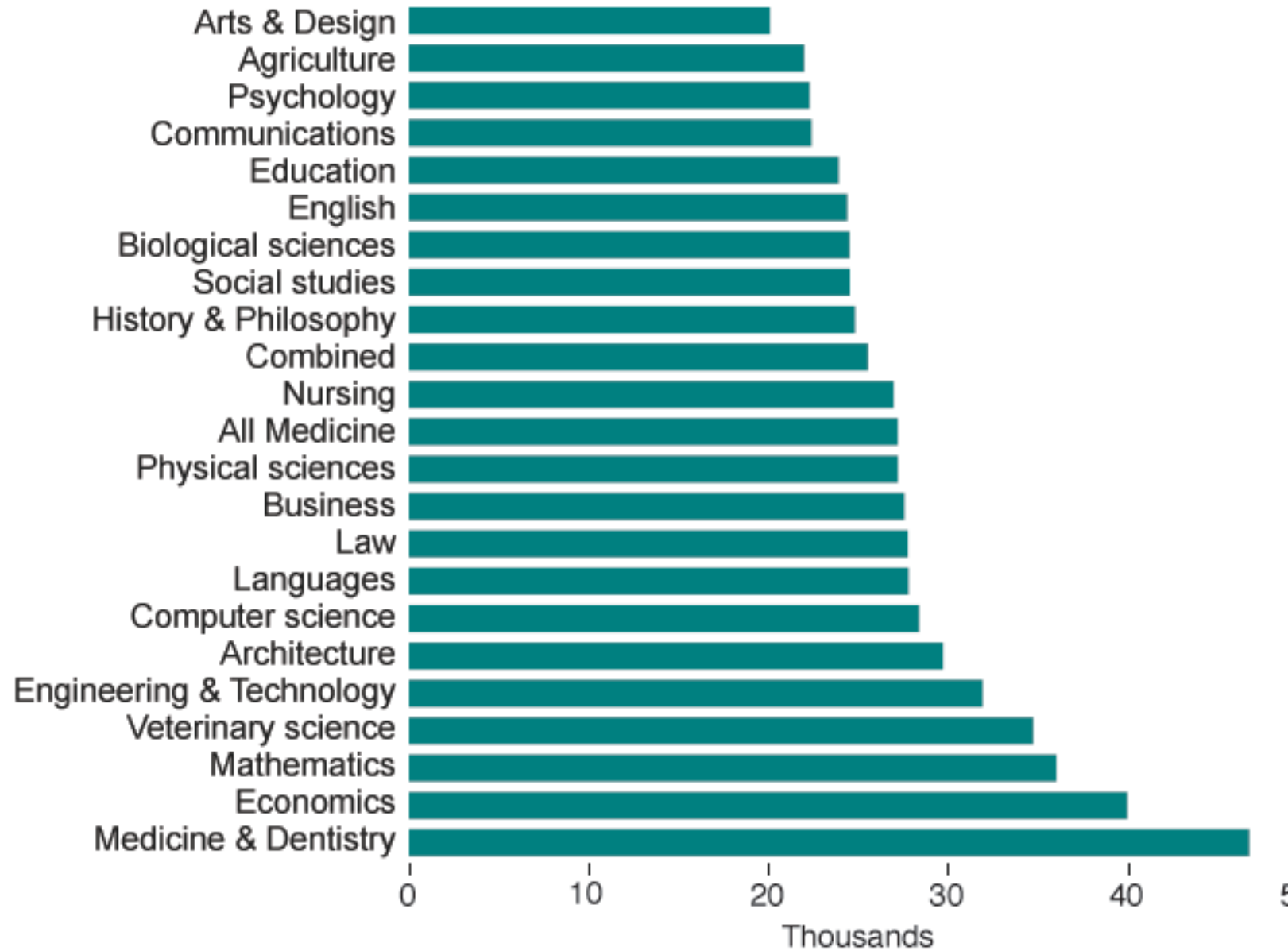
Why should students consider the Ebacc?

- The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.
- The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.
- The GCSE Language offer at GCSE is French or Spanish.
 - Many industries are now global
 - Sought after by employers
 - Boosts listening and communication skills
 - Boosts confidence

Why should students consider the Ebacc?

Which graduates earn the most?

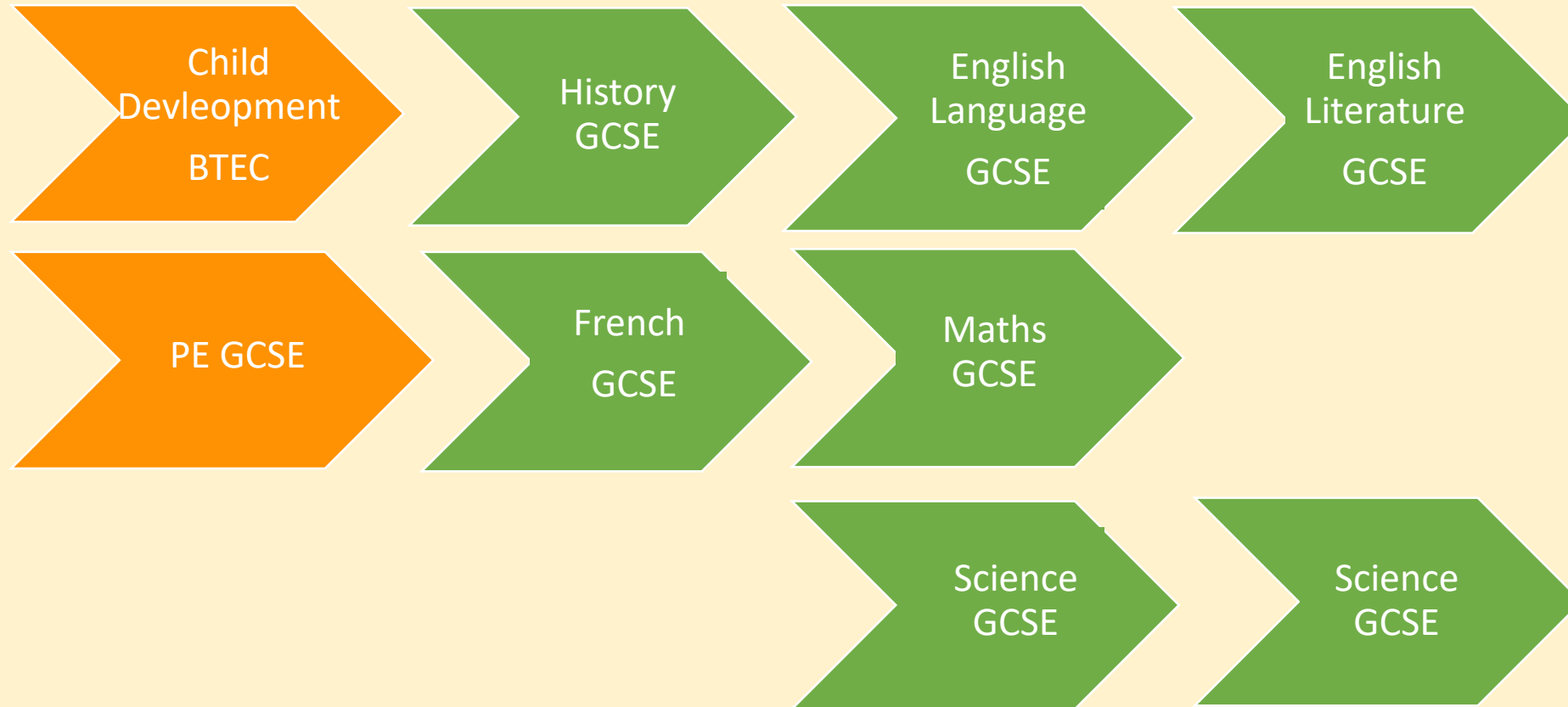
Median annual earnings (£) by subject, five years after graduating



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Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies

Typically a student might leave with....

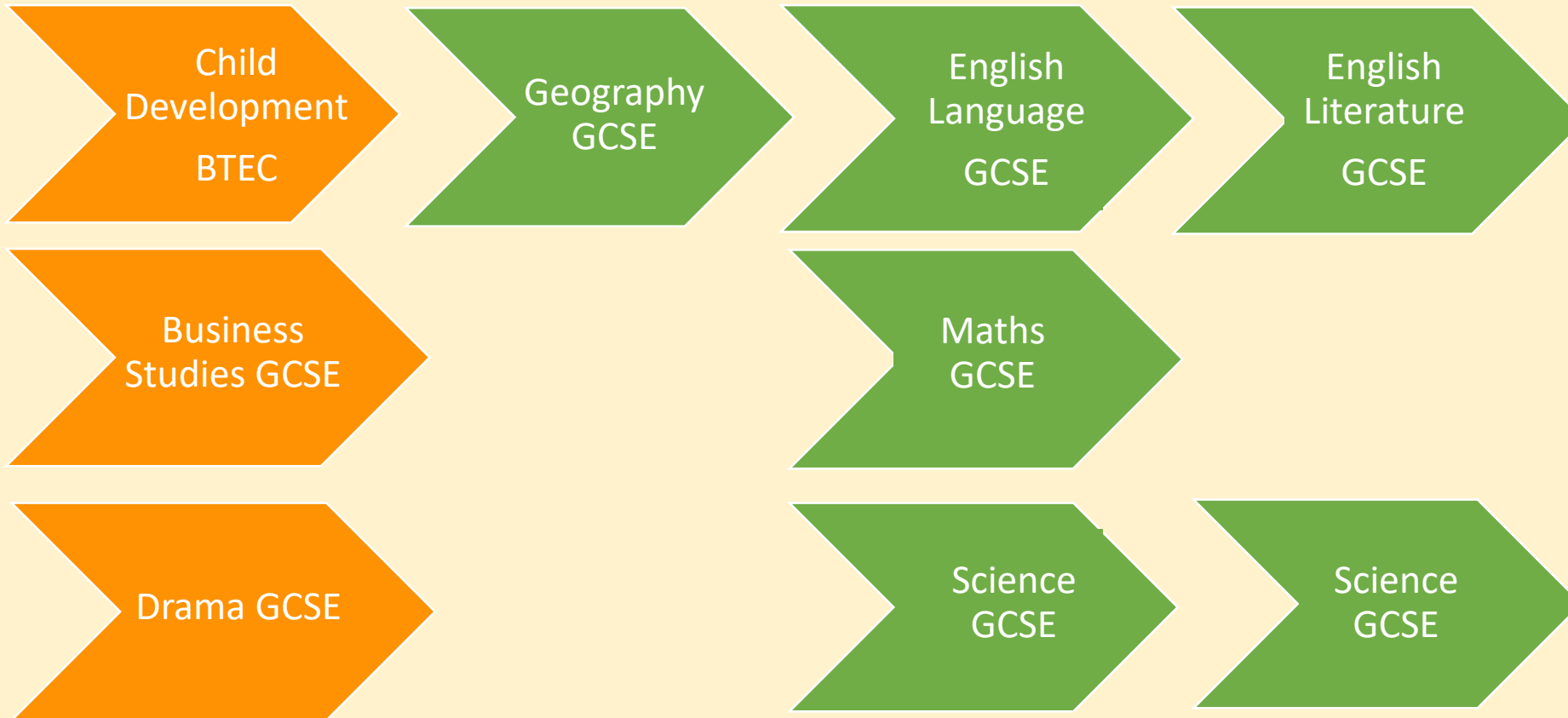


Academic Pathway

- English language and literature; maths; combined or separate sciences; core PE and PSHE
- History or geography
- Plus a choice of 3 other qualifications and a reserve.

This route provides a solid foundation for successful post 16 qualifications and onto either higher education or employment.

Typically a student might leave with....



IKB Pathway



- IKB is a Partner school within Futura Learning partnership
- STEM Specialist school following a four year curriculum
- Application can be made through the IKB Website (open tonight for information)
- We work closely with IKB sharing many staff and systems
- For some children, this can be a positive start in a smaller setting with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths



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Vocational Qualifications

- These are valued by employers, universities and colleges.
- We advise you to consider opting for one. Some students may take more.
- If taken alongside a number of GCSE subjects, there is no disadvantage in terms of career opportunities.
- Vocational subjects are assessed mainly through project work (usually worth 60% - 80% of the grade), with one short examination (normally 20 - 40%).
- GCSEs are typically assessed entirely by end of course exams in Year 11. Students taking only GCSE courses may sit 24 or more exams in the summer.

Grades

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5 STRONG PASS	
4 STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

For you to consider:

- Which subjects do you really enjoy?
- Which subjects excite and motivate you?
- What might be relevant to your post-16 courses or training?
- Which subjects open the most doors in the future?

Do NOT make choices based on:

- The subjects your friends choose; there is no guarantee you will be in the same class as them.
- A particular teacher; there is no guarantee that teacher will teach you in the subject
- What your parents chose; you have your own talents and interests and should be guided by those.
- What you think will be the easiest subjects; there is no such thing and hard work will be needed no matter the path/qualifications that you take.

The following combinations are not possible:

- Art and Design with Creative Technology
- Product Design with Textiles

Am I guaranteed to get the subjects I choose?

We cannot promise that you will be given every course you choose, but we satisfy as many first choices as we possibly can. The reasons for this are:

1. Some courses may not attract enough interest to run.
2. Some courses may attract greater numbers than we have staff and facilities to provide for.
3. Some subject combinations will not be possible when we arrange the courses into teaching periods for the new timetable.

We do not operate a selection policy for oversubscribed subjects – allocation is determined randomly

Where can you go to get help?

- Your teachers
- Your tutor and Head of House
- Our Careers Team and Sixth Form Teams – Mrs Chapman
- Our Wellsway Careers Adviser – Mrs A. Millard
- The Independent Careers Adviser – Mrs M. Millard
- Websites such as:
 - www.ucas.com for university entry
 - <https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships> for apprenticeships

Other Support

- Assembly
- Pre-options support sessions:
 - Mon 3rd to Thurs 13th February
 - SLT Talk
 - Pathways reminder
 - Subjects and combinations
 - Careers Talk
 - Information advice and guidance on GCSEs, vocational courses, sixth form, college
 - Online Activity
 - Introduction to Career Pilot
 - Introduction to Careers Fair (March)
- Parent's Evening – Thursday 13th February

Remember ...

- This is perhaps the most important decision you have had to make about your education since you joined Wellsway
- Joint Decision - happy compromise between what teachers and parents will advise and what you want.
- Focus on your strengths and enjoyment- two years is a long time to study a subject that you do not enjoy.
- Take your time - It is not a 'first come, first served' process.
- Make informed decisions:
 - Review the Options Booklet – read it carefully.
 - Talk to your teachers – tonight, parents evening, lessons
 - Ask advice – Heads of House, Careers advisors, tutors, websites

Please complete your application by 27th February
2025



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