

**Year 9**

**GCSE preference**

**process 2026**

**... stepping up to KS4**



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ACADEMY**



# Introductions

Mr Walsh

Principal



Mrs Ridge

Vice Principal



Mr McFaul

AP Teaching and Learning



Mrs Hooke

KS3 Raising Attainment Lead



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# Agenda:

1. What subjects can you study at GCSE?
2. How do you choose what subjects to study?
3. What happens next?

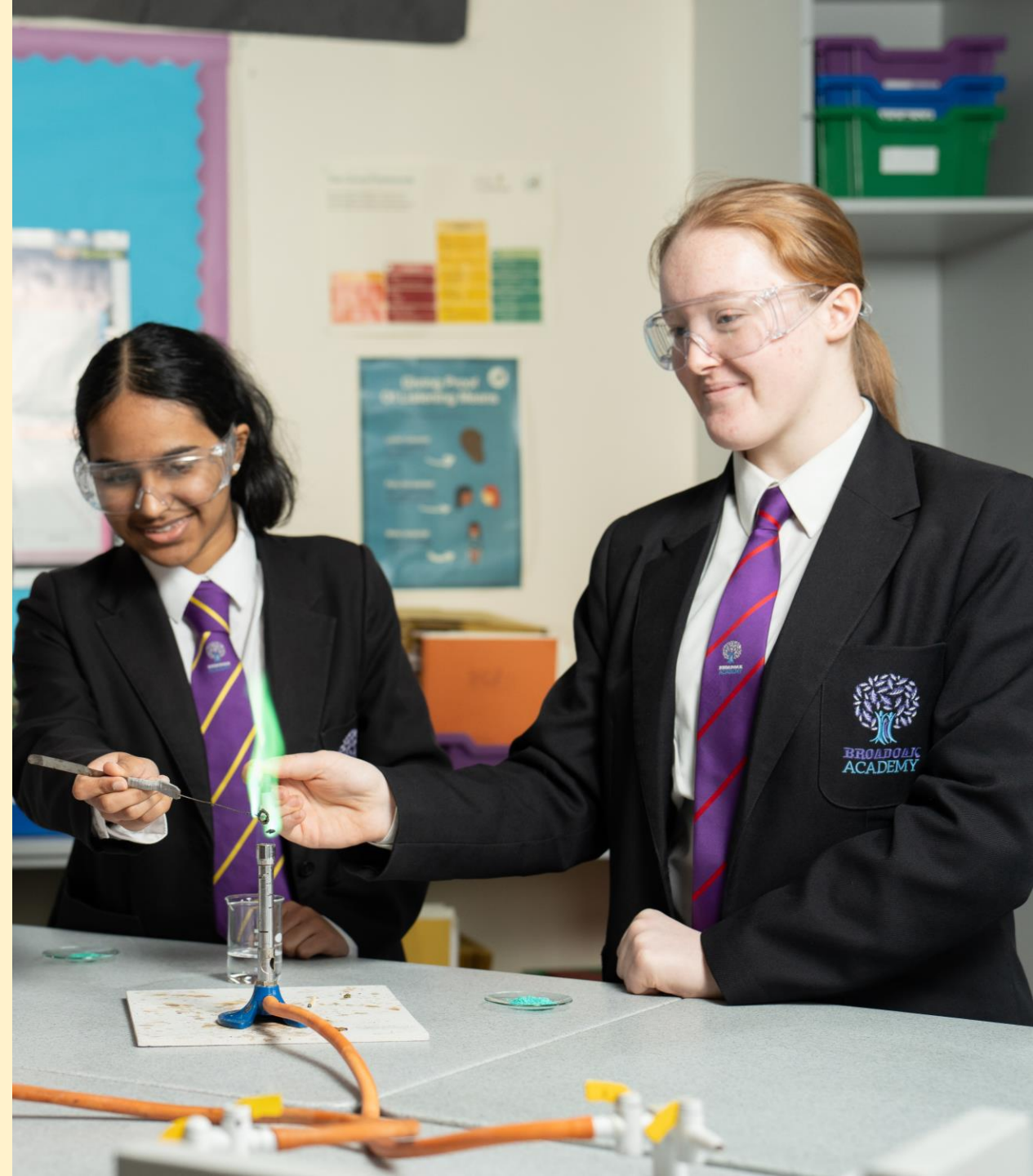


## What happens in Year 10?

Students study fewer subjects than they do now and undertake national qualifications.

- There are some subjects which remain compulsory:
  - **English** (Language and Literature)
  - **Maths**
  - **Science** (Combined or Separate)
  - PE – core non-examined
  - PSHE – non-examined

Students then choose **four** additional subjects from two blocks or 'buckets'.



# Students study **nine GCSEs** from **three** different subject blocks:

## **Core subjects** **x5 lessons per week**

**All** students will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science (combined OR separate)

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Not assessed by a formal qualification:

- Core PE
- PSHE

## **EBACC subjects** **x3 lessons per week**

All students will study **at least one** of the following:

- Geography
- History
- French OR Spanish
- Separate science

## **Reserve choice**

All students will select **two** subjects as a reserve. You may be given your reserve.

## **Open subjects**

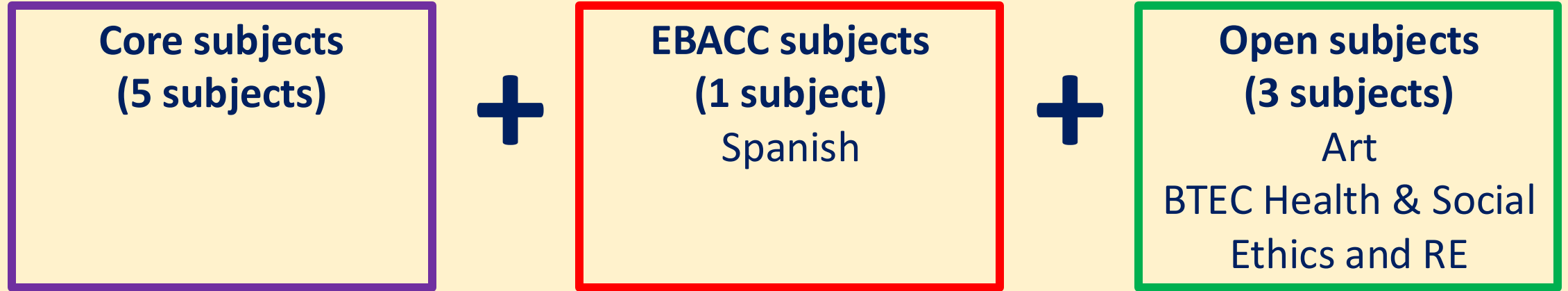
**x3 lessons per week**

Students then choose up to **three** of the following:

- Art
- Business
- Citizenship
- DT: Design Technology
- BTEC Drama
- Ethics & Religious Studies
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- Hospitality and Catering
- Music
- Photography
- BTEC Sport
- Statistics

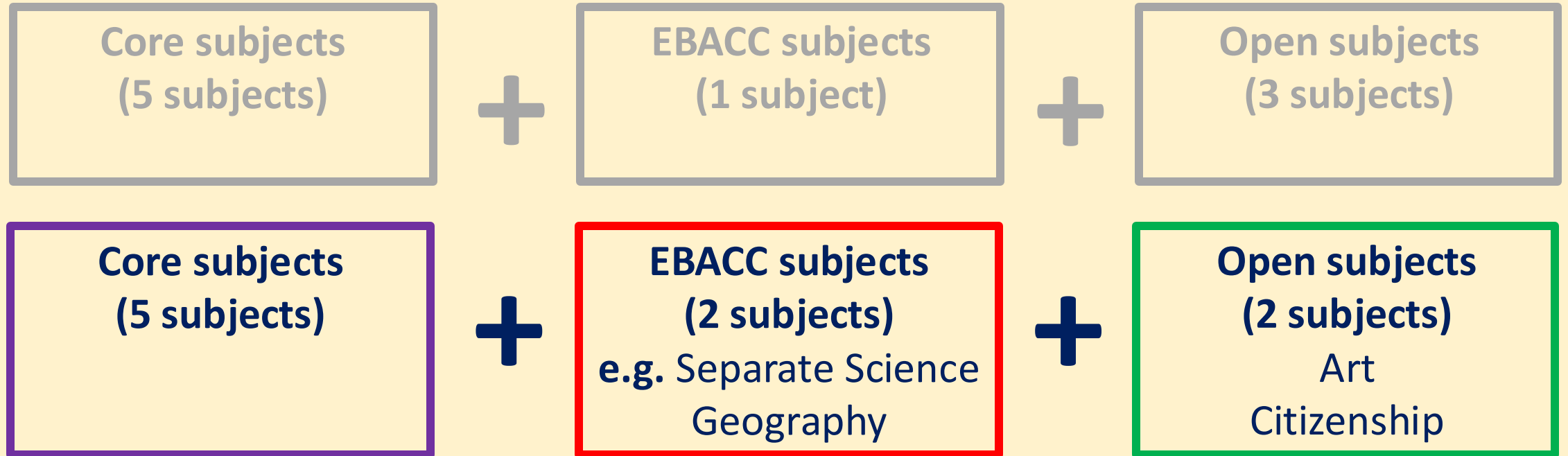
Students study **nine GCSEs** from **three** different subject blocks:

Worked examples:



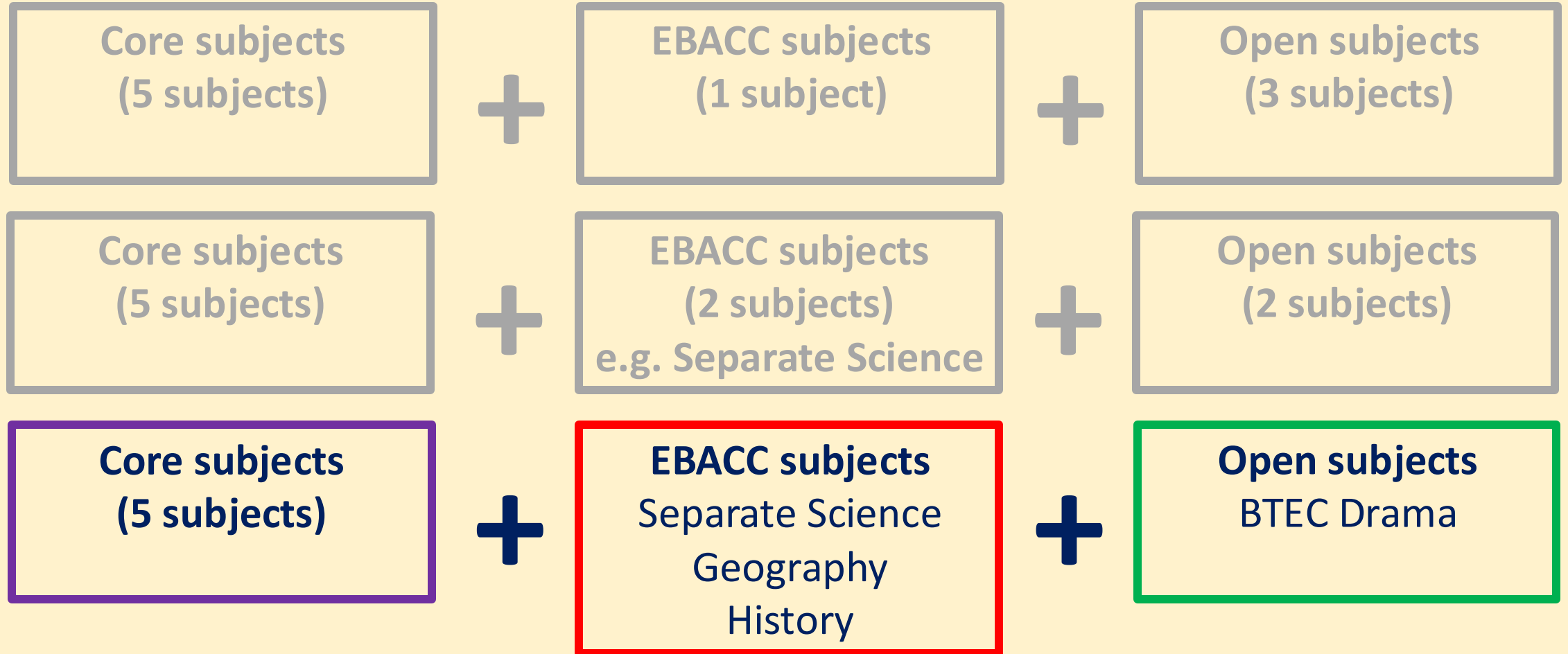
# Students study **nine GCSEs** from **three** different subject blocks:

Worked examples:



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Worked examples:



# Attention



## Please note:

We **cannot guarantee** you will definitely study all the courses you select.

It is almost certain that some of the course advertised will not run in September due to staffing or uptake.

This is why we will ask you to choose **two reserve** subjects you would be happy to study instead.

# How are different subjects assessed?

There are three different ways you could be assessed for your GCSE qualifications.

- Most GCSE subjects are assessed by two or three exams in the summer of Year 11.
- Some subjects like BTEC Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering and BTEC Sport are vocational courses and are assessed by one exam and a significant body of coursework.
- A few subjects like Art, Photography and Drama are assessed through a portfolio of work and a performance based exam.



# What is the difference between GCSEs and vocational GCSEs?

If you have a good idea of what job or employment sector you want to go into and want to start preparing for the world of work or further training, then you may wish to select a vocational GCSE course.

Vocational courses suit those who enjoy a hands-on approach and who want to reduce the number of exams they sit. All vocational courses will have one exam, but the majority of assessment will be made up of coursework. We offer the following vocational courses at Broadoak:

**BTEC Drama**

**BTEC Health  
and Social  
care**

**Hospitality  
and Catering**

**BTEC  
Sport**

# How are different subjects assessed?

GCSE Grading	Vocational Grading
9 8 7	Level 2 Distinction
6 5	Level 2 Merit
4	Level 2 Pass
3 2 1 U	

# What does the GCSE grading system mean?



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## New GCSE grading structure

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

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

# How do I decide what subjects to study?

Make sure you do your research properly and find out what you will study on each course and how you will be assessed. Make the most of the evening tonight. Gather as much information as you can.

- Choose subjects you enjoy and find interesting
- Choose subjects that will help you for the next stage of study or employment (both the knowledge and the skills it will provide)
- Choose subjects that compliment each other and give you a variety of different experiences and opportunities.
- Choose **two** reserve subjects you would be happy to study if needed.

## This evening

- Staff are available to talk to.
- Examples of work and courses are available to explore.
- Forms of assessment explained.
- Collect a Year 9 preferences booklet.
- Make informed choices.



# What help is available?

The Year 9 Preferences handbook has information about all the subjects on offer at GCSE.

You will be sent details via MCAS of how to register your preferences in the coming weeks.

You will then have the following support to help you select your choices:

- **Year 9 Preference evening – Wednesday 11 March**
- **1:1 Interviews with members of staff**
- **Support from tutors and teaching staff**



# Next steps...

1. Research the four GCSE subjects you might like to study.
2. The platform to make your choices will be available from the **w/c 16/03/25**.  
Remember to select four subject choices plus two reserve subjects. **More information will be sent via MCAS when the system is available.**
3. Deadline to select preferences: **Friday 31 March**.



Thank you

We will be available  
for questions

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Year 9 Preference Process



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