



KS4 Options Information Evening

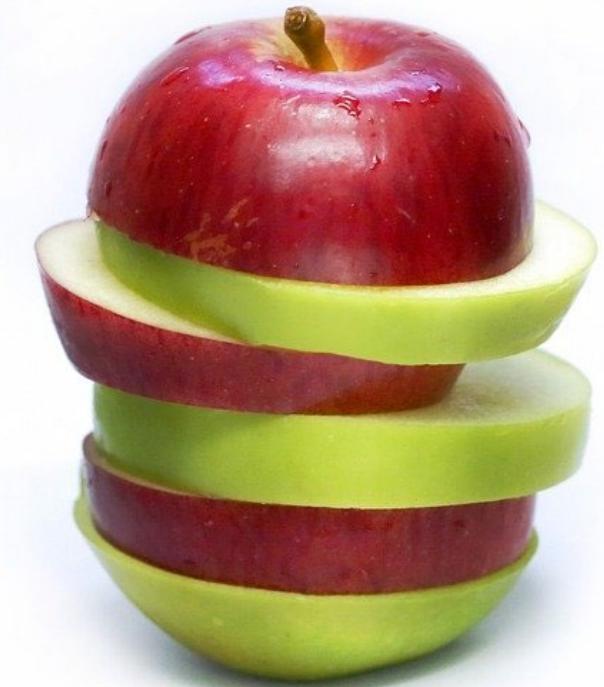
22nd January 2026

KS4 Options Information Evening

- Information on the compulsory section of study for Years 10 and 11
- Information on what to consider before making choices
- The process
- How to fill in the online form
- Support, advice and guidance

The CORE Curriculum

- Maths
- English literature and English language
- Science
- Core PE
- PSRE



Routes through science

There are two routes through science which are as follows:

AQA Combined Science (Trilogy)

- This leads to the equivalent of two GCSEs and covers a combination of all three subject areas

AQA Separate Sciences

- This leads to three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

The route students will follow is determined by the science faculty in order to support you to get the best results. Both routes allow you to continue to study any science at A level.

Mr Grainger is available this evening to discuss this with you further if you require





Making your choices

Things to consider

- Do you enjoy the subject?
- How is the course assessed? e.g. 100% exam or 60% Non Examined Assessment + 40% exam
- Have you chosen a broad and balanced range of subjects?
- Have you suitably challenged yourself?
- What are your aspirations and interests post 16?
- We strongly recommend that you take a language, a humanity and an art/technical subject to show a broad range of skills and keep future pathways open



Don'ts!

- Don't choose subjects just because your friends are choosing them.
- Don't choose a subject just because you get on well with your teacher. You might well have a different teacher at KS4.
- Don't rush to complete your choices – think carefully and pick a subject for positive reasons after conducting research.
- Don't narrow your skill set by taking lots of very similar subjects.
- Don't assume that you will be able to switch to another subject at a later stage.
- Don't assume you will get all your choices – make your reserve choice count – you may end up studying this subject.

Help and support

- KS4 Options evening
- [KS4 Options booklet](#)
- [Subject PowerPoints](#)
- Subject teachers and Faculty Heads
- Parents' evenings
- Tutors
- Miss Witchell – Careers Advisor (P3)
- Miss Dundas/Mr Burcombe
- Mrs Zuanella/Mrs Heavenwhite SENDCo/Deputy SENDCo) (P2)
- Dr Simpson



The Options System

- There are no set pathways. All students will get the same option form and the same choices
- You must choose 4 options
- At least one of those options **must** be one of the following:
 - French
 - German
 - Spanish
 - Geography
 - History
 - Computer Science



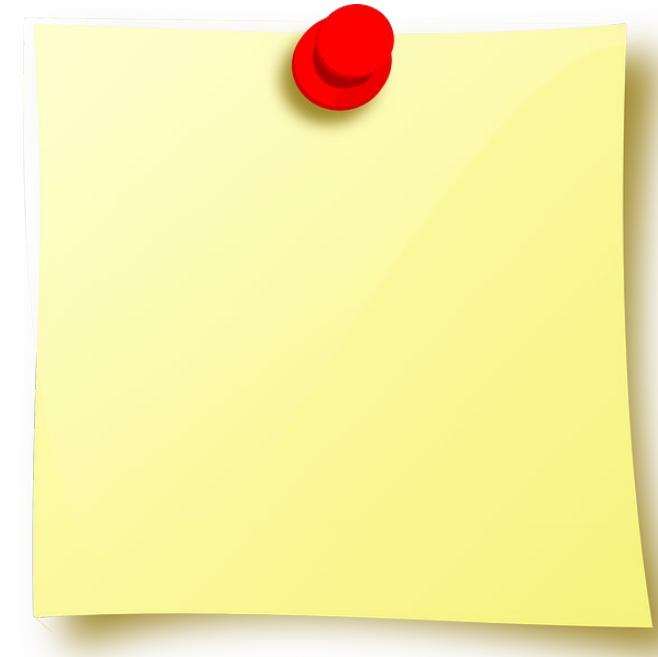
Things to note

Physical Education

- If you want to do a PE qualification then select the Physical Education box
- PE teachers will make the selection about which course you should follow based on what they know about you and which course will suit you best

Languages

- Most suitable for those of you who are studying the language this year
- If you want to take a language that you are not currently studying then you **must** speak to your language teacher before completing the option form



Art and D&T subjects

- We have two subject areas that offer more than one type of qualification.
 - Art
 - D&T
- You cannot take more than one qualification in each of these areas
- **Art**
 - Art, Craft and Design
 - Fine Art
 - Photography
- **D&T**
 - Graphics
 - Resistant Materials
 - Textiles
- Food does not come under the D&T umbrella for the options process so it is possible to take Food and Graphics for instance.

Will you get all four of your choices?

Most students will be able to study all of their choices however, sometimes we are not able to give you a particular subject because:

- Not enough students request the subject to make up a class
- More students ask for a subject than the available teachers or facilities can cope with
- It is not possible to timetable the mix of courses you have chosen
- Students may opt for a course which, in the judgement of teachers, is not well suited to them

All students need to select a reserve subject and you need to give this as much thought as the rest



What happens if a course is oversubscribed?

Priority on courses will be assigned to students using the following criteria:

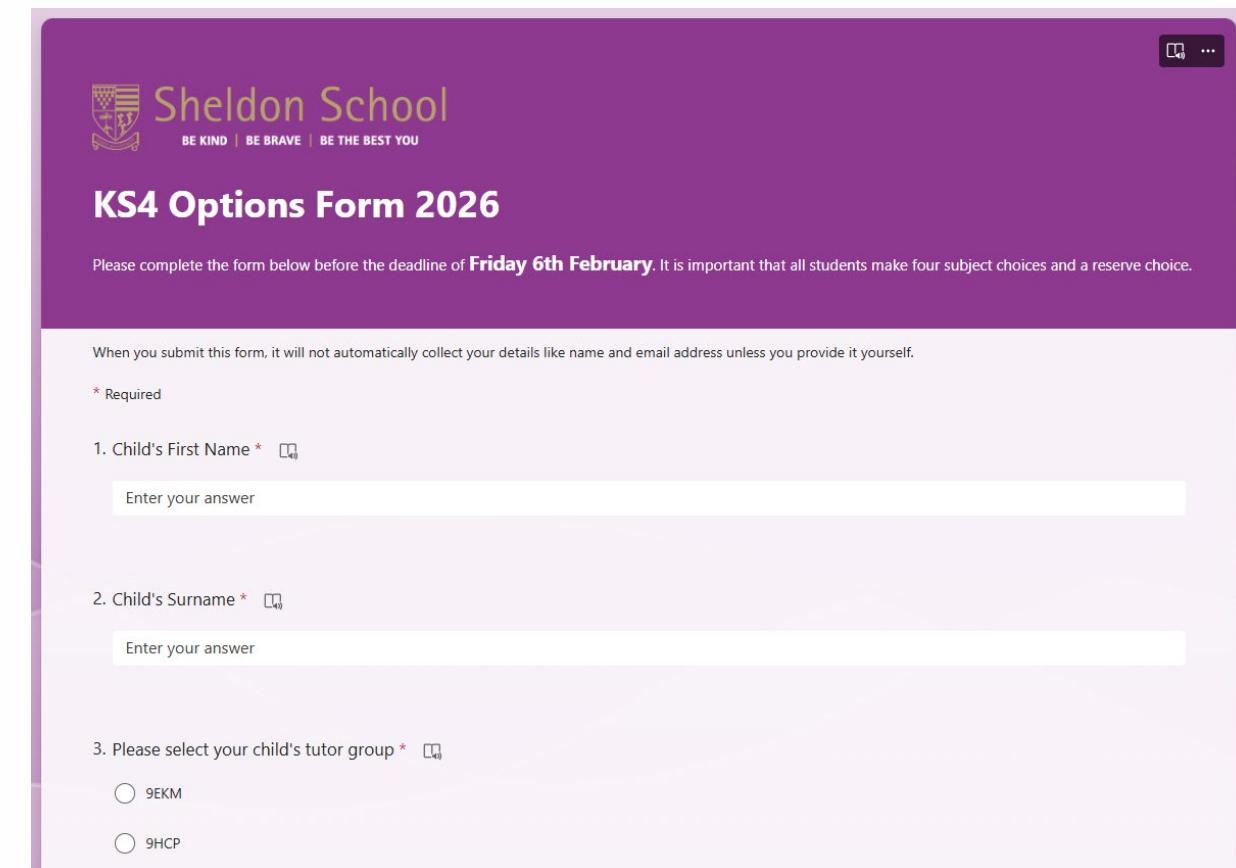
1. Forms that are returned by the deadline will be given priority over forms that are late but there is **NO** first come, first served approach before the deadline
2. Students with higher attendance will be given priority over students with lower attendance (absences for medical reasons not included)
3. Students with fewer demerits will be given priority over those with more
4. Students with higher effort grades will be given priority over those with lower effort grades



Filling in the form

On-line Option Form

- The Year 9 Options Form will be completed electronically
- To access this form when it opens on Wednesday 28th January, please click on the button on the [KS4 Options](#) page on the school website – a reminder and a link will be emailed to all parents
- The first part of the form asks you to complete your name and tutor group



The screenshot shows the 'KS4 Options Form 2026' page for Sheldon School. The page has a purple header with the school's crest and the slogan 'BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU'. The main title 'KS4 Options Form 2026' is in white. Below it, a note says 'Please complete the form below before the deadline of **Friday 6th February**. It is important that all students make four subject choices and a reserve choice.' A disclaimer at the bottom left states: 'When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.' The form consists of three questions: 1. Child's First Name, 2. Child's Surname, and 3. Please select your child's tutor group. Each question has a required field indicator (*), a text input field with a placeholder 'Enter your answer', and a note about the submission process.

Question 4 on the form

- You will then be asked to choose one of six subjects – you must pick one of these subjects

4. You must pick **one** subject from the following list * □

Computer Science

French

Geography

German

History

Spanish

Question 5 on the form

- Next, you will be asked to pick three additional subjects
- Do not duplicate a subject from the previous question

5. You now need to pick an additional **3 subjects** from the following list - this cannot include the subject that has been chosen in question 4. *

Please select 3 options.

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Creative Digital Media
- Design and Technology
- Dance
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Child Development
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- ASDAN CoPe

Subjects with more than one qualification

- We have two subject areas that offer more than one type of qualification.
 - Art
 - D&T
- You cannot take more than one qualification in each of these areas therefore, the next two questions on the form ask you to choose which qualification in each subject area you would like to study if you have chosen that subject.
- Remember, Physical Education does offer two different qualifications, but the route that students follow will be determined by the PE faculty. They know which qualification will suit students in order that students achieve the best possible outcomes.

Questions 6 and 7 on the form

- The next two questions on the form ask you to choose which qualification in each area you would like to study if you have made either an Art or a D&T choice

6. If you chose **Art** in question 5, which Art subject would you like to study? * □

Art, Craft and Design

Fine Art

Photography

I've not chosen an Art subject

- If however, you did not chose Art in question 5 then please select the button beside the statement 'I've not chosen an Art subject'

Questions 6 and 7 on the form

- You will need to choose which D&T subject you want to study if this was one of your choices.

7. If you chose **Design and Technology** in question 5 which Design and Technology specialism would you like to study? * 

Graphic Products

Resistant Materials

Textiles

I've not chosen a DT subject

- The reason for this is that the exam for these subjects is identical in part. However, you are able to take a D&T subject and Food if you want to.
- If you did not chose D&T in question 5 then please select the button beside the statement 'I've not chosen an D&T subject'



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

Question 8 on the form – Reserve choice

- Just in case there is a situation where we cannot give you one of your four choices, we need you to choose a reserve subject. This cannot be one of the subjects you have already chosen.

8. You now need to pick a **RESERVE** subject from the following list - this cannot include any of the subjects that you have already chosen * 

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Creative Digital Media
- Design and Technology
- Dance
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Child Development
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- ASDAN CoPe

Signing off the Option Form



9. Please confirm that you have spoken the subject teachers for each of the subjects you have chosen * □₄₀

I confirm

10. Please confirm that you have spoken with your child about their options choices and are happy with the choices they have made * □₄₀

I confirm

11. Parent Name * □₄₀

Enter your answer

You can print a copy of your answer after you submit

Submit



Final Points

Remember

- Careers are not made or broken in Year 9
- Keep a broad selection of subjects
- Challenge yourself
- Do what you enjoy and what you are good at
- Take all the help, support, advice and guidance available to you
- Read the booklet, talk to subject teachers and watch the presentations
- Tonight is about finding out what is involved in studying each subject
- Fill in your option form correctly
- Make the deadline!



Dates for your diary

- Year 9 Options Evening
 - Thursday 22nd January (5.30pm – 7:30pm)
- Year 9 Parents' Evening
 - Tuesday 27th January
- Options Form available
 - Wednesday 28th January
- Deadline for options form
 - Friday 6th February
- Checks and conversations will happen in Term 4 (March – April)
- Confirmation of choices in mid/late June



If you have questions

- If you have any questions about the content of specific option subjects, then please speak to the subject teacher or Head of Faculty in the first instance
- If you have a question about how to fill in the options form, then please speak to your child's tutor
- If you need further advice and guidance, please speak to your child's tutor who can direct you to the most appropriate support
- If you have any questions that were not answered on the evening please contact Miss Dundas, Mr Burcombe or Dr Simpson

