



Leigh  
Stationers' Academy

# Year 9 Options Webinar

Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at 17:30

# Welcome and Agenda

This is an exciting and important moment for your educational journey where you will make informed decisions about the subjects you wish to continue studying to support you to achieve your future educational goals and career aspirations.

- This presentation will talk you through the process and explain:
  - Qualifications all pupils must study
  - The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
  - GCSE and vocational qualifications on offer
  - Opportunities to find out more about different qualifications
  - Next steps



24/02/26

# Welcome and Agenda

Live in 17 hours  
24 February at 17:30

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## Leigh Stationers' Academy | Key Stage 4 Options Launch Webinar



SCWA Mr Sparks

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1 waiting Scheduled for 24 Feb 2026

Join us for the Key Stage 4 Options Launch Webinar, where we will guide parents, carers, and students through the options process. This live event will provide an overview of the subjects available, key dates, and the selection process. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and gain clarity on the next steps.

Have a question? Submit it in advance using this form, and we'll do our best to answer it live:

<https://forms.gle/58DkuqJh5rTQpJZ86>





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# Our Core Offer

Mr Smith

# Core Subjects

- Our aim is for the majority of pupils to work towards attaining 9 qualifications throughout key stage 4.
- All pupils will study the following qualifications:
  - GCSE English Language
  - GCSE English Literature
  - GCSE Mathematics
  - GCSE Combined Science (two GCSEs)
- The majority of pupils will also work towards GCSE Statistics, delivered alongside GCSE Mathematics.



# Core Offer

- Pupils will also have access to:
  - One period a week of core **Physical Education** (PE) with a focus on physical health and exercise (*not a qualification*)
  - The **LSA tutor time programme** covers core aspects such as:
    - Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education
    - Careers and preparing for work experience
    - Sex and relationships education (SRE)
    - Religious studies
    - Computing skills
    - Study skills



# Curriculum Time

- The table outlines how many lessons each week pupils will receive for their subjects.
- All option blocks will offer a range of GCSE and vocational subjects.
- All subjects are offered subject to availability depending on numbers of pupils.

Subject	Allocation
English	5
Maths	5
Science	4
Core PE	1
Option A	3
Option B	3
Option C	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>



# DfE Curriculum Review

- The government commissioned Professor Becky Francis to complete a curriculum review.
- Her recommendations include the removal of the EBacc performance measures and the associated EBacc entry and attainment headline accountability measures for schools.
- This change means that it is no longer compulsory for all pupils to study the qualifications which form the EBacc.



# EBacc Subjects

- Research shows that a pupil's socio-economic background impacts the subjects they choose at GCSE, and that this determines their opportunities beyond school.
- A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc, such as humanities and a modern foreign language, provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.
- We see the value in EBacc subjects and all pupils will therefore study a humanities subject at key stage 4.
- We would also strongly recommend that pupils consider continuing their study of Spanish.





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# Option Subjects

Mr Smith

# Option A: Geography or History

All pupils at Leigh Stationers' Academy will study a GCSE in one of the following Humanities subjects:

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History

It is possible for a pupil to study both of these courses.

Pupils who wish to do so would need to select one qualification for Option A and the other qualification when selecting their preferences for Options B & C.



# Options B & C: Free Choices

- GCSE Art & Design (Fine art)
- GCSE Art & Design (Photography)
- GCSE Design Technology
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Religious Studies
- Separate Sciences: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics
- GCSE Spanish
- BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Health and Social Care**
- BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (**Acting**)
- BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (**Dance**)



# Other Subject Pathways

- We also have 4 other pathways available for pupils to pick.
- Pupils can select a preference for a pathway and will participate in lessons throughout module 1 of year 10. Following that point, curriculum leaders will assign pupils to the appropriate GCSE or vocational qualification.
- To ensure that pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum offer at Key Stage 4, they will not be able to study both qualifications within a pathway as there is too much overlap in content.



# Other Subject Pathways

- **Business pathway:** GCSE **Business** and Level 1/2 Vocational Award in **Retail Business** (Technical Award)
- **Computing pathway:** GCSE **Computer Science** and BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Digital Information Technology**
- **Media pathway:** GCSE **Media Studies** and BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Creative Media Production**
- **Sport pathway:** GCSE **Physical Education** and V Cert Level 1/2 Tech Award in **Health and Fitness**



# Course Variety

- It's important to note at this stage that all qualifications, and which option block(s) they fall within, are subject to change depending on their viability.
- We will only run qualifications if the number of pupils wishing to study that qualification makes it viable to do so.
- Similarly, we will aim to increase the number of classes of a qualification if there is strong interest from pupils.



# GCSEs in Heritage Languages

- We are exceptionally proud of our diverse community and the range of languages spoken - we therefore offer the opportunity for speakers of a second language to sit a GCSE where possible.
- Pupils will aim to complete these in Year 10.
- The weighting is typically as follows:
  - 25% listening
  - 25% reading
  - 25% speaking
  - 25% writing

- ☐ GCSE Arabic
- ☐ GCSE Bengali
- ☐ GCSE Chinese (Cantonese)
- ☐ GCSE Chinese (Mandarin)
- ☐ GCSE German
- ☐ GCSE Greek
- ☐ GCSE Italian
- ☐ GCSE Japanese
- ☐ GCSE Panjabi
- ☐ GCSE Persian
- ☐ GCSE Polish
- ☐ GCSE Portuguese
- ☐ GCSE Russian
- ☐ GCSE Turkish
- ☐ GCSE Urdu



# The KS4 Preferences Form

- We try our very best to ensure that pupils are able to study their preferred qualifications at Key Stage 4. We will therefore send you a “KS4 Preferences Form” to fill out with your child.
- The form will ask for pupils to:
  - Select a preference between Geography and History
  - Rank order preferences for other Option B and Option C
  - Add information regarding heritage languages (if applicable)
- **The form will also provide you with the opportunity to leave any other comments that you would like us to consider.**





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# Making Informed Choices

Mr Smith

# Options: Taster Lessons

- To support pupils to better understand the demands of the various qualifications at Key Stage 4, each subject area will dedicate one lesson across a week aimed at providing a ‘taster’ experience of the qualifications they offer.
- These will take place within their normal timetabled lessons.
- This will take place from **Monday, 2 March** to **Friday, 6 March 2026**
- Sessions will include:
  - Some background information regarding the course content
  - An explanation of how they will be assessed in the qualification (weighting of examinations vs non-examination assessment)
  - An experience of the course



# Options Evening: Wednesday, 4 March 2026

- Parents/carers and pupils are invited to attend our KS4 Options Evening on **Wednesday, 4 March 2026**.
- Every subject will be represented by the subject leader and teachers and will allow parents/carers and pupils to explore the possibilities within each subject and speak directly to the teachers and leaders.
- We are hopeful that this will guide the decision making process and make the process easier for all involved.
  - Angelou pupils, parents and carers: 17:00
  - Caxton pupils, parents and carers: 17:20
  - Hansard pupils, parents and carers: 17:40



# Options: Taster Day

- Pupils will have an opportunity to experience five new subjects on **Friday, 27 February 2026**.
- The purpose of this day is to help pupils to make informed decisions about subjects they've not previously experienced.
- The subjects on offer will be:
  - GCSE **Business** and Vocational Award in **Retail Business**
  - V Cert **Health & Fitness**
  - BTEC **Health & Social Care**
  - GCSE Art (**Photography**)
  - GCSE **Media Studies** and BTEC **Creative Media**



# Options: Taster Session for Dance

- Pupils who may potentially be interested in studying BTEC **Performing Arts (Dance)** will also have the opportunity to sign up for an optional taster session.
- This session will take place on Tuesday, 3 March during tutor time.
- Please complete [this Google form](#) if your child is keen to participate.



# Options: Further Support and Guidance

- All of the information shared today and more will be made available via our dedicated Key Stage 4 Options website.
- Pupils should seek further advice from the subject teachers across the taster sessions.
- The contact details for the lead teacher of each qualification are shared on our dedicated website - please don't hesitate to reach out to them with any questions.
- Parents/Carers can ensure that their child has **a meeting with our Careers Advisor** by filling out this form [here](#).



# Options: Considering Careers

- It's important that pupils make informed decisions and consider their future career aspirations when selecting their options.
- There are many external sources of information and advice available to pupils, such as:
  - [Advice on selecting options from BBC Bitesize](#)
  - [Advice on considering future careers from BBC Bitesize](#)
- Pupils can also take quizzes regarding potential careers, such as:
  - [National Careers Service: Discover your skills and careers quiz](#)
  - [UCAS careers quiz](#)



# Options: Unifrog

- Pupils can use Unifrog to explore the subjects library to find out more about different subject areas.

## Search by school subjects

Search for university subjects using the subjects you're studying at school that you like the most

Design Technology



Business and Marketing



Food Technology



Go >

## Subjects library

Find the best subjects for you, then save your favourites here:



### Dance



An expression of ideas, feelings and experiences through human movement, covering a range of styles from ballet to street.

[Read the guide >](#)



### Fine art



The study and creation of drawings, paintings, prints, photography, and sculptures.

[Read the guide >](#)



### Business and Management



Learn how businesses are organised and managed. This is a subject area designed to develop business leaders.

[Read the guide >](#)



# Options: Unifrog

- Pupils can use Unifrog to explore the careers library to consider what subject may support them in their future career path.

## Search by school subjects

Search for careers using the subjects you're studying at school that you like the most

Design Technology



Animal and Equine sciences



Food Technology



Go >

## Careers library

Find the best careers for you, then save your favourites here:



### Archaeologist



Archaeologists find and analyse historical artefacts to study the past.

[Read the profile >](#)



### Court usher



Court ushers make sure that everyone involved with a court case is present; that they know what to do, and what to expect.

[Read the profile >](#)



### Plumber



Plumbers fit and service hot and cold water systems, heating systems and drainage networks.

[Read the profile >](#)



# Woolf College

- Should your child wish to consider staying at LSA and joining Woolf College, a link to our current prospectus and further information can be found [here](#).



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MENU Q

WHY US

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## Welcome to Woolf-Sixth Form

Explore our subject brochure to see what we offer

OUR ADMISSIONS

PROSPECTUS

CURRICULUM BOOKLET

REVISION GOOGLE SITE

# Top Tips for Pupils

- **DO NOT** be influenced by your friends as to what you choose. It **MUST** be your choice.
- **DO NOT** choose subjects because you may like or dislike your present teacher.
- **DO NOT** select a subject because you think it's an easy option. All qualifications are challenging and rigorous.
- **DO NOT** choose a subject because it is 'new' and it must be 'better' than what you know. Make sure you check it out!
- **DO NOT** be totally influenced by any one perspective — take a range of views when you make your choice.



# Top Tips for Pupils

- **DO** read about all the subjects and qualifications on offer. Many courses are different or new. Find out whether they will suit your interests and passions.
- **DO** ask questions and discuss the choices with teachers, parents and pastoral support staff.
- **DO** aim for a balanced range of choices to keep your career and future course options open.
- **DO** consider subjects you enjoy and that you excel in.
- **DO** reflect honestly about your interests, abilities, knowledge and skills when reaching a decision.
- Above all, **DO** make a well-informed decision!





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# Next Steps

Mr Smith

# Key Dates

- **Tuesday, 24 February** - Launch webinar with pupils, parents and carers
- **Friday, 27 February 2026** - Options Taster Day for pupils
- **Monday, 2 March to Friday, 6 March** - Week of taster lessons for pupils
- **Wednesday, 4 March** - Options Evening for Parents/Carers
- **Friday, 6 March** - KS4 preferences form will be sent out
- **Wednesday, 18 March** - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday, 18 March** - Deadline for submitting KS4 preferences form
- **Module 6** - Confirmation of options





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Q&A

Mr Smith