



# Bexley Grammar School

## Year 9 GCSE Options 2026



Mr Oyedeji, Year 9 Director of Studies

**Developing compassionate leaders**

**Intellect, Empathy, Courage**





# Some considerations for students

What do I enjoy?

Have I chosen this course simply because I like my current teacher?

What's my motivation for choosing this course?

Am I better suited to exams or coursework (non-exam assessment, NEA)?

Are my friends a factor in this decision?

What am I good at?

How severely does my decision affect my options later on?



# Core Subjects: Compulsory

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Separate Sciences
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics

In addition, students continue to receive lessons in :

Physical Education (Core PE)

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education)

**6 GCSEs**



# Core Subjects: Compulsory

A further compulsory element is the first modern language. All students will continue with either French or German.

For language 2, students either continue with the 2nd MFL selected from the start of Year 8 or they can opt to take Latin in its place.

(NB - there is also the possibility to take Latin in addition to their MFL2).

**6+2** GCSEs



# Humanities Options



All students will need to select one subject from the humanities block:

- Ancient History
- Geography
- History

There is an opportunity to select a second Humanities subject from the list on the next slide.

One must be chosen here though.



# Open Choices



Selecting two subjects to complete the process allows Latin and/or a second Humanities subject as mentioned on previous slides.

Some subjects here will be new to students. They should find out what each entails before opting. There are some restrictions here as well.

This brings the total to 11 GCSE exam courses



# Open Choices

Students will need to select **two** other subjects

Art <b><u>or</u></b> Art textiles	Design Technology <b><u>or</u></b> Food Nutrition	Business Studies <b><u>or</u></b> Economics
Computer Science	Geography	GCSE PE
Drama	History	Psychology
Music	Latin	Religious Studies

**Only one from each of these pairs can be chosen:**

Art/Art Textiles

Business Studies/Economics

DT/Food Nutrition

**6+2+1+2 GCSEs**



# Open Choices - reserve option

**Students will also be asked to select a 3rd (reserve) choice in case:**

- i. an option is not able to run due to insufficient numbers or
- ii. there is a clash once the option blocks have been determined.

We will always discuss these circumstances with individual students should the reserve choice need to be used.



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Mrs Ellis, Curriculum Deputy

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# KS4 Curriculum Aims

- To inspire and challenge our students
- To preserve breadth while encouraging depth of exploration
- To prepare students for sixth form study and beyond.

## A LEVEL SUBJECTS

Art & Design	Film Studies	Philosophy
Biology	French	Physical Education
Business Studies	Further Maths	Physics
Chemistry	Geography	Politics
Chinese	German	Product Design
Classical Civilisation	History	Psychology
Computer Science	Italian	Russian
Drama & Theatre Studies	Japanese	Sociology
Economics	Latin	Spanish
English Language	Maths	
English Literature	Music	

# Completing the Options Form

Students should complete the options form with their parents/carers and submit it before **Tue 24th Feb 2026**.





## Provisional Subject Choice Form Year 10 & 11 Curriculum 2026 - 2028

### Student Details

#### Parent Email Address \*

We will send written confirmation of your child's options choices. Please confirm the email address that you would like us to use (this must be a parent/carer email address).

Please note, Hotmail accounts only: The email service that we use to notify parents/carers automatically defaults incoming mail to the spam/junk folder.

We will advise parents/carers via SIMs Intouch once the notifications have been sent so that they can check for the confirmation email.

Your answer

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## Languages

Pupils continue to study their first MFL (begun in Year 7). In addition, they should pick one from their current Year 9 second MFL or Latin\*: Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish.

\* Only languages studied in Year 9 can be taken in Year 10.

Language \*

- Chinese
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latin
- Russian
- Spanish

## Humanities

Please select one subject from the list below:

Note: Ancient History can only be selected from the Humanities subject block

### Humanities \*

- Ancient History
- Geography
- History

Please select two free option subjects from the list below \*

- Art & Design or
- Art Textiles
- Business Studies or
- ★ Economics
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Design & Technology or
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Religious Studies

★ Pupils wishing to study Economics must have a solid understanding of Mathematics.

## Free Options Reserve Subject

Please select one reserve subject from the list below which will be used if the first choice is not available.

\*

- Art & Design
- Art Textiles
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Design & Technology
- Food Prep. & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Religious Studies



# Frequently asked questions

Q: What happens if I miss the deadline?

A: Late submissions will be accepted & students will be prompted, but very late forms risk missing places on courses.

Q: I realise as I press submit that I have entered incorrect choices on the form - what can I do?

A: Email Mr Oyedeji immediately - we can then make a note as the responses are downloaded.

Q: Will picking the same choices as my friends ensure I will be in the same groups?

A: No - your choices should not be based on those of friends, as there may be multiple groups in subjects.

Q: Can I actually do 12 GCSEs rather than 11?

A: Unfortunately not, as we are unable to timetable 12 subjects.

# Reading: the *facts*



*'Reading for enjoyment is one of the most powerful drivers of a child's academic success and wellbeing, but it's also about so much more than attainment.'*

Oct 2025, DofE website

- In 2024, only 35% of young people aged 8-18 said they enjoyed reading, and only 20% read daily. (National Literacy Trust)
- There is a significant correlation between student reading ability and performance at GCSE level. The correlation was higher in maths than in some arts subjects like history and English literature. (GL Assessment)
- The strongest factor affecting pupils' science scores is reading comprehension. (EEF)
- The average marks of pupils who read 'high-quality' books rose by 0.22 points, the equivalent of 3 months' worth of additional school academic growth.



# Building strong long term reading and literacy habits

Write brief reflections, summaries, or reviews to develop structured thinking.

Read a mix of fiction and non-fiction to strengthen different skills.

Use audiobooks or podcasts to reinforce reading.

Read for 15–20 minutes daily to maintain fluency and comprehension.

Keep a vocabulary journal and actively incorporate new words into writing.

Discuss your reading with others to enhance understanding and insight.

Gradually tackle more challenging texts to extend reading ability and confidence.

Select texts that genuinely interest you to stay engaged and motivated.

**For further information and reading lists visit the school website.**



# Making the right choices

- Talk with subject teachers, the careers advisor (Mrs Caley-Gardner), family members, older students, Mr Oyedeji, Ms Paige and/or Mrs Ellis and ask for their advice.
- Consult the options booklet (and the school website) and don't forget to keep it for future reference next year.

