



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

6 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

GCSE Options - Key Dates this Term

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely Christmas break and that this message finds you well. Please find below the key dates for GCSE Options this term, including important events and deadlines.

Year 9 Parents' / Carers' Evening – 4 or 5 February 2026

The Parents'/Carers' Evening will take place virtually on 4 or 5 of February 2026 (day depending on your daughter's form group). The evening offers an opportunity to discuss your daughter's academic progress this year with subject teachers.

Year 9 GCSE Options Evening – Thursday 26 February 2026

The Year 9 Options Evening will take place on Thursday 26 February 2026 at 6.00pm in the Main Hall. The evening is designed to provide students and parents with all the information you need to make an informed choice before the deadline of **Tuesday 11 March 2026**. The Options Evening will involve a talk from the Headteacher and me, Head of Year 9, followed by the opportunity to visit departments to talk to teachers and find out more about our GCSE courses.

The Year 9 Options Evening is designed to supplement the information provided in the attached booklet, which is also available on the school website, and includes an options guide and information from Heads of Department for optional subjects.

All students will take the Core Subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) and PE (non-GCSE subject). They will also have PSHE lessons and elective enrichment lessons.

Students choose an additional three subjects to take at GCSE from the list below:

- Art Graphic Communication
- Art and Design Textiles
- Fine Art
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Engineering
- Food Preparation and Nutrition

Interim Headteacher: Mr Paul Norman MA, MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE

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- Geography
- History
- Modern Foreign Languages – French, German and Spanish
- Music
- Physical Education

Students will study 10 GCSE subjects. Any additional GCSE twilight courses must be discussed and agreed with the twilight class teacher and Ms Bongout (KS3 Lead). For more information, please refer to the options booklet.

The form for choosing GCSE subjects will be completed electronically. Students will receive an email in due course with personalised login details for the Applicaa online form. This will be sent to their school email address. All option choices must be submitted by the deadline of **Tuesday 11 March 2026**, which is shortly after the Options Evening.

I would encourage you to start discussing and considering the GCSE options with your daughter if you have not done so already. If your daughter finds it difficult to decide on a particular career path or subject, we advise you to consider which subjects they enjoy most and where they have a proven academic ability or potential. To allow a wider range of choices to be kept open for your daughter's future, please do try to maintain a balance of subjects.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Brazier

Mrs K Brazier
Head of Year 9