

Year 9 Options Information Evening

Wednesday 7th January 2026

HONESTY, EMPATHY, AMBITION, RESPECT, TOLERANCE



Yorkshire
Learning
Trust



REALISING POTENTIAL | CREATING THE FUTURE
FULFORDSCHOOL

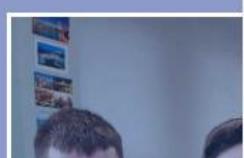


Key Stage 4 Options 2026-2028

HONESTY, EMPATHY, AMBITION, RESPECT, TOLERANCE



REALISING POTENTIAL | CREATING THE FUTURE
FULFORDSCHOOL



HONESTY, EMPATHY, AMBITION, RESPECT, TOLERANCE



FULFORDSCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS



2026-28



FULFORD SCHOOL
realising potential - creating the future

Key Stage 4 Options 2026-28

Please find below a link to the Key Stage 4 Options for 2026-28:

- [KS4 Options Booklet 2026-28](#)

Year 9 Information Evening 7 January 2026:

- *Link coming soon*

ART & DESIGN GCSE

Mr T Rigg

Creative industries make up a huge percentage of the actual jobs available in the UK today. Art GCSE is relevant to a broad range of career paths and could be the first step towards working in the creative sector. Whether you are interested in being an architect, interior designer, artist, gallery curator, set designer, working in advertising or web design, Art GCSE can boost a variety of skills that are highly attractive to employers. Even if you plan a different career path, people who think creatively are in high demand in all employment sectors.

We will train your artistic skills and help you to develop your own personal style. We aim to inspire you with exciting contemporary artists and craftspeople and have developed themes and projects to work from that provide great starting points for you to develop your own work. You will learn skills in photography, stencil, lino print, mono print, painting, drawing and sketchbook production, all skills which are relevant to the modern and evolving creative world.

GCSE Art and Design provides a unique working environment which is thoroughly appreciated by the students who take the subject. The course covers a range of activities, media, techniques and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. The main aim is to develop your own personal ideas and to refine your art and design skills in order to build a comprehensive portfolio of work for your GCSE qualification. We will guide you through the assessment objectives and requirements very closely at first but will expect you to become increasingly independent and follow your own ideas as the course progresses. In addition to your timetabled lessons, students are welcome to use the Art rooms most lunchtimes and some sessions after school.

The course is divided into two components;

Component One: The Personal Portfolio (coursework) is worth 60% of the GCSE. Students work from the induction starting point of 'Identity' in Year 10 and learn skills in lino printing, stencilling, drawing, painting, mono printing, photography, research skills and annotation skills. Towards the end of Year 10 and into Year 11 students complete their 'Major Project' putting into practise the skills they have learnt in a personalised and independent way. These broad themes provide starting points which can be developed and personalised as students' work progresses. Work from all these projects can be submitted for GCSF accreditation at the

Key Stage 4

Years 10 and 11

HONESTY, EMPATHY, AMBITION, RESPECT, TOLERANCE



REALISING POTENTIAL | CREATING THE FUTURE
FULFORDSCHOOL

35%
Nationally, 23%
of GCSE
grades in 2025
were at grade 7
or higher

85%
Nationally, 67%
of GCSE
grades in 2025
were at grade 4
or higher

Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a **Grade 7** and above as previously achieved a grade A and above.

Grade 5 will be awarded to the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C or bottom third of a grade B.

The Department for Education has determined that **Grade 5** will be a 'strong pass'. **Grade 4** will be a 'standard pass'.

The bottom of **Grade 1** will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.

New GCSE Grading Structure

Ofqual

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	OLD GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	GOOD PASS (DfE) 5 and above = top of C and above
4	AWARDING 4 and above = bottom of C and above
3	C
2	D
1	E
U	F
U	G
U	U

The Curriculum

The curriculum comprises a combination of Core Subjects (taken by all students) and optional subjects (chosen by students).

Core Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science (two/three GCSEs)
- Religious Studies
- Core PE[#]
- Personal Development[#]

Non examined.

Timetables in Year 10

English	7 hours per fortnight
Maths	7 hours per fortnight
Science	10 hours per fortnight
RE	3 hours per fortnight
Option blocks	5 hours per fortnight per option
PE	2 hours per fortnight
PD	1 hour per fortnight

There is a requirement for all students to study some aspects of Computing and Digital Literacy in Key Stage 4. This is provided through sessions in form time.

Core Subjects

- English

Students will study both English Language and English Literature

- Mathematics

Students will sit either higher tier (grades 9-4 available) or foundation tier (grades 5-1 available). Approximately 2/3 of the year group will sit the higher tier.

Core Subjects - Science

- There are two different pathways in Science
- Some students (approximately 1/3 of the cohort) will be studying Triple Science and will receive separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- All other students will be studying Combined Science. This route gives students two GCSE grades and the course contains biology, chemistry and physics content. Grades are reported as eg, 98, 77, 54
- Students will sit either higher tier (grades 9-4 available) or foundation tier (grades 5-1 available)
- These courses are assessed by linear examinations at the end of Year 11
- The pathway for each student is usually confirmed at the end of year 9.

Core Subjects

- Religious Studies

All students will study the GCSE Short course qualification (worth half a GCSE) as part of the core curriculum. The intention is that this will be examined in Summer 2027 (Year 10).

Students can choose to study the full course qualification within the options.

Optional Subjects

- Students choose four options to study in Year 10 and 11
- The majority of the subjects we offer are GCSEs
- Alternative Level 2 qualifications are offered in Construction, Enterprise Business, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering, Engineering, Travel and Tourism and IMedia
- We offer a Level 1 qualification through our Foundation Learning Programme
- French and Spanish are the only optional subjects to offer foundation/higher tier papers.

Curriculum Breadth and Balance

To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum (that keeps a full range of options for further study and future careers open), we **very strongly** recommend that most students should select:

- A foreign language (French or Spanish)
- A humanity (History or Geography)
- Students CAN choose both Modern Foreign Languages or both Humanities if they would like to do so.

Other GCSE Options

- Art
- Business Studies
- DT Product Design
- DT Textiles
- PE
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Music
- RE Full Course

Other Options Courses

Level 2 (worth 1 higher grade GCSE)

- Creative iMedia
- Construction
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality and Catering
- Engineering
- Enterprise
- Travel and Tourism

Level 1 (worth 1 grade 1-3 GCSE)

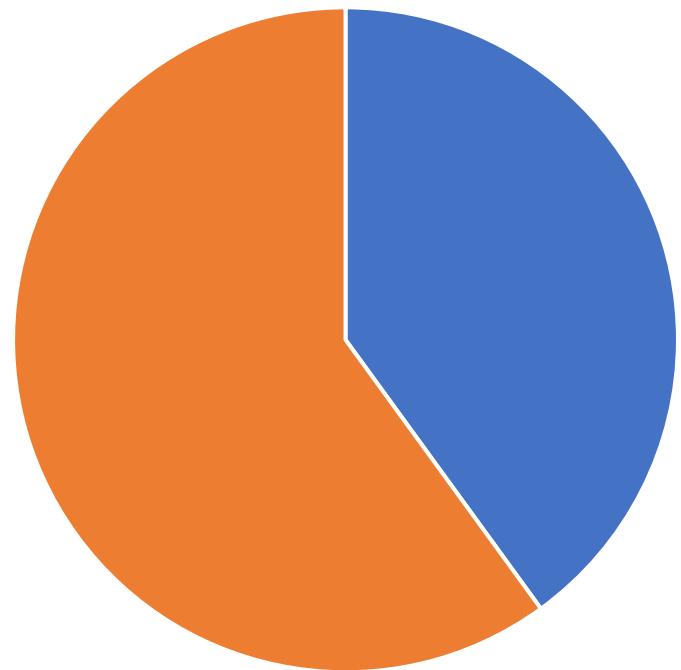
- BTEC Workskills.

New GCSE Grades	Vocational Qualifications	
9	Distinction * 8.5	Level 2
8		
7		
6		
5		
4		
3		
2		
1	Pass 1	Level 1

Assessment

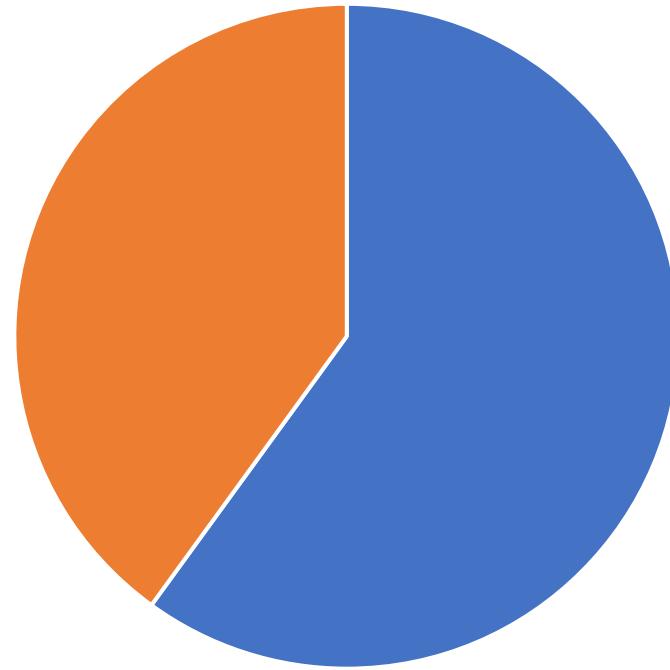
- Some subjects are assessed only by linear examinations at the end of Year 11 (e.g. History, Geography).
- Some subjects include a proportion of the course that is assessed by coursework or controlled assessment (called NEA – non examined assessment). The proportion of this varies across subjects – please see the options booklet for further information.
- All GCSE subjects will be assessed on the 9-1 scale.
- All GCSE subjects have an examination at the end of the course in Year 11.
- Level 2 Vocational courses have one external assessment at the end of Year 11. The remainder of the assessment is through completion of set tasks.

GCSE PE



■ NEA ■ Final Exam

GCSE Music



■ NEA ■ Final Exam

HONESTY, EMPATHY, AMBITION, RESPECT, TOLERANCE



REALISING POTENTIAL | CREATING THE FUTURE
FULFORDSCHOOL

Other Qualifications

- Each year a number of students sit additional language examinations.
- Each year a number of students sit additional qualifications such as Astronomy through partnerships such as the ISSP.
- Currently in year 11 an Additional Mathematics qualification is offered as an after school provision.

These qualifications are sat in addition to, not in place of, the four option choices each student makes.

Taster Lessons and Careers Guidance

- Talks about option subjects and taster lessons should be taking place in lessons over the coming weeks.
- Within form time, students have been given some careers guidance to help support them to make their choices.
- Our website contains lots of relevant links to career information <https://fulford.york.sch.uk/careers/> for students choosing both GCSE and post 16 pathways.

How to Choose?

- Read the details about the subjects in the options booklet!
- Which subjects do they actually ENJOY studying?
- Which are the subjects in which they achieve well?
- Do they want to study something new?
- What are their future higher education or career aspirations?
(do they already know what path they are likely to want to take?)
- What STYLE of learning and assessment do they prefer?
(exams, coursework, project-based, practical etc.)
- **DON'T let them base their choices upon what their friends are going to choose!**

The Option Process

- Students will be asked to choose their options through the completion of an online form. The online form does need to be completed by a parent/carer. The link to this will be sent out via email.
- Students will be asked to choose a reserve subject in addition to their four choices.
- When choosing their four choices, students will be asked to rank their choice in order of preference with their most preferred option being given the number one ranking.
- Where a subject is oversubscribed, communication will take place with students in order to explain the process we will use to reduce numbers.

The Option Process

- We very strongly recommend that students study a language and a humanity subject.
- Students must study either a language or a humanity subject.
- There are some combinations of subjects that can not be chosen. For example, students can not choose more than one DT subject (Construction and Engineering both count as DT subjects).
- Students can not study:
 - Enterprise Business and Business Studies
 - Food Preparation and Nutrition and Hospitality and Catering

What Happens Next?

Wednesday 7 January

w/c 12 January

Thursday 15 January

Monday 19 January

Monday 26 January

By Wednesday 11 February

From Monday 23 February

Year 9 Information Evening

Year 9 Options Assembly

Year 9 Taster Lessons delivered within usual lessons

Careers and options advice programme run through form time sessions

Year 9 parents' evening (H half)

Year 9 parents' evening (E half)

Year 9 Options forms home

Deadline for completion of Year 9 options

Follow up conversations with students commence where needed