

HAPPY CARING EXCELLENT

# Welcome to Year 9 Options Evening 2025 - 26



[www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk)



# The aims of this presentation

- **Inform** parents/carers and students about the process of options
- **Share** our *Core* and *Options* curriculum offer
- **Support** students in making informed option choices



# The National Picture

- Demand for
  - Increased literacy skills
  - Increased knowledge
- Core focus on EBACC:
  - English Language and Literature
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - History or Geography
  - Increased emphasis on a modern European Language



# Grading

- GCSE grades are 9-1
- Grade '4' is considered equivalent to the old grade 'C'
- Cambridge National/Vcert uses the following grades:
  - ✓ Level 2 – Distinction\* (D2\*), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)
  - ✓ Level 1 - Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1)
  - ✓ A P2 is equivalent to a grade 4, a D2 is equivalent to a grade 7

9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	D
2	
1	
U	U



# The CORE curriculum

All students study this curriculum and there is no need to opt for these subjects!

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE
- Personal Development



More information can be found in the Year 9 Options Booklet in the [options page](#) on our website.



# Routes through Science

There are two routes through Science:

## **AQA Combined Science (Trilogy)**

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



## **AQA Separate Sciences**

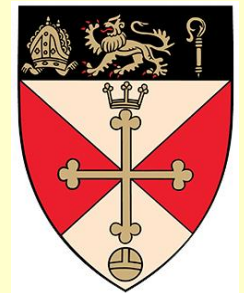
This leads to three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Both routes can lead to A Level Science and further study such as medicine at university.

Decisions about which route students take are made during year 11.

# The Malmesbury School Offer

- A rich and varied menu of option subjects
- All subjects are of equal importance
- Excellent facilities – Creative Arts and DT subjects thrive
- High expectations and aspirations for all
- A curriculum that ensures post 16 and post 18 opportunity



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# Things to consider when choosing options



- Do you enjoy the subject?
- How is the course assessed? e.g. 100% exam or 60% NEA + 40% exam
- Have you chosen a broad and balanced curriculum?
- Have you suitably challenged yourself?
- What are your aspirations and interests post 16?





# Year 9 Options Booklet



**Malmesbury School**  
**Year 9 Options Booklet**  
**2024 - 25**



[malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk](http://malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk)

Malmesbury School Corn Gastons Malmesbury SN16 0DF 01666 829700



Available through our  
dedicated options section  
on the website here:

[Year 9 Options -  
Malmesbury School](#)

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# Year 9 Options Booklet

## Humanities

### GEOGRAPHY

*"Geography is the key to all our futures" – Michael Palin*

Examination board: AQA  
Qualification: GCSE

#### Course overview:

This course is for everyone who cares about their world and is interested in finding out about its landscape, places and people. The subject equips you to understand the dynamic, environmental, economic and social changes happening around the world; how it will impact on you, and how your decisions can influence the future of the planet.

#### Why should I study this course?

- Geography helps to make sense of the world around you.
- Geographical issues are becoming more topical in the news with more people aware of them.
- Geography is highly valued by employers for its combination of knowledge, integration of ideas, and its role in training students in the key skills of numeracy, literacy and ICT.
- Geography lends itself to a variety of careers such as: planning, architecture, civil engineering, environmental protection, conservation, travel and tourism, meteorology, market research, statistics, journalism, outdoor education, geology, oceanography and agencies, police, army, landscape architecture, business within global companies, civil service, farming, distribution, navigation and health service management.

#### Course content:

The course is separated into three sections: physical geography, human geography and fieldwork and evaluation. The topics from each section are taught across Year 10 and 11.

- Physical landscapes of the UK: including rivers and coasts  
Living with the physical environment  
including: tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, rainforests and hot deserts.
- Challenges in the human environment  
including: urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management.
- Field work: two field trips to investigate physical geography and urban geography with a topical decision-making exercise.



#### Assessment of course:

There are three exams in Geography which are sat in the summer of Year 11. Questions vary from multiple choice, short answer and longer levelled responses.

Paper 1: Physical Geography is 1 hour and 30 minutes (35%)

Paper 2: Human Geography is 1 hour and 30 minutes (35%)

Paper 3: Fieldwork and evaluation is 1 hour and 15 minutes (30%)

For further information please see Miss Brownlie, Mr Brown, Mr Griffiths and Mr Freer.

## CONTENT

- Introduction
- Option choices
- Subject pages

Examination Board

Qualification

Course overview

Reasons to study

Course content

Assessment

Contacts

- Guidance for the online process

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# Option choices

MALMESBURY SCHOOL 2026 OPTION CHOICE FORM							
Name:				Tutor Group:			
<b>Completed choice sheets should be returned by Thursday 29th January</b>							
Core Subjects (no need to choose): English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (Combined Science or Separate Sciences), Personal development, Core P.E.							
Block A		Block B		Block C		Block D	
Drama		DT - Food Preparation and Nutrition		Art		Art	
Computer Science		DT - Product Design		Geography		Creative i-media	
German		DT - Textiles		History		French	
Geography		French		Music		German	
History		Geography		PE (GCSE PE/Vcert Health & Fitness)		Geography	
Health and Social Care		History		Religious Studies		History	
PE (GCSE PE/Vcert Health & Fitness)		Religious Studies		Spanish		Media Studies	
Religious Studies		Spanish		Vocational - Land Based Studies		Religious Studies	
Vocational - Lifeskills (invitation only)		Vocational - Hair & Beauty		Vocational - Trowel Skills		Vocational - Building and Construction	
Many employers, Further and Higher Education establishments are looking for students with a language and humanities subject (history or geography).							
<b>HOW TO FILL IN THE OPTIONS FORM</b> Students will study <b>one</b> subject in each block. Please select <b>one</b> subject from each block, and number them 1-4 in order of preference. Put the numbers in the boxes to the right of each subject. Then select an additional subject from each block, and number them 5-8 in order of preference, these are your "reserve" options. Do not pick the same subject more than once, even as a reserve. You should only pick Trowel Skills or Building and Construction (not both) - please see options booklet for more details.						Signed by parent/carer:  .....  Signed by student:  .....	

- Keep a broad and balanced curriculum
- Languages and humanities
- Creative and practical
- Sport – GCSE PE and Vcert in Health and Fitness offered (teacher choice)

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# Vocational subjects

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Core Subjects (no need to choose): English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (Combined Science or Separate Sciences), Personal development, Core P.E.							
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Computer Science		DT - Product Design		Geography		Creative i-media	
German		DT - Textiles		History		French	
Geography		French		Music		German	
History		Geography		PE (GCSE PE/Vcert Health & Fitness)		Geography	
Health and Social Care		History		Religious Studies		History	
PE (GCSE PE/Vcert Health & Fitness)		Religious Studies		Spanish		Media Studies	
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- Students can pick a **maximum of two vocational qualifications**
- Financial capability is no longer taught within the vocational courses

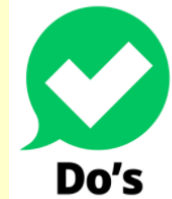
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# Dos and Don'ts



- ✓ DO choose subjects which you like
  - ✓ DO choose subjects which you are successful in
  - ✓ DO choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education
  - ✓ DO find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to stick with it
  - ✓ DO talk to the people who know you
  - ✓ DO listen to the advice your subject teachers give you
- 
- DON'T choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it
  - DON'T choose a subject just because you like - or dislike - a particular teacher: they may not end up teaching you



# Key Dates

- **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 9 Options Evening
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 9 Subject Progress' Evenings for 9SG, 9JC, 9NC, 9LA, 9LW
- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** - Year 9 Subject Progress' Evenings for 9SB, 9CT, 9HF, 9CP
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January** Final deadline for options - all forms submitted to tutors

Please submit options forms on time. Forms submitted after the deadline may lead to students not getting the courses they have chosen in instances when courses are oversubscribed.



# Help and support

- Year 9 Personal Development lessons
- Year 9 Options Booklet
- Teacher Q&A during lessons
- Virtual Progress Evenings
- Learning Support
- Careers Advisor – Mrs Griffin
- Head of Year – Mrs Stafford
- Pastoral Support – Mrs Lees
- Year 9 Academic Leader – Mr M Loveday
- Member of Leadership Team – Mr Shadrack





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