



Options at Key Stage 4

Thursday 15th January 2026



St Paul's School Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for our school community,

Bless us all and keep us safe.

*Send your Spirit to guide us, as we become
the people you want us to be.*

*Be with us on our journey as we learn to love
and love to learn.*

Through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen



Options at Key Stage 4



Mr Fannon

**Deputy Head
Teacher**

Curriculum and Accountability Reform



9-1



Introduced 2017



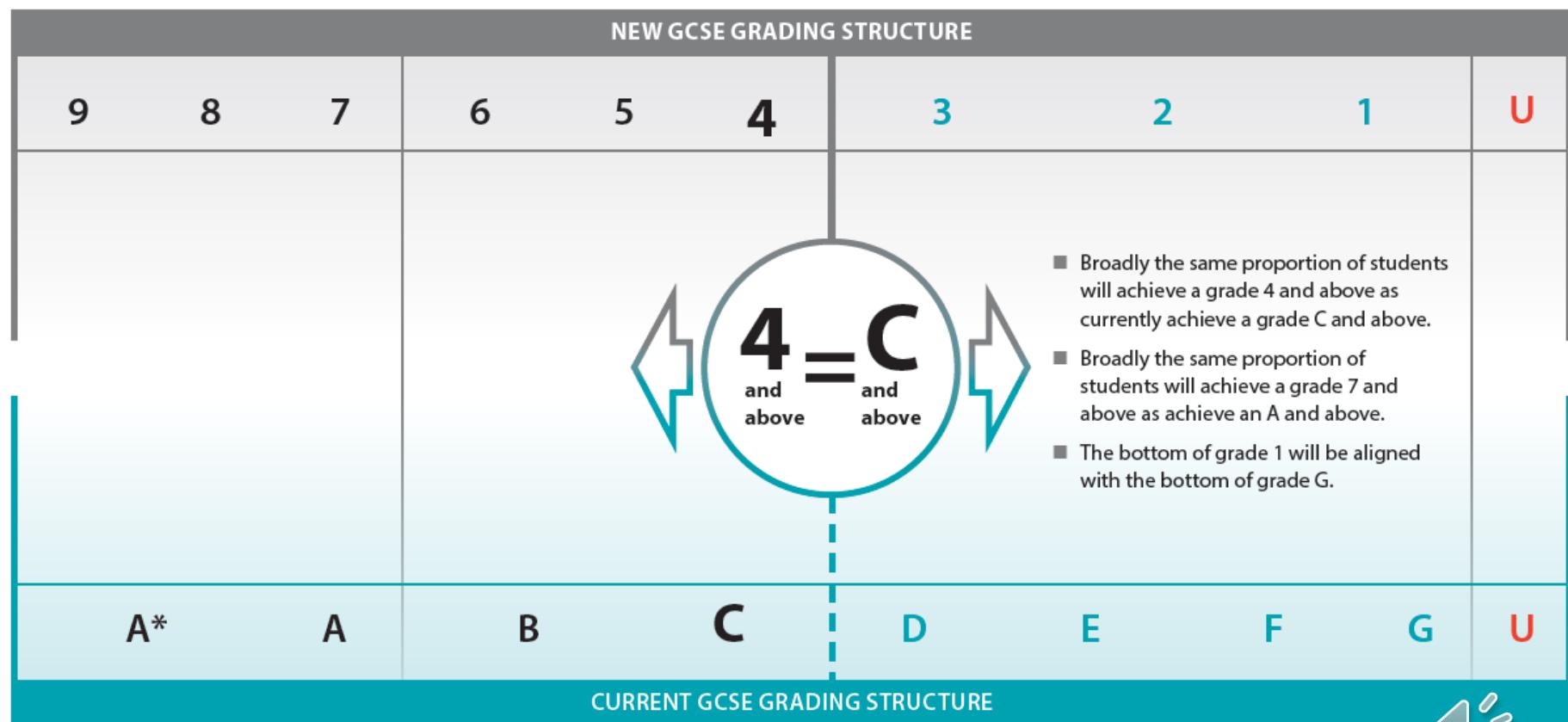
SO WHAT WERE THESE CHANGES

- GCSE's remained, but have been comprehensively reformed.
- A new grading system of 9 – 1 introduced in 2017 for Maths/ English only in the examination results of that year.
- Then all subjects were graded 9 -1 in 2018 examinations and onwards.
- All GCSE courses are currently linear with a terminal assessment at the end of the course.
- No more modular examinations.
- The removal of coursework as a method of assessment, except for the assessment of skills.
- There will be fewer short answers and more essay style exam questions.
- However more recently there has been a number of equivalent qualifications reintroduced including BTEC's, Cambridge Nationals and other equivalent qualifications. They have reintroduced elements of coursework and modular examinations please read the specifications within the option booklet.

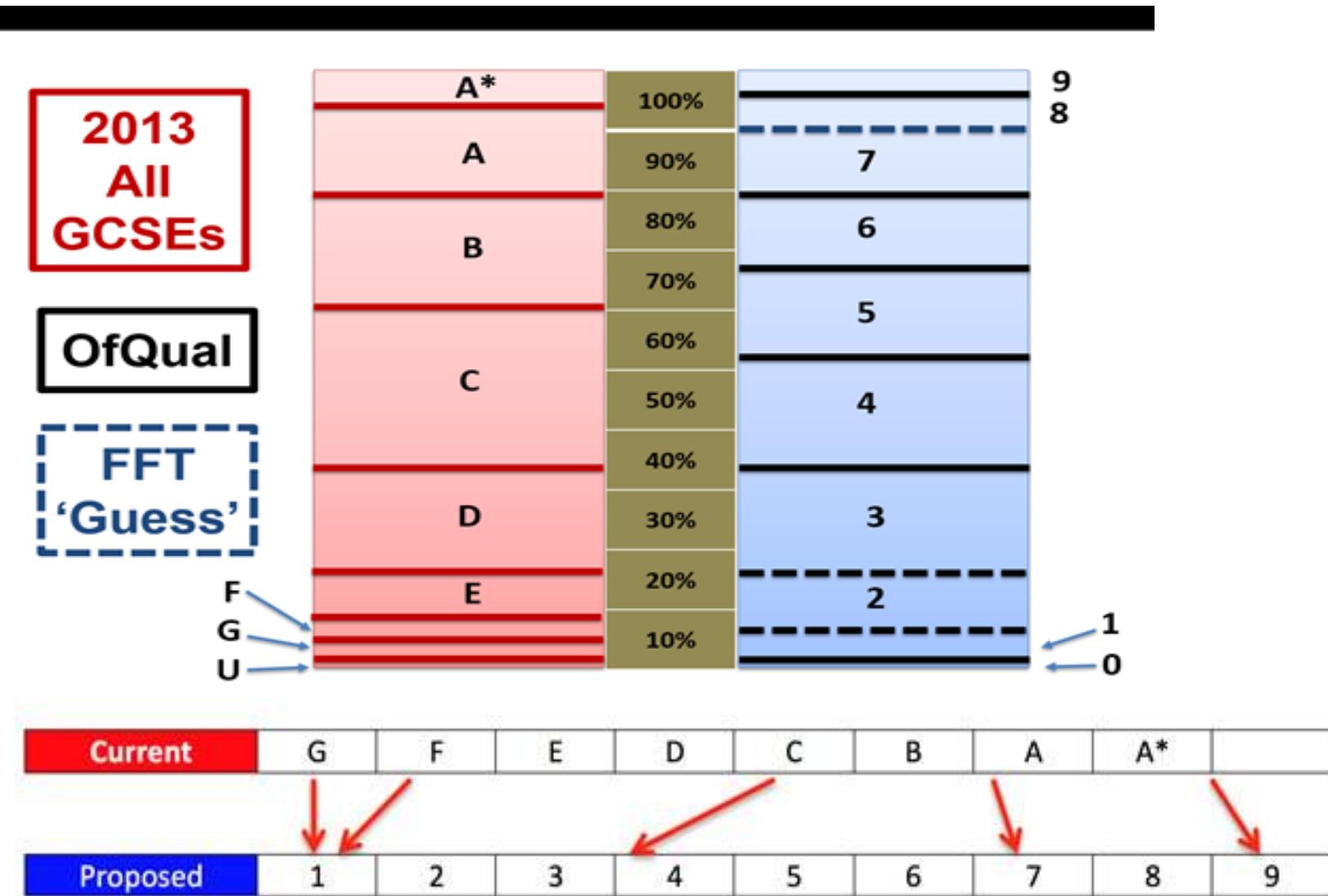


Grading the New GCSEs in 2017

Ofqual



SO WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE





Mrs Chisnall

Head of Year 9

Attendance

Attendance Ladder





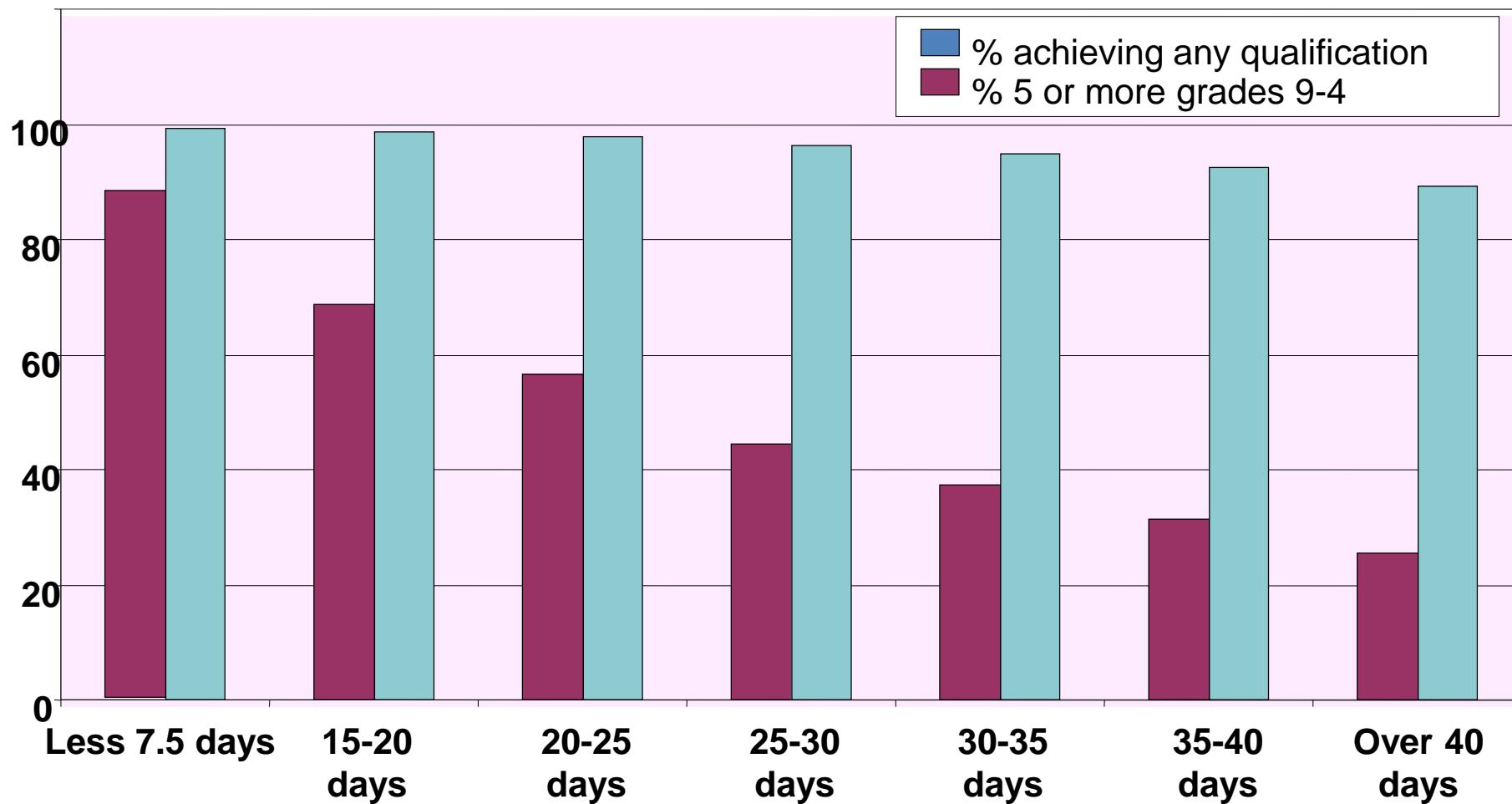
Every day, half-day and lesson matter

- There is a strong correlation between the amount of absence in a school and the qualifications that the students achieve.
- Every lesson in school matters and children who have time off often find it difficult to catch up and do well at school, particularly as the average amount of absence per student increases.





Secondary School Key Stage 4 Performance by average days absent



Attendance

Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year which is 90% attendance, results in pupils achieving a whole National Curriculum level lower in achievement at the end of Year 9, compared to those with 100% attendance

AND

- **A GCSE GRADE LOWER IN ALL SUBJECTS IN YEAR 11.**
(DfES)
- The greater the attendance the greater the achievement



2026- 2028 Curriculum

KS4 Curriculum for Next two year's.

2 Year KS4
Curriculum hours
explained.

Year 10		Year 11	
English	8	English	8
Mathematics	8	Mathematics	8
Science	8	Science	8
RE	5	RE	5
Option 1	6	Option 1	6
Option 2	6	Option 2	6
Option 3	6	Option 3	6
Core PE	2	Core PE	2
Careers/PHSE	1	Careers/PHSE	1



Core Compulsory Curriculum

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
- Religious Studies
- *Core PE (No Qualification)*
- *PSHE (No Qualification)*



English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

- The English Baccalaureate - though not a qualification in itself - is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language.
- These are subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most doors open. Students wishing to apply for Sixth Form and University are strongly encouraged to follow an English Baccalaureate curriculum.



Options at Key Stage 4

Option Process explained:-

You must choose three options and two reserve option.

EBACC – You must choose one Humanity subject (History or Geography) and one Language (French or Spanish or Italian).

Please note some subjects cancel out another
e.g.

- You can only choose one between BTEC Drama or BTEC Music.





Yr 9 Options form January 2023

All students in Key stage 4 will study the core subjects of English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science, Religious Education and non-examined courses of Physical Education and PHSE.

Students are required to study a further three options to supplement the CORE subjects above.

Students will need to select three options and two reserve choices from the options list provided below. Ensuring that the priority subject is number 1 E.g. French being 1st choice subject.

This exercise will enable us to place the subjects into 3 blocks. Putting the subjects into three blocks will allow the subjects to be placed into a timetable next year – all subjects in Block A will be on at the same time, all subjects in Block B will be take place at the same time and all subjects in Block C will occur at the same time.

The three blocks of subjects will be generated by accommodating as many pupils' top three combinations as possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate 3 out of the 4 chosen subjects.

Inevitably and unfortunately some combinations of subjects will not be possible.

Those students wishing to achieve the English Baccalaureate will be required to choose a language (Spanish, French or Italian) and humanity subject (History or Geography). These subjects have been highlighted in brackets after the subject.

Please note: the school reserves the right to withdraw a subject if staffing, rooming, resources or the numbers opting for it make it unviable.

Please complete before the 9th February 2023

You can only choose one from GCSE PE or OCR Sports studies or WJEC Sports coaching principles.

You can only choose one from BTEC Drama or BTEC Music or BTEC Dance

* 1. Contact Information 0

Pupil First Name

Pupil Surname Name

Form Group

* 2. Please select your 1st, 2nd, 3rd and two reserve choice from the list. 0

	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	Reserve 1st	Reserve 2nd
GCSE Art	<input type="radio"/>				
OCR Cambridge National - Business Studies	<input type="radio"/>				
OCR Cambridge National - Child Development	<input type="radio"/>				
GCSE PE	<input type="radio"/>				
OCR Sports Studies	<input type="radio"/>				
WJEC Sports Coaching Principles	<input type="radio"/>				
BTEC Drama	<input type="radio"/>				
BTEC Music	<input type="radio"/>				
BTEC Dance	<input type="radio"/>				



Complete the electronic form by the 5th February

Electronic copy sent to the students email will look similar to this picture

Timeline

- **Year 9 Options Assembly: 7th January 2026**
- **Parents Evening: 15th January 2026**
- **Options Event: 28th January 2026**
- **Options Deadline: by 3.05pm on 5th February 2026** (Electronic form found on student emails)
- **1-1 Meetings with SLT: Monday 23rd February - Friday 6th March 2026**



Guidance

- » Options Booklet & Options Video
- » Heads of Department and Subject Leaders
- » Progress Tutors
- » Further careers advice available from :

Careers Lead: Ms McKeeney

Progress Leader: Mrs Chisnall



Thank you for your Continued Support



Mr Fannon & Mrs Chisnall

