



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

Options

2026

Thank you for coming

Why choose now?

- Allows us to better tailor the curriculum to the interests and aptitudes of pupils
- Allows them to study new subjects such as
 - Business Studies
 - Computer Science
 - Vocational Information Technology
 - Physical Education (as an academic subject)

Core GCSEs

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics

- Science
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Combined Science (2 GCSEs which includes some of each subject)

Non Examined Core

- These do not lead to qualifications
 - Personal Development
 - Core RS (a broad look at ethics and religion – in far less detail than the full GCSE)
 - Core PE – Participation in a wide range of sports, leadership and personal development.

The structure of Year 9 to 11

- Year 9 – Pupils choose 5 subjects, one from each of 5 blocks
- Year 10 – Pupils choose 4 of the 5 subjects to carry on until the end of Year 11
- Year 11 –continue to study these 4 subjects until GCSE exams at the end in June.

Choices Blocks for Year 9

MFL	Humanities	Free Choice 1	Free Choice 2	Free Choice 3
GCSE French GCSE German GCSE Spanish	History Geography GCSE R.S.	Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT	Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT	Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT

Pupils can not take both **DT: RM** and **Food & Nutrition**

In order of preference from most 

Free Choice 1	Free Choice 2	Free Choice 3	Reserve 1	Reserve 2
Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT	Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT	Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT	Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT	Art Business St. Computer Sci. Drama Food & Nutrition French Geography German History Music P.E. GCSE Spanish R.S. GCSE DT: RM Vocational IT

- Pupils will be asked for 2 reserve subjects this is because
 - Choices may clash
 - Many Courses have limited capacity.
- Pupils will be allocated free choices in order of preference.
- Pupils should put their favourite free choice first.
- If a course is full, places on a course will be allocated on the following basis
 - a) Order of preference
 - b) Random allocation
- Reserve choices will be allocated to a pupil if
 - a) The choices clash and the lessons will be on at the same time
 - b) The course is full and they didn't secure a place on that course
 - c) There are too few pupils wishing to take the course and therefore it doesn't run.
- Mr Ward meet with those who can't have their choices before allocation

Some Aspects of subjects to consider

- Music – Do they play and instrument or sing?
- PE – Do they play sport either in school or outside beyond PE lessons?
- Do they know the difference between Core RS and GCSE RS?
- Do they know the difference between CS and IT?

Reasons to choose a course

- Enjoyment
- Success
- Career
- Balance of coursework and exams

Do not choose a subject because

- Friends are doing it
- Think it will be easy

Who they should talk to

- You – the parents
- Tutor
- Teachers
- Older siblings?
- Miss Ingold
- Mr Ward – about the process, not subjects

Events & Deadlines

- Thursday 12th March – Options Evening – Talk to departments about subjects
- Thursday 19th March – Parents' evening – Talk to teachers about how well your child is doing in subjects and how suited they personally might be to the GCSE course
- Form opens online Friday 20th March – you will be sent a link to an online form
- Form closes Friday 17th April

Deadline

- Form closes Friday 17th April
 - There is NO advantage in putting your form in early – all pupils will be treated equally as long as they meet this deadline.
 - If you miss the deadline, you may find there is limited choice for you as subjects will be allocated based upon applications that meet the deadline.