

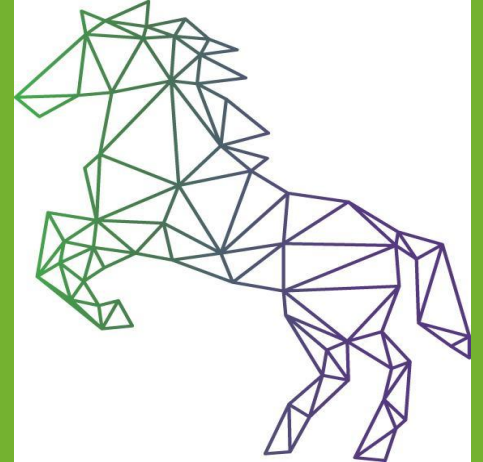
Welcome to our Year 9 into 10 Options Evening

Thursday 5 February 2026

5.00 - 6.30pm

Mrs Z Comiskey (Deputy Headteacher)

Mrs C Marsh (Assistant Headteacher)



Plan for the Evening

Horsforth School		
Year 8 into 9 & Year 9 into 10 Options Evening		
Thursday 5 February 2026 5.00 - 8.00pm		
	Current Year 8	Current Year 9
	All Depth + humanities subjects	GCSE / BTEC option subjects
Year 9 Parent/carers and students arrive at 5.00pm		
5.00 – 5.45pm	Do not attend	Talk 1 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls
5.45 – 6.30pm		Talk 2 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls
Year 9 Parent/carers and students leave at 6.30pm		
Year 8 Parent/carers and students arrive at 6.45pm		
6.45 – 7.15pm	Talk 1 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls	Do not attend
7.15 – 7.45pm	Talk 2 (in Main Hall) - 20 mins OR visit subject stalls	
Year 8 Parent/carers and students leave		

Please note an email will be sent to all parent/carers tomorrow including this presentation and a copy of the options support booklet all students have also received



Why do students pick options for Year 10?

- To enable students to have some say in the curriculum they are taught.
- To ensure that our students select the subjects which will allow them to achieve and progress to the next phase of their education successfully.
- To allow students to specialise and dedicate their time to subjects relevant to their chosen pathways.

What will Students study in Year 10?

All students will continue to study the
Core Curriculum Offer:

- English – Lit and Lang (10 hours)
- Mathematics (8)
- **Science (9)**
- **A language (5)**
- **History or Geography (5)**
- PE core (2)
- PSHCE (1)

All students will also
choose **2 Option
subjects:**

- **Option 1 (5)**
- **Option 2 (5)**

This options process is
only about students
choosing 2 subjects (plus
1 reserve) from this list to
study in Years 10 and 11

Option Subjects on Offer 2026-28

- Art (GCSE)
- Business Studies (GCSE or BTEC)*
- Computer studies (GCSE)
- Drama (GCSE)
- Engineering (BTEC)
- Food Tech (GCSE)
- Health and Social Care (BTEC)
- IT (BTEC)
- Media (GCSE)
- Music (GCSE)
- PE (GCSE or BTEC)*
- Photography (GCSE)
- Religious studies (GCSE)
- Technology (GCSE)
- Triple Science (plus Statistics) (GCSE)

Students choose 2
subjects
(plus 1 reserve)
from this list to study in
Years 10 and 11

* Students should discuss which pathway would best suit their learning and assessment styles with the PE or Business Studies staff.

Both courses allow progression into our Sixth Form to study these subjects at Level 3 / A level.

Which Qualification???

GCSE

- Graded 9-1
- More challenging content – leads to sixth form entry
- Less or no coursework/controlled assessment
- More exams, mostly at the end of the course

BTEC

- Graded Pass / Merit / Distinction
- Recognised by employers and leads to sixth form entry
- More coursework and internal exams
- Fewer external exams at the end of the course

GCSE Grade	1 (G)	2 (F)	3 (E)	4 (D)	5 (C)	6 (B)	7 (A)	8 (A*)	9 (^10%)
BTEC Grade	Level 1 Pass	Level 1 Merit	Level 1 Distinction	Level 2 Pass (4 - 5.5)		Level 2 Merit (5.5 - 7)		Level 2 Distinction (7 - 8.5)	Level 2 D* (8.5)

Science Options in Year 10

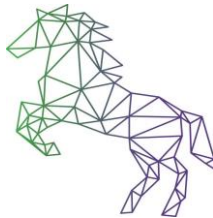
- All Year 10 and 11 students will study for a Combined Science Award and will gain 2 GCSE Science grades.

Unless:

- They select Triple Science (3 GCSEs in; Biology, Chemistry and Physics) as 1 of their 2 option choices

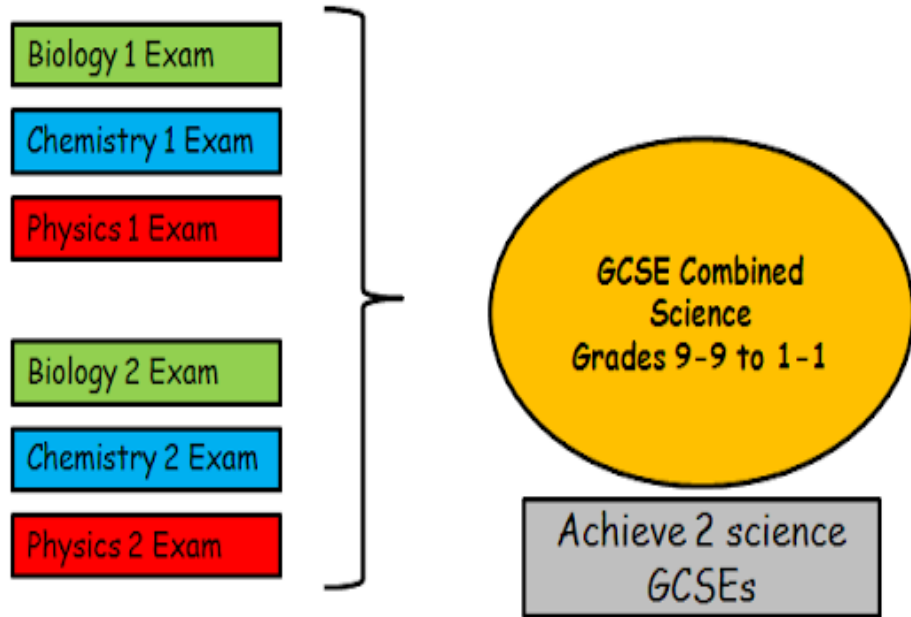
Please note:

- Students choosing this option will have to study for a **GCSE in Statistics in Year 10** and then use the additional time in Year 11 to complete their Triple Science qualification
- Acceptance onto this option course will be determined by prior attainment in Science. **This is a guided option choice.**

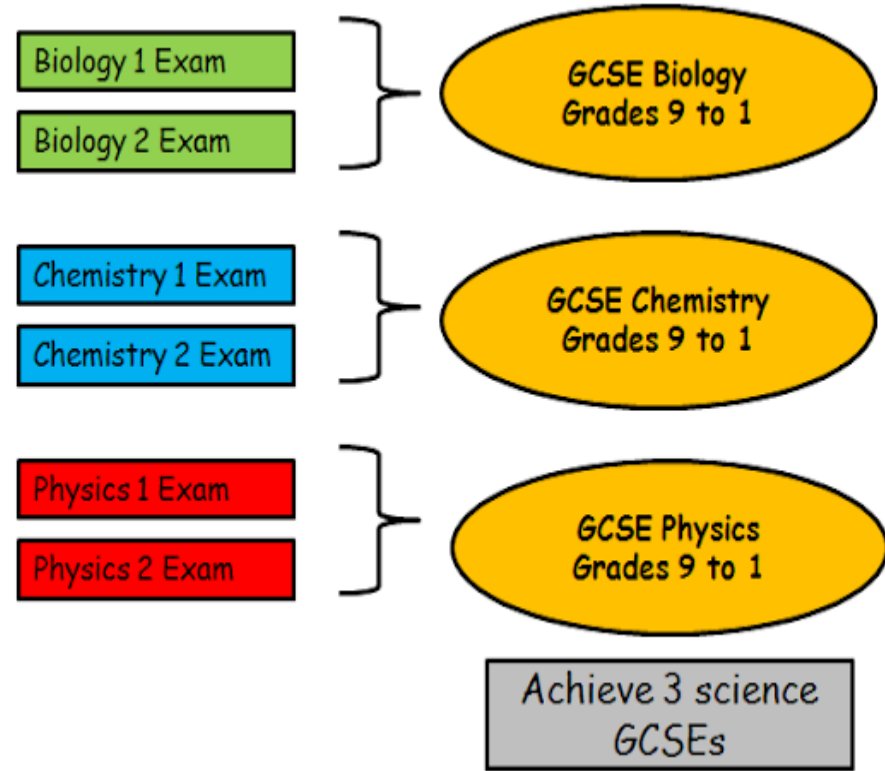


Science Options in Year 10

Combined Science

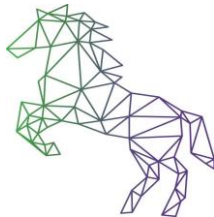


Triple Science



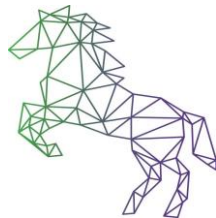
Humanities in Year 10

- All Year 9 students are currently studying one major humanities subject (3 hours) and 1 minor humanities subject (1 hour) – chosen in Year 8
- They must continue with their major (GCSE) subject in Years 10 and 11 and they will automatically drop the minor subject completely in Year 10 / 11
- **There is no option choice to be made for humanities in Year 9.**



Modern Foreign Languages in Year 10

- Nearly all students continue study either; French, Spanish or Chinese in Year 10 and 11 - these were allocated in Year 7 and cannot be changed
- No student can take more than 1 language at GCSE
- Most students continue on to take a GCSE in their designated language (there are very few exceptions to this – you will be informed directly if you are part of the small cohort who do not have to continue with a language in Y10)
- **There is no option choice to be made for modern foreign languages in Year 9**



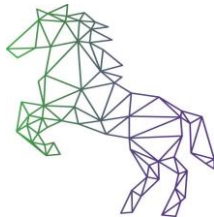
When choosing options, ask them to consider...

- The depth options they are studying.
- Something that we are offering that is new to them*
- Subjects they enjoy and find interesting
- Their favoured learning and assessment styles when selecting either BTEC or GCSE
- Their latest progress review report (ATL etc)

* Some subjects MUST have been studied in Year 9 as a Depth option to choose them in Year 10 – ask at the subject stalls tonight if you want to know more

Encourage them not choose options because...

- Their friends are choosing it
- They like a particular teacher
- They think it will be easy



Making their Option Choices:

1. Check their school email on **Friday 6 February** (tomorrow) for a Welcome email from Applicaa with instructions and log in details (they have already been sent the Options booklet from school)
2. Make their subject choices on-line using Applicaa – when making option choices, they will be asked to **rank their subject choices in order of preference**
3. Check they have met the criteria listed on Applicaa and then submit their choices – at this point parents will receive an email stating the options your child has chosen
4. Make changes to their option choices up until the deadline – **Monday 2 March at 3pm**

applicaa

This year we are using a new on-line Options system in school called **Applicaa Options+**



Key Dates and Deadlines

Date	Event
Tuesday 3 – Thursday 5 February 2026	Year 9 - 10 options assemblies for students & Options booklet emailed
Thursday 5 February 2026 (5.00 – 6.45pm)	Year 9-10 Options' Support evening
Friday 6 February 2026	Year 9 students receive Applicaa Welcome email with log in details
Thursday 26 February 2026	Year 9 Parents' evening (on-line)
Monday 2 March 2026	Option choices deadline

Finalising Option Choices:

- **Option choices are NOT on a first come, first served basis.**
- Once all students have input their choices, we will construct the option blocks
- **MOST students will hopefully receive their first 2 choices, but we cannot guarantee this unfortunately**
- Some students may need their reserve choice allocating – if this is the case, students will be spoken to individually
- All students will receive an email prior to the **Easter holiday** with their final subject allocations
- **If a subject is no longer running we will contact them**



Support after this evening

- If you have a question regarding option choices, please email **info@horsforthschool.org** marked **FAO Mrs Comiskey**
- If they can't log on to the online system, please email **datateam@horsforthschool.org** for technical support.



Support this evening

- **Mrs Comiskey** (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Marsh (Assistant Headteacher) and other **members of the Leadership team** will be available in the hall all evening to answer general questions
- **Subject leaders** will be at Subject Stalls to answer questions and give general course information (Please note that they are not available to give individual student progress feedback tonight) – **they will be available until 6.30pm**
- **Miss Lewis** (Year Co-Ordinator – Year 9), **Mr Maxwell** (Extended Leadership team – Attendance), **Mrs O'Donnell** (Careers advisor) and **Mrs Warne** (SENDCO) are available in the main reception to give general careers and options advice



Support this evening – Subject Stalls

Horsforth School Year 9 into 10 Options Evening			
Thursday 5 February 2025 5.00-6.30pm			
Talks in the Main Hall at 5.00pm and repeated at 5.45pm			
Subject	Course	Curriculum Leader	Room
Art	GCSE	Mr Questa	Paint
Business	GCSE	Mr Green	Business Hub
	BTEC		
Computer Studies	GCSE	Mr Hood	ELC
Drama	GCSE	Mrs Kendal	Drama Studio 1
Engineering	BTEC	Mr Dillon	Engineering
English support		Mrs Stokes	Library
Food & Nutrition	GCSE	Mrs Mayo	FT1
Health & Social Care	BTEC	Ms Broughton	JB5
Information Technology	BTEC	Mr Emmet	ELC
Media	GCSE	Mrs Watkins	JB4
Modern Foreign Languages	GCSE	Mr Simpson	Library
Music	GCSE	Mr Denson	Mu1
PE / Sport	GCSE	Mr Grannon	G2
	BTEC		
Photography	GCSE	Mr Questa	Paint
Religious Studies	GCSE	Mrs Gledhill	RE2
Technology	GCSE	Mrs Mayo	DT1
Triple Science / Statistics	GCSE	Mr Weedy Mr Brown	Sc7

