

# Key Stage 4

**Choosing  
your  
options**

**Option resources**

**DHFS curriculum**

**Pathways**

**Key dates**

**Key Stage 4  
Options Evening  
Thursday  
15th January 2026  
5-7.00pm**



**DRONFIELD HENRY FANSHAWE SCHOOL**

*Established 1579*

**Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School.**

*Success With Care.*



# Key Stage 4 Options Evening

# Key Stage 4

Opening remarks

Mr M. Cooper

Headteacher

Mr K. Pickles

Assistant Headteacher



# Key Stage 4

## This evening

Main presentation:

- An explanation of the various pathways and our option process

Subjects:

- Opportunity to research our Core & Optional subjects via the subject specialist teachers

Careers advice: Progress Careers, DHFS Sixth Form Fanshawe Diner

Key Stage 4 Textbooks: LRC Staff , Mathematics & English

Fanshawe Diner

Student Support & SEND: Main Reception

**We do not expect you to sign up for any options this evening. Please feel free to ask questions from the subject staff after watching the subject talks or the Main FAQ session. All options are subject to timetabling, staffing and financial constraints.**



# Key Stage 4

## The Curriculum Assessment Review

- Recent Department for Education announcements regarding the curriculum – changes to some GCSE courses from September 2029, and others from 2030
- What does this mean for my child?
- Status Quo – we believe in our core principles and ethics. Therefore, no changes are being made to your child's curriculum offer for Year 10 starting September 2026



# Key Stage 4

## The National Curriculum

- A broad and balanced curriculum; preparing students for future life
- The EBacc is a suite of subjects not a qualification in itself
- It may put you in a strong position for future progression e.g. will university entrance be influenced by it?
- Employers may well look for these qualifications as well as other skills and attributes
- We believe that our curriculum offers choice for all students of all abilities and we will continue to personalise.



# Key Stage 4

## Why should I study a broad curriculum?

- Empowerment - connecting world-wide
- Experience and reflection – culture
- Communication
- Cultural capital
- Problem solving
- Resilience
- Public speaking
- Logical thinking in a unique way.



# Key Stage 4

## Core Subjects

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- PSHE, ICT, RE
- Physical Education
- Science (Combined)



# Key Stage 4

## The Pathways

There are two Pathways: Blue and Green

Each pathway is allocated based on our best professional opinion regarding what is most suitable for each individual child.

- Their previous attainment and potential
- school reports over time
- views of House Teams
- pastoral considerations
- views of our learning support staff.



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## Subjects

- Blue Pathway
  - MFL Option
  - Humanities Option
  - Two further subjects
- Green Pathway
  - Humanities Option
  - Three further subjects
  - MFL can be chosen

Update – GCSE Performing Arts – Now GCSE Drama



# Key Stage 4

## Choosing two options from one area

Some students may wish to study two subjects from one option area.

This may be possible – please explain your reasons fully in a supporting statement in the comments section of the MS Form.

Both History & Geography can be studied as a Humanities option



# Key Stage 4




## Compulsory options

Blue Pathway			
Option 1		Option 2	
★ GCSE History		GCSE French	
GCSE Geography		GCSE German★	
		GCSE Spanish	

Green Pathway	
Option 1	
GCSE History	
GCSE Geography★	



# Key Stage 4

Blue Pathway			
Option 3		Option 4	
GCSE Computing	GCSE RE	GCSE Computing	GCSE RE
Level 2 Creative iMedia 	GCSE French	Level 2 Creative iMedia	GCSE French 
GCSE Business Studies	GCSE German	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE German
GCSE Art & Design	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Art & Design	GCSE Spanish
Level 2 Technical Award  Performing Arts - Drama Specialism	GCSE PE	Level 2 Technical Award Performing Arts - Drama Specialism	GCSE PE
GCSE Film	GCSE Textiles	GCSE Film	GCSE Textiles

# Optional Subjects

Blue Pathway

Options 3 & 4



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## Options – Green Pathway

		Green Pathway			
Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
GCSE Computing	GCSE RE	GCSE Computing	GCSE RE	GCSE Computing	GCSE RE
Level 2 Creative iMedia	GCSE French	Level 2 Creative iMedia	GCSE French	Level 2 Creative iMedia	GCSE French
GCSE Business Studies	GCSE German	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE German	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE German
GCSE Art & Design	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Art & Design	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Art & Design	GCSE Spanish
Level 2 Technical Award Performing Arts -	GCSE PE	Level 2 Technical Award Performing Arts -	GCSE PE	Level 2 Technical Award Performing Arts -	GCSE PE

Options 2, 3 & 4



# Key Stage 4

Blue Pathway			Green Pathway		
	Examined	GCSE's		Examined	GCSE's
Optional Subjects	Option 1: Humanities (History or Geography)	1	Optional Subjects	Option 1: Humanities (History or Geography)	1
	Option 2: MFL (French, Spanish, German)	1		Option 2	1
	Option 3	1		Option 3	1
	Option 4	1		Option 4	1
Core Subjects	English Language	1	Core Subjects	English Language	1
	English Literature	1		English Literature	1
	Combined Science	2		Combined Science	2
	Mathematics	1		Mathematics	1
	Total GCSE	9		Total GCSE	9



# Key Stage 4

## The Online Application

- A Microsoft Form will be sent to the student's school email address tonight
- Please provide as much detail as you can as to why you want to study the subjects in Years 10 and 11
- Ask your parent or carer to comment on your choices
- Queries – to be received by 23rd January 2026 via the online form
- Register your options choices online by Midnight on the deadline day 6th February 2026.



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## The Options Form

Year

This form is due on  
September

1. Surname

Enter

2. Forename

Enter

3. Mentor

Enter

4. Blue Pathway Humanities Option \*

History

Geography

5. Blue Pathway Modern Foreign Language Choice (MFL) \*

French

German

Spanish

6. Optional Subject 1 - Choose one from the list \*

French (additional language to your answer in Q5)

German (additional language to your answer in Q5)

Spanish (additional language to your answer in Q5)

Geography (as an addition to History in Q4)

[LINK](#)

# Key Stage 4

## How should I choose my options?

- Think long term-not just for the next two years
- What are my plans for my next stages?

Sixth Form, college, work-based training, employment, apprenticeship, university?

- What are my career plans and aims? Do I know what subjects are needed for the future?
- What are my personal qualities and skills?



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## What if I am unsure?


- Look at your most recent student school reports
- Discuss your progress with your teachers
- Read the extensive information that is available on the website, via the subject leaflets, or on school twitter
- Ask for advice at school - mentors, learning support staff, house staff, older students and teaching staff.
- Book a careers interview – [kpickles@dhfs.uk](mailto:kpickles@dhfs.uk)
- Check the entry requirements for future choices.




# Key Stage 4

## How should I choose my options?

- Careers advice: our website, careers newsletters, the internet, family



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Students ▾ Sixth Form ▾ Parents / Carers ▾ Staff ▾ Key Information ▾ 

Students ▾ Sixth Form ▾

- Life At Our School >
- The Curriculum >
- Safeguarding
- Careers (CEIAG)
- Exams >
- Key Information >

Options Information

**Key Stage 4 Options Course Resources**

CEA

- Art & Design GCSE leaflet
- Film Studies GCSE leaflet
- Music GCSE leaflet
- Performing Arts: Drama leaflet
- Photography GCSE leaflet

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## How should I choose my options?

- What is my ability? Can I cope with some subjects?
- Don't be influenced by friends' choices; you are unlikely to be in the same groups
- Find out about `new` subjects by speaking to the subject teachers
- Remember free option choices may be restricted by entry requirements e.g. computing, triple science and business studies.

# Key Stage 4

## Our students

- Pick what you need for your career plans
- Don't be influenced or pressured by what other people want you to do – making new friends with similar interests
- Don't pick something because you think it'll be easy – they are all GCSEs
- Don't pick something because you like the teachers – you may or may not have them!
- Don't be shy to accept support from staff – it's okay if you're not sure right now; this is your opportunity to do your research
- Our Year 9 options process... we're now going through a similar experience with our next steps; thinking about whether we're going to enjoy it, does it match our strengths and how those things go hand in hand.



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## Timeline:

Options Evening	15th January 2026, 5-7pm
Options query window closes	23rd January 2026, 4pm.
Options entry deadline (via MSForm)	6th February 2026, midnight
Confirmation of option choices to parents, carers & students	March 2026



# Key Stage 4

**Contacts:**

[kpickles@dhfs.uk](mailto:kpickles@dhfs.uk)

**Online MS Form – Options queries**

**X @DHFSUpdate**



# Key Stage 4

## Closing remarks

Mr M. Cooper  
Headteacher

Mr K. Pickles  
Assistant Headteacher

**DRONFIELD HENRY FANSHAWE SCHOOL**

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