



Stoke Newington School  
& Sixth Form

# Stoke Newington School and Sixth Form

## KS4 information meeting

### 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Lucy Bryant – DHT Curriculum

# AIMS

1. To summarise GCSE and Level 2 qualifications
2. To present guidance for parents and carers about progression routes
3. To offer guidance about the process and provide any necessary support

# GCSE REFORMS – 2017 onwards

- Grading system with 9 to 1 replacing A\* to G
- New and more challenging content
- Removal of controlled assessment for non-practical subjects
- Written examination element in all subjects but art, with various weighting depending on course
- A return to linear examinations with maths, science and languages offering tiered papers (“higher” grades 9 to 4 / “foundation” 5 to 1)

# GRADE REFORMS

Old GCSE Grade (no longer used)	New GCSE Grade	OCR Cambridge National Certificate	
A*	9	Level 2 Distinction *	
	8		
A	7	Level 2 Distinction	
B	6	Level 2 Merit	
	5		
C	4	Level 2 Pass	
D	3	Level 1 Distinction	
E		2	Level 1 Merit
F		1	Level 1 Pass
G			
U	U	Fail (F)	

# MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

1. Before making any decisions, do plenty of research, making sure that you have a wide knowledge of entry requirements for a range of 6<sup>th</sup> form and post-16 courses.
2. Do chosen subjects link to potential post-16 plans, post-18 plans and possible career choices?
3. Students should consider their strengths and what they enjoy.
4. Students should keep their options open and choose a broad range of subjects.
5. Don't make choices based on friendships or preferred teachers.

# Thinking about A levels and BTECs

Many A level and BTECs depend upon you having studied particular subjects at GCSE. In the table below we have set out the 2024/25 entry requirements for our sixth form:

Subject	Entry requirements
Art	4 in Art and 4 English
Biology	6 in Biology and at least a 5 in one of the other two Sciences (or at least a 6-5 in Combined Sciences) 5 in Maths and 5 English
BTEC Diploma in Business	4 in Maths and 4 average in English is required.
Chemistry	6 in Chemistry and at least a 5 in one of the other two Sciences (or at least a 6-5 in Combined Sciences) 6 in Maths and 4.5 English
Computer Science	6 in Maths or a 5 in maths if studying core maths - 6 in Computer Science if studied at GCSE
Drama & Theatre Studies	5 in Drama
Economics	5 in Maths and 4.5 in English
English Literature	A minimum of 5-6 in English Literature and English Language
Film Studies	5 in English Literature or 5 in Media if studied at GCSE
BTEC Film and Television Production	4 in English Language (not Lit) or a Level 2 Pass in Creative iMedia. A 4 in GCSE Film Studies would also be accepted, or – for external students – a 4 (or equivalent) in any Media related course (e.g. GCSE Media Studies)
French	6 in French
Geography	5 grade in Geography and 4.5 in English
Graphic Communication	5 in Art, Photography, Graphics, Resistant Materials or Textiles
History	6 in History
Mathematics	6 in Maths
Further Maths	7 in Maths (must be studied with A level Maths)
Music	5 in Music and a highly competent performer on an instrument or singing
PE	5 in PE or 5.5 in Combined Science, 4.5 in English, or merit in BTEC Level 2 Sport
Photography	4 in Art, Photography, Graphics or Textiles – 4 in English
Physics	6 in Physics and at least a 5 in one of the other two or 6-5 in Combined Sciences, 6 in Maths or a 5 in maths if studying core maths and 4.5 average in English
Politics	Preferred 4.5 in English
Psychology	4 in Maths, Science and 4.5 in English Language
Sociology	4.5 in English Language and preferably a 5 in a Humanities subject
Spanish	5 (preferably a 6) in Spanish
BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport	You must have a 4 in PE or BTEC level 2 pass, and 4.5 in English
Textiles	5 in Art, Graphics, Resistant Materials or Textiles, and 4.5 in English.
Core Mathematics	5 in Maths
EPQ	5 GCSEs 9-4

# Progression to university

Our sixth form students, go onto a wide array of Universities. 35% of our Oxford and Cambridge applicants (17% national average) received an offer, we have had students go onto Harvard, apprenticeships at KPMG, Art Foundation courses, sport science at Loughborough amongst many others. The key is to keep your options open by getting the best grades in the GCSEs possible, at sixth form, choosing A levels or BTECs that are applicable to anything you want to do in future and seek to enjoy your learning.

It is very important that you check that the A level choices you make facilitate you being able to do any degree you might want to do. For example, if you want to do medicine you need to study Chemistry. For more detailed information please look at the Russell Group's Informed Choices website: [www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk)

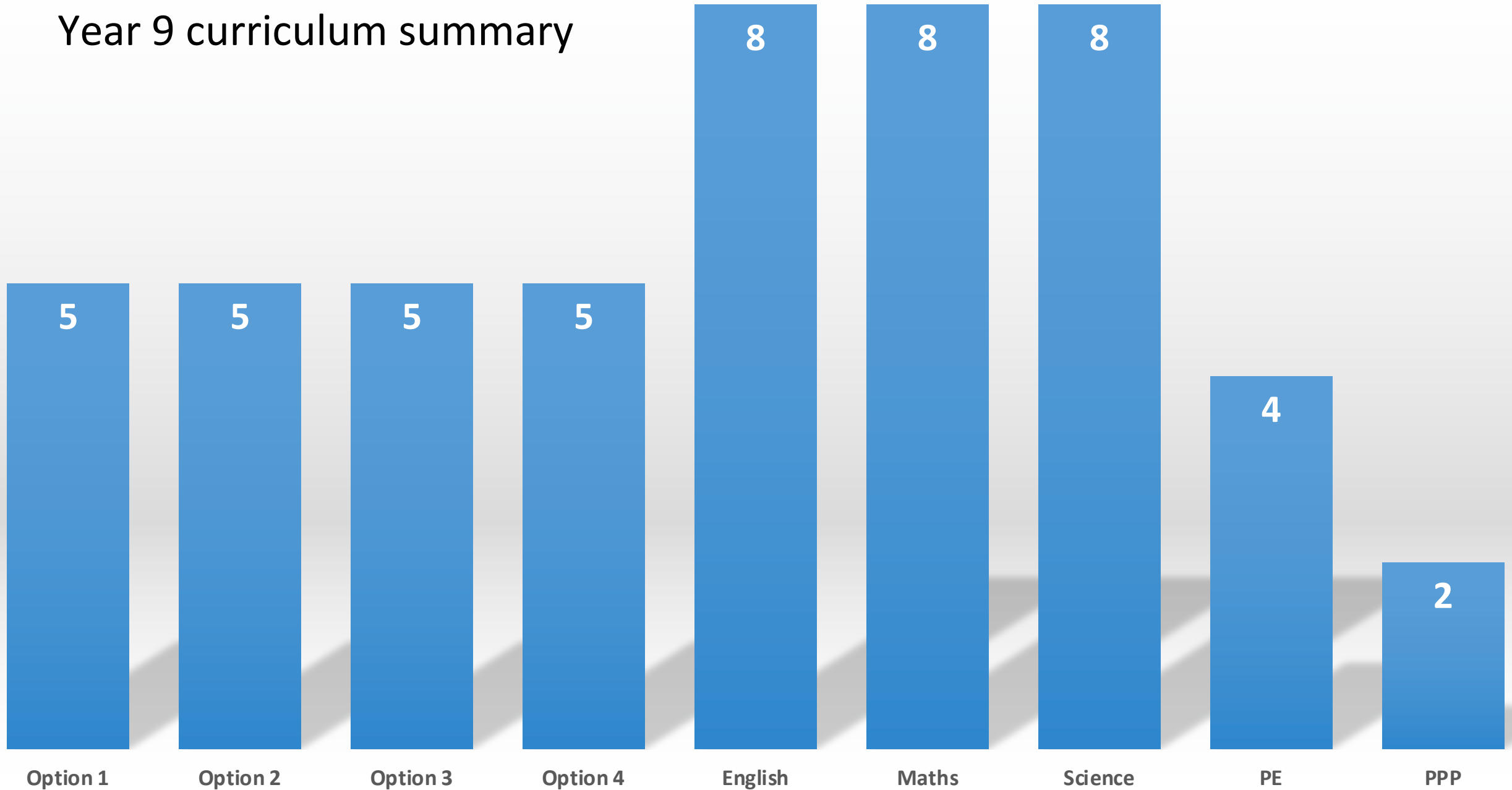
Science A levels can be studied with combined science GCSEs as long as at least 6-5 is attained. To find out more about university you can use these guides:

- [www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)
- [www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide](http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide)
- [www.independent.co.uk/student/into-university/az-uni-colleges](http://www.independent.co.uk/student/into-university/az-uni-colleges)

## Qualifications ladder

Levels	Academic general qualifications	Vocational qualifications - work ready qualifications	Work based/skills qualifications
5	Honours degree		
4	Degree	Higher National Diploma Higher National Certificate Higher Level Apprenticeship	Foundation degree NVQ 4
3	A level GCSE	BTEC nationals Award, cert & diplomas Short courses	NVQ 3
		Advanced apprenticeship	
2	GCSE 9-4	BTEC firsts Diplomas & certificates Short courses	NVQ 2 Work skills
		Apprenticeship	
1	GCSE 3-1	BTEC introductory Diplomas & certificates Short courses	NVQ 1 ESOL Work skills

# Year 9 curriculum summary



CORE
English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
COMPULSORY TO CHOOSE AT LEAST ONE
Computer Science
French
Geography
History
Spanish
OPTIONAL – CHOOSE 4
<i>Art</i>
<i>Art and Design: Textiles specialism</i>
Business Studies
Citizenship
<i>Design &amp; Technology: Graphics</i>
<i>Design &amp; Technology: Product Design</i>
Drama
Film Studies
French
Geography
History
Hospitality and Catering L2
Music
Photography
Physical Education
Religious Studies
Triple Science

Every student will study the Core GCSE subjects, 5 GCSE qualifications in total, alongside PPP and P.E.

**Students will be asked to choose 4 additional subjects.**

Students must choose **at least one** of the compulsory “green” subjects and may choose more.

Students may not choose either of the following combinations:

- Art and Design **and** Art and Design: Textiles Specialism
- Design & Technology: Graphics **and** Design & Technology: Product Design



# Example options form illustrating possible choice combinations – final version will be shared via email and text on 7<sup>th</sup> March



## Draft GCSE and Level 2 subject options form 2024

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
French	French	Geography	French
Geography	Geography	History	Geography
History	History	Spanish	History
Spanish		Computer Science	Spanish
Art	Citizenship	Art	Art
Art and Design: Textiles specialism	Design & Technology: Graphics	Triple Science	Business Studies
Citizenship	Drama	Drama	Citizenship
Drama	Film Studies	PE	Design & Technology: Product Design
Design & Technology: Product Design	Photography	Photography	Hospitality and Catering L2
Music	Religious Studies	Music	Music
Photography	Physical Education		

You must choose **at least one** green subject and you may choose more.

You may not choose either of the following combinations of subjects:

1. GCSE Art **and** GCSE Art and Design: Textiles Specialism.
2. GCSE Design and Technology: Product Design **and** GCSE Design and Technology: Graphics

Block 1 choice	Block 2 choice	Block 3 choice	Block 4 choice
Geography	Religious Studies	Spanish	Music

Choose three different back-up subjects and write them in the boxes below:

- These will be used if, for any reason, one of your first-choice subjects does not run or is oversubscribed
- You should place them in order of how much you would like to do them
- They can be from any block but not subjects that you have already chosen above

1st	Art	2nd	History	3rd	Citizenship
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Name:		Tutor group:	
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We will do our utmost to fit all students into their preferred choices, but this cannot be guaranteed. This is why we ask students to provide three back-up choices, in rank order, and not subjects chosen in the four boxes. Where we are unable to allocate a first choice, we will work down the rank order list and allocate to the first available subject. The reasons a student may not get their first choice include:

- **Insufficient numbers for the class to run** – too few students have opted for the subject. If the subject is being run in another block, we will look to move block choices to accommodate. If it is not, then we will use the back-up choices.
- **Oversubscription** – too many students have opted for the subject. The number of spaces in each subject is decided using the maximum class sizes set by the head teacher and governors. Practical and computing subjects will have smaller class sizes than other subjects. When there are too many students opting for the number of spaces available, students with an EHCP are allocated first and then remaining students are randomly selected from all those who requested the subject. Where students are not selected, we will use their back-up choices. All students have an equal right to be selected and we do not use attainment or behaviour to decide. The random selection process is overseen by two senior members of staff to ensure fairness.
- **Unforeseen staffing changes** - rarely, a staffing change may mean that a subject must be withdrawn from the option blocks. If this happens, we will use back-up choices.
- **Late return of options form** - if we do not receive an options form by the deadline published on the website (20<sup>th</sup> March), a first choice cannot be considered if it is for an oversubscribed subject and back-up choices will be used.

# KEY DATES

- 2<sup>nd</sup> February - letter outlining process sent to parents and carers
- Weeks beginning 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February - Heads of Subject present at Year 8 assemblies
- Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> February - 1:1 guidance meeting for all students
- 19<sup>th</sup> February - subject information booklet and guidance booklet on website
- 21<sup>st</sup> February – online forum for parents and carers
- 28<sup>th</sup> February - Year 8 options evening
- 6<sup>th</sup> March - Year 8 parents' and carers' evening
- 7<sup>th</sup> March - link to online options form available via email / text
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - deadline for completion of online options form **(single submission via student school Office365 account)**
- June - letters sent home with confirmation of allocated subjects

<https://www.stokenewingtonschool.co.uk/learning/ks4-options>

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