



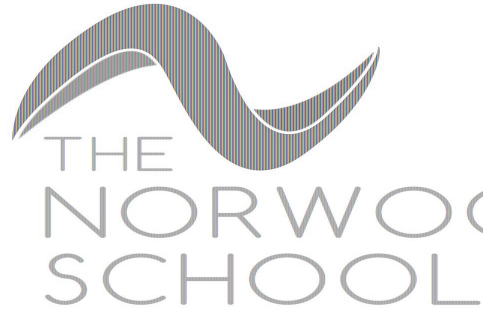
# Year 9 Information Evening

Welcome



# PATHWAYS I

GCSE CHOICES FOR 2026-2028

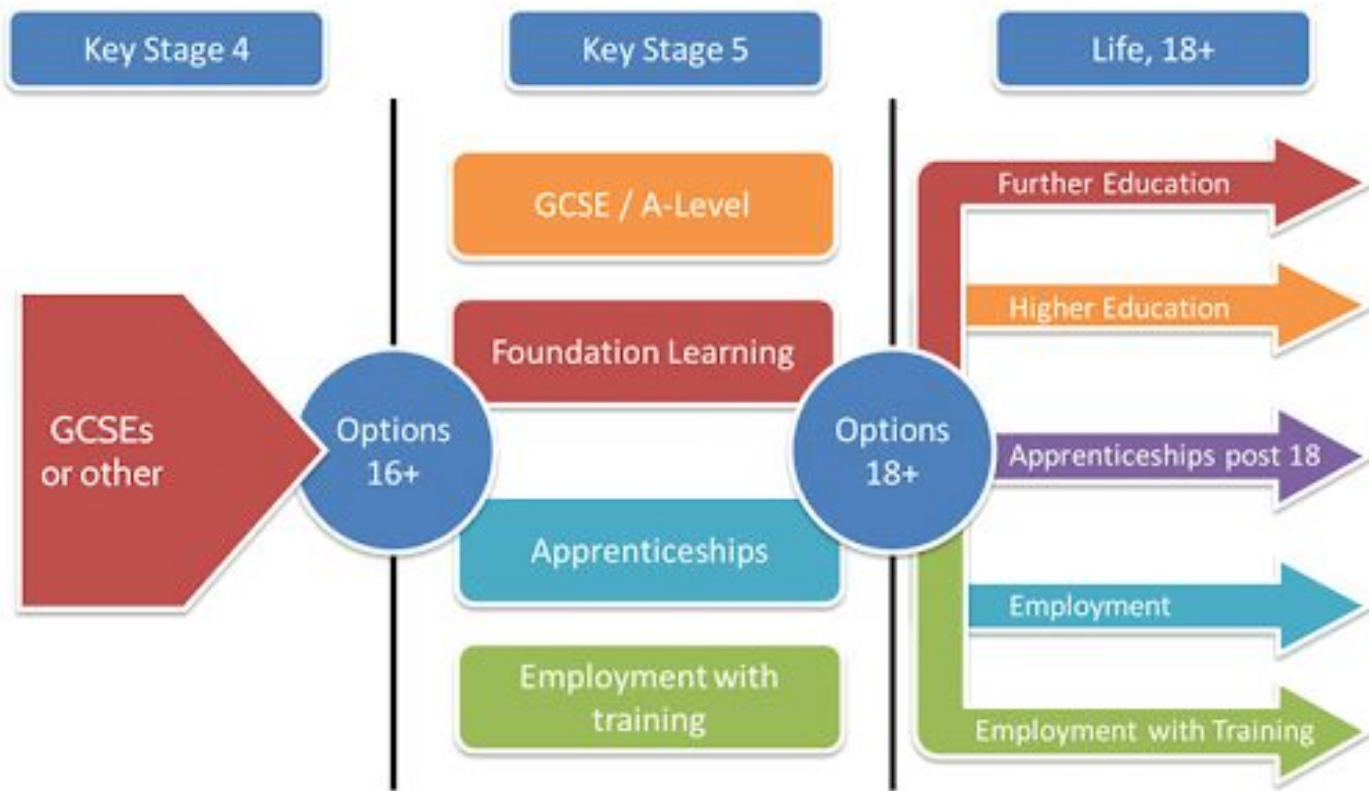


## Year 9 Pathways Spring 2026 Presentation for Parents and Students



NAME:

FORM:



# Norwood School Pathways 2026

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is broad and balanced. It is designed to provide all pupils with opportunities to achieve.

We believe in helping all of our learners achieve their potential. This will keep doors open in the future.

Our curriculum meets the requirements set by the government.

There is a limit to how many subjects students can study at GCSE, as it takes time to develop a good breadth of knowledge and understanding.

This will enable students to achieve the highest grades you are capable of in each of your subjects.



## WHAT'S NEW?

V levels are a new Level 3 vocational qualification being introduced in England, planned to start in **September 2027**, to replace a wide range of existing vocational courses. They are part of a post-16 education reform to simplify options for students and provide a clear path to university, higher apprenticeships, or skilled work. V levels will sit alongside A levels and T levels, with the government aiming to provide a vocational pathway that is more practical and aligned with employer needs

- **Replaces existing qualifications:** They are designed to replace hundreds of existing vocational qualifications, like BTECs to create a more streamlined system.
- **Practical focus:** V levels are linked to real-world job standards and employer needs, with an emphasis on practical application and vocational skills.
- **Flexible pathways:** They can be combined with A levels, offering a more flexible approach for students who want to mix academic and vocational study.
- **Clear progression:** The qualifications are designed to provide a clearer route into skilled employment, higher apprenticeships, or university study.
- **New addition to post-16 options:** V levels will be one of three main post-16 routes, alongside A levels and T Levels

# Key points to note:

- All students will undertake 9 subjects.

The Government will measure students achievement by looking at their best 8 subjects. (Progress 8)

- Results and pupils are measured by Progress 8, and Attainment 8

- Terminal Exams with no Resits
- All students are expected to take one creative subject (Max x 1 VA)
- There is a focus on the Ebacc Qualification, particularly for those pupils wanting to move to A levels and University

# Continued:

- Pupils are required to reach the expected level (good pass) in English and Mathematics, if they do not then they will be required to continue these studies at sixth form or college
- All Year 9 pupils will be expected to stay in some form of education or training until they are 18
- BTEC/Technical courses changed sometime ago; they now include an examination and are equivalent to one GCSE. We only offer vocational qualifications from the 'approved' list.

# What do all students have to study?

English Language and Literature

Double Science

Maths

PE\*

RS/PHSE( Learning for Life) /Citizenship/ Sex Education\*

Not all students will be examined in these subjects \*

## The grading system for your Key Stage 4 qualifications will be as follows:

- GCSEs are graded on a numeric scale of 9 down to 1
- BTEC's and Vocational Qualifications are from Distinction\* to Level 1 Pass
- All your grades will be 9-1 or Distinction\* - Level 1 Pass

# Progress 8 Measure



**English**

Double-weighted\*

**Maths**

Double-weighted

\* Higher score of English Language  
English Literature double-weighted if  
a pupil has taken both qualifications



**Facilitating Subjects/  
qualifications**

(Sciences, Computer Science,  
Geography, History and Languages)



**'Open Group'**

**Remaining Facilitating Subjects/  
qualifications and other  
approved qualifications**

(GCSEs and other approved academic,  
arts or vocational qualifications)

All students will study  
English Language,  
Literature and  
Maths

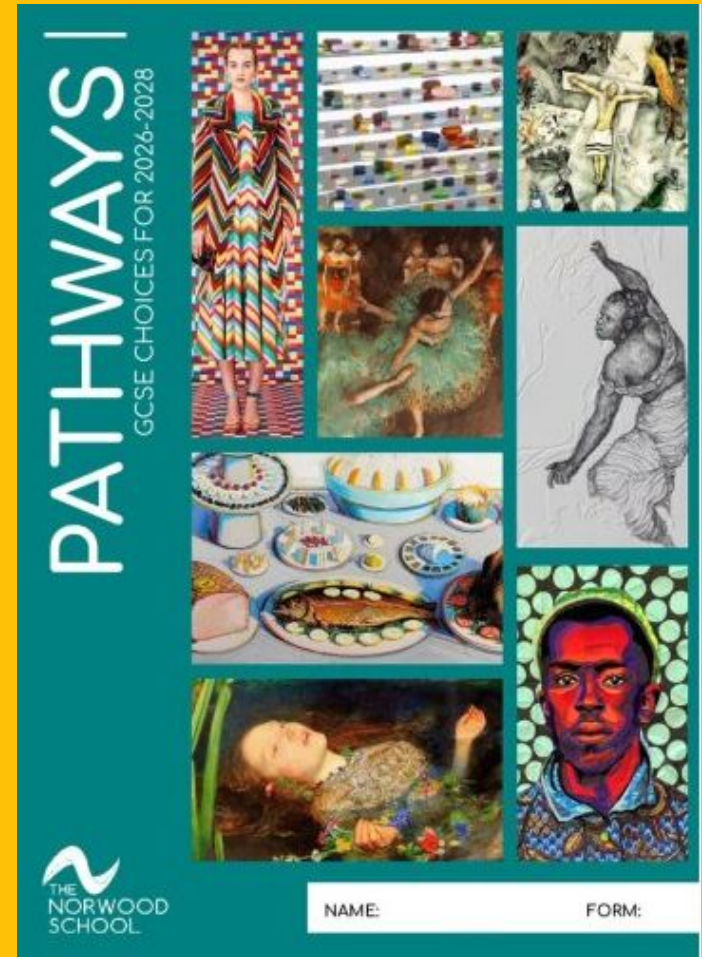
*All students will study  
double science and so  
will need **ONE** more  
subject that will fill the  
third green bucket (5)*

All students will be  
expected to take at  
least **ONE** creative  
subject

# Using the online booklet to help you...

What information does it contain?

- How to make choices
- Careers education and Guidance
- Looking forward to the Sixth Form
- Core Subjects
- Details of all the courses offered
- Contact details of useful staff
- Important deadlines



# Questions to discuss with your child

- Do they enjoy the subject?
- Will it keep doors open for them in the future?
- What are their future aspirations?
- What are their strengths and weaknesses?
- How well are they getting on in these subjects now?

# Can students choose whatever they want?

There are some GCSE's that children will only be recommended to study if they have reached a particular level. This is because we know that students need to have shown a certain amount of ability in some subjects, for example English and Maths, to be able to access the content of these GCSE courses.

- We recommend that students consider taking separate sciences if they are a more able scientist. We only have one Triple Science Class and so entry requirements are based on assessments.
- Another example; we would recommend that a student might consider taking computer science if you are a more able mathematician.

## What is the English Baccalaureate?

Quite simply, it is a 'name' given to a *group* of subjects.

It is NOT an additional qualification as such.

It is a measure introduced by the Government that recognises those children who have strong passes in English, Maths, Science, History or Geography AND French or Spanish.

At the moment, this will change next year, schools are being set targets for the numbers of children who the government think should acquire these subjects.

# What about Humanities and Languages?

- We recommend that a student takes the Humanities subject that they have shown an aptitude for and feel confident when being asked to complete extended pieces of writing.
- We would highly recommend that students continue with the language that they have been studying since Year 7.
- Students can take a community language as an additional GCSE in Yr 11.

# What about our Specialism?

We will recommend that students take **one** specialist subject from either Performing or Visual Arts

If they are a Bursary student we would expect them to take their subject of expertise in Key Stage 4 as one of their Choices.

- Students are able to take two PA if they want, but we will want to make sure that this is the best choice for them.
- Students can only take ONE VA subject.

**Interests profile**  
✓ Quiz last taken 4 May 21: S and C and E  
[Start >](#)

**Personality profile**  
✗ Quiz not taken  
[Start >](#)

**Work environments profile**  
✗ Quiz not taken  
[Start >](#)

**Skills profile**  
✗ Quiz not taken  
[Start >](#)

**Shortlists (0 shortlists)**

**1**  
CAREER SPECIALISMS: COMPUTING >

**2**  
HOW TO ACE YOUR CV >

**3**  
GET ON THE LADDER: ART AND DESIGN >

**4**  
SKILLS: PHYSICAL ABILITIES >

**5**  
SKILLS: ARTISTIC SKILLS >

**6**  
A DEGREE AT CAMBRIDGE: WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE >  
ANDR...  
WALDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

**1**  
LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES >  
European Law (BA)  
of Oxford

**2**  
PSYCHOLOGY >  
Southampton

**3**  
MATHEMATICS >

**4**  
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND AI >

**5**  
BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT >

**6**  
FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY >

**Locker**  
✗ Add your first item  
[Go to tool >](#)

[Go to tool >](#)

**CV / resume**  
✗ Write CVs tailored for each roles  
[Start >](#)

**Interactions**  
✗ Missing 4 Interaction types  
[Go to tool >](#)

**Writing tool**  
✗ 0 writing items added  
[Start >](#)

ASKS:

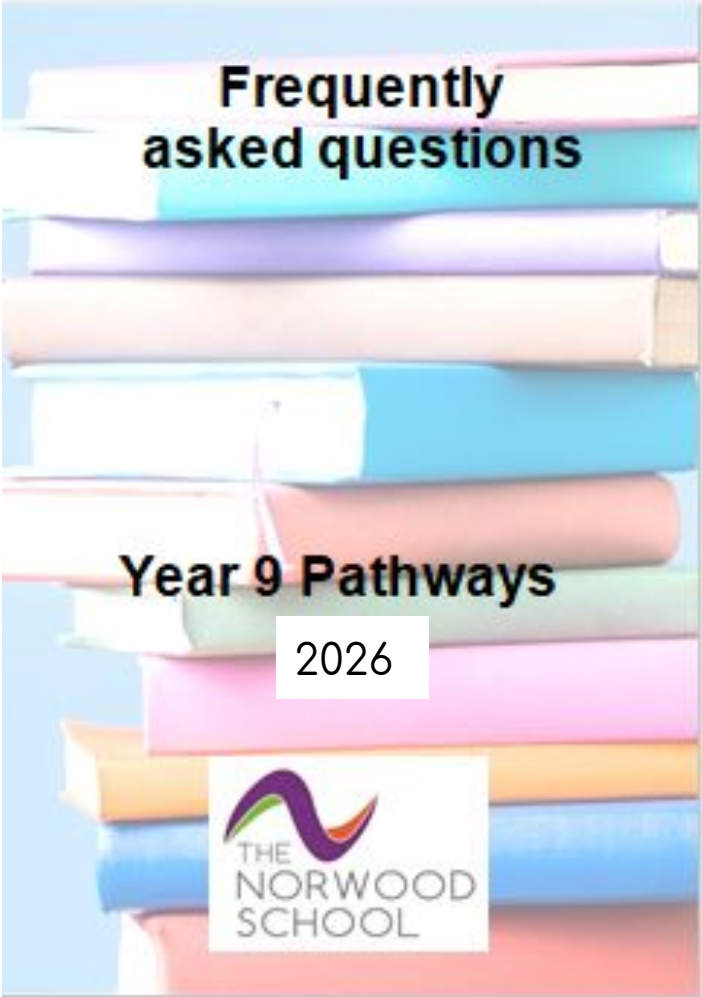
# Next for students and families....from January

- Look through the booklet and talk to teachers and family, students - do they have older siblings to talk to about their experiences?
- Students will need to Log into their Unifrog Account
- Tuesday December 2nd 5 - 7pm Yr 9 Information Evening
- Wednesday 7th January start Pastoral Programme of Support in School
- Tuesday 3rd March 2026 – Parents Evening 4:30 - 7pm  
Applications Live
- Tuesday 10th March 5 - 6pm Application Support in Study Hub
- Friday 13th March 2026- deadline for choices
- *We will then process Pathways information*
- Summer half term, confirmation of intended pathways for September 2026

# What are we doing in school to help the students with their choices?

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Week 1</b> | Assembly (JN)<br><a href="#">Introduction to Pathways 2026</a>   |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <a href="#">What are my Interests?</a>   |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <a href="#">GCSEs... Choices, choices!</a>   |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <a href="#">Decision Making</a><br><a href="#">What to Study at GCSE</a>   |
| <b>Week 5</b> | <a href="#">Taking Control of your Careers Journey</a>   |
| <b>Week 6</b> | <a href="#">What is Labour Market Information? (LMI) and why do we need to know about it? How can it help us decide on future career pathways?</a> |

- Learning for Life
- HOF presentations
- Industry Day PA/VA
- We Rise
- School of Hard Knocks
- Unifrog
- National Careers Week
- National Apprenticeship Week
- Assemblies



## Frequently asked questions

## Year 9 Pathways

2026



If you have any further questions, why not take a look on the website and read the booklet of Frequently asked Questions.

Or, parents, please do email me, or your son/daughter's form tutor if you need help.

All information will be update on the website after the Christmas break.

# Pathways 2026

## Dear Yr 9 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this year's Pathway Programme for Year 9. This is a particularly exciting and important time for your child. It will be the first time that they will be starting to make independent decisions about their future.

Over the course of the next few weeks we will be focusing on careers related resources that there are out there, to help guide you when having conversations with your child about their interests and aspirations. We will be using our first two weeks to focus on resources relating about the **GCSE**, our visiting speakers' workshops and one to one meetings. Carers interviews with our Independent Careers Advisor, also begin.

All the information that you and your child will need will be available on the [Pathways 2026 website](#).

We look forward to meeting you all again at the **Parents Evening on 10th March** and receiving the students' pathway choices by **Friday 13th March**. We will be having a refresh in the study hub for parents, nearer the deadline on **10th March from 4pm** if you would like support completing the application form.

**Jessie Nicholas**  
Senior Deputy Head Teacher

**Invest4it** is a UK-based organization that provides students aged 12-18 with an immersive experience of their dream career. They have recorded a range of interviews for parents that you might find helpful. For example, **Marketing at Into-Med School**, **Engineering your future** or **experience opportunities can be everywhere** but we are able to work for financial assistance if your child is in receipt of FSM - just let us know.

**National Apprenticeship Week** (Monday 17th Feb) **visit the website** to find out everything you need to know about Apprenticeships, including Parent Guides, Parent Perspective for financial assistance if your child is in receipt of FSM - just let us know.

**Discover Diversity Across Apprenticeships**  
Podcasts, L'Oréal Paris and more of Apprenticeships

**Discover Creative Careers**  
Podcasts, L'Oréal Paris and more of Apprenticeships

**Interested in a career in the creative industries?** Find out about the creative jobs, the pros and cons, where to go for further information. **There is a lot more than meets the eye to these websites**



## Useful Resources for Parents

**National Careers Week** (beg. March 2nd)  
[Click here for a range of resources for students as well as parents - with careers week beginning 2nd March](#)

**Youth Employment UK**  
[Click here for general advice and potential guides](#)

**Parent Guide** (guid books and articles)  
[Click here to visit our Experience Opportunities](#)

**Career Plus**  
[Expert content, information and tools for 11-18 year olds](#)

**Could**  
Information about talking to your child about careers.  
• Talking with your child about careers  
• Finding Labour Market Information  
• Digital today  
[Click here to visit our resources for parents!](#)

**Take the Buzz Quiz**  
[Click here to find out your career and discover your personality type](#)

**Links to Finance**  
[Click here to find out how your child can build money and employability skills for their future](#)

**Apprenticeships**  
[Click here to find out more about apprenticeships](#)

**UCAS Advice for Parents about Higher Education**  
[Click here to find out more about UCAS and how to help your child make the right choice](#)

**National Careers Service**  
[Click here to find out more about the National Careers Service](#)

**Prospects**  
[Click here to find out more about Prospects and how to use it](#)

**Hot Going To List**  
[Click here to find out more about the Hot Going To List](#)

**How 2 Become**  
[Click here to find out more about How 2 Become and how to use it](#)

**Career At School**  
[Click here to find out more about Career At School and how to use it](#)

I have emailed a newsletter with lots of helpful links to Careers Guidance and tips on how to discuss pathways choices, particularly from a Parent Perspective.

# Making your child's preferences via the google link under Teaching and Learning - Pathways on the website

## Yr 10 Pathways Blocks for September 2026

| Block A      |      | Block B                  |      | Block C        |      | Block D      |      |
|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|----------------|------|--------------|------|
| History      | GCSE | Computer Sci             | GCSE | Geography      | GCSE | History      | GCSE |
| French       | GCSE | Geography                | GCSE | History        | GCSE | Geography    | GCSE |
| Spanish      | GCSE | Spanish                  | GCSE | Seperate Scier | GCSE | French       | GCSE |
| Graphics     | GCSE | Drama                    | BTEC | Art            | GCSE | Dance        | BTEC |
| Textiles     | GCSE | Dance                    | BTEC | Music          | GCSE | 3D Design    | GCSE |
| Music        | GCSE | Photography              | GCSE | Drama          | BTEC | Photography  | GCSE |
|              |      |                          |      |                |      | Film Studies | GCSE |
| RS Philosphy | GCSE | Hospitality & Vocational |      | Citizenship    | GCSE | Citizenship  | GCSE |
| Sport        | BTEC | ESOL                     | FS   | Sport          | BTEC | Sport        | BTEC |
|              |      |                          |      | Functional Sk  | FS   |              |      |

You will need to make **4** subject choices in total - one from each Block.

At least **ONE** of your choices **MUST** be from the **BLUE** section.

We advise that at least **ONE** of your choices **SHOULD** be a Creative Subject from the **ORANGE** section.

Please enter your choices below:

| Block A | Block B | Block C | Block D |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|         |         |         |         |

Please also select THREE reserve subejcts in order of preference. We will obvioulsy do what we can to make sure you have as many of your first choices as we can, but this is not always possible. It is therefore necessary to know what other options you would choose if you cannot get all of your first choices.

| Reserve Choice 1 | Reserve Choice 2 | Reserve Choice 3 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  |                  |                  |

## Important Dates

An introduction to Pathways Process Learning for Life P1 January 7th 2026 and in tutor time for the next 8 weeks.

Heads of Subject Presentations in tutor time starting week beginning Monday 19th January 2026

Tuesday December 2nd 5 - 7pm Yr 9 Information Evening

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 – Parents Evening 4:30 - 7pm Applications Live

Tuesday 10th March 5 - 6pm Application Support in Study Hub

Friday 13th March 2026- deadline for choices

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