

Year 8 Options Evening 2026 Welcome

Alcester
Academy



Please sit with your parents. Thank you.

Key Stage 4 starts in Year 9

Benefits:

- 3 years to specialise in the examined subjects
- 3 years to get to know individual needs
- 3 years to work on the very best outcomes possible

88.1% of current parents either agree, or strongly agree with this system

7.35% had no preference (95.4%)

Students 'should' continue to pursue/explore areas that they don't select as options through clubs, trips and extra-curricular activities

Students will create a Y9 'Passport' and have Enrichment SLDs

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
A*	A	B		C		D	E	F	G	U

GCSE courses

Almost all are examined i.e. no coursework

Grades are given as numbers

Grade 4 is a 'standard pass', grade 5 is a 'strong pass'

Grade 9 is reserved for the top 3% of entries nationally



What is a Btec/Cambridge National/Vocational Award?

It is an alternative to GCSE

Generally assessed over coursework portfolio(s) and an exam

The exam **must** be passed

Awarded as Pass (4), Merit (5.5), Distinction (7), Distinction* (8.5)

IMedia, PE, Performing Arts, Music

Ofqual have accredited these courses as having 'equal weighting' to GCSEs

(PE are based in the gym this evening)

Curriculum Review

The Curriculum Review, Nov 25 seeks to move beyond a narrow focus on core subjects, ensuring schools provide a rich education including arts, humanities, and physical education.

Proposals aim to reduce the overall volume of GCSE content and exam time, freeing up space for "enrichment" activities like sport, drama, and work experience.

The curriculum is being re-designed to be "knowledge-rich" while fostering disciplinary skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

Implementation September 2028

Core Subjects

STEM Subjects; science, technology,

English and maths

Humanities

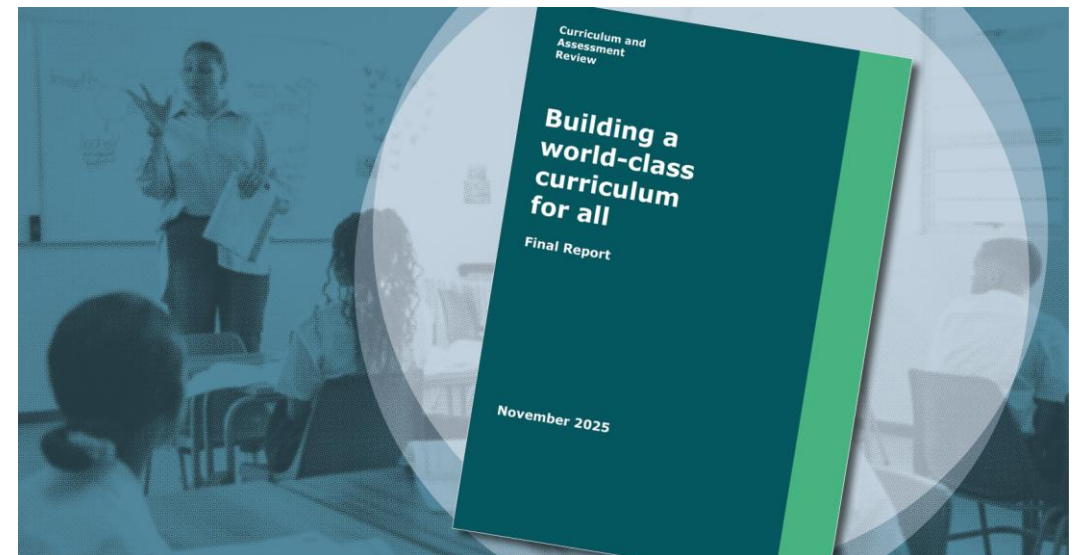
Creative Arts

PE

Citizenship and Life skills

A Language

Vocational subjects



The curriculum - core

English (Literature and Language)

Maths

Science (Trilogy or Separates)

Statutory RE (Religious Studies)

PE (Non-examined)

2 GCSEs

1 GCSE

2/3 GCSEs

1 GCSE

Total = 6-7 GCSEs



Option Blocks 2026

A	B	C	D
*Geog	*Geog	*Geog	*Geog
*History	*History	*History	*History
*Art	*Art	IT Media	*French
*Photography	*Food Prep and Nutrition	*Product Design or Textiles	IT Media
*Product Design or Wood	*French	Sport	Media Studies
Extra E+M	*BTEC Music		BTEC Perf Arts

Please choose 1 option and a reserve from each block.

Please do not choose a subject more than once unless it is a reserve.

*These Subjects are within the 'Breadth' category. Select: History or Geog (or both) and at least 1 other subject with a *

Please do not pick both Art and Photography.

Do not choose more than 1 DT subject; Product Design, Textiles, Wood or Food and Nutrition.

Only pick Extra Eng/Maths if you have a sticker on the front of your booklet.



Student Feedback...

What to choose?



Frequently Asked Questions...

Will I definitely get my first choice?

Will I definitely get my second choice if I don't get my first choice?

What if I change my mind?

What if the blocks don't allow me to study what I want?

Do I have to get my choices in quickly?

Taster lessons – have happened

Return deadline – 13th May (to tutor then to Mr Hollis)



How should I make my choices?

Pick what you're good at

Pick what you enjoy

Don't pick based on friends' choices

Don't pick because of who you think your teacher will be



Alcester Academy

TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

Task...

Talk to staff tonight

Course and subject leaders

Core subjects

SENCo

Careers Advisor

RE (Religious Studies)

Do not miss new subjects:

Media

Photography

This PPT is on the school website
[Alcester Academy | Options](#)

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Extra E+M	*BTEC Music		BTEC Perf Arts

