



Year 9 Options Evening

2025-2026 Academic Year



Aims:

- Discussion about National Context.
- Collect information on the subjects available.
- Gain advice on how to select the right choices for you.
- Understand the timeline of Options choices.
- Understand where to seek further advice from.
- Explore the differences between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

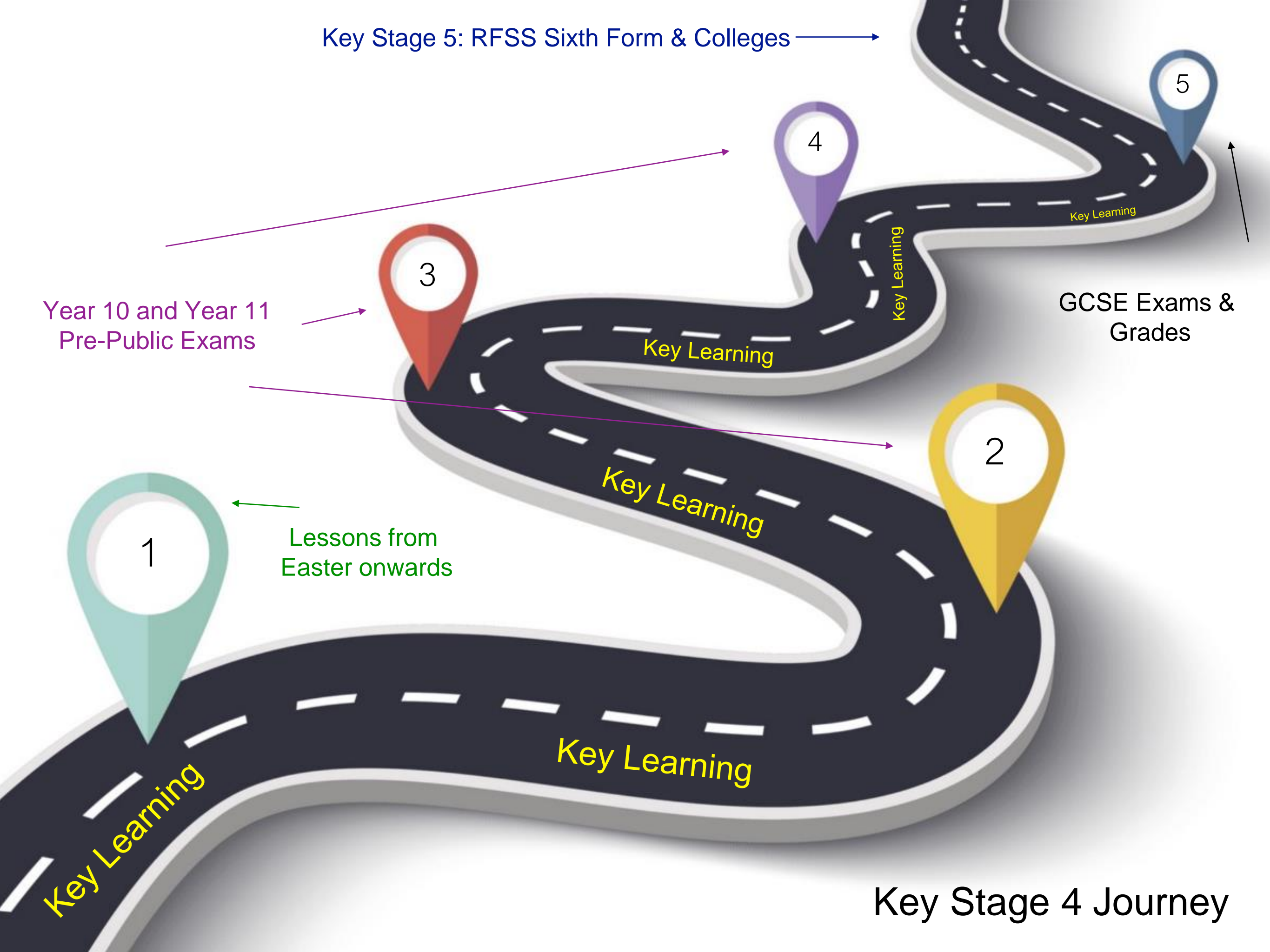


Why We Do What We Do:

- Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the EEF published a piece of research relating to what students need in order to catch up.
- We utilised this research, and found that it worked well, hence us keeping it!
- Our students said they felt they wanted to start their GCSE studies earlier than Year 10.
- The 'pass' rate across the country is becoming increasingly challenging, so this gives our students a 'head-start'.



Key Stage 5: RFSS Sixth Form & Colleges



Year 10 and Year 11
Pre-Public Exams

Lessons from
Easter onwards

GCSE Exams &
Grades

Key Stage 4 Journey

KS4 - The National Context:

- Most subjects are now 'linear', exam-heavy courses for GCSE.
- Increased levels of content in the majority of subjects.
- Assessed predominantly through exams. There is less emphasis on coursework across subjects.
- Graded 9-1, with 9 being an A**.
- Literacy assessed the vast majority of subjects.



KS4 - The Old v Current Systems:



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- The diagram on the right explains the differences between the older 'alphabetical grades', against the new 'numerical grades'.
- Students need a Grade 4 for a 'standard pass' and Grade 5 for a 'strong pass'.
- This means that student who achieves a Grade 4 has 'passed' that exam and subject.
- However, many Sixth Forms and Colleges expect students to attain a Grade 5 in order to access their course offers.

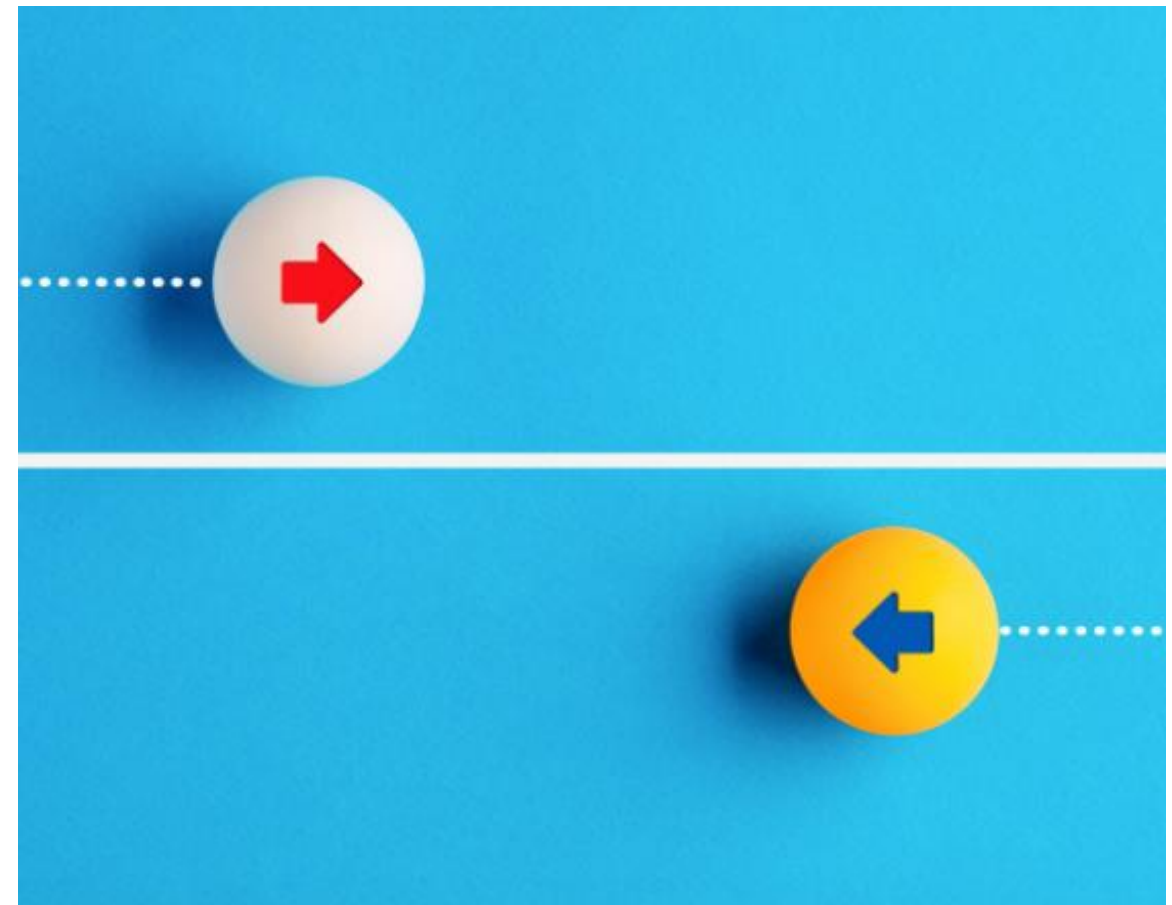
Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
	5 STRONG PASS
C	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

The Differences:



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- **Examination Only:** The grade a student receives will be entirely based on examinations at the end (or sometimes throughout) a course.
- **Controlled Assessment:** Students will sit a controlled exam(s) in a classroom over the duration of a course.
- **Coursework (NEA):** Students will be able to complete a coursework assignment task that will contribute towards their overall mark.



AQA
Realising potential

eduqas
Part of WJEC

Our Core Curriculum:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- Core PE (non-examined)
- PSHE (non-examined)



The Process:

- Tonight's Parent Information Evening is the first part of the process.
- Options Taster week commences on Monday 19th January 2026.
- Students will be able to sample all of the Options available during this week.
- The Options Information Booklet contains additional information on the courses.



The Options:

- Career Aspirations
- Academic Ability
- Personal Choice
- These will be different for each student.
- At RFSS, we care about the whole child and want to ensure that students can access a variety of subjects and options.



The Key:



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All pathways have been identified with a student's individual goal in mind.

Science:

- Combined Science should not be viewed as a lesser option than the Separate Sciences.
- Several schools only teach Combined Science.
- Studying Science at A Level and Degree level can be done with both Combined and Separate Sciences.



Option Blocks for 2025-26

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography History Spanish	Geography History Spanish	Geography History Spanish	Geography History Spanish
Essential Skills	Essential Skills	Essential Skills	Access Geography
Triple Science* Business Health and Social x 2 Sociology	GCSE PE Sport Studies x 2 Media Comp Science* Hospitality	Art Food Hospitality Resistant Materials Textiles French	Business Drama Music* Psychology Sociology

Supportive option in each block for those with more barriers. We will work with you directly on whether your child requires one of these instead of the other available subjects in that block.

* Subjects with an asterisk will involve a consultation process to ensure student is suitable for the course

Required Subjects



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Geography
History

Spanish
French

Triple Science*

Comp Science*

The only decision we “require” all students to take is to choose a minimum of one of these subjects.

Students are welcome to choose more than one of these! However, not choosing any will invalidate their options form.

Geography, History and Spanish have been placed in all four blocks this year.

The TEAL Pathway



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Block A		Block B		Block C		Block D	
Triple Science	x	Geography	R	Geography	R	Geography	3
		History		History		History	
		Spanish		Spanish		Spanish	
		GCSE PE		Art		Business	
		Sport Studies x 2	2	Food	1	Drama	
		Media		Hospitality		Music*	
		Comp Science*		Resistant Materials		Psychology	
		Hospitality		Textiles	1	Sociology	R
				French			

Students will be given the option to be on TEAL following the End of KS3 Science Assessments in early December. Students doing Triple will be put in 'Set 1', and can select any subjects in Blocks B – D.



The PURPLE Pathway

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	History
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Business	GCSE PE	Art	Business
Health and Social	Sport Studies	Food	Drama
Sociology	Media	Hospitality	Music*
	Comp Science*	Resistant Materials	Psychology
	Hospitality	Textiles	Sociology
		French	
R	1	2	4
3		R	R

Students in Purple get the full set of choices, but remember that one of the selected subjects will need to be History, Geography, Computer Science or a language.



The SILVER Pathway:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography History Spanish R	Geography History Spanish	Geography History Spanish	Geography History Spanish R 2
Essential Skills Y	Essential Skills	Essential Skills	Access Geography
Business Health and Social Sociology 4	GCSE PE Sport Studies Media Comp Science Hospitality R 3	Art Food Hospitality R 1 Resistant Materials Textiles French	Business Drama Music Psychology Sociology

The select few who are put on SILVER will be allowed to do Essential Skills in the block that interests them the least, between A, B and C. Students from the SRP will take this a step further by being additionally enrolled into Access Geography in D, if appropriate.

Key Dates:

- **Tonight:** Options Information Evening
- **W/C Monday 19th January 2026:** Year 9 Options Taster Week
- **Thursday 29th January 2026:** Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday 11th February 2026:** Options Selection Deadline



How Do I Choose?

- Think about your future Career, University, Apprenticeships.
- Think about what combination of subjects do I need for the future.
- What subjects are you good at?
- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- Where else can you find out as much information as you can?



How Shouldn't I Choose?

- What subjects are my friends doing?
- It looks an easy option.
- I like my teacher in that subject.
- My parents say I have to do it.
- It sounds like something different so I'll do that.



Thank You:



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Each subject area has an area in the Study Zone that you can visit in order to find out more about what they entail at Key Stage 4.