

# Yr 9 Subject Choices Parent Information Evening 26th March 2026

## Welcome

**KS3 → KS4**

# The Core Curriculum

- English – Language & Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics - GCSE
- Science – Triple (3) or Combined (2)
- RE – GCSE
- Core PE – not examined, just practical
- Minimum 6 GCSEs without options

# The Option Subjects

GCSE 3D Design ~

GCSE Art & Design ~

*ASDAN (invitation only)*

GCSE or level 2 Business

GCSE Computer science

*Level 2 Construction*

*Level 2 Dance*

GCSE Drama

GCSE Economics

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

GCSE French \*

GCSE Geography\*

GCSE German\*

*Level 2 VTCT Hair & Beauty*

*Level 2 Health and Social Care*

GCSE History\*

Level 2 Information Technology

GCSE Music

Level 2 Music Technology

GCSE PE

GCSE Photography

GCSE Sociology

GCSE Spanish \*

\* - you must take at least one of these

~ - some further or higher education institutions may count these as the same subject

# Attendance Matters

Good attendance = Good grades!

Coursework needs high attendance

Only 10% of students with an attendance of 85% or less will achieve 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above

One third of the students attending less than 85% achieve no GCSEs at all.

Vocational subjects & NEA

## Making Choices

- Variety or specialism? Broad curriculum
  - English Language & Literature, Maths, Sciences, RE with.....
  
- At least one of:
  - French, German, Spanish, History or Geography GCSEs
  
- Arts, Design Technology, Social Sciences
  - Drama, Dance, Music, Art, Photography, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Sociology, Business, Economics, PE, Computer Science
  
- Vocational Route
  - Construction, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, ICT, Music Technology
  
- Or something from at least two of the groups!

# Mistakes to avoid

- Friendship groups
- Favourite teacher
- Consider practical realities of the course e.g. Hair & Beauty
- Prioritisation of choices

# Pathways to Success

## Purple Pathway

Core Curriculum: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Sciences, RE  
(+core PE)

History/Geography **and** French/German/Spanish

Any 2 other subjects

# Pathways to Success

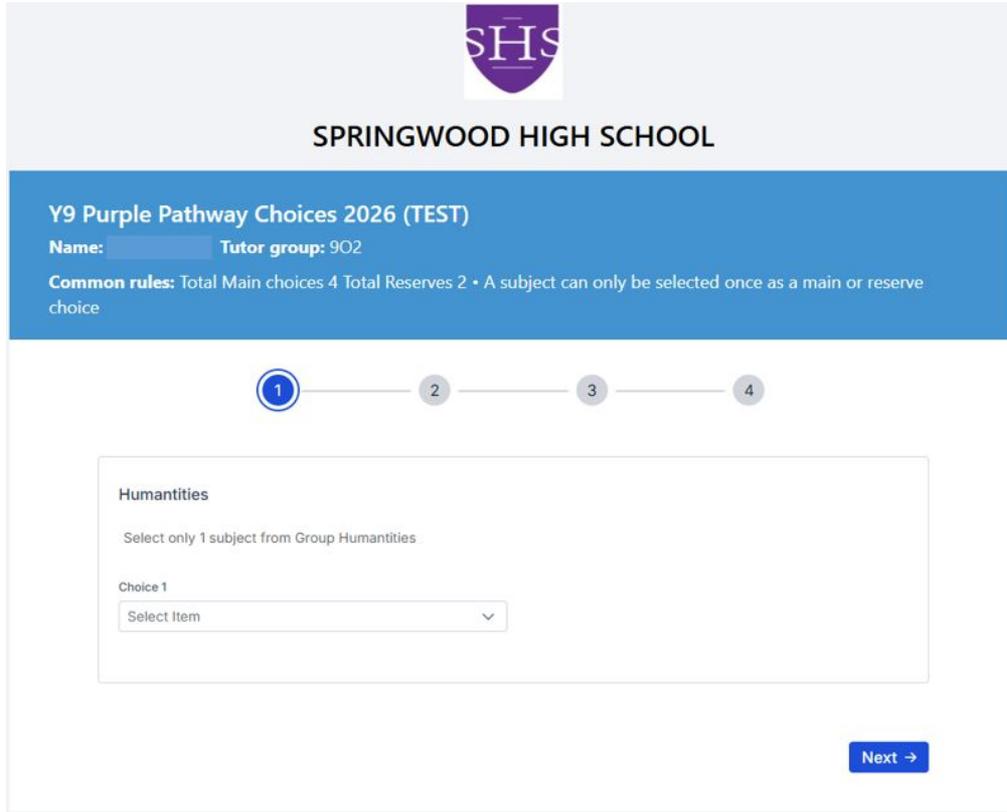
## Green Pathway

Core Curriculum: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Sciences, RE  
(+core PE)

History/Geography/French/German/Spanish

Any 3 other subjects

# Making Choices



The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Y9 Purple Pathway Choices 2026 (TEST)'. At the top, there is a header with the SHS logo and the text 'SPRINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL'. Below this is a blue banner containing the title 'Y9 Purple Pathway Choices 2026 (TEST)', a 'Name:' field, and 'Tutor group: 902'. Underneath the banner, 'Common rules' are listed: 'Total Main choices 4 Total Reserves 2 • A subject can only be selected once as a main or reserve choice'. A progress indicator shows four steps, with the first step (1) highlighted in a blue circle. The main content area is titled 'Humanities' and contains the instruction 'Select only 1 subject from Group Humanities'. Below this is a 'Choice 1' section with a dropdown menu labeled 'Select Item'. At the bottom right of the form is a blue 'Next →' button.

- Use your school email address to sign in with GMail account



# Making Choices

1 — 2 — 3 — 4

ⓘ Please check your subject order of preference before submitting. ☰ Set Preference

MFL Choose only 1 item from MFL Edit

Humanities Choose only 1 item from Humanities Edit

Other Subjects Pick 2 choices from Other Subjects • Choose exact 2 reserve subjects from Group Other Subjects Edit

❗ **Rule not met: Total Main choices 4 Total Reserves 2**

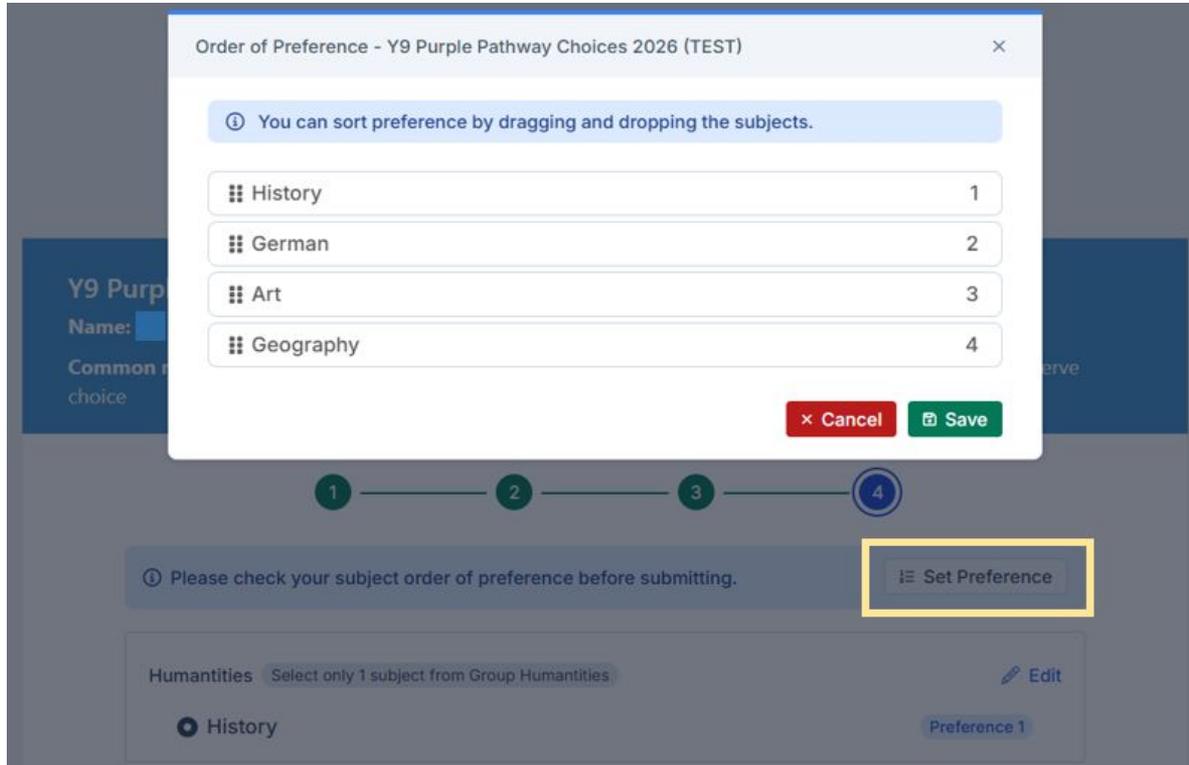
A form can only be submitted once and cannot be changed later. If you would like to modify it, use the Save for later button. If you go back, the preferences will be reset. You may need to check the preferences again

Previous Save for later Submit

- You make choices depending upon the pathway along with 2 reserves
- Every choice you make could be used
- You can save your choices until later, but must click 'submit' by the deadline
- All applications have equal priority until the deadline – 30<sup>th</sup> April

If you wish to make changes after submission, you will need to email [guidedchoices@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:guidedchoices@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

# Making Choices



Prioritising Choices:

Subjects are picked in order of preference.

Reserves:

Oversubscription/  
timetable clashes/less  
popular subjects

# Making Choices

Choosing subjects for the right reason

Make changes to your choices

Home (MFL) language GCSEs

Parents - be part of the process

What if I change my mind after the deadline?



# KS4 Careers Programme

*“Widening horizons, challenging stereotypes and raising aspirations to improve the life chances of all our students”*

# Who do they trust?



**PARENTS/CARERS - 78%**

TEACHERS - 45.3%

FRIENDS - 33.1%

RELATIVES - 23.6%

CAREERS ADVISOR - 22.9%

SOCIAL MEDIA - 18.3%

*Source - Youth Voice Census 2022*



SPRINGWOOD  
CAREERS

# How confident are you?



“9 out of 10 Parents 'Confused' by the  
Education System”

*Explore Learning survey of 2000 parents - June 2019*

The world of education has changed significantly in recent times.  
We want to provide parents / carers with enough information to  
support young people in making their choices after leaving school



SPRINGWOOD  
CAREERS



# Knowing the basics

Young people **must** stay in some form of education or training until their 18th birthday.

Post-16 education is moving toward a "three-pillar" system. The qualifications offer different balances of academic study, technical training and practical work experience:

- Sixth Form (**A levels**)
- Colleges (**T levels** and **V levels**)
- Apprenticeships (level 2 or 3)



SPRINGWOOD  
CAREERS

# Post 16 Choices

Feature	A Levels	T Levels	V Levels (From 2027)
<b>Primary Focus</b>	Academic & theoretical	Technical & occupational	Vocational & career-related
<b>A Level Equivalence</b>	1 A Level	3 A Levels	1 A Level
<b>Duration</b>	2 years	2 years	2 years
<b>Structure</b>	Classroom-based; exam-focused	Classroom + 45-day industry placement	Classroom + applied practical skills
<b>Flexibility</b>	High (can mix 3+ subjects)	Low (single large programme)	High (mix with A Levels or other V Levels)

# A Levels



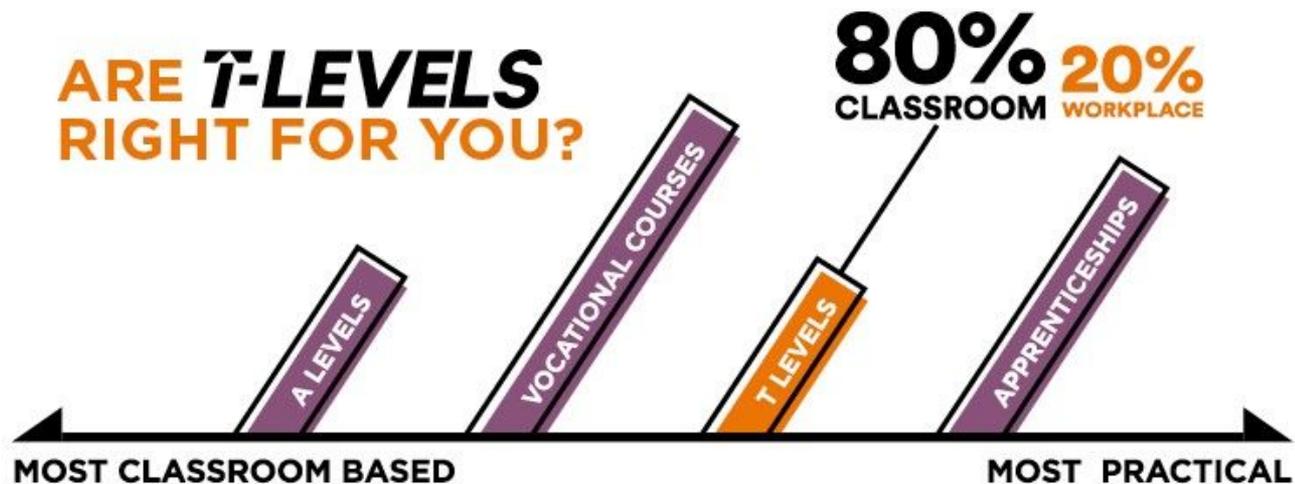
**A Levels:** The traditional academic route, primarily used for progression to university or degree apprenticeships. They focus on subject knowledge and critical thinking rather than specific job-related skills. You pick 3 subjects - some you may have studied already at GCSE level, others will be new eg Government and Politics



SPRINGWOOD  
CAREERS

# T Levels

**T Levels:** Large-scale technical programmes intended for students who have a clear career goal. They combine classroom learning with a significant industry placement (approx. 315 hours) and are equivalent to three A Levels, meaning they typically take up a student's entire timetable



# V Levels

**V Levels (New for 2027):** Designed to replace most existing BTECs and other "applied general" qualifications. They are smaller than T Levels (one A Level in size), allowing you to "mix and match" subjects if you aren't ready to specialise in a single career path. The first V Level subjects will be available from September 2027 for the following areas:

**Digital, Education and Early Years, Finance and Accounting**

Future rollouts (2028–2030) are planned for subjects including:

**Business, Health, Care, Construction, Engineering, and Creative**



# Apprenticeships



L2 or L3 apprenticeships combine practical on-the-job skills training with off-the-job learning. You'll get training that is relevant to your job and be paid a salary. You'll spend 80% of your time in the workplace and 20% off-the-job with some study in a college

# Careers Education in KS4

- Careers in the curriculum
- Experience days for post-16 colleges and Sixth Form
- Experience of workplaces
- Futures day (20th October)
- Help you Choose - applying for post-16 choices
- Personalised guidance via a qualified Careers Adviser



# For more information



## Careers



The landscape of technical education is also undergoing significant change, including the introduction of T-levels. So, as well as ensuring that young people have access to high quality career guidance, we recognise that parents also need up to date information on the different pathways and career options available.

When your child finishes Year 11, there are several different routes they can choose. This period of their education is called "Post-16". The route they take depends mostly upon their future career or job aspirations but the most common routes taken are:

- Study full-time on an academic or vocational course
- Start an apprenticeship
- Work or volunteer full-time with part-time study or training



# For more information



## Home Technical education opens doors for your child

Education options available to young people today are often different to when their parents were in school. Find out how options like T-levels, apprenticeships and HTQs can help unlock your child's full potential.

**WEBSITE**

### Tips on how to INFLUENCE your teen

Our new INFLUENCE framework provides top tips for parents looking to INFLUENCE their reluctant teens and engage them in more meaningful career conversations.

[Read More >](#)



[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

### Explore careers

View all job profiles alphabetically and filter by category.

Enter a job title or keyword to search

For example, teaching assistant



Choose a way to explore careers. For each job profile, you'll find qualifications needed, salary, progression opportunities and a description of daily tasks involved.

# How you can help



SPRINGWOOD  
CAREERS

Do you work for a company that could:

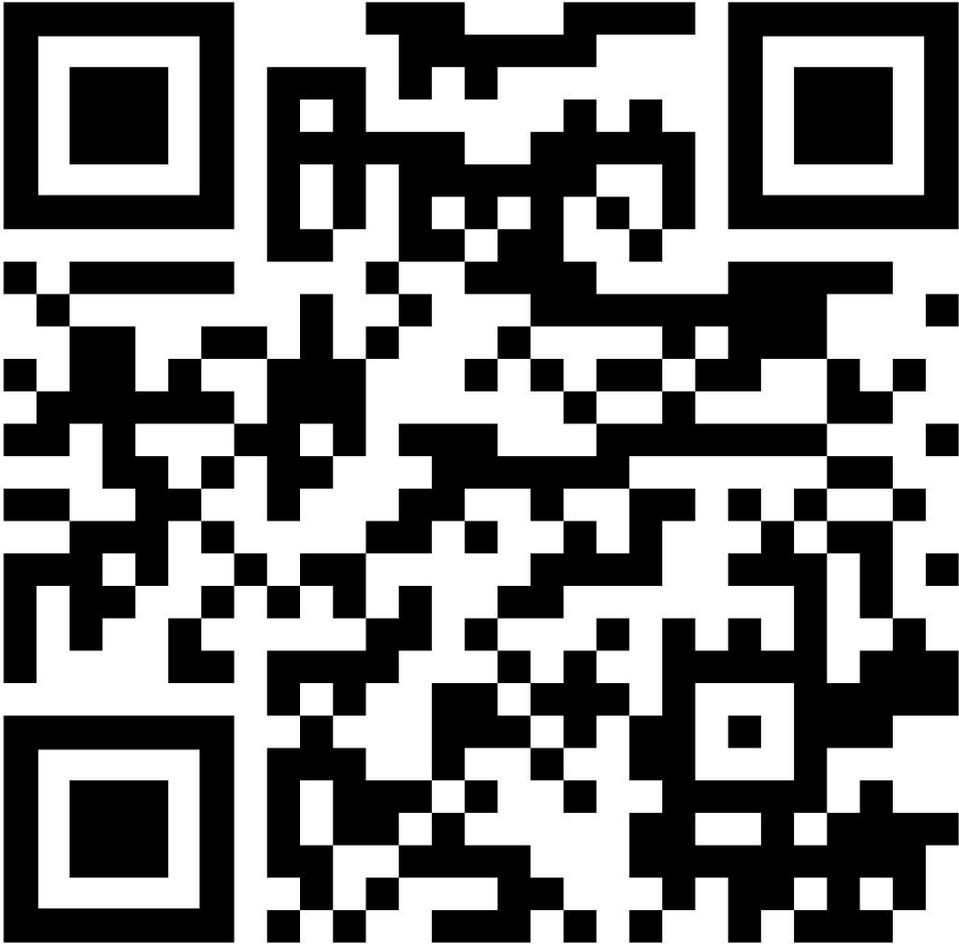
- Provide work experience or work shadowing placements?
- Host school visits?
- Exhibit at our Careers Fair in October?



## Guided Choices Advice

- Encourage open communication.
- Listen to their passions, interests, aspirations.
- Be familiar with the courses on offer. Content / assessment methods etc.
- Encourage child to research the options thoroughly.
- Strike a balance between interests and aspirations.
- Encourage them to seek advice and ask questions.

Parents Evening Thursday 16th April  
Please scan to book.



## Websites

- <https://www.startprofile.com/>
- <https://icould.com/>
- <https://www.unifrog.org>
- <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>
- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Google classroom - subject videos

**[guidedchoices@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:guidedchoices@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)**

FINAL DEADLINE  
FOR YOUR OPTION CHOICES TO  
BE COMPLETED ONLINE

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April