



Year 9

# Parents Information Evening

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

**6pm**

# Outline for the evening



1. Assessment & reporting – Mr Brandon
2. Year 10 options process - Mr Brandon & Mr Hill
3. First Give – Mr Brewer

# SHSB Needs you!



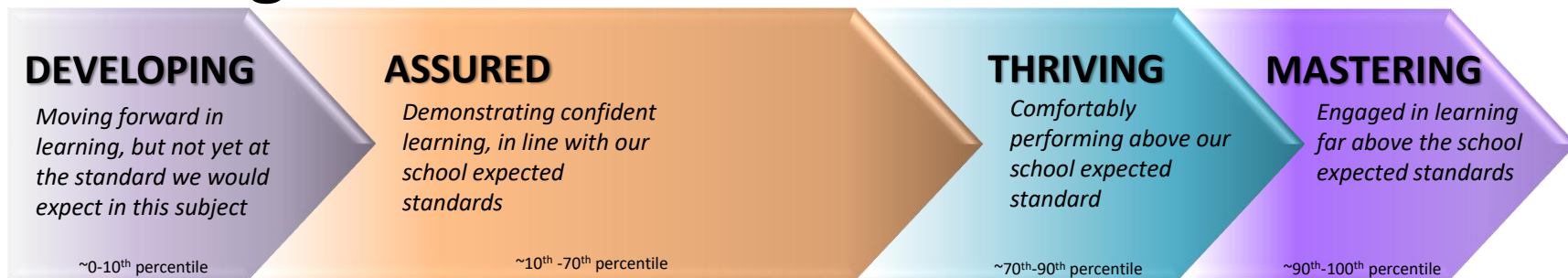
- Thank you all who have supported our minibus fundraising appeal. It is great to announce that we have now closed the minibus appeal and will shortly be purchasing a minibus. However, we still need your help.
- Per Pupil funding is now 20% below the value it was in 2014. For the last two years, the school has spent more than it has received and reserves are depleted.
- Our next fundraising campaign is focused on computers for the school. In 2025 Windows 10 is coming to an end and we will need to replace all of our computers to enable the updated software to work.
- We need you! Please know that every penny makes a difference. You can contribute a one-off donation, or make regular monthly payments. We will also be organising charity events in school to raise money, so watch this space! In the meantime, please visit <https://www.shsbcharitabletrust.org/donate>

# Assessment and Reporting



- Written annual report – summer term
- Assessment data is ‘live’
- You will see the range of assessments that had contributed to the overall grade
- Numerical grade (1-9) given after EoY exam

Each assessment in Year 9 contributes to an **overall judgement of progress** in each subject, which we summarize as being either **Developing, Assured, Thriving** or **Mastering**:



This changes for the final exam data entry in the summer term – this will feature numerical grades, which will act as an early indication of where the students are against the full GCSE criteria (1-9).



# Please note the following...

1. Courses will only run if there are sufficient numbers.
2. In some cases, capacity in certain subjects is limited.
3. You are advised to choose your options based on what you enjoy doing and what you are good at. You will have far more success this way.
4. Art will carry just as much 'weight' when applying for sixth form than History\*\*\* Drama will carry just as much 'weight' as 'Economics'\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* = Just examples!

# Compulsory and Option subjects



## **Compulsory Subjects**

English, Maths, Science, One Modern Foreign Language (MFL), Religious Studies (RS), Physical Education (PE)\*, PHSE\*

\* Non GCSE courses

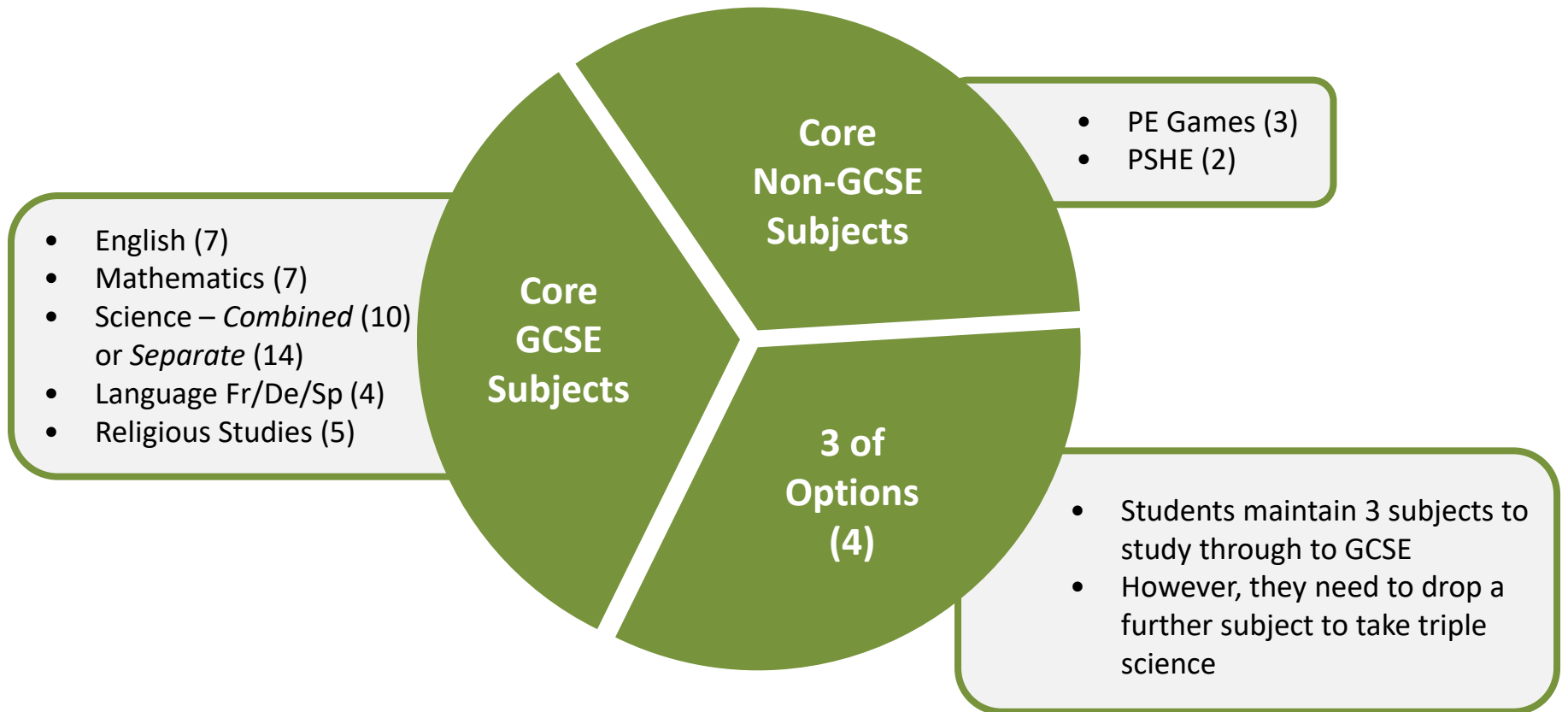
## **Optional Subjects**

Geography, History, Art, Drama, GCSE PE, Music, DT Systems **or** DT Polymers, Business Studies, Economics, Computer Science, Food Science and Citizenship.

# Year 10 Curriculum (*Hours*) (2024/25)



## Students drop 4 or 5 subjects



# Frequently Asked Questions



## **Why has my son gone from having 7 options to only choosing 3 options (2 if he chooses Separate Sciences)?**

Ten GCSEs are enough to study and succeed in light of 2017 government changes to the GCSEs and harder specifications. The new specifications that your son is studying have more challenging content. Many now have numerous 'closed' examinations at the end of the course. Recall is a key skill and this could be lost if more GCSE's are taken.

## **Why does my son have to study full GCSE RE?**

RE is a full course that ALL pupils will be studying, it is not one of the options. The main reason is that the course fits with the school's 20:20 vision of spiritual, moral and social development. This allows for PSHE to be tailored and more specific to trends.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Difference between Separate and Combined Sciences

	<b>SEPARATE Sciences (Biology, Chemistry &amp; Physics)</b>	<b>COMBINED Science (Trilogy)</b>
<b>Taught Hours</b>	14 per fortnight	10 per fortnight
<b>Teaching</b>	Taught separately by specialists in Biology, Chemistry & Physics	Taught separately by specialists in Biology, Chemistry & Physics
<b>Qualifications</b>	<b>3</b> <i>(Biology, Chemistry &amp; Physics)</i> - e.g. Bio – 9, Chem – 7, Phys - 5	<b>2</b> Amalgamated with a dual grade – e.g. 77, 76 or 66
<b>Content</b>	<b>100%</b> of each Science	<b><math>\frac{2}{3}</math> (67%)</b> of each Science
<b>Difficulty</b>	<i>There is no difference in relative difficulty.</i>	
<b>Exams</b>	<b>2</b> per Science, <b>6</b> in Total <i>100 marks, 105 mins each</i>	<b>2</b> per Science, <b>6</b> in Total <i>70 marks, 75 mins each</i>



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **If my son chooses Combined Science can they still do a specific science at A Level?**

Yes, students who take Combined Science can still choose to do A Level Sciences (there may, however, may a higher entry threshold since the Combined course represents just two-thirds of the subject content at GCSE). If you are confident your Science will be taking A Level sciences we do recommend choosing the Separate Sciences at GCSE.

## **If my son completes further maths, will he have extra lessons to complete this?**

Your son will be receiving 7 lessons of Maths in Year 10 and 11. If he completes further maths, there will be no extra lessons of maths timetabled.

# Why only 10 GCSE's?



Reading teachers' and students' accounts of the [immense stress and mental health issues](#) caused by the introduction of the new GCSE exams this year is heartbreaking.

*“The new GCSEs have broken my best students, left some with serious stress-induced illnesses, and isolated the majority, leaving them completely apathetic towards their own learning,” said one teacher.*

*A student reports: “I have seen the mentally toughest people crack and it’s painful to watch. People crying over being unable to do a maths question. Is this what we want as a nation, to be put under this mental stress?”*

I’m not saying that adolescents should be spending their time in school doing whatever they want. But there should be time left outside of school to pursue other things, whether it’s music or video games or making YouTube videos or just being teens. Exams may be a necessary evil, but there should be time and space left over for young people to live their lives and discover their passions, instead of piling so much schoolwork on them that they are having panic attacks and migraines en masse. (TES 2022)

# Post 16-18 Progression Routes



## **A Levels....**

- *Usually required 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4*
- *Grade 6 in the subjects you want to study*

## **Higher Education (post 18)....**

- *Diplomas*
- *Bachelor's degrees*
- *Foundation degrees and foundation years*
- *Degree Level Apprenticeships*
- *Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)*

## **Combined work and study....**

- *Apprenticeships*
- *T Levels*
- *Traineeships (available for students with an EHCP)*
- *Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQs)*

# So, what happens and when?



8th October 2025

Options Information Evening

17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Parent's Evening (online)

December 2025

Options information booklet and application form sent home

28th January 2026

Option submission deadline

# 2030 Vision



With courage and determination,  
nothing is impossible.