



## OPTIONS BOOKLET – 2025

Your Choice



Your Future

## INTRODUCTION

Year 9 is an exciting time at The Stable School – it's your chance to look back at everything you've achieved so far, and to start thinking about the future. This is the point where you begin to choose the subjects you'd like to study for your GCSEs or other qualifications.

You've already had the chance to explore lots of different subjects during Key Stage 3. Some subjects will still be compulsory, but now you'll get to choose others based on what you enjoy, what you're good at, and what might help you in your future career.

This booklet is here to help you make those choices. Take your time reading it and think carefully about what's right for you. Talk to your teachers and tutor – they'll offer great advice. It's also really important to speak with your parents or carers and get their thoughts too.

Remember, the subjects you choose will need hard work and commitment. In Year 10, you'll be expected to be more independent in your learning and to give your best in every lesson. But don't worry – all the staff at The Stable School are here to support you every step of the way.

Choose wisely, work hard, and stay positive – you've got this!



### CAREERS GUIDANCE

#### Thinking about the future

A good careers education helps you learn about the different opportunities out there and gives you the skills you need to make good decisions about your future. It's all about helping you feel confident and ready for the world of work, further education, or training.

Now is the time to start thinking carefully about your choices. The options you pick can help shape your future, so take this chance to choose subjects that will help you do your best – both now and later on.

In **Year 10**, you'll take part in a careers programme that helps you build important life and work skills. By **Year 11**, you'll be exploring the different paths you can take after school – whether that's college, training, or work. You'll also learn how to write a CV and get ready for job or college interviews.



### QUALIFICATIONS

#### **Your Choice 2025 – Key Stage 4 Guide**

"Your Choice 2025" is your guide to the subjects available in Key Stage 4. It's essential to understand each course to know what's expected of you. All courses lead to a recognised qualification.

#### **What Are GCSEs?**

GCSEs are academic courses for students aged 15/16, with two levels:

- **Level 1** (Grades 1-3, similar to Foundation Level)
- **Level 2** (Grades 4-9, similar to Higher Level)

#### **Grade Comparison:**

- Grade 4 = Old Grade C
- Grade 7 = Old Grade A

Success at Level 1 allows progression to Level 2 courses, and success at Level 2 opens opportunities for A Levels or BTEC Nationals.

#### **Vocational Qualifications**

Some courses focus on practical skills and real-life situations, preparing you for work.

#### **AIM Qualifications**

AIM courses offer hands-on learning from Entry Level 3 to Level 2. You'll be assessed through ongoing teacher feedback and external checks. You'll visit workplaces, build practical skills, and complete theory work. There are no final exams.

#### **BTEC Qualifications**

BTECs focus on practical learning linked to real jobs. You'll complete coursework, projects, and practical tasks, preparing you for college, apprenticeships, or work in fields like:

- Business
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care

BTECs help you build skills for the future through a portfolio of your work.

## The Stable School - Your Choice 2025

### Which subjects must I study?

Everyone will study the following subjects: -

- English
- Mathematics
- Science -Biology
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health & Economics Education (PSHE)
- Digital Technology
- Employability & Development Skills
- History
- DIVE (Develop an interest in vocational experiences)

### **What You Can Choose**

You'll be asked to choose your top **5 subjects**, in order of preference.

We'll do our best to give you your top 4 choices, but you need to be ready to study your 5th choice if we can't fit all your favourites into the timetable.

All the details about each course are in this booklet – make sure you read them carefully before making your decisions.

### **How Do You Learn Best?**

Before you decide, think about how you learn and what suits you best:

Do you like reading, taking notes, and doing exams?

Do you prefer coursework and showing your understanding over time?

Do you enjoy hands-on learning, using practical skills and doing projects?

Everyone learns differently – and that's OK! By reading about the courses and thinking about your own strengths, you can make choices that will help you enjoy your learning and do your best.

## The Stable School - Your Choice 2025

### Making Your Choice

Before you choose your subjects, take some time to think about what's right for you.

Ask yourself:

- ✓ What qualifications do I need for my future goals?
- ✓ Which subjects am I good at?
- ✓ Which subjects do I enjoy the most?
- ✓ How do I learn best – through exams, coursework, or hands-on activities?
- ✓ Do my subjects go well together and give me a good balance?

🔑 Top tip: Choose subjects that will keep your options open. You might not know exactly what you want to do yet – and that's okay! Picking a good mix of subjects now will give you more choices later.



Think Carefully – Avoid Choosing a Subject Just Because...

✗ Your friends have picked it  
Choosing a subject just to stay with friends might not be the best decision for you.

✗ You think it will be easy  
All subjects require hard work – there's no such thing as an "easy" option.

✗ You haven't looked into it properly  
Make sure you read the course information and understand what's involved.

✗ You like your current teacher  
You might not have the same teacher next year – pick the subject, not the person!

✓ Make your choices based on what suits your interests, skills, and future goals.

## The Stable School - Your Choice 2025

### Year 9 Options Timeline

#### 1. Read the Course Information

When: As soon as possible

What to do: Carefully review the course details in your options booklet to understand each subject's content and requirements.

#### 2. Discuss with Parents & Carers

When: After reading the course information

What to do: Have a conversation with your parents or carers about your subject choices to get their input and support.

#### 3. Consult with Teachers & Tutor

When: Following discussions with family

What to do: Speak with your subject teachers and tutor to gain insights into which subjects align with your strengths and interests.

#### 4. Submit Your Choices

When: **Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.**

What to do: Complete and submit your subject choices form by the deadline.

#### ☒ Subject Choice Checklist

Read the course information for each subject.

☐ Discuss your options with parents or carers.

☐ Consult with teachers and your tutor.

☐ Consider how each subject aligns with your interests and future goals.

☐ Complete the subject choices form.

☐ Submit your choices by the deadline: **Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.**



### **SUBJECT INDEX**

#### **CORE SUBJECTS**

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science - Biology**
- **Physical Education**
- **Personal, Social, Health & Economics Education (PSHE)**
- **Digital Tech**
- **Employability & Development Skills**
- **DIVE (Develop an interest in vocational experiences)**
- **History**

#### **Options**

##### Choosing Your Subjects

You will need to choose 4 main subjects, plus 1 reserve subject in case one of your first choices can't be offered.

There are two types of qualifications you can work towards:

##### Vocational Qualifications

These are assessed throughout the course. You will be working towards either an Entry Level 3, Level 1, or Level 2 qualification, depending on your progress.

##### GCSEs

These are mostly assessed through an exam at the end of the course.

You can find more details about how each subject is assessed on its individual page in this **booklet**.

#### **Optional Subjects**

GCSE Business

BTEC Sport

Construction

Catering

Creative Design

Duke of Edinburgh

# Core Subjects

Empower Your Voice, Master

# English

## What is in the course, GCSE & Functional Skills?

**GCSE** - The AQA GCSE English specification is designed to develop students' skills in reading, writing, and spoken language. Divided into two components, the course covers a range of literary and non-literary texts, fostering analytical thinking and effective communication. Key components include understanding language, exploring texts, and creative writing. Assessment involves exams and non-exam assessments, providing a holistic evaluation of students' abilities. The course aims to enhance critical thinking, literacy, and communication skills, preparing students for further academic pursuits and real-world applications.

**Functional Skills** - The Pearson Functional Skills English specification focuses on practical language skills essential for everyday life and employment. Divided into three components - reading, writing, and speaking, listening, and communicating - the course aims to develop proficiency in understanding and using English effectively. Assessment includes practical tasks and real-world scenarios, emphasizing the application of language skills. The Functional Skills English qualification is designed to enhance employability and provide a solid foundation for various contexts, ensuring students are well-equipped for the demands of the modern world.

Hi, we are  
Jason and  
Claire and we  
teach English.



"I have enjoyed creating my own

stories and reading well know text".

## What will you gain?

A GCSE in English Language  
or a Functional Skills Level  
1/2

## What's the next step?

Explore further education  
or employment  
opportunities leveraging  
enhanced language skills.

## You could be a...

Pursue careers in  
journalism, teaching,  
marketing, and a variety of  
professions by leveraging  
strong language skills or.

## KS4 Math Mastery Starts Here!

# Maths

### What is in the course?

**GCSE** - Embark on an exciting mathematical journey with the AQA GCSE Maths specification designed for Key Stage 4 students. Covering core topics like Number, Algebra, Geometry, and Statistics, this curriculum ensures a solid foundation for real-world problem-solving. Expect a diverse assessment approach with non-calculator and calculator papers, plus a dedicated problem-solving exam. Each component hones your skills and prepares you for the challenges that lie ahead.

Gain invaluable skills in critical thinking and reasoning, enhancing your problem-solving abilities. AQA GCSE Maths is not just about exams; it's a gateway to future studies in various fields. Accessible resources, supportive teachers, and a focus on key skills make this journey both enriching and rewarding. Embrace the adventure, unlock your potential, and let AQA GCSE Maths be your key to success!

**Functional Skills** - Get ready to explore the practical side of mathematics with Functional Skills Maths at KS4! This specification is tailored to equip you with essential numeracy skills applicable to real-life situations. From budgeting and problem-solving to understanding data, you'll delve into topics that make mathematics relevant and meaningful.

Expect a hands-on approach, focusing on how to use mathematical concepts in everyday scenarios. Whether it's calculating expenses, interpreting graphs, or solving practical problems, Functional Skills Maths prepares you for the challenges of the real world.

The assessment is designed to showcase your ability to apply mathematical skills in various contexts, ensuring that what you learn goes beyond the classroom. Dive into the world of Functional Skills Maths, where math becomes a powerful tool for navigating the complexities of daily life!



"Problem-solving feels like cracking exciting puzzles"

### What will you gain?

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) qualification in Mathematics/Functional skills Entry Level - Level 2

### What's the next step?

You can progress to A-levels, vocational courses, or apprenticeships, unlocking diverse academic and career pathways.

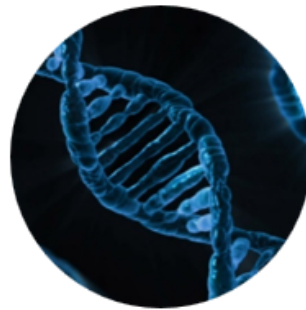
### You could be a...

You can explore positions such as administrative roles, retail jobs, data entry positions, and customer service roles that need numeracy skills.

Enjoy living things? You'll like

**What is in the course?**

Students studying the Biology GCSE will learn about the variety found in living organisms as well as the structures and functions of living creatures. The course covers ecology, the environment, reproduction and the structure of living organisms to give a broad knowledge of biological systems.



# ...Biology GCSE

**Transferable  
Skills:**

Problem solving  
Creativity  
Technical skills  
Computer literacy  
Organisation

*"I love Biology because it helps me*

*Understand the world around me."* JM Yr 11

**What will you gain?**

You will be working towards achieving a GCSE assessed by exams.

**What's the next step?**

You could go on to study A-Level Biology at College or a Sixth Form.

**You could be....**

Marine Biologist  
Microbiologist  
Nature Conservationist  
Outdoor Ranger  
Zoologist  
Secondary Teacher

## Empower, Thrive, Learn: PSHE Excellence

### What you learn in PSHE?

Embark on a vital journey with Key Stage 4 PSHE, designed to equip you with essential life skills for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Explore diverse topics such as mental health, relationships, financial literacy, and personal well-being, fostering a deeper understanding of yourself and the world around you. Engage in interactive discussions, real-world scenarios, and activities that encourage critical thinking, empathy, and effective communication.

PSHE is more than just a lesson - it's your guide to personal growth, resilience, and making informed decisions. Whether it's developing emotional intelligence, understanding healthy relationships, or gaining financial literacy, this curriculum prepares you for a successful and fulfilling life beyond the classroom. Embrace the journey, empower yourself, and let KS4 PSHE be your compass to navigate the complexities of life with confidence!



### What will you gain?

It will equip you with crucial life skills such as effective communication, critical thinking, empathy, and decision-making.

### What's the next step?

You can apply the acquired life skills in navigating personal and professional challenges, fostering well-being, and making informed decisions as you go further in education or the workforce

# PSHE

### Transferable Skills:

Communication  
Empathy  
Critical Thinking  
Self-Awareness

"PSHE empowers me; real-world

make

learning

### How PSHE helps.

PSHE equips students for diverse roles in counselling, social work, education, and human resources by fostering essential life skills.

# ...DIVE time

## What is this?

DIVE is where the learners are given the opportunity to learn a new skill or activity, they are encouraged to push themselves out of their comfort zone to gain insight and knowledge into something new.

The sessions are run by outside Coaches and on-site staff



Each term the activities change to fit the season, this gives learners the opportunity to do 3 different activities each year.

## What will you gain?

Knowledge and experience in a different skill, working alongside different learners

## What's the next step?

You can build on the skills and use these to gain expertise over time

## How will this help you?...

It gains skills that can be used in other areas. It also teaches social skills and teamwork which can be used when entering the world of work.

...

## ...Employability and Development Skills

### What is this?

This qualification is designed to help you acquire and develop workplace skills. This course provides you with the transferable skills and knowledge to help you enter the workplace with confidence in your own abilities whatever career pathway you choose.



Communication

Teamwork

Problem solving

Creative thinking

Resilience

Independent living skills

Money management

### What will you gain?

Successful completion on this course leads to an entry level vocational qualification.

### What's the next step?

With this qualification, you could progress towards paid or voluntary employment. You could also progress towards an apprenticeship.

### How will this help you?...

Employers really value skills. This course will help you show employers that you have the skills needed to be a great employee.

Ignite and engage

# History

## What is in the course?

This course will develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British and wider world history. You will organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions. You will be studying subjects like Crime and Punishment, People's health, Migration, War and British Society, power, Monarchy and democracy.



## Transferable Skills:

You will engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers.

## What will you gain?

An entry level 3 or Level 1 certificate in History

## What's the next step?

Progression - this Entry Level Certificate is a general qualification designed to enable learners to progress either directly to employment or to foundation level courses

## You could be involved...

The progress of some learners during the course might be sufficient to allow their transfer to a History GCSE (9-1) course.

Interested in Technology? You'll like...

# ...Digital Tech

## AIMS

### What is in the course?

AIMS Digital offers innovative digital learning solutions designed to enhance workforce skills and knowledge retention. The course emphasizes instructional design, multimedia integration, and the use of emerging technologies like 3D modeling, augmented reality (AR), and virtual reality (VR). Tailored to meet specific organizational training needs, it combines interactive content with measurable learning outcomes. Learners engage with immersive experiences that simplify complex topics and promote practical understanding. With a focus on flexibility and engagement, AIMS Digital's approach supports both corporate and educational environments, ensuring learners gain relevant, applicable skills in today's fast-evolving digital landscape.

### Transferable Skills:

Communication  
Research  
Analytic

Hi I'm Jason, I teach Media/digital tech at The Stable School.



"I really love watching and talking about films and different digital technology"- KP, Year 10

### What will you gain?

AIM Qualifications Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Working in Digital Technology Industries

### What's the next step?

You could go on to study digital tech courses at College and progress to Higher Education.

### You could be a...

1. Software Development & Engineering
2. Data & Analytics
3. UX/UI & Digital Design
4. Emerging Tech & Innovation

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

## Enjoy art? You'll like...

### What is in the course?

This AIM qualification is all about developing your creative skills and exploring different areas of art and design. You'll get hands-on experience with a variety of materials, tools, and techniques while working on exciting projects. You'll learn how to research artists and designers, develop your own ideas, and create final pieces that show your personal style. The course may include painting, drawing, 3D work, digital design, textiles, or photography, depending on your interests and the level you study at.



*"I particularly enjoyed the lino printing and creating designs on fabric." DH Year 11*



Hi I'm Rosie,  
I teach  
Creative  
Design at

## ...Creative Design

### What will you gain?

An accredited AIMVOC qualification at Entry Level, Level 1 or 2 (Level 2 is equivalent to grades 9-4 at GCSE).

### What's the next step?

You could progress to A higher-level AIM qualification (such as Level 3)  
A college course in Art and Design, Media, Photography, Fashion, Graphics or  
An apprenticeship in a creative subject

### You could work in...

Advertising and Marketing  
Fashion and Design  
Film and TV  
Animation & Game design  
illustration  
& More

Enjoy activity & leisure? You'll like...

## What is in the course?

The BTEC Sport course at Level 1 & 2 offers a comprehensive introduction to the world of sport and physical activity for students aged 14 to 16. This course encompasses core units covering fitness, anatomy, and practical sports performance. Additionally, students can choose specialist units tailored to their interests, such as sports coaching or leadership in sport.

Assessment methods include a mix of written assignments, practical demonstrations, and observation of sports performance, fostering a holistic evaluation of both theoretical understanding and practical skills. The course emphasizes real-world application through engagement in sports activities, work placements, or community projects.

"I enjoy sport leadership, it improves my

"confidence and social skills" - Year 11

# BTEC Sport



## What will you gain?

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First  
Award in Sport

## What's the next step?

Completion of the BTEC Sport course at these levels serves as a pathway to further education or entry-level positions in the sports industry.

## You could be a...

Potential careers in  
sports/leisure-related  
fields.

Sports coach  
Leisure Assistant  
Travel Agent

Entrepreneurial? You'll like...

## What is in the course?

GCSE Business Studies is perfect for students looking to learn a wide range of skills essential to running a business. Such as managing money, advertising, and employing staff. Students will use their knowledge and understanding to research different businesses from small enterprises to large multinational corporations in local, national and global contexts.



# ...Business Studies GCSE

"Although it's not easy, Business Studies is quite straightforward. You have to use your memory a lot, but we do a lot of quizzes to get it stuck in our brains."

L.H. Yr 10

## Transferable Skills:

Communication  
Decision Making  
Analysis  
Presentation Skills  
Project Management

## What will you gain?

You will be working towards achieving a GCSE assessed by exams.

## What's the next step?

You could go on to study A-Level Business Studies at college. Or work towards starting your own business.

## You could be...

Self-employed in any industry  
Entrepreneur  
Start-up developer

Enjoy cooking? You'll like...

# ...Catering

## What is in the course?

We will be learning all about food and nutrition, health and hygiene, basic and complex dishes. This is in addition to key skills such as knife work and cooking a range of basic savoury and sweet dishes. During the course we will complete around 50% practical work and 50% theory. The assessment will be ongoing during the course with no exam. This course is for anyone who may be interested in a career in catering but also for those who enjoy cooking and wish to gain some essential life skills.

*"Catering is fun and productive.*

*It relieves stress." - Luke, Year 10*



## What will you gain?

An accredited AIMVOC qualification at Entry Level 3 and Level 1 (AIM do not offer this course at a L2).

## What's the next step?

You could progress to a catering course at college or apply for an apprenticeship in the catering industry.

## You could be a...

Chef  
Events Manager  
Restaurant employee  
Private caterer  
Cake maker and more!

Good at building? You'll like...

# ...Construction



Hi I'm Baz, I  
teach  
Construction at  
The Stable  
School.

We will be learning how to plan, design and make small building projects using different types of material such as wood, brick and many more! You will also learn how to use the tools needed in the various building trades with a focus on carpentry. We will be looking into the health and safety that is required to work in the construction industry. The course will be mostly practical with assessment ongoing.

"I really enjoy meeting people from  
trades and learning new skills" - MR Year 10



## What will you gain?

An accredited AIMVOC  
qualification at Entry  
Level, Level 1 or 2 (Level  
2 is equivalent to grades  
9-4 at GCSE).

## What's the next

You could progress to a  
construction course at  
college or apply for an  
apprenticeship in the  
construction industry.

## You could be a...

Carpenter/Joiner  
Contracts Manager  
Quantity Surveyor  
Site Manager  
Self-employed Builder

## Adventure, Skills, Leadership: DofE Shapes Futures

# Duke of Edinburgh

### What is in the course?

Embark on a thrilling journey with the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) qualification designed for Key Stage 4 students. This unique program challenges you to step outside your comfort zone, embracing the spirit of adventure, personal development, and community service. Through a series of exciting expeditions, skill development, physical activities, and volunteering opportunities, you'll not only build resilience and self-confidence but also foster a sense of responsibility and teamwork.

The DofE Award isn't just about earning a badge - it's a chance to discover your strengths, explore new passions, and make a positive impact in your community. Embrace the challenge, push your boundaries, and let the Duke of Edinburgh Award be your passport to self-discovery and a world of endless possibilities!

### Transferable Skills:

Leadership  
Teamwork  
Resilience

Hi, I'm Dave, I lead Duke of Edinburgh at The Stable School.



"Duke of Edinburgh transformed me into a

resilient and capable individual"

### What will you gain?

Completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award offers a prestigious recognition for your achievements (Bronze, Silver & Gold)

### What's the next step? You could be involved...

Completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award, you can leverage newfound skills, enhance college applications, bolster CVs, and confidently pursue future academic and career opportunities.

In Leadership roles, outdoor education, community development, or sectors valuing teamwork, resilience, and diverse skill sets.

**My Option Choices**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Choice</u></b>	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Choice</u></b>	<b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> Choice</u></b>
<b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Choice</u></b>	<b><u>5<sup>th</sup> Choice</u></b>	

**I approve that these have been gone through with the student and I agree with the choices made.**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/carer/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_