

Options 2024



Pershire High School



What to consider when choosing your GCSE Options

Year 9 – Transition from KS3

Top 3 **positive** responses to the following questions (November 2023):

- Have you learnt about different careers other than those of your parents and/or family? **73%**
- Do you have ideas about what job or career you might do in the future? **74%**
- Do you know what subjects you want to study for GCSE? **80%**

Parents/Carers
Please encourage your child to:-

- Continue to discuss and **research** future career ideas together. Their choices may differ following this evening.
- Continue to develop **‘employability skills’** through education, hobbies, interests and work experience (Years 10 and 12)



<https://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/>

Year 9 – Transition from KS3

**Parents/Carers
Please encourage
your child to:-**

- **Research** the available pathways thoroughly to make informed choices (useful websites can be found in the options booklet to be sent electronically)
- Think about post-16 options and providers – PHS Sixth Form, College, Apprenticeships and University.

Top 3 **negative** responses to the following questions (November 2023):

- Do you understand this option after Year 11: BTEC? **12%**
- Do you understand this option after Year 11: T-Levels? **21%**
- Do you know any trustworthy websites that can help you decide what you want to do in the future? **24%**

Research together...



www.skills4worcestershireshire.co.uk/



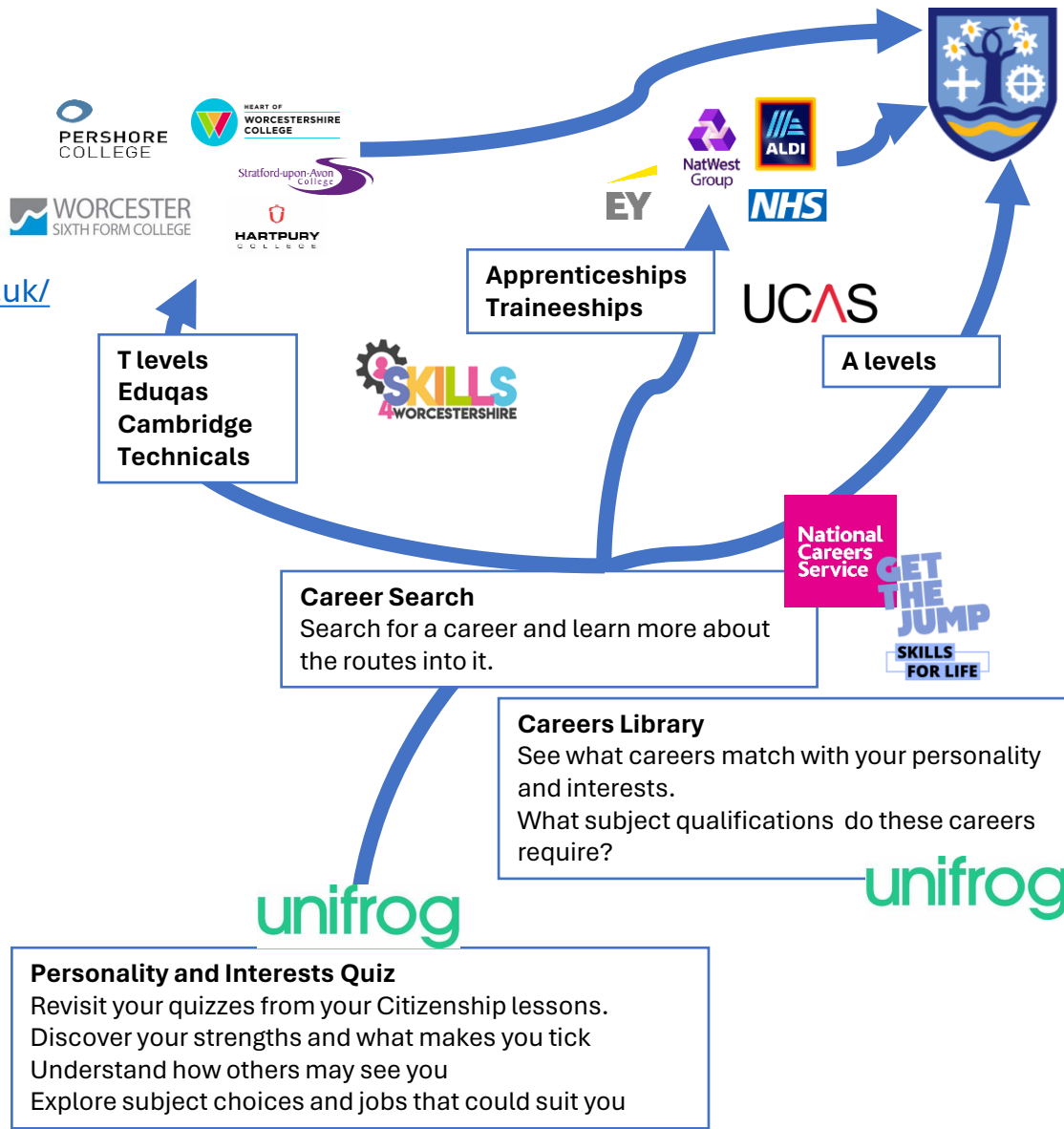
www.ucas.com



<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>



<https://www.unifrog.org/>



An **apprenticeship** is a job where you'll:

- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- get time for training and study related to your role
- The training might be at your place of work, a college, a training provider or online.
- Usually four days at work, one day in college.

Intermediate apprenticeships — Level 2

Advanced apprenticeships — Level 3

Higher apprenticeships — Level 4 and 5

Degree apprenticeships — Level 5, 6 and 7

Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships cover **over 170 industries**
- **90% of apprentices** find a job within the field they are interested in very quickly after finishing an apprenticeship.



VTQs (Vocational Technical Level)

- focus on a specific job or a broad employment area, such as childcare, engineering or IT.
- usually taken at a school or college.
- useful if you have a strong interest in working in a particular industry.

Types of VTQ include:

- **Eduqas**: level 1 and 2 qualifications
- **Cambridge Nationals / Technicals**: level 2 and 3 qualifications
- **T Levels**: level 3 qualifications

T Level (Technical Level)

- nationally-recognised qualification for 16 to 19-year-olds
- takes 2 years to complete.
- leading businesses and employers helped design T Levels
- roughly equal to 3 A levels.

Also for consideration...

For their GCSE option choices, our Year 9 students should consider:

- The subjects they enjoy.
- The subjects they are good at.
- The style of learning they prefer.

In Summary:

Before this evening:

Students should have logged on to **Unifrog** to see if the subjects they want to study will play to their strengths / lead to a future career they want to do.

During this evening:

Talk to subject teachers about the course content and workload.

After this evening:

See if the subjects your child wants to pick will lead to a career they have researched with yourselves on **Unifrog**.

Options Pathways 2024



Pershire High School

Key Dates

Thursday 22nd Feb
4.30 – 7.00 p.m.

**Year 9 Options and Parents'
Evening**

Monday 4th March

**Deadline for the
completion of Options
Online**

March – June

**Interviews (if appropriate) with senior
staff about the choices made**

July

**Notification of allocated Options
subjects to students and parents**



Perschore High School

Reformed GCSEs

- Graded 9 -1
- Result based on a final exam plus NEAs (Non Examination Assessments) for some subjects

GCSE equivalents

- OCR Cambridge Nationals and Eduqas Technical Awards
- Graded Distinction* to Pass (Level 1 or 2) using a combination of exams and NEAs.



Reformed GCSE Grades 9 - 1

Reformed GCSE	Equivalent to Old GCSE
9	Top 20% of those at G 7 or above
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5 Good Pass	2/3 of a grade higher than a C
4 Standard Pass	C
3	D
2	E
1	F/G



Qualification Levels

Entry Level – just below GCSE level

Level One – equivalent to GCSE grades 3 - 1

Level Two – equivalent to GCSE grades 9 - 4

Maths, Languages and Science have tiered entry:

Foundation G 5-1, Higher G 9-4



Perschore High School

GCSE equivalents (Levels 1 & 2)

	GCSE Equivalent	Reformed GCSE
Level 2	Distinction*	9
		8
	Distinction	7
	Merit	6
		5 Good Pass
	Pass	4 Standard Pass
Level 1	Distinction	3
	Merit	2
	1Pass	1



GCSE equivalents (Levels 1 & 2)

Child Development (Cambridge National)

Enterprise & Marketing (Cambridge National)

Hospitality & Catering (Eduqas Tech Award)

Performing Arts (Eduqas Tech Award)

Sports Science (Cambridge National)



The Core Curriculum

- English and English Literature (8)
- Mathematics (7)
- Science (2 GCSEs) (11)
- Society and Ethics – includes Religious Studies, PSHE, Citizenship & Careers (1)
- Physical Education (3)



Science

AQA Combined Science

- AQA Trilogy
- All students have (a total of 11) lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- 2 GCSEs (eg 7-7 or 6-5)

AQA Separate Sciences

- 3 GCSEs – one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- **Only available as an option.**
- Additional 5 lessons across the sciences
- Cover extra content and explore skills and knowledge in more depth

Foundation or Higher level entry (as with Maths and MFL)

Students may continue on to any Science at A Level regardless of route providing they meet the entry requirements.



WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science or Separate Sciences
- **History or Geography**
- **French, German or Spanish***

***Note – you must be studying the language in Key Stage 3 in order to take it for GCSE**

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR PROSPECTS

While you may not have decided on your future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives you access to a full range of employment options when you leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If you are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



Why study the Ebacc subjects?

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.

Research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

Sutton Trust

Studying Ebacc subjects provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.

UCL Institute of Education

The government's ambition is to see 90% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2025.

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Studying French, German and/or Spanish can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities.

They can also broaden your horizons, helping you flourish in new environments. While it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance your future opportunities.

Employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes.

The Optional Pathways

- Level 1 College Pathway

1 morning at college (or in school) and 2 GCSE (or equivalent) courses and support for English and Maths

- 4 Option Pathway

4 GCSE, or equivalent, optional subjects

Must choose **at least one** from French, German, Spanish, History and Geography

- Ebacc Pathway

Choose either French, German or Spanish **and** either Geography or History plus 2 other subjects



Level 1 College Pathway

Comprises:

- Level 1 College course – **typically:**

Animal Welfare
Horticulture
Motor Vehicle

- Thursday mornings at Pershore College or in School
- Two other optional GCSE, or equivalent, subjects at Level 1 / 2
- Extra help with English and Maths GCSEs
- Most appropriate for students with targets G 1 – 3.
- Limited availability
- Progression
- **Must** contact Mr Howell to discuss first



Level 1 College Pathway

Level 1 College Pathway

Level 1 College

You have chosen **2 of 2**  courses from this list



Animal Care (2) Other

Horticulture (2) Other

Motor Vehicle (2) Other

Choice

GCSE or Equivalent

You have chosen **2 of 2**  courses and **1 of 1**  reserves from this list

Art GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Child Development

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Enterprise and Marketing

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Food & Nutrition GCSE Full Course

Reserve

French GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Geography GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Creative iMedia

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Performing Arts BTEC

BTEC Award Level 2

Reserve

Sports Studies

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Design and Technology

GCSE Full Course

Reserve

4 Option Pathway

- Students should follow a **broad and balanced** curriculum
- Choose subjects you enjoy but keep your options open and develop a range of skills including linguistic, practical and artistic

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc):

- Students aiming for all G 5 or higher should seriously consider a combination which leads to the recognition of the Ebacc

French, German and/or Spanish
and Geography and/or History
and two other optional subjects



4 Option Pathway

List 1

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

German GCSE Full Course Choice

i This course is also available in List 2

History GCSE Full Course

i You have selected this course in List 2

French GCSE Full Course

i This course is also available in List 2

Geography GCSE Full Course

i You have selected this course in List 2

List 2

You have chosen 3 of 3 courses and 2 of 2 reserves from this list

Art GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Business Studies GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Child Development

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Computer Science GCSE Full Course

Reserve

German GCSE Full Course

Reserve

i You have selected this course in List 1

Drama GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Enterprise and Marketing

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Food & Nutrition GCSE Full Course

Reserve

French GCSE Full Course

Reserve

i This course is also available in List 1

Geography GCSE Full Course Reserve

Reserve

i This course is also available in List 1

History GCSE Full Course Choice

Reserve

i This course is also available in List 1

Creative iMedia

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Music GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Performing Arts BTEC

BTEC Award Level 2

Reserve

Religious Studies GCSE Full Course

Reserve

Separate Sciences

GCSE 9 - 1 Double Course

Reserve

Sports Studies

Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2

Reserve

Technology GCSE Full Course Choice

Reserve

Order of Preference

My Choices in Order of Preference

(Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 **French**
GCSE Full Course List 1

2 **Computing**
GCSE Full Course List 2

3 **Business Studies**
GCSE Full Course List 2

4 **History**
GCSE Full Course List 2

My Reserves in Order of Preference

(Total Reserves: 2)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 **Technology**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course List 2

2 **Philosophy & Ethics**
GCSE Full Course List 2



Approval and Comments

▼ Student Comments

Add any comments here

▼ Parent/Carer Approval

Parent/Carer Approval



Please note!

- Not every combination is possible.
- Some subjects may be oversubscribed.
- Some may not be popular enough to run.
- **Reserve** subject choices are essential.
- Put thought into your **preference order**.
- Interview with a senior member of staff if we cannot fulfil all of your subject choices.



Options Online Registration - Students

- You will receive an email to your school account from SIMS Online.
- Click on **'Accept this Invitation'** at the start of the email and follow the instructions.
- Then enter your Date of Birth and click **Verify**
- The next screen confirms your details and has an Invitation Code pre-populated. Click **Register**.
- Set up a SIMS account, following the instructions
- For subsequent logins use this link www.sims-options.co.uk and sign in with your new SIMS login



Options Online Registration – Parents

- You have received an invitational email from SIMS and also one from PHS with a guidance document.
- Click on '**Accept this Invitation**' at the start of the email and follow the instructions.
- The next screen confirms your details and has an Invitation Code pre-populated. Click **Register**.
- Then enter **your son/daughter's** Date of Birth and click **Verify**.
- Create a SIMS account or use a third party login (Google, Facebook etc.)
- Download the SIMS Parent App or use this link www.sims-parent.co.uk and use your new SIMS login or third-party login
- Look for Options
- You can see (but not edit!) your son/daughter's choices (once made) and give your **approval** by ticking the box at the bottom.

Submitting your choices

- Decide on your Pathway
 - Discuss Level 1 College Pathway with Mr Howell (jh@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) or your Head of House
- Register with Options Online
- Make your choices
- Get parental approval



What Next....



- Think carefully
- Make decisions for the right reasons
- Best pathway for you
- Ask for advice from others

Deadline is Monday 4th March

(no advantage in early submission)

- Changes (subject to timetable and space) up until end of Sept.