



**SHIRELAND
CBSO ACADEMY**

Year 9 Pathways

Mr Green

Tuesday 3rd February 2026





Year 9 Pathways Overview

- What are Year 9 pathways?
- How do pathways and careers interlink?
- The pathways and support available for students.



What are Year 9 Pathways?

- This is the process of deciding the qualifications you will take at the end of Year 11. These are GCSE or equivalent qualifications. Some equivalent qualifications are BTECs or V Certs; they all have the same value.
- Qualifications studied in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) are what are known as Level 2 qualifications.
- GCSEs are graded 1-9 with 9 the highest. BTECs are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.
- Some subjects will be compulsory.
- The first chance for students to choose which subjects they want to study.
- The first chance to specialise in areas that interest them.



How do pathways and careers interlink?

- GCSEs are a gateway to the next step in education and getting a job in the field that your child would like to work in. All students must be in education until the age of 18.
- This is why, even at this point, thinking about the following step is important. For example, will you be doing A-Levels or a practical course? If you do not pick a subject at GCSE, you may find the A-Level more challenging, for example the sciences.
- While this choice does not definitely lock off any career, it will influence future direction.
- Not getting grade 4s in English and Mathematics means compulsory retakes throughout Post 16.



- What does the job I want pay?
- Where is the job I want located?
- What grades do I need?
- Do I want to go to university?
- Who do I want to work for?
- What does a normal day look like?
- Do I want to work with computers all day?
- Do I want to work outside?
- Do I want to work from home?
- Do I want to work in this country?
- Could I see myself doing this for 50 years?





Job Market Changes

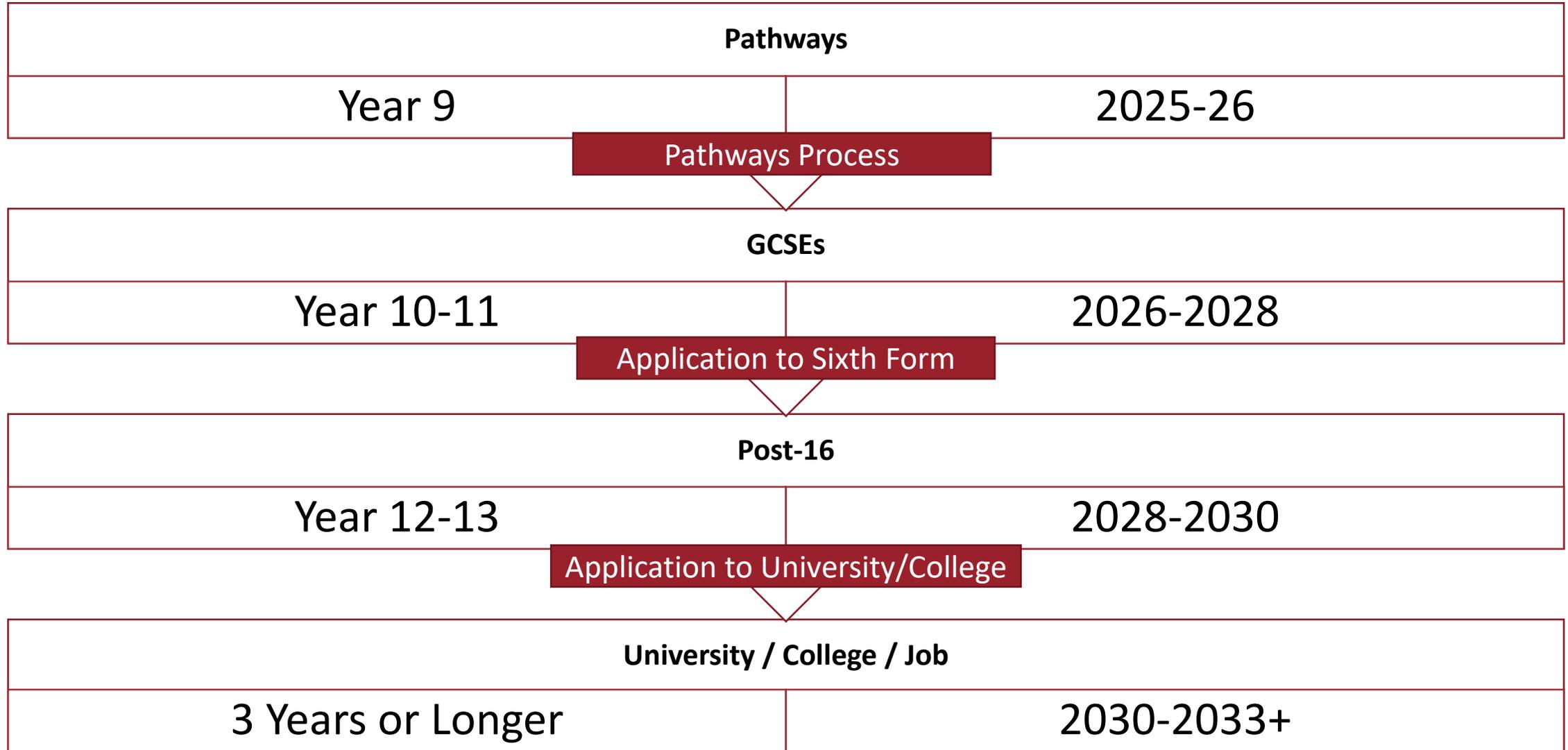
- Globalisation
- Mechanisation
- Cheap Imports
- Social Change
- AI



- You need to have skills that people need when you start to enter the job market.



Timeline





The Pathways

Every student at the Academy will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (worth two GCSEs)
- At least one Music and/or Music Technology qualification.

You will then have two further options. You will therefore get 8 GCSE or equivalent qualifications at the end of Year 11.

Pathways



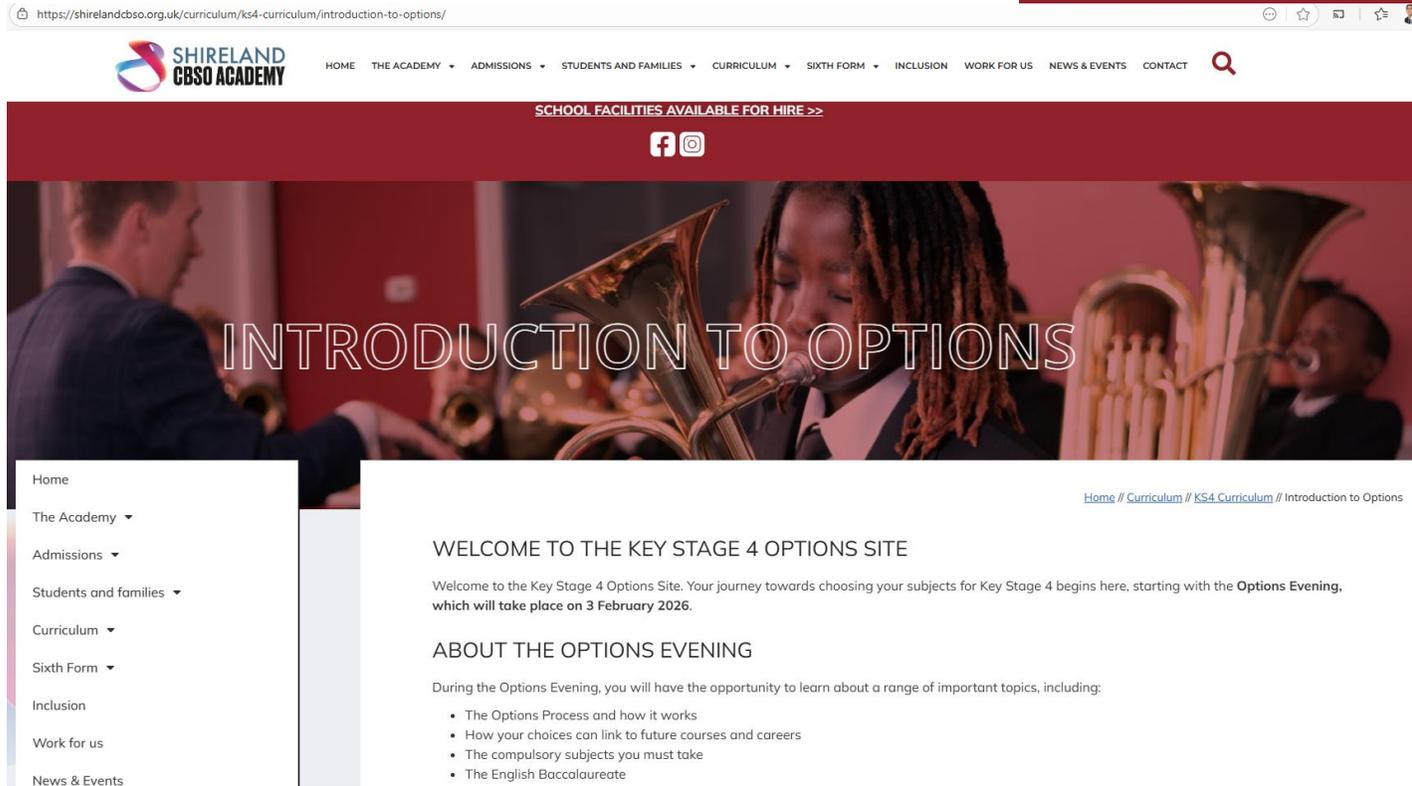
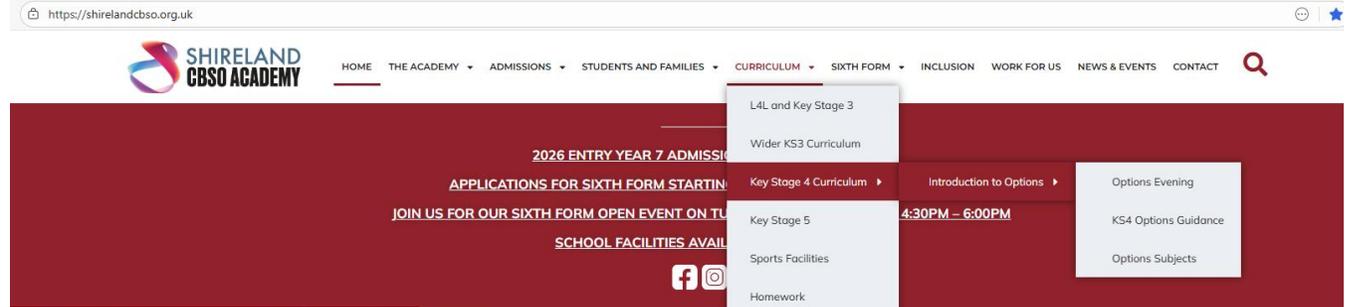
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Music	Music	Music
Music Practice (BTEC)	Music Technology (VCert)	Music Technology (VCert)
Triple Science	Computer Science	Geography
History	Geography	French
Art	History	Citizenship
Textiles	Physical Education (BTEC)	Food
Physical Education (BTEC)	Religious Education	Dance
Creative Media Production (BTEC)	Drama	

Support for Students



- As part of this process, we will complete our Y9 L4L Careers theme. During this, students will explore careers and future pathways as well as completing a SWOT analysis and labour market research. This will allow them to be as informed as possible when selecting their final pathway choices.
- Y9 Pathways website available, providing key details of all of the courses offered.
- Friday 6th February - Pathways Focus Day, including guidance on how to use the website and complete the MS Form.
- Across Years 7–9, students receive progressive careers advice and guidance through L4L themes that build their awareness of different industries, essential skills, and future pathways. Personal Development lessons complement this by explicitly teaching decision-making, aspirations, personal strengths, and employability skills, ensuring students understand how their learning connects to real-world opportunities. Together, L4L and PD provide a structured, age-appropriate foundation that prepares students for our Pathways process.
- Deadline for pathways MS Form submission: 8am on Monday 23rd February 2026.

Pathways Website



[Introduction to Options - Shireland CBSO Academy](#)

Notes



- The English Baccalaureate consists of studying English, Mathematics, Science, a language and either History or Geography. The government considers this combination of subjects to represent a strong academic grounding.
- We do not insist on students selecting both a language and History or Geography, but strongly advise that students select at least one subject from: History, Geography, French (or home language), Triple Science, or Computer Science.
- There are some combinations of subjects that students cannot take as the qualifications substantially overlap:
 - GCSE Art and GCSE Textiles
 - GCSE Music and BTEC Music Practice

Notes



- There are entry requirements for Triple Science and Computer Science, with students needing to be on track for a grade 6 or higher in Science and Mathematics respectively.
- The Academy aims to enable as many students as possible to study their first choice GCSEs. The Academy reserves the right to amend option blocks once student preferences have been collated if doing so would enable more students to study their first-choice subjects.
- There are minimum and maximum group sizes for each subject; the Academy will assess the viability of groups once student responses have been collated.

Notes



- We are exploring the possibility of offering students a ninth GCSE to be taken after-school, with GCSEs in French and Dance being explored in order to widen students' choices.
- We are also able to enter students for a GCSE in a home language, although please note that this won't include tuition for students. A list of eligible languages is available on the MS Form that students will fill in.
- If you make a mistake on the MS Form, you can submit it again; we'll take your final submission received before the deadline as your final response. Please note that any changes after the deadline won't be taken into account.



Completing the Pathways Form

Deadline for completion: 8am on Monday 23rd February 2026

- Students should select three subject choices per block in preference order. We will look to maximise the number of students studying their first-choice subjects.
- Where numbers exceed places on a course, first priority will be given to those students who meet the submission deadline.
- If there is a combination of subjects that you would have liked to study but it isn't possible, please make a note of this on the form.



Oversubscription

Where a class is oversubscribed and students have met the submission deadline, we will:

- Firstly, see if we have capacity for an additional class.
- Secondly, apportion places based on our view of the most appropriate students for the class.
- Thirdly, ask students if they wish to swap voluntarily.
- Fourthly, decide by random allocation.

Not all wishes are always fulfilled in this process which is why we ask for back up choices.



The Pathways Form



← Back Computer Mobile

Back

Year 9 Pathways

This form is for you to indicate your KS4 subject preferences. Before completing you should ensure you have read the Student Guide to the Pathways Process and visited the subject pages on our Academy website. Please note that if you choose to submit this form more than once, the most recent one submitted prior to the deadline will be used. Forms submitted after the deadline will be considered last.

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

* Required

1. Student's Surname *

Enter your answer

2. Student's First Name *

Enter your answer

3. Student's Form Group * 9A 9B

Option 1

In this section you will be asked to identify your first, second and third choice subject from Option 1.

5. Please choose your FIRST choice subject. *

- Music
- BTEC Music Practice
- Triple Science
- History
- Art
- Textiles
- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Digital Creative Media

6. Please choose your SECOND choice subject. *

- Music
- BTEC Music Practice
- Triple Science
- History

[Year 9 Pathways – Fill in form](#)

Advice - Do



- **VISIT** the pathways website and look carefully over each subject.
- **ASK** subject teachers, your L4L teacher or Head of Year if there is anything you are not sure about or if you would like more information.
- **THINK** about all the subjects open to you.
- **THINK** carefully about your possible educational and career future.
- **TALK** about your ideas and choices with your parents/carers.
- **TALK** about subjects you are choosing with teachers of that subject.
- **CHECK** you are definite about your choices before sending in your final form.
- **MAKE SURE** that if you want to do a subject and are unsure of whether you meet the entry requirements you see the Head of Department and get them to agree.



Advice – Don't

- **DON'T** choose a subject simply because your friends are choosing it. Their needs may be totally different from yours and you probably will not be in the same teaching group anyway.
- **DON'T** choose a subject just because you like the teacher; you may have a different teacher next year.
- **DON'T** choose a subject just because it is new or because it sounds glamorous. Check it out carefully.
- **DON'T** be late with your completing your Pathways Form.



Advice

- Consider pathways which will be complementary with future ambition.
- If you are not sure, go for a solid academic base.
- Some specialisms now will help you decide if it is the career you really want to embark on.



Things you need to know

- All students must be in education or training until the age of 18.
- English and Maths GCSE have compulsory retakes for anyone not gaining a 4.
- GCSE grades make a big difference to university entries and job applications.
- In order to do well, students will need to put in effort, attend study support and revise. This is a partnership but if students are not working as hard as their teachers then they will not succeed. We will need support from families to enable students to succeed.



Next Steps

- Visit the stands to find out more about subjects and talk to staff.
- Think carefully about your choices and discuss them as a family.
- Make an appointment to speak to someone if you need advice and guidance.
- Talk to individual staff or teachers if necessary before making your decision.
- Complete the MS Form by the deadline – **8am on Monday 23rd February 2026**

Questions

