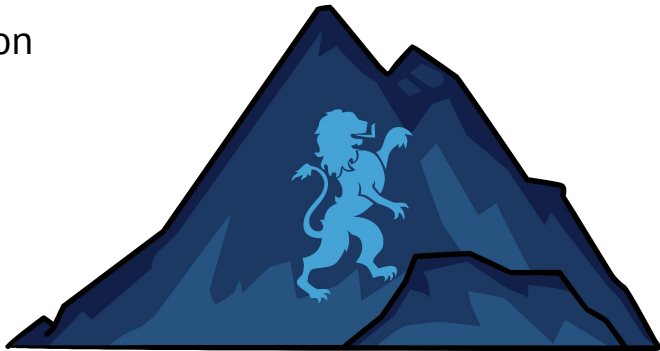




**HARTLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**Year 9 Options Evening  
11th February 2026**

# Our Vision



**Every child will climb their own personal mountain to the very best universities in the country or careers of their choosing.**



# How?

- Options is a process which is carefully constructed across many weeks
- Students and families will be updated regularly
- We want our students and you as parents and carers to feel fully informed and supported



## Our Vision - as supported by this process

- Reflective students
- Informed students
- Motivated students
- Confident students
- Articulate students
- **Leading to outstanding progress across Years 10 and 11** (and also the summer term of Year 9)





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**What is 'options', what subjects are available,  
how are they graded, why does it matter?**

## Options - what is it?

- Choosing your subjects for GCSEs and/or vocational qualifications
- All students study a set of core subjects
- Additionally you study another four subjects - these are your 'options'
- In order to support the selection of these four subjects, we will ask you to select and rank order six option subjects



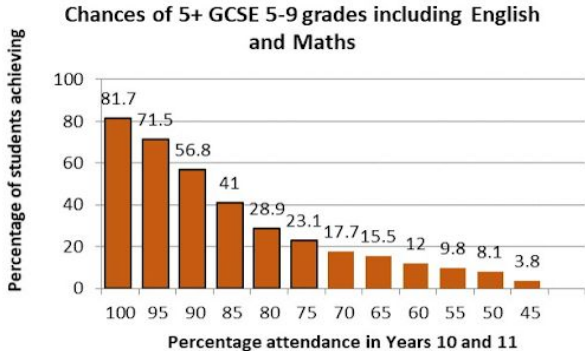
## Key points

- Everyone will study a full set of qualifications
- All subjects are valuable - there is no hierarchy
- All combinations are good combinations
- No combination is limiting
- Excellent attendance is vital for success



# Attendance

Evidence from a Department for Education study shows a strong correlation between school attendance and GCSE success. The chart below illustrates this:



## Compulsory subjects for all students

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science (worth two GCSEs)
- Either or both of Geography and History
- PE (practical lessons, no exam)
- PSHE (no exam)



## Options choices - rank order six from:

- **History** and/or
- **Geography**
- RE
- Spanish
- Art
- Business
- Drama
- Computer Science
- Music
- PE
- Health and Social Care
- Food Technology



# Why choose a humanities (history, geography, RE)?

## Oxford University research:

1. Humanities graduates develop resilience and flexible skills
2. Humanities subjects open a path to success in a wide range of employment sectors.
3. The skills developed by studying humanities, such as communication, are “highly valued and sought out by employers”.



## Qualification types - GCSEs vs Vocational

- Both qualifications will allow you to study A Levels, T Levels, Level 3 BTECs and Apprenticeships post-16
- GCSEs are usually more written content, more exam based
- Vocational qualifications usually have more practical content, more coursework
- Attendance is vital for success in all subjects

**Key message: choose based on the subject, not the qualification type!**



# Grading structure

<b>GCSE</b>	<b>Btec</b>
Grade 9	L2 Distinction*
8	
7	L2 Distinction
6	L2 Merit
5	
4	L2 Pass
3	L1 Distinction
2	L1 Merit
1	L1 Pass
U	U



# Typical Post-16 requirements

<b>A Level</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Other</b>
English	5+	5+		Minimum of 5 grade 5+
Physics	5+	7+	7+	
Engineering	5+	5+	5+	
Music	5+	5+		An audition
Art	5+	5+		5+ Art
Drama	5+			Minimum of 5 grade 5+ Drama beneficial but not essential





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**What should you choose**

## How should I make my choices?

- Select four subjects (including either/both geography and history or RE) and two other 'reserve' choices (rank these from 1-6)
- Be led by what you **enjoy the most**
- Do not make decisions based on which teachers you like most
- Do not make decisions based on what your friends choose
- Talk about it at home and with teachers at school: **remember you cannot usually change your mind in September.**



## Why do I have to make six choices and rank these?

- Sometimes subjects get full
- Some combinations of subjects might be impossible to timetable: we won't know this until after you make your choices
- Some option subjects may require a strong foundation in core subjects (e.g. Computer Science requires a good basis in Maths)



## What happens if I don't get my first choices?

- We will allocate you one of your reserve choices (those you have ranked 5 or 6)
- In very rare cases, if we cannot allocate the reserve choices, we will meet with the student and family together





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# **Compulsory Examined Subjects**

# Our subjects: English Language

Paper 1 (1h 45m)	Paper 2 (1h 45m)
Fiction Reading: 40 Marks	Non-Fiction Reading: 40 Marks
Fiction Writing: 40 Marks	Non- Fiction Writing: 40 Marks



# Our subjects: English Literature

Paper 1 (1h 50m)	Paper 2 (2h 15m)
Shakespeare: 34 Marks	Modern Drama: 34 Marks
Dickens: 30 Marks	Anthology Poetry: 30 Marks
	Unseen Poetry: 24 Marks
	Unseen Poetry Comparison: 8 marks



# Our subjects: Maths

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Non-calculator Paper	Calculator Paper	Calculator Paper
1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes



# Our subjects: Combined Science

Paper 1 (1hr 15) Higher or Foundation Tier	Paper 2 (1hr 15) Higher or Foundation Tier
Biology B1	Biology B2
Chemistry C1	Chemistry C2
Physics P1	Physics P2



# Our subjects: History

## Content:

1. The Vikings
2. Britain: Health and the people, 1000 - present
3. Germany 1924-1945
4. The Norman Conquest

## Suitable for students with:

1. An interest in developing invaluable, and transferable, skills
2. A keen eye for detail
3. Critical thinking skills
4. An interest in how events, people, and forces helped shape the modern world



# Our subjects: Geography

## Content:

1. Physical- Coasts, Rivers, Climate change, Hazards and Deserts
2. Human- Urbanisation, Trade, Tourism and Migration
3. Fieldwork- Done outside of school

## Suitable for students with:

- Keen eye for detail
- Interested in the events going on around them and around the world
- Decision Making with evidence
- A love for learning about different places & cultures
- Can bring their own world experiences into the classroom



# Our subjects: RE - RWA

## Content:

- Understand the key beliefs & practices of two major world religions.
- Develop your thinking & opinions on ethical issues such as:
  - Are there any meaningful differences between men and women any more?
  - How should society punish criminals?
  - Are humans really that special compared to other animals?
  - Is it ever possible to have a just war?

## Suitable for students with:

- An interest in:
  - Writing down / debating their thoughts.
  - Thinking for themselves about life's big questions.
  - How other people tick.
  - Solving complex ethical dilemmas
- Hopes of a career in:
  - Working with different people e.g. social worker, community worker
  - Law, Politics
  - Journalism, education

### Note to religious students:

As well as all the above, this course will significantly expand and complement your understanding of your faith.



# Our subjects: Drama

## Content:

**Devising Theatre:** learners will be assessed on either acting or design (costume, stage design, lighting or sound).

**Performing from a Text:** learners will be assessed on either acting or design

**Interpreting Theatre:** learners will study a set play and also review one piece of live (professional) theatre

## Suitable for students with:

- An interest in creating original drama
- A passion for theatre
- An interest in exploring the work of modern theatre practitioners
- An understanding of the need for collaborating with others to be successful in life
- Creative energy



# Our subjects: Music

Content:

**Performance:** solo and/or ensemble - instrument or voice.

**Composition:** devise pieces of music from alternative genres

**Musical Knowledge:** explore a range of musical genres and develop understanding of elements of music

Suitable for students with:

- Interest in solo and group performance
- Desire to learn a musical instrument/voice or are currently having lessons
- Interest in exploring musical genres and techniques to explore and develop within their own compositions
- Creativity



# Our subjects: PE

## Content:

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Using data
5. Sports psychology
6. Health fitness and well being
7. Socio cultural influences

## Suitable for students with:

- Keen interest in sport both practically and theoretically
- A good ability in three different sports
- An interest in a lifelong involvement in sport



# Our subjects: Spanish

## Content:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

## Suitable for students with:

- a love of communication
- an interest in languages
- creativity and ability to think differently
- an interest in other cultures
- an interest in travel and exploring other countries
- ambition for the future



# Our subjects: Business

## Content:

1. Business in the real world
2. Influences on business
3. Business operations
4. Human resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

## Suitable for students with:

- Interest in the business, finance and entrepreneurship.
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Basic math skills
- Creative and innovative
- A desire to understand the real business world



# Our subjects: Health and Social Care

## Content:

RO32 - Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care - Written Exam in Y11

RO33 - Impact of Life Events - Coursework

RO34 - Alternative Therapies

## Suitable for students with:

- A passion for people and how they are cared for
- A desire to know more about our NHS Health and Social Care Services and how they support people in their care
- A creative flair for written projects and coursework
- Ability to work independently



# Our subjects: Food Preparation and Nutrition

## Content:

### Topics Studies

1. Diet and Nutrition
2. Food Science
3. Food Safety
4. Food Choices
5. Food Provenance

## Suitable for students with:

1. Interest in Diet, Health Nutrition
2. Love of all things Food
3. Food Product Development
4. Careers within the Food Industry and associated employment:

[https://www.foodfactoflife.org.uk/whole-school/careers-in-food/?utm\\_source=brevio&utm\\_campaign=Education%20News%20-%20March%202025&utm\\_medium=email#Feed](https://www.foodfactoflife.org.uk/whole-school/careers-in-food/?utm_source=brevio&utm_campaign=Education%20News%20-%20March%202025&utm_medium=email#Feed)



# Our subjects: Art

## Content:

1. Investigating sources
2. Experimenting with different media and materials
3. Recording ideas, observations and insights using annotation and drawing.
4. Presenting a personal response to a stimulus

## Suitable for students with:

1. A genuine passion for creating art.
2. A willingness to experiment with different media.
3. A creative and independent mindset.
4. Good organisational skills and time management as well as a willingness to complete work in your own time.



# Our subjects: Computer Science

## Content:

1. Computer systems
2. Network security
3. How software works
4. Ethical and environmental impacts of technology
5. Computational thinking
6. Algorithms
7. Programming languages

## Suitable for students with interests in:

- Problem-solving
- Technology
- Mathematics
- Programming
- Data
- Creativity
- Engineering



<b>11th February</b>	Year 9 Assembly introducing options to students
<b>11th February</b>	Options Evening for families and students
<b>Week of 23rd February</b>	Time for students to think about their options and discuss choices at home and with teachers at school ( <b>support through tutor programme</b> )
<b>Week of 2nd March</b>	Time for students to think about their options and discuss choices at home and with teachers at school
<b>Week of 9th March</b>	Options choices are made via an online form at school during tutor time
<b>March - June</b>	Options entered onto our system and timetable built Meetings with students and families where needed
<b>July</b>	Final GCSE selection confirmed with students and families



## Key points

- **You** are very important to us
- This process is designed to help **you** make good decisions
- Read the ***Options Guide***
- Ask questions at school and at home
- Attend school every day



**Thank you for coming!**  
**There is now time to speak to SLT, Heads of Department  
and Mrs Dallimore (Head of Year)**

