

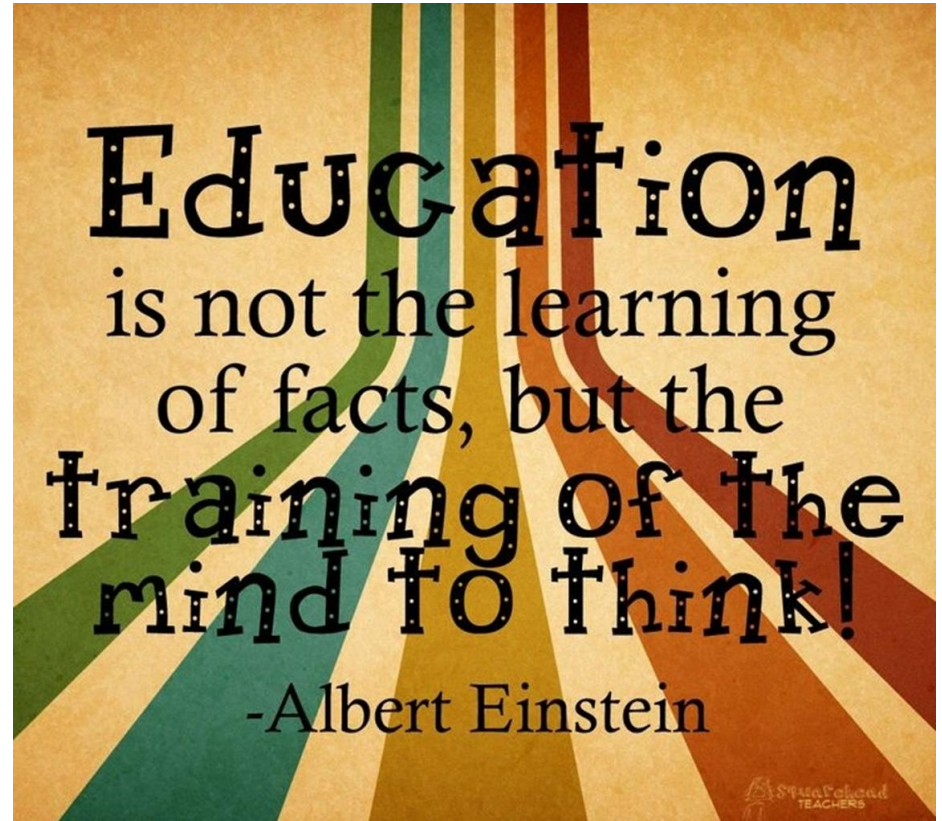


# GCSE/BTEC Level 2 Options Evening

Thursday 5 February 2026

## Important time

- Make informed decisions about the future.
- Take control of your curriculum to reflect your needs.
- Shape your future by being ambitious.



# What will the evening offer you?

The opportunity to:

- Find out what subjects you must study.
- Find out the choices that you have.
- Talk things through with your parents/carers and subject teachers to support your decisions.
- Consider your future needs and ensure your options reflect this.

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# Government developments in education

- Academic rigour – most subjects are linear with examinations at the end of the course and most GCSE courses are graded 9-1.
- Schools must provide a broader curriculum with students taking fewer vocational options - most vocational courses are graded D\*-P.
- The government will deliver a world-leading curriculum and give every child a better, more well-rounded education that sets them up for life after school. The government intends on modernising what children do at school, so they have the right skills and knowledge to thrive in a changing world.

# Raising the participation age



- Some time ago, the government increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training, requiring them to continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.
- This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:
  - Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider – many students choose to remain in Denefield Sixth Form.
  - Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.
  - An apprenticeship.

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# The Denefield journey to success

- High aspirations for, and expectations of, all young people.
- Unique talents and abilities to meet the needs of industry.
- A 'can do' culture and ethos of ambitious attitude.

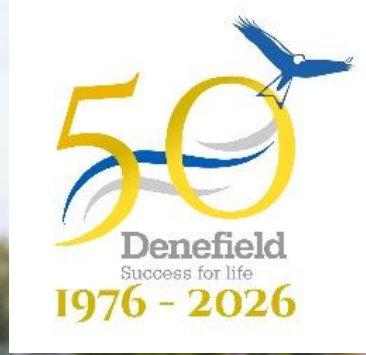


# GCSE Core Curriculum

# The core curriculum

All students will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (combined or triple)
- Physical Education
- CHARACTER/Success for life.



# New qualifications...

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# New qualifications BTEC/Technical Awards

- BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
- BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness
- Level 2 Hospitality and Catering
- GCSE Sociology
- GCSE Film Studies

## NON-Qualification Course:

- Cooking for Life



The pathways...

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# My recommended pathway is 'standard' what does this mean?

Students on this pathway should select either:

- French, Spanish, German (depending on language studied), Geography or History.
- They should then choose any three free choice options.

Students may choose:

- A maximum of one technology option.
- A maximum of one BTEC option.
- A Non-Qualification Course.

# My recommended pathway is 'supported' what does this mean?

Students on this pathway should select:

- ASDAN as one of their options.
- They should then choose any three free choice options.

Students may choose:

- A maximum of one technology option.
- A maximum of one BTEC options.
- A Non-Qualification Course.

# What is a Non-Qualification Course?

This year we are offering a new course called Cooking for Life, the details of which can be found in your options booklet. The course offers students the following:

- a two year course learning to cook
- a course where there is no exam pressure at the end
- the opportunity to learn a wide range of skills including teamwork, events management and enhanced culinary skills.

**This course is an option for all students, but there is only one class**



# Attendance and links to attainment

Attendance to school is of the utmost importance every year, but particularly important when you move into KS4 – Years 10 and 11.

*'At KS4, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (4 - 6 weeks more time in school).'* DfE.

If you currently do not attend school at least 96% of the time, the transition to Year 10 will be an opportunity to improve your attendance.

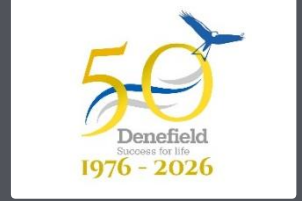
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You have your recommended pathway shown in the letter in your pack.

So, what next...

# What should I do now?



Have your booklets at hand via the QR code on your letter; this has the information you need, to talk to the teachers about the subjects you are interested in.

Take time to talk through the possible careers choices that you have in mind to ensure that the subjects you choose will help your future aspirations. Use Unifrog to help you to research and see Mrs J Jackson, who is here this evening to support with career advice.

Reflect on the frequently asked questions (FAQs) in the booklet.

Choose courses for the right reasons – eg progression to A Level... NOT because you like the teacher or because your friends are choosing it. This is about you and your future!

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# When will I know if there are any problems with my choices?



- Make firm choices on options online by **Friday 27 February 2026**. A Jotform/link will be sent out to select subject options. Do not feel pressure to complete choices sooner. You need to prioritise your choices from 1-6. Four are option choices and two are reserves depending on your pathway. Take your time to fully consider the subjects you want the most and the ones you are happy to take but, not your absolute musts! Please meet the deadline.
- The option blocks will be created when students have made their firm choices. This means that we will try our best to accommodate as many unique choices as possible.
- As part of the Jotform, all Year 9 students will complete a questionnaire about their subject choices and career aspirations so that we can check they have chosen subjects that will support future careers and that they have chosen a balanced curriculum.
- The number of students who opt for a subject will determine whether or not the group will be viable. We will keep students and parents/carers informed, and work with you, if any subject is unable to run.



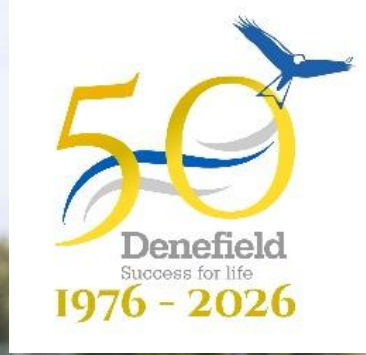
# Deadlines and dates

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# Dates for your diary

- The deadline for completing option Jotforms is:  
Friday 27 February 2026
- Year 9 Parents' Evening will be on:  
Thursday 26 February 2026
- Further meetings for any clashes with subject, oversubscribed subjects or subjects not running will be arranged between:  
TBC



Thank you for listening  
Any questions?

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