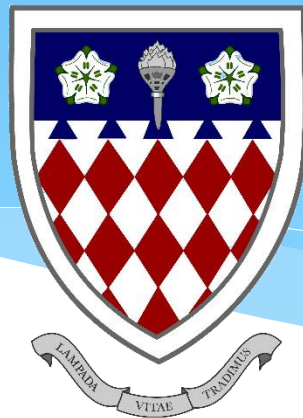


Spalding High School
Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 14th January 2026



The Standard Core Curriculum

The Year 10 and 11 Curriculum

The standard core curriculum at Spalding High School comprises:

- **Core subjects:** English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science
- **A modern foreign language:** German or French
- **A Humanity:** Geography or History
- **Religious Studies**
- **2 other subjects from the option choices**



Non-examination Subjects

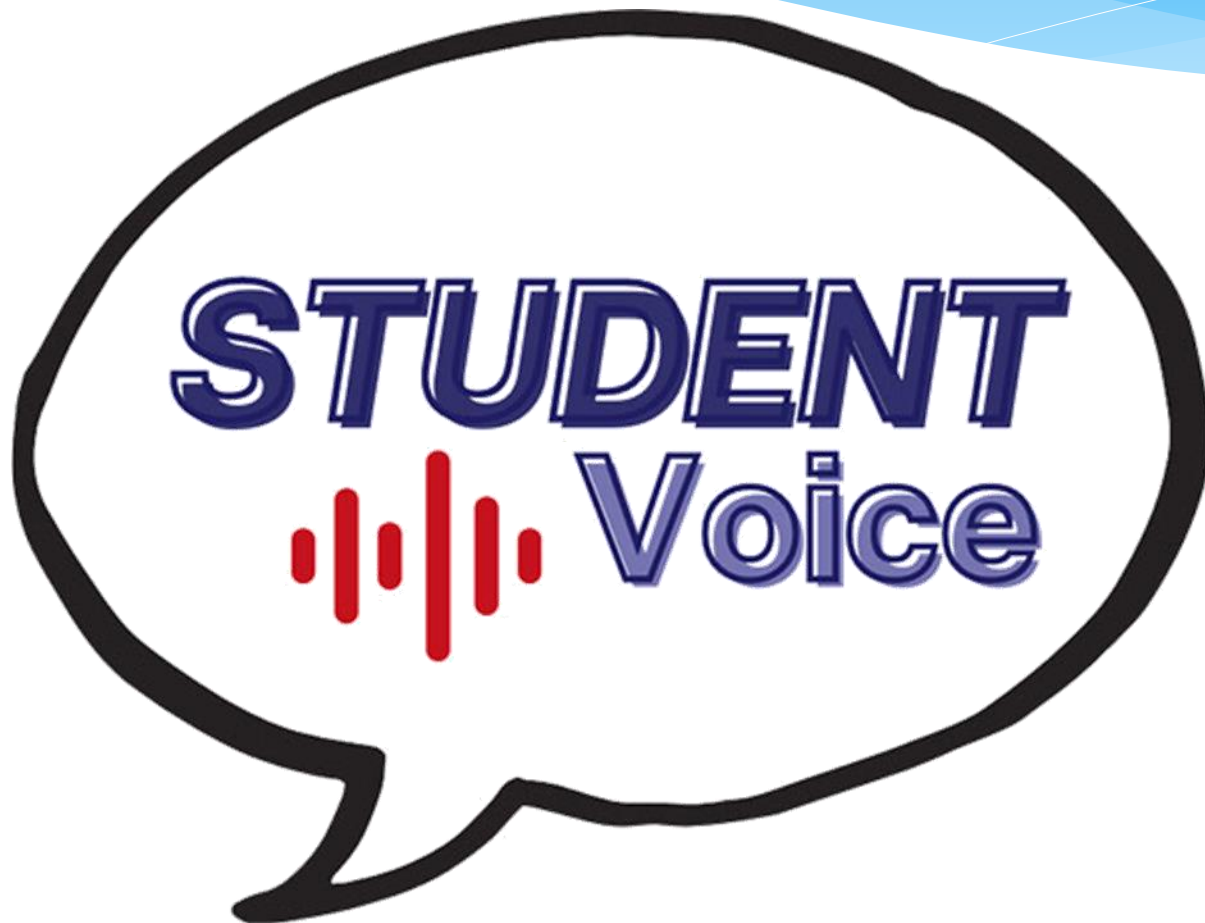
- Cross curricular ICT
- Careers Education
- Citizenship taught via Religious Studies, PSHCE and across the curriculum
- PSHCE (personal, social, health and careers education) British Values and Protected Characteristics
- Physical Education



Option Choices

Geography	History	German
French	PE	Latin
Music	Art and Design	Drama
Business	Computer Science	Food Science and Nutrition
DT: Textile based materials	Design and Technology	

How do I decide which option
subjects to choose?



How do I decide which option subjects to choose?

- Choose subjects that you are good at and that you enjoy.
- Think about any career ideas that you might have.
- Consider the non-examination assessment (coursework) demands.
- Talk to your teachers.



Who can help me in making my option choices?

- Subject Teachers
- Information in your options booklet
- Y10 and Y11 students at the options fair
- Mrs French, Options Coordinator
- Your Form Tutor and other members of the Pastoral Team
- Mrs Bushell, Careers Leader
- Parents and older siblings
- Use the websites listed in the booklet



Useful Resources for Research

- Unifrog platform – careers library & subjects library
- Informed choices website:
<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>
- UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/>
- UCAS subject guides -
<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/subject-guides>



Mathematics

The slide features a solid blue background. At the bottom, there are several overlapping, wavy, light blue lines that create a sense of motion or a horizon line. The word "Mathematics" is centered in the upper half of the slide in a white, sans-serif font.

SHS Mathematics Department Curriculum Map 2024-2025

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6	
7	Number (+-÷×), Geometry Algebra	Decimals, best buy (CAT 1), 2D shapes, types of numbers	Transformations, BIDMAS, estimations, equations (CAT2)	Fractions, units, 2D shapes, angles, averages (CAT 3)	Ratio, 3D shapes, probability	E O Y e x a m s w c 1 2 / 0 5	
8	Calculators, directed numbers, linear graphs	Averages, scatter diagrams. (CAT 1) Transformations, indices, HCF and LCM	Pythagoras's Theorem (CAT 2). Percentages. Equations.	Congruent shapes. Data 1 Area and perimeter incl. Circles. (CAT 3)	Formulae, Bearings, Distance time diagrams, Presenting data		Sequences, Distance time diagrams, presenting data.
9	U1. Properties of number, indices roots and standard form.	U2. Algebra, simplifying expressions, linear equations, sequences.	U3. Data, averages and range, representing, scatter diagrams.	U4. Fractions, percentages, ratio and proportion.	U5. Polygons, angles, Pythagoras and Trigonometry.		3D shapes. Accuracy. Sim equations Probability
10	U6. Linear real-life graphs, coordinate geometry	U7. Perimeter, area, volume and accuracy	U8. Transformations and constructions	U9. Quadratics, inequalities and simultaneous eq.s	U10. Probability	U6. Linear and real-life graphs, coordinate geometry	
11	U12 Similarity and congruence, U13 Graphs and Further Trig.	U14 Collecting and presenting Data.	M O C K S	U15 Quadratics, U16 Circle Theorems	U17 Formulae and algebra, U18 Vectors, U19 Graphs, inverse and direct proportion. REVISION	U11. Multiplicative reasoning.	
						EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS	

Support at home

- Encourage your child whenever possible. **Revision** prior to every assessment is a vital part of developing skills for the final examination series.
- Developing the ability of “**working out what to do when you don’t know what to do**” takes time, perseverance and practice, practice practice. Encourage your child to “**stick with it**” and ask for help if necessary. Where there is a will there is a way etc.
- Make the most of technology available to us today; graphing tools, MyMaths, Dr Frost and numeracy apps to boost confidence and speed up calculations.
- Homework is a vitally important part of developing skills independently; it provides consolidation and enrichment opportunities. Encourage and praise completion.
- A quiet place to work, preferably in a **social media free-zone to aid concentration** and encouragement when questions are tough is always appreciated.

Science

The course in Year 9

Biology Topics

- DNA and Inheritance
- Communicable Diseases
- Non-communicable Diseases
- Enzyme and Nutrient Cycles
- Biological Science Techniques

Chemistry Topics

- States of Matter
- Fractional Distillation and Crude Oil
- Periodic table and Atomic Structure
- Bonding
- Structures and Properties

Physics Topics

- Pressure and Moments
- Particles
- Hot to Cold
- Energy
- Energy Resources

The Choice You Have

- **Year 9** - students all studying the same course
- **Year 10 and Year 11** - Separate **or** Combined Science

The Two Courses

- Most of the country follow the Combined Science course
- Both courses allow progression to all higher courses including A Levels
- Full range of grades achievable Grades 9 to 4
- Challenge of content the same

The Difference

- Additional content equivalent to an extra GCSE – taught in the same time as Combined Science
- An extra GCSE grade – equivalent to the additional content
- Longer examinations

Outside the classroom

Share learning at home & apply it to the world around you

Discuss how & why things happen

Documentaries on the natural / physical world

Science podcasts

Science and the world of work

English

Overview

In GCSE English, students will:

- Read and understand a variety of stories, articles, and other types of writing.
- Expand their vocabulary and improve grammar skills.
- Practice both creative writing and writing for real-life purposes.
- Learn to write in a more thoughtful and analytical way.

English Language	English Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Creative reading and writing▪ Transactional writing▪ Writers' viewpoints & perspectives▪ 5 minute speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Shakespeare (Macbeth)▪ 19th Century Novel (Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde)▪ Modern text (An Inspector Calls)▪ Poetry (Power & Conflict and Unseen)

What you can do to help

For Students:

- Make reading a daily habit and explore a variety of texts and articles.
- Participate actively in your reading scheme.
- Share and discuss what you've been reading.
- Reach out to your English teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

For Parents/Carers:

- Read the assigned texts alongside your child.
- Encourage and support your child's engagement with the reading scheme.
- Consider purchasing the CPG guides to aid their studies.
- Contact us if you have any questions or worries.

Religious Studies



Religious Studies



- Religions studied – **Christianity** and **Sikhism**
- Pupils start their GCSE course in Year 9 and sit 3 examination papers in Year 11:
 1. Christianity paper - 1 hour
 2. Sikhism paper – 1 hour
 3. An issues based paper exploring a range of religious, philosophical and ethical issues – 2 hours



- In Year 10 students visit **Walsingham**, a Christian place of pilgrimage associated with claims of miracles.

Tips for success

- Get to grips with specialist language.
- Make every lesson/homework count (these are all topics you could be examined on in Year 11).
- Catch up when absent.
- Use the departmental revision guides provided.
- Consider attending revision sessions in Year 11 to consolidate your knowledge.
- Use past papers/questions to help guide your revision.

What Happens Next?

- **Subject Talks** – From tomorrow in lessons
- **Options Assemblies** – From tomorrow
- **Options Fair** – Monday 19th at lunchtime in the hall
- **Parents' Evening** – Thursday 26th February
- **Deadline for Options Choices – Thursday 5th March**
- All information including presentation and booklet on **school website** for reference – see 'Curriculum'.



What Happens Next?

- This presentation, along with the 2026 Options Booklet will be added to the **school website** tomorrow.
- We will be using **SIMS Options online** for you to submit your choices when you are ready. Look out for the ‘How to guide’ which will be emailed home in the next couple of weeks.
- In the meantime, parents need to make sure that they have a working username/password for the **SIMS Parent App** as they will use this to log into the Options Online platform.
- Any parent that has not activated their account should email enquiries to ask for an invite code. Also email enquiries if you have forgotten your password.



Attendance 2025-2026

**MOMENTS
MATTER,**

**ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

DfE ATTENDANCE CATEGORIES

- **≥95%** Expected
- **91-94%** At Risk of Persistent Absence
- **80-90%** Persistent Absence
- **51-79%** At Risk of Severe Absence
- **<50%** Severe Absence



ATTENDANCE DOES MATTER

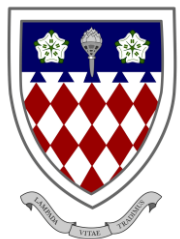
90% attendance =

- ½ day missed every week
- 4 whole weeks missed in a year
- 104 lessons missed
- Over 5 years = ½ a school year missed



WHAT IMPACT COULD THIS HAVE?

- The greater the attendance the greater the achievement and understanding.
- For every 10% non-attendance over a school year a grade at GCSE could be lost.
- In 2018/19 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, compared with 84% of regular attenders.
- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.
- Worry/anxiety about missing out or catching up.



The good news


- * **96.6%** Attendance higher than Lincolnshire Secondary, East Midlands and England.

Similar Schools comparison report (Autumn Term 2025-6)

- * SHS Pre pandemic (2018 – 2019) – 95.4%
- * 2024- 2025 – 94.5%
- * Similar schools – 93.3%
- * LEA average – 93.2%
- * National average – 93%



Year 9 Assessment & Reporting

2 nd February	26 th February	29 th June
Projected Grade 9-4 OR 4-	Online Parents' Eve 	Projected Grade 9-4 OR 4-
Effort Grade	5 th March Options Deadline	Effort Grade + Report

GCSE Grades

New	Old
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	D
2	
1	
	E
	F
	G



What Happens Next?

- **Subject Talks** – From tomorrow in lessons
- **Options Fair** – Monday 19th at lunchtime in the hall
- **Parents' Evening** – Thursday 26th February
- **Deadline for Options Forms –Thursday 5th March**
- All information including presentation and booklet on **school website** for reference – see 'Curriculum'.
- Please contact enquiries if you are unable to access your SIMS Parent App account.
- Please fill in an evaluation form and thank you!



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