

25 February 2026

Dear Family,

### **Key Stage 4 Options Process 2026**

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the timeline for the Year 9 Options process. This process supports students selecting several subjects that they would like to study in Years 10 and 11.

Our option process starts at the end of February following the timeline specified below:

**Wednesday 25 February 2026** – Assembly to share the Options process and timeline

**Week beginning Monday 2 March 2026** – A variety of subject leaders will present their Key Stage 4 qualifications to students through a set of assemblies. These presentations will cover subjects less well known to our students, such as Health and Social Care, Computer Science, Creative Digital Media and Triple Science. Within these assemblies subject leads will discuss the course outline, the methods of assessment and what it takes to be successful within the subject. Students may also be shown examples of work and find out about enrichment opportunities the subject will offer them.

**Week beginning Monday 9 March 2026** – Students and families will receive the final options booklet that will clearly state the subjects from which students have to choose.

**Thursday 12 March 2025** – Year 9 Parents Evening. I would strongly recommend that families take the opportunity to speak to subject teachers about current attainment and future intentions, ensuring the subjects being considered for Key Stage 4 are appropriate.

**Tuesday 24 March 2025** – Parent Consultation Meeting and Marketplace. This will be a face-to-face appointment that you and your child should attend to discuss with a senior member of staff your child's option choices and confirm the subjects they wish to study. The purpose of the appointment is to guide you and your child through the choices which need to be made, considering your child's skills and attributes and future career plans. You will be allocated a 15-minute appointment slot between 3.45pm and 6.30pm prior to the evening. If the appointment you are given is not suitable, then you will be given instructions how to request a different time slot. There will also be a Marketplace event with representatives from a variety of options subjects. This gives families the opportunity to find out more about these subjects during the evening and see if this is a suitable option for your child going forwards.

During the options process there are several resources students and families can access to fully understand the courses and qualifications on offer:

- Thorns Collegiate Academy Website – The Year 9 Choices section of our website includes information about each course and short videos from our Heads of Department. <https://thornsca.org.uk/parents-and-carers/year-9-choices/>
- Start Profile Website – This supports students in identifying potential future career(s) and the qualifications/training needed to be successful. <https://www.startprofile.com>
- Family and friends – Please encourage your child to speak to their friends and family about their chosen subjects and to find out about their experiences of course they have studied.
- Higher Educational Institutions – Access local college or University websites if you have a career path in mind. What expectations do these providers have regarding Key Stage 4 qualifications? Are there any subjects that are compulsory or desired for specific courses?
- Teachers – please speak directly with your teachers. Your Session 1 tutor, subject teachers and the Heads of Department will be happy to answer your queries, to provide you with the best advice about your future. We are here to help!

If you have any further questions about this process or the above arrangements, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Academy ([sfletcher@tca.shirelandcat.net](mailto:sfletcher@tca.shirelandcat.net)).

Yours sincerely,

*S Fletcher*

Mr S Fletcher  
**Assistant Principal**